

## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

*Tuesday, 24th August, 1886.*

Fortification of King George's Sound—Re-appropriation Bill, 1886: second reading—Guildford and Greenough Railway Confirmation Contract Bill: second reading—Estimates, 1887: further consideration of—Adjournment.

THE SPEAKER took the Chair at noon.

## PRAYERS.

## FORTIFICATION OF KING GEORGE'S SOUND.

SIR T. COCKBURN-CAMPBELL asked the Acting Colonial Secretary whether the Government were taking the necessary steps to ensure the question of the fortification of King George's Sound being dealt with at the next meeting of the Federal Council? Last year, by some oversight, the House forgot to refer the question, in proper form.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. S. Smith): The Government are taking steps in the matter, and are in communication with the Premier of Victoria on the subject.

## RE-APPROPRIATION BILL, 1886.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. S. Smith), in moving the second reading of this bill, said the object of the bill was simply to give the Governor statutory power to carry out the recommendations contained in the resolutions adopted by the House, affirming the expediency of re-appropriating a portion of the harbor works loan for the construction of other works of more pressing necessity, enumerated in the schedule of the bill, as follows:

Extension of the telegraph system to the Kimberley Goldfield, Wyndham, and South Australian border, in the East Kimberley District ... ..		£60,000 0 0
Extension and enlargement of Fremantle Jetty ... ..		12,500 0 0
Water Works and Supply at Fremantle ... ..		7,000 0 0
		£79,500 0 0

MR. McRAE said he did not rise to oppose the second reading of the bill, for he thought the Government should be armed in case of emergency; but, if it

was the intention of the Government to commence the construction of this telegraph line to the goldfields at once, he thought it rather premature, for he did not think the success of the goldfields was at all assured yet, nor would it be until the wet season set in. It might be that in the course of the next few months gold would be found in another direction altogether, possibly about the Leopold Ranges or Camden Harbor; and he thought the Government should pause before they expended this money.

MR. GRANT thought there was every justification for this work being undertaken, in any case. They knew that this telegraph line would do more than develop the pastoral resources of the district, whatever might happen as to the goldfields; and he did not see why the Government should have any hesitation in incurring this expenditure. Considering the number of men that had arrived in the district within a few weeks, it was something extraordinary the success that had already attended the discovery of this goldfield, and the quantity of gold that had been found. Undoubtedly there was a very fine goldfield there, and, from what was already known of it, a goldfield that would give work for the next twenty years. Then, again, there was the importance of establishing direct communication with Cambridge Gulf, the outlet of a magnificent pastoral country. He thought the Government would have been very lax indeed if it had not made up its mind to proceed with this telegraph line as soon as possible.

MR. WITTENOOM thought the Government ought to exercise very great caution before incurring this expenditure. It was not by any means certain, in his opinion, that a goldfield had been established at all yet. The mere fact of a few adventurous spirits rushing there did not establish a goldfield. They knew of a few fair finds of gold, but he thought nothing to justify the Government in proceeding with the telegraph line at once, until it had been ascertained beyond a doubt that a permanent goldfield had been discovered. Once that fact was established, by all means let the work be proceeded with. Let everything in reason be done to keep pace with the development of this district, but let them not go too

much ahead. Let them not be too kind and indulgent towards this Kimberley district, at the expense of other districts of the colony whose progress and settlement were more or less assured.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright) said hon. members would now see what a dilemma the Government were placed in as regards dealing with these goldfields. On one hand the Government were blamed for not doing a great deal more than they had done as regards public works and providing facilities of communication; on the other hand, they found the two representatives of the district altogether divided in opinion on the subject, one urging the immediate necessity of proceeding with this telegraph line and the other recommending delay and caution. He thought, however, all would admit the necessity of the Government immediately taking steps to procure the necessary wires, insulators, and poles, wherever the line might have to be constructed. He had very little doubt in his own mind that it would have to be constructed in the direction now proposed, connecting Derby with the goldfields and the goldfields with Wyndham. They already knew that about 3,000 people had landed at the latter place.

MR. VENN said all that might be perfectly correct; but the House was not in possession of any definite information on the subject. He thought the re-appropriation of this money had been done in a most hurried manner—more so than any other measure of the kind that had come before the House. There was hardly any discussion upon it, and the money was diverted in a most hurried manner. He himself had endeavored to elicit some little discussion on the subject the other day, but to no purpose; and what did they find in the bill now before them? An extension of the telegraph system, not only to the Kimberley goldfield but also to the South Australian border. That was objected to the other day by the hon. member for York amongst other hon. members, yet they found the House now asked to commit itself to the extension of this line as far as the South Australian boundary. Personally he failed to see what object was to be gained by taking the line to the South Australian border. We were al-

ready in telegraph communication with that colony, and it struck him that if we extended this line to the border a great deal of the traffic, instead of coming round this colony, would go to South Australia. It would be a good thing for the other colonies, but he failed to see what benefit we were likely to derive from it. It would be a very costly undertaking, all in the interior, away from the coast; and he asked hon. members whether they really had given the matter any consideration at all? So far as he was concerned, he should certainly oppose any extension of the line to the South Australian border at present. With regard to the line to the goldfield, he thought it would be absolutely necessary that we should establish direct communication with the goldfield; but from what point he thought we had nothing as yet to guide us; and he thought it would be most unwise to divide our attention between two rival starting points, instead of concentrating all our energies either at Derby or Wyndham. It appeared to him we were trying to do too much, and that our policy should be to devote our whole attention to one of these two places, whichever might be found to be the most suitable. He had no objection whatever to an expenditure of money—of large sums of money—in the development of the district, but he thought we ought to focus our energies at some particular spot.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. J. Forrest) said the question of extending the line to the South Australian border was dependent upon the Government of that colony bringing their line from Katherine station to our own boundary; and, unless our neighbors were prepared to do that, of course we on our part would not carry our line to the border. If the South Australian Government undertook to extend their line to our boundary, they would be undertaking a much larger work than we would have to undertake—a distance of about 300 miles, he thought, in order to connect their system with ours, whereas we should only have to go 60 or 80 miles to meet them. The line, if connected with the South Australian line, would be of great advantage not only to ourselves but to the whole of Australia, affording as it would a second line of telegraphic com-

munication with the world at large. This must largely increase the business on our own lines. He thought some hon. members had taken a somewhat narrow view of this question. He was one of those who, even if we had found no goldfield in this Kimberley District, would have been prepared to have voted this money for extending our telegraph system from Derby to Cambridge Gulf. That idea had been mooted in that House before the goldfields were ever discovered. He thought there was nothing that would do more for the development and settlement of this distant territory. They were told that there were some thousands of people already in the district, and we must not run away with the idea that we could afford to neglect the wants of these people. Unless something were done to give them means of communication there would soon be heard a cry—and, for his own part, he thought it would be a very just cry—a cry for Separation. They had to think of that, in dealing with these people and their requirements. He should like a little account to be made out of the expenditure and revenue received from this Kimberley district from the first day until now. He did not think they would see a very large amount of expenditure against the district. He believed himself it had repaid everything that had been spent upon it. [Mr. MAEMION: A great deal more.] He was not prepared to say that: but he should like to see a debtor and creditor account. Hon. members would then perhaps be inclined to say that we were quite justified in building this telegraph line, which, in his opinion—apart from the goldfield—would tend to the development and settlement of the district more than anything we could undertake.

SIR T. COCKBURN - CAMPBELL said that just before coming into the House he had a long interview with a gentleman who had been both at Cambridge Gulf and Derby, and he was altogether in favor of the former route, so far as the Mt. Barrett goldfield was concerned. This gentleman, who appeared to be an intelligent, practical man, spoke highly of the prospects of the goldfields, and said he had no doubt in his own mind, judging from what he had himself seen, that it would be a permanent field.

MR. BURGESS was surprised to find hon. members now opposing this work. He thought it was the unanimous wish of the House, the other day, that the Government should undertake the work, and he thought it was a very wise and politic step to take. His Excellency in his message pointed out that it might be desirable to extend the line to the South Australian border provided our neighbors undertook to meet us there,—and there was no intention to expend any money in extending our line in that direction unless the South Australian Government undertook to meet us half way. He had not the slightest doubt in his own mind that the Government were taking a step that would be absolutely necessary in extending this line to the goldfields, and that they were doing a very proper thing in taking it in hand in good time. It would be a great encouragement to the pioneer settlers of the district and prove a great boon to them. He had no doubt at all that in the future there would be a very large settlement there; and, before the Government would be in a position to erect this telegraph line, no doubt they would know by that time where would be the most central position, and the best direction to take it.

MR. HARPER, while entirely in favor of the proposal to extend our telegraphic system to Derby and Wyndham and the goldfields, was opposed to any sum being voted for the extension of the line to the South Australian border. He thought the present bill might fairly be styled an emergency bill, but he did not think there was any emergency at all about extending the line to South Australia. Nor was it at all probable that the South Australian Government, considering their present financial difficulties, would be at all likely to accede to the proposal to extend their own line in our direction. He was therefore inclined to oppose that portion of the scheme.

MR. PARKER said he was not in the House when the Governor's message was under consideration, and he thought the hon. member for Wellington perhaps was not far wrong when he said there had hardly been any discussion when this proposal was before the House the other day. As a rule he thought that questions were not so fully discussed in that House

as they ought to be, and he thought perhaps the Government was in a great measure to blame for this absence of discussion and opposition. There was a time, some years ago, when they used to have a regularly organised Opposition in the House—almost a factious opposition sometimes—when hon. members used to consider it their duty to criticise and oppose almost everything that the Government brought forward. He did not know but that with a strong Opposition the business of the country was not perhaps carried on better than with a weak Opposition, or with such a House as they had at present, when they all formed one party, the occupants of the Treasury bench doing their utmost to work harmoniously with all sides of the House, and to carry out a policy of compromise and conciliation. He was not prepared to say that this was the proper way to carry on the business of the House, or that it was a good policy to pursue; but he would say this: that the Treasury bench during this session had succeeded in carrying out that policy—if it was their policy, and apparently it was—better than they had ever done before. And he was afraid the effect of that had been, in a measure, to disarm all opposition. While this harmonious state of affairs might tend to facilitate the transaction of business, and might be the proper method of conducting the business of the country under the present constitution, he could not but regret the fact that it certainly had the effect of limiting discussion. Under party Government he trusted they would have that wholesome criticism and discussion of all measures which the hon. member for Wellington was so eager for; but, so long as the present policy of conciliation was followed—so long as the Government did their utmost to work harmoniously with all sides of the House, irrespective of party—so long must hon. members be satisfied with this somewhat apathetic way of carrying on the public business. With regard to the particular question now before the House, it appeared to him that the hon. member for Wellington took exception not to the principle of the bill but to a detail of the bill,—as to the extension of this telegraph line to the South Australian border. That was a point of detail that might be amended in

committee. The principle of the bill was the reappropriation of certain public moneys that had been borrowed by the Government and voted by the Legislature for one particular purpose, and appropriating the money to the carrying out of other works that were deemed of more pressing necessity. With regard to the proposed extension of this telegraph line through the Kimberley district, he thought it must be admitted that this was a work of most pressing necessity. He could not himself see how the administration of the district could be carried on, at so long a distance from the seat of Government and with the present uncertain means of communication, without this telegraph line. It was only the other day they had an instance of a considerable amount of friction between some of the principal officials of this far away district, which it was obvious, if there had been telegraphic communication established with head quarters, could not possibly have taken place. We might be sure of this, that while the residents of the district, even the pastoral lessees, found themselves unable to communicate with the seat of Government in some expeditious manner, and unable to communicate with the outside world, there would be created a very great amount of discontent, and that feeling of discontent would result in a movement for Separation. Therefore, in the interests of the preservation of the unity of the colony, we must do all within our power to remove all cause of discontent from amongst the inhabitants of this Northern portion of our territory; and certainly they would have good cause for discontent if they were to be left in their present isolated position, without any means of direct communication with this portion of the colony, and cut off from all means of communication with the outer world. As to the question of continuing the line to the South Australian border, he presumed the Government had no idea of doing so, unless the South Australian Government were prepared to effect a junction of their own line with ours, on the border of the two colonies. This, undoubtedly, would be a great benefit to this colony, and a source of great convenience to the sister colonies, establishing, as it would, a duplicate line of communication. He presumed the

Government had no idea of extending the line into the midst of the wilderness and leaving it there, a monument of administrative folly and incapacity. The intention of the Government, he believed, was simply to enter into a mutual arrangement with the South Australian Government, if that Government should be willing to do so, to join hands across the border; and, upon that understanding, he should certainly be prepared himself, when in committee, to support the schedule as it stood.

Mrs. MARMION was rather taken by surprise to find this bill meet with what appeared to him, at an early stage of the debate, to be opposition of a hostile nature from one or two hon. members. He said he was taken by surprise, for it appeared to him that the proper stage for the exhibition of any hostile opposition was when His Excellency's message was under consideration, and the resolutions of which this bill was only a confirmation. If he recollected rightly, there was scarcely a dissentient voice on that occasion, not a word that appeared to savour of a hostile spirit. He himself, as representing the constituency which to some unthinking persons might seem to feel in some way aggrieved with the Government as regards the appropriation of this money,—he, himself, stated at the time that he felt the interests of Fremantle were amply protected, and that it would be his duty to see that they were amply protected before one penny of this money was allowed to be diverted. What did this bill provide? It provided that the total sum of £79,000 mentioned in the schedule shall be repaid to the Colonial Treasury for the purposes of harbor works at Fremantle, out of the first moneys to be raised by loan. The question of harbor works was therefore safe. From some remarks that had been made it appeared that some hon. members were inclined to steer what they considered a safe course as regards this measure, and to place themselves in the position of being able, hereafter, in the event of something turning out wrong, to turn back upon the pages of *Hansard*, and, with an air of great wisdom, say, "Didn't I tell you so? Didn't I recommend you to be cautious?" He did not know that many hon. members wished to be more cautious in deal-

ing with this matter than he was. As the representative of the town of Fremantle he felt that he had particular reason to approach the consideration of the question with caution, and it seemed to him that the course taken by the Government was a prudent one in the interests of the colony. Whatever might be said to the contrary there was every reason to suppose that within a few years, if not within a few months, we shall have a large population flowing into this Kimberley District, without other means of communication or intercourse with the outside world, or with the seat of Administration, than possibly that provided by horse police. Would that be a desirable state of affairs? Would that be a state of affairs that would be creditable to this colony? Would that be a state of affairs calculated to cement the bond of brotherhood between the North and the South? Would that be a state of affairs tending to preserve that spirit of unity which they all wished to see preserved between this part of the colony and these northern settlements? No: and, on this ground of policy alone, the Government, he considered, was justified in taking the steps which it was about to take, of affording these people a direct means of communication with the seat of Government. That was an argument which, he thought, no reflecting mind would for a moment seek to controvert. It might be said there was a doubt whether there would be a large population in the district a few years hence; but, whether it would be a large population or not, there would certainly be a settlement there, for this district was not dependent upon its goldfields alone. There were other industries—the pastoral industry, for instance—besides gold mining. But no one could doubt that the discovery of gold would give the district a wonderful spurt, and be the immediate cause of a large influx of population, for whose convenience the Government now proposed to find a ready means of communication through the agency of this telegraph line. With reference to the proposed extension to the South Australian border, that opened up a wide question for consideration, as to whether it would result in benefit to this colony or not. He was rather inclined to think at

first glance that it would not, and his reason for taking that view was this: if we incurred the expenditure of joining this line with the South Australian telegraph it would be in the hope and expectation of attracting the bulk of the traffic along our own lines to and from the goldfields. But he was afraid that the bulk of this traffic would necessarily be with the other colonies, from whence the bulk of the population on the goldfields would be recruited, and where these people would have their friends and connections. This appeared to him a matter worthy of consideration. It might be said it was rather a selfish view to take, and he was prepared to admit that it was a selfish view. But these were plain, hard, matter-of-fact times, and we had to consider the question from a pounds-shillings-and-pence point of view. We could not afford to be too magnanimous in such matters as these, when the interests of the colony were at stake. He should be sorry, however, to deal in anything like a niggardly or narrow-minded way with our neighbors across the border. He did not forget the readiness with which, in Governor Weld's time, they extended the right hand of fellowship towards us in the matter of joining their telegraph system with our own at Eucla, and enabled us in this way to establish communication with the rest of the world, which we would have been unable to do in those days without their assistance and friendly co-operation. Therefore, he did not think it would become us to look upon this other proposal from too narrow-minded and selfish a point of view. For this reason he should not be inclined to oppose the extension of this line to the South Australian border if the Government of that colony agreed to join us there. After all there would be considerable advantages which our own colony could not fail to derive from a duplication of the transcontinental telegraph line. Altogether he felt that the Government in regard to this measure was acting in the best interests of the colony, as they conceived; and, on the part of the constituency which he represented, he might add that he was satisfied with the precautions taken to preserve their own particular interests in this matter. Therefore he had no intention of acting in a

dog-in-the-manger spirit as regards this money. The money, he believed, would be perfectly safe, and ready when wanted; and, if he did not think so, not a penny of it should be diverted so far as he could help. But he felt satisfied himself that this colony would make such strides during the next few years that not only would there be no difficulty in raising a loan for the prosecution of these harbor works, but also for the initiation and prosecution of other undertakings of national importance, and that the money now reappropriated would be returned with interest, in very short period.

MR. VENN: A word in explanation. The word hostility has been used. I think it is altogether uncalled for, and not in accordance with the facts of the case. What is the meaning of hostility? Have I shown any hostility when I merely said there had not been sufficient discussion on the subject? The object of this diversion is the development of the goldfields, and I am anxious that they should be developed in every possible way, and I think that is best assured by having direct communication with the port of Derby, which could be done at a very early stage.

MR. PARKER: I think the hon. member is out of order. He has no right to make a second speech.

MR. VENN: I move that the House do now adjourn.

MR. PARKER: An hon. member who has spoken to the question cannot move the adjournment.

THE SPEAKER: The hon. member having already spoken will not be in order in speaking again, except by way of a personal explanation. He cannot make a speech.

MR. VENN: I am very sorry that a gentleman who has been put in a position at the head of this bench should—

MR. PARKER: The hon. member is out of order altogether. He has no right in saying a word about my position.

THE SPEAKER: The explanation is certainly not what would be called a personal explanation.

MR. VENN: What I want to explain is that, if the sum voted is not sufficient to have a line from both places, we may have to vote more hereafter; whereas this would be amply sufficient to make a line from one point of departure.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. S. Smith) said he certainly was astonished that the second reading of this bill should have elicited so lengthy and so animated a discussion, because, really, after all, when the House the other day approved of the resolutions dealing with these votes, the House approved and confirmed the principle of the bill. He could only say on the part of the Government that hon. members might rest assured that the Government were not at all likely to act too hastily in carrying out these works, and more especially this telegraph line. He certainly could not agree with the hon. member for Wellington, that we should "focus" our efforts on one particular part of this important district. Derby was the first port we established, and of course it was necessary that we should do as much as we could to improve it, as Nature, he was afraid, had not acted very kindly towards it. At the same time we ought not to ignore our most recently established *entrepôt* at Wyndham, and do nothing there because Nature had done so much for us. Under any circumstance, we might rest assured that commerce, like a river, would cut its own course, in the direction where it found the least obstacles interposed to its progress and development, whether it be by way of Derby or by way of Wyndham. As regards the extension to the South Australian border, the Government had no intention of doing anything in that direction unless they met with the co-operation of South Australia, in bringing their line to join our own.

MR. PEARSE was glad to find that there was some little opposition to the bill. He was opposed altogether to the diversion of this harbor works money, and he thought it was premature yet to construct this telegraph line, either from Derby or Wyndham. We really did not know whether these goldfields would be permanent goldfields or not, and we had already a line in course of construction from Roebourne to Derby, and another already built across the border to Eucla. He hoped the Government would not act with too much precipitancy in the matter.

The bill was then read a second time.

#### GUILDFORD AND GREENOUGH RAILWAY CONFIRMATION CONTRACT BILL.

THE COMMISSIONER OF RAILWAYS (Hon. J. A. Wright) moved the second reading of this bill. It was a bill, the hon. gentleman said, that required very little comment on his part, hon. members being thoroughly acquainted with its object. During the recess, His Excellency entered into a contract with Mr. John Waddington for the construction of a railway on the land grant system between Guildford and Geraldton, the Legislature having already approved of the scheme; and the present bill was simply to confirm that contract. In addition to that, it contained two clauses, one of which gave the contractor power, in the event of a double line being constructed between Guildford and Fremantle, to acquire land for the purposes of the railway, in the same manner as the Commissioner of Railways was empowered to do, for station purposes, for sidings, and workshops, carriage sheds, and so on. The contract between Mr. Waddington and the Government contained a clause to the following effect: "If either the Government or the contractor shall, after the completion of 'the railway'—that was, the railway between Guildford and Greenough—'desire the laying down of a second line 'of rails upon the Eastern Railway between Guildford and Fremantle, notice 'in writing to the other party shall be 'given of such desire, and the construction thereof shall be commenced by the 'contractor within three months and be 'completed within eighteen months.' It was provided that the contractor should do the earth work and the Government the permanent way; or the Government might be called upon to do so. This double line, of course, would only be constructed in the event of the present line proving inadequate to the amount of traffic. In pursuance of this provision in the contract, the contractor required that he should have power to purchase land at Perth, Fremantle, and Geraldton, in order that he might erect the necessary buildings. The last clause of the bill repealed the Eastern Railway Extension Act, 1881, which enacted that it should not be lawful for the Commissioner of Railways to enter upon Stirling Square,

Guildford, for railway purposes. The reason why they now asked to have this Act repealed was simply this—the Square was wanted. The entrance to the Guildford station yard was a very awkward one, and the station premises were utterly inadequate for the heavy traffic likely to be created when the new lines of railway were constructed. If this station was to be the main station from which trains were to be started and made up, it was absolutely necessary that there should be a straight run to the station yard. If there should be a large amount of shunting required it would be impossible to perform it with the present accommodation, and it therefore became absolutely necessary that this Square should be invaded. The Government had less hesitation in asking the House to repeal this Act because the Guildford people themselves had almost unanimously petitioned them to make use of the Square for railway purposes.

MR. PARKER said he understood the hon. gentleman to say there had been a petition from the inhabitants of Guildford on the subject of this Square.

THE COMMISSIONER OF RAILWAYS (Hon. J. A. Wright): Yes, I have the petition.

MR. SHOLL: It means, after all, that the late Commissioner of Railways (Mr. Thomas) was in the right and all the amateur engineers in the wrong. It seems that after all the agitation, all the talk, and all the expense, we shall have to take the railway through this Square. I think it is a pity this House did not accept the advice of the Commissioner of Railways at the time.

MR. PARKER: I find that the petition of the Guildford people asks that the railway shall go through the Square upon certain conditions, which I think this House would not be inclined to agree to at all. For instance, one of the conditions, as I understand it, is that the Guildford station shall be the main station, where all goods coming from the inland lines shall be received and sorted, and also from Perth and Fremantle.

THE COMMISSIONER OF RAILWAYS (Hon. J. A. Wright): I am sorry to interrupt the hon. member. I am surprised to find so eminent an amateur engineer so ignorant. What is meant is that the Guildford station shall be the

shunting station; not that goods shall be sorted there.

MR. RANDELL said the route of the present line through Guildford had given rise to a great deal of discussion at the time, and it was not decided upon until a committee of the House had visited the locality, when it was determined that the line should not go through the Square,—that the Square should not be sacrificed to the railway. But things had changed since then. They had no idea at that time of this Midland Railway, and the step that was taken was taken in the interests of the town of Guildford. The reasons now urged for a reversal of that decision had no existence when the question was originally decided, and there seemed no earthly reason why this fine Square should have been ruthlessly destroyed. But things had changed since then, and they now found the people of the town themselves expressing a desire that the Square should be invaded.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. J. Forrest) thought the lesson which this Stirling Square taught them was the un wisdom of carrying out the views of a section of the community, when those views were in opposition to the scientific opinion of the head of the department. They were told that the adoption of the route which was adopted for this line, in opposition to the views of the head of the department, would be a permanent block to the efficient working of the railway; and what was predicted at the time had now come to pass. He thought they should look closely about the House, and see whether Mr. Thomas's ghost was not watching them, and saying "I told you so."

MR. SHENTON said one of the great stands made at the time by the opponents of the railway going through the Square at Guildford was as to the heavy compensation that would have to be paid to the owners of land, and he had not heard yet where this compensation money was to come from.

THE COMMISSIONER OF RAILWAYS (Hon. J. A. Wright): When we want it we shall have to come to the House for it.

THE ACTING ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt) said he was one of those who withstood the late Commissioner in his designs upon this Square.



It was all very well for hon. members to say that they predicted this, that, and the other; nothing of the sort. The Commissioner said it could not be done, and it was done. There was ample room to have taken the line without taking it along the street, but it was done out of sheer wilfulness, and with the intention of annoying the people of the town more than if the line had gone through the Square itself. Now we had an entirely altered state of affairs, and the Guildford people naturally desired to secure the expenditure of money within the township rather than outside the town, and therefore they were prepared to give up their Square.

MR. WITTENOOM said "*De mortuis nil nisi bonum*" was a very good principle to act upon, and he thought they might leave the late Commissioner alone. Whatever might be said about amateurs in connection with the Eastern Railway, he thought the amateurs who criticised the Northern line were not so far wrong.

MR. MARMION said the 81st clause of the contract between the Government and Mr. Waddington read as follows:—"If either the Government or the Contractor shall after the completion of the railway desire the laying down of a second line of rails upon the Eastern Railway between Guildford and Fremantle, notice in writing to the other party shall be given of such desire, and the construction thereof shall be commenced by the Contractor within three months and be completed within eighteen months after such notice, upon the following terms, that is to say: the said line shall be constructed by the Contractor at his own expense, according to plans and specifications approved by the Commissioner, and upon completion of the said line the Government shall pay to the Contractor the actual cost of all rails, sleepers, bolts, and plates required and used in and for such construction. The said line shall be the property of and worked by the Government." If that was the case, what right had the contractor to enter upon certain lands at Perth and Fremantle, and what right had he to have that property vested in him?

THE COMMISSIONER OF RAILWAYS (Hon. J. A. Wright) said he would explain the matter in committee.

MR. SCOTT pointed out that the Guildford people specially stipulated for certain conditions in the event of their giving up their Square, but there was nothing in the bill about those conditions.

The bill was then read a second time.

#### ESTIMATES, 1887.

The House went into committee for the further consideration of the Estimates.

*Harbor and Light Department, £6,646:*

MR. SHOLL, referring to a new item, "Clerk, Harbor Master, Fremantle, £120," said he supposed this was the result of fresh importations. They had a brand new Harbor Master, at an increased salary, and, in addition to that, they had now to provide him with a clerk. He did not object so much to the increase of salary, but the work of the department had been done heretofore without a clerk; and he moved that the item be struck out.

MR. PEARSE thought it was desirable that the Harbor Master should have some clerical assistance. There were a large number of returns to be copied in his office, and if the Harbor Master was to do the copying, who was to do the work outside?

MR. SHOLL: How was it done before?

MR. PEARSE: I am afraid it was not done before.

MR. LAYMAN said they had been told that the previous Harbor Master was utterly unfit for his position, and yet it appeared he did the work at a less salary and with a smaller staff than his successor.

The motion to strike out the item was negatived.

MR. RANDELL said it would be remembered that the old Harbor Master before he resigned had requested to be supplied with a clerk. But £120 seemed a high salary to start with, in the case of a junior clerk. He did not at all grumble about the salary of the Harbor Master himself—he did not think it sufficient, now, bearing in mind the importance of the position, the increase of shipping, and the qualifications which the present holder of the office held. He would move that the clerk's salary be reduced from £120 to £90.

MR. SHENTON thought the Government were simply following out the

recommendations of the committee who recommended a reorganisation of this department. Already the department was in a far more efficient state than it had been for years past. At the same time he thought there would be no difficulty at all in obtaining an efficient clerk for £90 to commence with.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. S. Smith) said there was a great deal of correspondence and other clerical work to be done now in the Harbor Master's office, and, though possibly they might get a junior clerk for £90, he did not think £120 was at all too much in these days to enable a man to keep himself respectably. A mere boy would hardly be fit for the position.

MR. MARMION said that when he sat on the committee of inquiry in connection with this department some years ago he thought a clerk was not necessary; but since then the shipping business had increased, and the duties of the Harbor Master had correspondingly increased. But, assuming that a clerk was required, he thought he might commence with a smaller salary than £120.

MR. SCOTT thought £120 quite little enough, as this would be the only clerk in the department. He did not believe in having too many clerks in any office; he would prefer a smaller number and give them better pay. He did not believe in these starvation rates.

THE ACTING ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt) said if that House shone particularly in any matter it was when little votes of £20 or £30 came before it. He noticed three hon. members jumping up together to oppose this £30, which would be £10 apiece. Not only was it perfectly ridiculous, but utterly disgusting to him, all this squabbling over a petty departmental detail.

MR. WITTENOOM: What's the use of having a good man at the head of the department, and shutting him up in his office, instead of being about the harbor?

MR. SHENTON said that what he objected to was the principle of the thing. In other departments the junior clerks started at £90, and in some departments—the Post Office for instance—some of them were half-starved.

MR. RANDELL said it would be satisfactory to the House if this appointment were found to be the promotion of

another clerk, rather than a fresh appointment.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. S. Smith) said very likely it would lead to the promotion of some unfortunate, who was now drawing £80 or £90 a year. Hon. members, he thought, might rest assured of that, and that the appointment would not be given to a novice.

The motion to reduce the item to £90 was negatived.

MR. SHENTON, referring to the item "Pilot, Fremantle, £200," asked if this officer received any lodging allowance?

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. S. Smith) said that was included in the item "Rent for Quarters for Crew of Harbor Master and Pilot."

MR. SHENTON thought there ought to be some difference between the salaries of the Rottnest Pilot and the Harbor Pilot; the former had much more dangerous and arduous duties to perform than the latter. They were both excellent officers, but he thought the senior officer ought to get a little more than the junior.

MR. MARMION thought the salary in one case was not high enough, and that in the other case it was not at all too high. He agreed as to the more perilous nature of the duties of the Rottnest pilot, and there had been a distinction drawn between the salaries of these two officers hitherto.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. S. Smith) could only say that all these increases had been considered very carefully, and that, so far as these two pilots were concerned, the increases were made in accordance with the recommendations of the late Acting Harbor Master. No doubt the Government would consider the subject by next session. At any rate the claims of these officers, as well as of others, would be considered by the Committee that was to be appointed.

The departmental vote was then put and passed.

*Judicial Department, £15,829:*

MR. SHOLL, referring to the item "Clerk to Puisne Judge, £90," said they passed a bill that session called the Patents Act, and the clerk to the Puisne Judge obtained the appointment of Registrar under that Act, and the vacancy

thus caused was filled up by a new arrival, a friend of the "powers that be." It was not a very large amount, but they might expect to find him in some better position next year. Why should these appointments be given to outsiders? Why should the friends of high officials be lifted over the shoulders of others? It might be said that these appointments rested with the Judges; all he could say was, if a Judge lent himself to such jobbery, it was that House that had to vote the money. He should not move that the item be struck out, but he should keep his eye close upon it.

**THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY** (Hon. M. S. Smith) said these appointments of Judge's Associates were entirely in the gift (so to speak) of the Judges themselves, and in this instance the Judge recommended this gentleman for the appointment, and consequently he received the appointment.

**THE ACTING ATTORNEY GENERAL** (Hon. S. Burt) said the hon. member for the Gascogne made a point of this gentleman being a friend of somebody or the other. Of course they could not expect a Judge to appoint an enemy for his associate. The hon. member, he believed, was an advocate for Responsible Government. He ventured to predict that under that form of Government hon. members would find that the number of these friends would increase very considerably. As, however, the hon. member intended to keep his eye upon this particular item for a period of twelve months, he thought they might let the item pass, though he must say it would be very inconvenient for this young gentleman to have the hon. member's eye kept fixed upon him for the next twelve months.

**Mr. PARKER**, referring to the item, "Clerk to Crown Solicitor, £125," said he was glad to see an increase of £25 in this item; he thought the clerk to the Sheriff also deserved equal consideration. He noticed that in this officer's case the increase was only £10. The Sheriff now had charge of all the gaols in the colony, and the work of the office was increasing. Surely this clerk deserved as much as the Harbor Master's clerk?

**Mr. MARMION**: I object altogether to the principle adopted about these increases of salary. There ought to be some system adhered to. Some officers

get an increase of £10 while others get a jump of £25. I think it would be better if the present classification system were abolished altogether, and the increases made according to the zeal and ability of the officers. At the present time, it appears to me there is no system at all. No man in the service feels that he is safe of promotion, or that he may not be made the victim of favoritism. I only hope that this Commission that is talked about will be asked, in addition to dealing with the question of salaries, to recommend some system under which officers may be introduced into the service, and under which they may afterwards be promoted, and their salaries raised.

**Mr. SCOTT**, referring to the item "Interpreter, £25," said, judging from what one saw in the Supreme Court, this office of interpreter was a complete farce.

**THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY** (Hon. M. S. Smith) said it was a time-honored institution, and, though the duties perhaps were not very onerous, the salary was very small. The vote was not for one particular interpreter, but to pay any person who might have to be employed in that capacity. He had to move that the item "Books for Supreme Court, £50," be increased to £150. It was found that £50 would be totally inadequate to furnish the books required, and the extra £100 would be eventually refunded from a fund called the "Suitors' Fund," so that it was only a temporary advance.

**THE ACTING ATTORNEY GENERAL** (Hon. S. Burt) said the money was required chiefly in order to get a complete set of Reports for the use of the Judges, which they required very much. £50 would only have procured a portion of the series, which would have been of little or no use. The vote would not be wanted annually.

**THE HON. J. G. LEE-STEERE**: Will these books be available for the legal profession generally, and where will they be kept?

**THE ACTING ATTORNEY GENERAL** (Hon. S. Burt) said it was proposed to keep them in the chambers of one of the Judges. They would not be available for the profession, who already had the same books in the Law and Parliamentary Library; but they would be of great convenience to the Court.

The increased vote was agreed to.

MR. GRANT asked for some explanation as to the item "Circuit prosecutions, £200."

THE ACTING ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt) said it might very often become necessary, in order to save expense, that one Judge should go on circuit, when the necessity arose for it; and they must take a vote to meet the expenses. They might have to send a Judge to Derby or Wyndham next year, for instance.

The vote was then put and passed.

*Police Department, £44,439 15s.:*

MR. WITTENOOM said he wished to suggest a change in the policy of the Government as regards the foraging of police horses at outlying head stations. He thought it would be much better to increase the number of horses, rather than the allowance of barley. No amount of barley would put a horse on his legs after too long a journey. A little hay or chaff would be ample forage to provide, if the number of horses available for service were increased.

MR. MARMION, referring to the item "Superintendent, £600," said he noticed an increase of £100 here. Was this caused by the withdrawal of some other emolument which this officer used to receive?

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. S. Smith) said that was the case. The salary attached to the office was supposed to be £600, but heretofore £100 had been paid out of Imperial funds on account of the Enrolled Guard, which contribution would cease next year.

MR. PARKER asked whether it was presumed that some persons had an intuitive knowledge of police duties, without possibly knowing any more about a policeman than seeing him in the street? He made the inquiry in view of some recent appointments to inspectorships. They all knew that in other branches of the service some previous knowledge was required to qualify a man for his post, and, generally, they had to go through various grades before they reached a position of responsibility; and it did seem strange that a man should be a heaven-born inspector of police.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. S. Smith) said the position of an inspector was a different social position from that of all the lower grades; but, if there happened to be a sub-inspector fit for the position his claims were considered, and he was liable for promotion. But they not could always find men among the lower grades qualified to occupy the position of an inspector. As to men being heaven-born inspectors, —after all, if a man had tact, intelligence, and was well conducted, he would be able in the course of six or twelve months to acquire a knowledge of his duties. Some men had instinctively a taste for police work. No doubt if they could induce a superior class of men to enter the service the same difficulty would not be found in filling the higher appointments. For himself, he had always endeavored to promote men when he had found they were fitted for the post.

MR. RANDELL said as to men being heaven-born inspectors, and have an intuitive knowledge of their duties, the same remark would probably apply with equal force to Premiers; and, when the hon. member for Perth attained his ambition, and filled the office of Premier under Responsible Government, probably the hon. member would find that, like police inspectors, he would have to depend in a great measure upon his subordinates.

MR. PARKER thought there might be a reduction in the number of police at country towns like York, now that they had railway communication. York, after all, was only a small village, and yet he noticed they had no less than six policemen there. The same remark applied to Northam and Newcastle. He could understand it being necessary at outlying stations, with which there was no means of communication, but he did not think it was necessary to keep such a large force now in these small towns within easy reach of head quarters by rail.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. S. Smith) said, as regards York, of the six policemen stationed there, one was a sergeant, who had charge of a sub-district, and one was the gaoler. There were only two foot constables, the other two being mounted men, with a very extensive district to patrol.

The departmental vote was then put and passed.

Progress reported.

The House adjourned at five o'clock, p.m.

## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Wednesday, 25th August, 1886.

Kimberley District Quarter Sessions Bill: first reading—Reappropriation Bill, 1886: in committee—Guildford and Greenough Railway Confirmation Contract Bill: in committee—Wines, Beer, and Spirits Sale Act, 1880, Amendment Bill: in committee—Estimates, 1887—Adjournment.

THE SPEAKER took the Chair at seven o'clock, p.m.

PRAYERS.

### KIMBERLEY DISTRICT QUARTER SESSIONS BILL.

THE ACTING ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt) moved the first reading of a bill to provide for the constitution of Courts of General Sessions of the Peace in the districts of East Kimberley and West Kimberley, and to amend the law relating to the qualification of jurors and the constitution of juries in such Courts.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

### REAPPROPRIATION BILL, 1886.

The House went into committee on this bill.

Clauses 1 and 2 were agreed to, *sub silentio*.

#### SCHEDULE.

	£	s.	d.
Extension of the Telegraph System to Kimberley Goldfield, Wyndham, and South Australian Border, in the East Kimberley District	60000	0	0
Extension and enlargement of Fremantle Jetty	12500	0	0
Water Works and Supply at Fremantle	7000	0	0
	79500	0	0

MR. VENN moved that the words "Wyndham and South Australian Border" be struck out. He understood the hon. member for York had intended moving that the words "South Australian Border" be struck out, and, in the hon. member's absence, he would do so for him, without saying much more on the subject, beyond that if we took our line to join the South Australian line we should be going considerably out of our way to divert a considerable amount of traffic from this colony to the other colonies. The great object of this bill was the development of the Kimberley goldfields, and he thought they might as well confine themselves to that object, and leave this question of the duplication of the South Australian line for future consideration. When he attempted to address the House before on the subject of having two lines to the goldfields, one from Derby and the other from Wyndham, an attempt was made to stifle discussion, as he thought. He had simply wanted to explain what he considered was not "hostile" action on his part. One hon. member spoke of the hostility of some hon. members; but, for his own part, he did not think there had been any exhibition of hostility, but simply to impress upon the Government that the matter was one that required the exercise of a certain amount of caution. It was an attempt to father upon those who desired discussion a feeling of hostility which they did not possess, and who, as a matter of fact, had as much at heart the development of the Northern District as the hon. member Mr. Grant, or the hon. member for Fremantle (Mr. Marmion). Nor had those who were anxious to have this matter discussed any idea of being able hereafter to put their finger upon the pages of *Hansard*, and say "Didn't I tell you so," as the hon. member for Fremantle the other evening seemed to think. There was no one in that House so fond of quoting *Hansard* as the hon. member himself. With regard to the way in which it was proposed to construct these telegraph lines, he must say it did appear to be rather an out-of-the-way proceeding for the Government to undertake the work themselves rather than call for tenders. No doubt the item of transport would be an exceedingly heavy one—