

favor of this proposed railway ; otherwise the item would have gone forth without a single word in its favor. After the light which had now been thrown on the subject he did not intend to press his motion to strike out the item.

The question that the item stand part of the schedule was then put and passed.

Progress was then reported, and leave given to sit again.

The House adjourned at half-past one o'clock, a.m.

## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Thursday, 11th September, 1884.

Development of Kimberley Sugar Lands—Appropriation Bill, 1885: first reading—Sanitation (Message No. 8)—Mr. Hordern's Railway Contract—Loan for Public Works: Further consideration of Schedule (Message No. 21)—Joint Stock Companies Ordinance, 1885, Amendment Bill: third reading—Supreme Court Ordinance, 1881, Amendment Bill: further considered in committee—Adjournment.

THE SPEAKER took the Chair at noon.

PRAYERS.

### DEVELOPMENT OF KIMBERLEY SUGAR LANDS.

MR. VENN moved the following resolution: "That this House is of opinion, "that to encourage the growth of sugar "cane and other tropical produce in the "Kimberley District, north of the Leopold Ranges, it is desirable to offer "further inducements than provided for "in the existing Land Regulations, and, "with a view of testing certain areas in "that district, it is of opinion the Government might well offer and give a "liberal bonus, in land, to any individual, "firm, or syndicate who shall *bonâ fide* "initiate the growth and cultivation of "sugar, rice, or other tropical products "in the Kimberley District, from lands "purchased from the Government, and "who shall, within a period of (say) five

"years from the date of purchase of "such land, produce Sugar or other tropical products to the export value of "(say) £5,000; and the House is further "of opinion, that to mark the sense of "the value of such enterprise to the colony,—acres of land in fee might "well be allotted to whatever individual, "firm, or syndicate may be the first to "achieve such results, and that such "lands might be selected by the parties "in question, either adjoining the lands "already held by them, or from any sugar "lands in the Kimberley District north "of the Leopold Ranges." The hon. member said although he had only given short notice of this resolution, the matter had occupied his mind since the commencement of the session; but he had not felt in a position to move in the matter until now, and he regretted that at so late a period of the session hon. members might probably not be able to give the matter as much consideration as they would wish to give it. We had a large area of land, portions of which were reported to be good sugar land, north of the Leopold Ranges, and it had been suggested that this land should be locked up, pending the result of certain test experiments. He had opposed that proposition, believing it was a wrong course to adopt, though he had no doubt that the object in view was to protect the interests of the colony. He would point out that in supporting the present resolution hon. members would also attain the object they had in view, and attain it without resorting to any experimental tests, but by a practical proof, which might be of substantial value,—much more so than any scientific tests, when climatic conditions might differ and vary. He was referring now to the resolution moved the other day by the hon. member for the North, who had laid great stress upon the great value of sugar lands in Queensland. But the present value of sugar lands in Queensland was the result of many years patient labor and of the expenditure of a large amount of capital; and he thought it would have been better for Queensland now if it had given encouragement to capitalists embarking in this industry at an earlier period of its history, which was the direction in which this motion tended. He had no intention, nor did the resolution contemplate

anything antagonistic to pastoralists or prejudicial to their interests. The resolution referred to land situated in a tropical part of the district, land which was unfit for pastoral purposes. The object in view of course was to encourage capitalists to test the capabilities of this land for sugar-growing, and, as the test must necessarily entail a very heavy outlay, the encouragement offered ought to be correspondingly enticing. He found from reliable information that, outside the expense of importing labor and of cultivating the land, it required in order to prosecute the industry of sugar growing successfully, very costly machinery indeed. He was told that the necessary plant to produce a ton of sugar per day would cost not less than about £1,000, simply to extract the sugar from the cane; and that if they wanted to produce two tons a day they would have to expend about £2,000 in plant and machinery. Therefore it would be seen that before any syndicate would be in a position to secure any bonus that might be offered they would have to expend an enormous amount of capital in hard cash. All this they would have to do on their own responsibility. They would have to purchase the land at the present upset price, and when they succeeded in conducting their operations on the scale indicated in the resolution, the Government would then step in and give them a certain area of land in fee simple. He had not consulted any individual member of the House, nor anyone outside the House as to the terms of the motion which he had brought forward, and probably it might not meet with the approval of all hon. members; but it seemed to carry out his own particular views. He was not, however, wedded to the precise wording of the resolution, and he would not object to its being amended, so long as the object he had in view was attained. He hoped hon. members would look at the proposal in a liberal light. We were too fond altogether of locking up our lands, when we found they were of any value. Rather than offer inducements to people to come here and test the capabilities of our own land, we had been too much in the habit of drawing in our horns as soon as we found any enterprising outsiders prepared to expend their capital in putting the value of our land

to a practical test; but he hoped that dog-in-the-manger spirit would not be allowed to prevail in this instance. It might be said that our Land Regulations already offered a bonus on tropical products grown in the Kimberley district. No doubt they did; but what was the inducement offered? If at any time within five years after the present regulations came into force (which was in 1882) any person should apply for the purchase of land in the district for growing sugar, tea, coffee, or any other tropical product, and if such person should within another five years from the date of making his application prove to the satisfaction of the Government that he had grown and sold not less than £500 worth of such product in any one year, the person doing so would be entitled to a Crown Grant of 500 acres of rural land. That was the bonus at present offered under the Land Regulations. It was so insignificant as to be beneath the notice of any body of capitalists; and, if we wished to test our sugar lands properly, we must be prepared to offer something more than that.

Mr. GRANT said the hon. member for Wellington had come before the House in a new character altogether. Last night the hon. member came out strong in the agricultural line, and dairy farming, but this morning the hon. member went in for sugar growing. Well certainly sugar was one of the sweets of life, and it appeared that the hon. member for Wellington was very sensitive to this particular sweetness. Seeing, however, that he (Mr. Grant) had brought forward a proposal having the same object in view, and that the hon. member on that occasion went dead against him, it did seem rather strange that the hon. member should now turn round and press upon the House a scheme of his own, which in his (Mr. Grant's) opinion did not present anything like the advantages which his own proposal presented, so far as the interests of the colony were concerned. For his own part he preferred his own original idea, though at the same time he would be glad to see anything done to test the value of these sugar lands of ours.

Mr. BROWN thought all would agree that the subject was an important one, and that it would prove of great advantage to

the colony if, as the result of private enterprise, it were shown that we had within our territory sugar lands as the hon. member for the North believed to exist in that part of the colony. From the very first, the House had looked forward to receiving some advantages from the development of these tropical lands, and in proof of that he need only refer to the regulation already quoted, offering certain inducements to persons to put the value of these lands to the test. But although these regulations had been in force for some years, nobody had yet attempted to prove the capabilities of the soil for the production of sugar. He thought that fact of itself showed the desirability of further inducements being offered. No doubt the experiment to be of any value must be a very costly one. A short time ago some gentlemen visited this colony from Queensland, and he had a conversation with them on this very subject. They told him that they had had a large experience in Queensland in connection with the production of sugar, and, giving him some friendly advice personally, they told him that no one had any chance of succeeding in the sugar industry, even in Queensland, who was not possessed of a very large capital. They further advised him that, even if he could ascertain that these Kimberley lands were what they were represented to be, as regards their sugar growing capabilities—they strongly advised him not to attempt anything in the way of sugar growing unless he had £20,000 in hard cash which he could devote to the prosecution of the industry, and unless, over and above the £20,000 hard cash, he could get accommodation for another £20,000. Without such means at his disposal, he was told by these experienced gentlemen from Queensland that it would be futile to attempt to prosecute the sugar industry with any hope of success. Hon. members would see how costly the experiment must prove; and, if it was considered desirable that the experiment should be made, he thought hon. members would do well to give their serious attention to the motion put forward by the hon. member for Wellington, because it was plain that if a large sum of money like £40,000 had to be expended in solving the question, a grant of one

thousand acres in fee simple, which could now be purchased for £500 and which was all the bonus that was now offered by the Government, would prove no inducement at all. Therefore it was well worthy of consideration whether the House should not recommend the Government to offer a larger bonus, in order if possible to secure a satisfactory solution of this problem. He regretted that the matter had not been brought forward earlier during the session, and, in order that the resolution might receive more mature consideration, he begged to move the adjournment of the debate until next day.

This was agreed to, and the debate adjourned accordingly.

#### APPROPRIATION BILL, 1885.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) moved the first reading of a bill to appropriate the sum of £247,431 16s. 11d. out of the general revenue of the colony for such services as shall come in course of payment during the year 1885.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

#### SANITATION (MESSAGE No. 8): REPORT OF SELECT COMMITTEE.

MR. SHENTON moved, "That an humble address be presented to His Excellency the Governor praying that, for the reason given in the report of the select committee appointed to consider His Excellency's Message on the subject of improving the sanitary condition of Perth and Fremantle,—chiefly as regards water supply, and the disposal of sewage—His Excellency would be pleased to appoint a commission to inquire fully into the subject, during the recess." The reason given by the committee was that with the short time at their disposal it had been impossible for them to give that consideration to the subject which its importance deserved. The question of water supply itself would (the hon. member said) take a long time to deal with, while that of the disposal of sewage was a question upon which there was such a difference of opinion that there would be no possibility of any select committee arriving at any decision

upon it, in the short space of time now available.

The motion was agreed to, without opposition.

#### MR. HORDERN'S RAILWAY CONTRACT.

THE HON. J. G. LEE STEERE said he desired to call attention to what might prove to be a difficulty in connection with the proposed railway contract with Mr. Hordern. The 70th clause of the amended draft contract said: "Should 'this contract be approved by the Legislative Council of the colony, the Government will for the purpose of obtaining such confirmation, at their own cost, upon the request of the contractor, prepare, and, as soon as conveniently may be, introduce into the said Legislative Council a proper Act or Ordinance.'" The select committee, in their report, recommended—and the recommendation had been confirmed by the House—that this clause should be struck out, and that a clause be substituted providing that "the contract shall be subject to the approval of the Legislature." The House had passed a resolution to that effect. (No. 43 of the select committee's recommendations.) As the contract had not yet been prepared, and as the Attorney General had told them it would take a considerable time to prepare it, he did not see how the "approval of the Legislature" was going to be obtained, unless the session was prolonged for some days or weeks, or unless they had a special session convened for the purpose of approving of the contract.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser)—the Attorney General being absent—said he thought the passing of the Beverley-Albany Railway Bill would meet that difficulty.

THE HON. J. G. LEE STEERE said he did not wish to raise any difficulties, but the wording of the resolution was very clear, and provided that the contract entered into with Mr. Hordern—which contract had not yet been prepared—should be "subject to the approval of the Legislature."

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. J. Forrest) said the conditions of the contract had been already defined and approved by the Legislature,

and all that was necessary now was to put those conditions into legal form, which he presumed would be done without departing one iota from the resolutions of the House. He failed to see why the House should have the contract itself before it, except as a matter of curiosity. There was a good reason for that condition at one time, but, now, when they had decided upon the terms of the contract, all that was required to be done was to frame the contract upon the lines already agreed upon and approved by the House, and they might depend upon the Attorney General to do that.

MR. BROWN: The hon. gentleman says the Attorney General may be depended upon not to depart from the terms of the resolutions adopted by this House. I am glad myself that the hon. member for the Swan has raised this question, for, if the Attorney General does *not* depart from the conditions laid down by this House, it will be absolutely necessary, before the contract becomes a contract *de facto*, that it should receive the ratification of the Legislature, in accordance with the terms of the resolution referred to. I agree that there is no longer any necessity for a further reference to the House as to the terms of the contract, the House having expressed its views most fully upon these terms; and, the contractor having agreed to those conditions, I am now ready to leave the final conclusion of the whole matter in the hands of the Government. But that is not the position at present. It is, as pointed out by the hon. member for the Swan—and it is very desirable that an understanding should be come to on the point—it is a very important point, and in the absence of a very important member of the Executive bench, it is an awkward point for this House to determine. It is very desirable that the Attorney General should himself be present and state whether the Government will be in a position, without the assent of the Legislature being hereafter obtained, to sign a binding contract with Mr. Hordern. The Attorney General, however, is absent. I am perfectly sure he is absent in accordance with the conditions of his appointment; but his absence on this occasion emphasises the necessity of provision being made whereby the Attorney

General should be at all times in the Legislative Council, during the session, attending to the interests of the colony. We know that one of the conditions of that officer's appointment is that he shall be allowed to practise in the Supreme Court as a barrister, and therefore he is perfectly justified in doing so; but he does so at the expense, and must necessarily do so at the expense, of the public business of the colony; and I think the time has come myself when the salary of the Attorney General should be considerably increased, and increased to such an extent that it would not be at all necessary for him to devote his time to anything but the duties devolving upon him in his position of Attorney General for the colony. I am pleased that the hon. member for the Swan has called attention to the matter of this contract, for, according to my own view of the matter, it will be necessary before this Council closes, if the contract is not to be placed before the House for its ratification, to have a resolution passed informing His Excellency of the desire of the Legislature that the Government themselves, without further reference to us, should ratify this contract.

The matter then dropped.

**PUBLIC WORKS LOAN (£525,000) SCHEDULE (MESSAGE No. 21): REPORT OF SELECT COMMITTEE.**

The House went into committee for the further consideration of the report of the select committee appointed to consider His Excellency's Message (No. 21), *re* the proposed loan of £525,000 for public works.

*Customs and Wharf arrangements, Fremantle, including Caretaker's Quarters, £5,000:*

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said the intention was to convert the whole of the premises formerly known as the Commissariat offices and stores, and also the "A" store, into suitable quarters and store for the growing requirements of the Customs department, at Fremantle. It was also proposed to convert the present building used as a post office into a Customs office, and to erect a new post office and postmaster's quarters, for which provision was made in another part of the schedule.

The vote was agreed to.

Mr. S. H. PARKER then moved to insert the following additional item in the schedule,—“Branch line, from the Eastern Railway to the River Swan, opposite the Perth race course, £2,000.” The hon. member submitted that this was a work which should commend itself to the committee on various grounds; it would pay, it would be a public convenience, and it would afford improved facilities for people to enjoy an occasional day's amusement and recreation, the want of which he believed caused many newcomers to leave our shores. The estimated cost of the line (which had already been surveyed) was £2,000, the interest and sinking fund on which would be £120. Estimating there might be only two days' racing in the year, and that a thousand people travelled to the course by rail each day, at an average charge of 2s. each, that would give £200, which would leave a good margin for wear and tear and working expenses—more than cover the actual cost. But it was not at all probable, if this railway were built, that the racing would be confined to two days in the year; and, moreover, the ground was admirably adapted for picnics, and for the purposes of a military encampment. So that altogether he thought he might safely say the line would be as reproductive a line, for its length, as any line in the colony, and probably more so.

Mr. MARMION expressed himself altogether in favor of the proposal, which he thought would be a great boon and convenience to the sporting public, and especially to Fremantle people.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said the work was included in the original schedule that came under the consideration of the select committee, but, upon being put to the vote, a majority was found to be against it, and it was struck out. He was very pleased, however, to be able to say that, although he feared he should not be able to assent to any further encroachment upon the balance of £10,000 reserved for contingencies, he thought they might venture to include this amount in the schedule, provided no further item be added to the list.

Mr. GRANT said, although he was averse to this loan altogether, still he was open to conviction, and he felt very

much inclined to give this item his support, as he was a strong believer in keeping up all old English sports.

THE HON. J. G. LEE STEERE was afraid the hon. member for the North had, in racing parlance, been "got at" in this matter. He thought the course adopted by the hon. member who brought forward this proposal was a very inconvenient one. The select committee were unanimously of opinion that a reserve of not less than £10,000 should be left for contingencies, and, unless some of these other items were struck out, that reserve fund would be entrenched upon to the extent of £2,000. The further they proceeded with the discussion of the proposed appropriation of this loan the more he regretted that His Excellency had ever asked the Secretary of State to sanction so large a loan. The whole thing had become a mere scramble among hon. members, and the money, it appeared to him, was sought to be apportioned according to each individual member's hobby. [Several hon. members: No, no.] That was the state of the loan now, and, he must repeat, he regretted His Excellency had ever asked them to consider the distribution of such a large sum. They were told that this branch line among other things would prevent people leaving the colony. That was simply rubbish. The idea of two days' racing in the year, and such racing as ours, having the effect of preventing an exodus of people from our shores, was almost too ridiculous to contemplate.

MR. RANDELL said there were several items in the schedule which he regretted to see introduced into a loan bill, and this was another. He thought they would be doing wrong to reduce the margin for contingencies, and he should have liked to have seen the Colonial Secretary showing a bold front and setting his face against it. Other hon. members might have some "hobbies" in their minds or in their pockets, quite as worthy of being included in the loan as this particular "hobby" (as he thought it had been very properly termed by the hon. member for the Swan). He regretted it should have been brought forward, and he hoped the House would reject it.

MR. GRANT said the racing people were only joining in the general swim.

Personally, as he had already said, he was very much against this loan, at the present juncture. It would only involve the colony in serious consequences, and bring about increased taxation and high tariffs. He should have much preferred to have seen the loan brought forward spontaneously by the representatives of the people, who would have to pay for it. He did not like this claptrap attempt to obtain popularity on the part of the Government.

MR. MARMION said it was no secret that the hon. member for the North would only be too glad to thwart the raising of this loan altogether, for reasons which were known to every hon. member. The hon. member would prefer to keep the revenues of his beloved North intact; but he (Mr. Marmion) thought the North had got a very liberal share indeed of this loan. It was apparent all through that the hon. member's game was Separation, and he had played his cards too plainly altogether. Instead of blaming the Governor and the Government for initiating this loan, he thought His Excellency was entitled to very much praise,—entitled to the gratitude of the House and of the public. He thought, if the Government in this matter had shown themselves a little in advance of public opinion, they deserved credit rather than blame. [MR. GRANT: Not in money matters.] The Governor merely asked the Secretary of State to sanction a loan, and having obtained that sanction, His Excellency had left it to the representatives of the people to determine upon what works the money should be expended. Under these circumstances he thought it was, to say the least, unfair that the hon. member for the North should endeavor to cast any aspersions upon the Governor and the Executive bench in the matter.

MR. GRANT said it was quite true he had made no attempt to conceal his hand at all. He would be sorry to resort to any disguise in the matter. He was all openness and candour in all he did. He had nothing particular to complain of this session as to the treatment which the North had received, but in the past it had been shamefully neglected, and did not owe the least particle of gratitude to this part of the colony. He did not blame hon. members for coming forward and joining in the general scramble, but

he decidedly did object to the North having to pay for the scramble.

**THE CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES** said the hon. member should confine his remarks to the question before the committee.

**MR. GRANT:** If you shut me up of course I must shut up. I have been sat upon two or three times in the course of this debate. It appears to me that considerable latitude is allowed in some quarters,—when the wind is in the South; but when it veers to the North we have to shut up.

**THE CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES:** The hon. member has no business to address the Chair in those terms.

The new item was then agreed to.

*Geraldton Jetty Extension and Goods Shed, £2,000:*

Agreed to without comment.

*Derby Tramway and Jetty, £3,000; Dongarra Jetty extension, £2,000; Busselton Jetty extension, £2,000; Bunbury Jetty extension and Goods Shed, £2,500; Completion of South Jetty, Fremantle, £800; Bridgetown and Bunbury Telegraph, including office at Bridgetown, £2,550:*

Agreed to without discussion.

*Gingin Telegraph, £1,500:*

**MR. SHENTON** pointed out the necessity of providing telegraph communication for the residents of Dandaragan and Yatheroo, where, within a radius of twelve miles, there were probably no less than 250 settlers, who, comparatively speaking, were shut out altogether from direct communication with head quarters.

The item was then put and passed.

*Pinjarrah and Mandurah Telegraph, including office at Mandurah, £800; Mandurah Breakwater, £1,300; Breaksea Island Telegraph, £1,300; Steam Launch, Fremantle, £1,500; Steam Launch, Marine Survey (half paid by Admiralty), £500; Post and Telegraph Offices, &c., Perth, £10,000; Railway Workshops, Fremantle, £2,000; Court House and Magistrate's Quarters, Gascoyne, £1,500; Post Office and Postmaster's Quarters, Fremantle, £3,000:*

Agreed to, without comment.

*Government House and Domain (additions and improvements):*

**MR. RANDELL** said, although he knew it was no use, he must enter his protest against such an item as this being included in a Loan Bill. It re-

minded him of a man giving an expensive ball or a costly wedding breakfast, when he had to borrow the money to do it with. The House, however, having made up its mind for the schedule, the whole schedule, and nothing but the schedule, he felt it would only be a waste of time to divide the committee upon the item.

The item was then put and passed.

*Government House and Domain, Additions and Improvements, £2,500; Extension of Albany Jetty, £1,500; Eucla Jetty, £2,000; Carnarvon—Increased Harbor Accommodation, including Jetty, Tramway, and Bridge, £12,000; Roebourne Telegraph, Completion of Line, £5,000; Rails for Jetties throughout the Colony, £1,750; Boring for Water, £3,000; Telephone Exchange, £2,000; Duplication Telegraph Wires, £2,000:*

The foregoing items, completing the schedule prepared by the select committee, were agreed to *sub silentio*, and the House resumed.

#### JOINT STOCK COMPANIES ORDINANCE, 1838, AMENDMENT BILL.

Read a third time and passed.

#### SUPREME COURT ORDINANCE, 1861, AMENDMENT BILL.

On the order of the day for the further consideration of this bill in committee,

**THE HON. J. G. LEE STEERE** moved that the following new clause be added to the bill:—"No person shall be admitted to act as a barrister or general practitioner of the Supreme Court until such time as he shall have paid the stamp duty required by 'The Stamp Act, 1882.'" The hon. member said that under the Act in question every person admitted to act as a barrister or general practitioner in the Supreme Court was called upon to pay a stamp duty of £10, but he believed that only on one such occasion since the Act had been passed had this duty been paid. It had been stated that the reason for this was that there was no instrument of admission upon which the stamp could be fixed; but the 74th clause provided that, if there be no instrument of admission, the duty payable was to be denoted on the books or records of the Court.

**THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS** (Hon. J. Forrest) said he was

sorry that all the legal members of the House were absent. Did the hon. member intend the provision of this clause to refer to English barristers? He did not know whether it would clash with the Imperial law, under which he understood an English barrister was allowed to practise in any Court of the Empire on presentation of his credentials.

**THE HON. J. G. LEE STEERE** presumed the clause in the local Act would not have been inserted, if it was in conflict with the English law.

**MR. BROWN** said, whatever the English law might be, it was necessary that barristers seeking admission to our Colonial Courts should prove their right of admission, and he thought, whatever the form of admission might be, the applicant should be made to pay the duty.

The new clause was then agreed to.

Preamble and title agreed to.

Bill reported.

The House adjourned at half-past three o'clock, p.m.

## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

*Friday, 12th September, 1884.*

Message (No. 38): Replying to Addresses—Frivolous actions in the Supreme Court—Quarantine of s.s. "South Australian"—Immigration from the South of France—Northern Telegraph Line: Deviation from Point Cloates—Expenditure on Water Police—Loan Estimates, 1885: in committee—Mr. Hardern's Contract for construction of railway between Beverley and Albany—Proposed visit of Sir John Coode re Harbor Works at Fremantle—Presbyterian Church Bill: recommitted; third reading—Beverley-Albany Railway Bill: recommitted; third reading—Appropriation Bill, 1885: second reading; in committee; third reading—Kimberley Sugar Lands Bonus: adjourned debate—Loan (£255,000) Bill for Public Works: second reading; in committee—Imported Labor Registry Bill: third reading—Supreme Court Ordinance, 1861, Amendment Bill: third reading—Adjournment.

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

PRAYERS.

## MESSAGE (No. 38): REPLYING TO ADDRESSES.

**THE SPEAKER** announced the receipt of the following Message from His Excellency the Governor:

"The Governor has the honor to inform the Honorable the Legislative Council that he will take action in accordance with the recommendations contained in the following Addresses:—

"No. 32. Land Grant Railway from Beverley to Eucla.

"No. 37. Deviation in the Route of the Roebourne Telegraph.

"No. 38. Fortification of King George's Sound.

"No. 40. Sharks Bay Pearling Grounds.

"No. 41. Transfer of the Imperial Convict Establishment.

"No. 42. Sanitary Condition and Water Supply of Perth and Fremantle.

"With regard to Address No. 39, the Governor has the honor to state that, as the Secretary of State's Despatch bearing upon the appointment of Mr. J. G. Lee Steere to be an unofficial Member of the Executive Council is marked 'confidential,' he is precluded from laying it before the Legislative Council.

"Government House, Perth, 12th September, 1884."

## FRIVOLOUS ACTIONS IN THE SUPREME COURT.

**MR. MARMION** asked the Honorable the Colonial Secretary whether he had received a communication from the Chamber of Commerce, relative to the best means of preventing frivolous and vexatious actions being brought in the Supreme Court; if so, what course, if any, the Government proposed to adopt in the matter? He might state that the chairman of the Chamber of Commerce had written to him stating that the Government had been addressed on this subject by the Chamber, pointing out that it would be desirable if some check were interposed in the way of instituting frivolous actions in the Supreme Court, by persons who had nothing whatever to lose if the action went against them. What the Chamber of Commerce recommended was that all plaintiffs in actions brought in the higher Court should deposit a sum of £25, as a guarantee for