

seen that one material source of income had failed them, and the general Revenue must suffer accordingly.

**MR. S. H. PARKER:** According to the returns laid before the House there is no apparent falling off in the Revenue.

**THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. M. Fraser):** The fact remains that if the estimated revenue from guano, which estimate will not be realised, be deducted from the Revenue, there must clearly be a falling off in the Revenue.

**MR. CAREY:** The fact also remains that guano cannot be regarded as an ordinary item of Revenue, and, at the best, was only looked upon as a precarious source of income.

**MR. BROWN:** The fact further remains that if the amount of revenue estimated from this source will not be realised, it will be necessary to have recourse to some other means for making up the deficiency, in order to meet the Expenditure, based upon an income of which guano constituted a fractional part. As to the amendment of the hon. member for Perth, it appears to me of little or no importance, and, so far as I can see, the wording of the address in reply may as well remain as it is.

**MR. MARMION** found, on reference to the official returns, that there appeared to have been an actual falling off in the Revenue, comparing the year 1877 with 1878. In the former, the Revenue realised £165,412, and, although the estimated Revenue for last year was £170,591, the actual amount received was only £163,344, being £2000 less than the Revenue of the previous year. He therefore did not think the Government was wrong in stating that there had been a falling off in the Revenue. The amendment seemed to him altogether unnecessary, and, under the circumstances, he trusted the hon. member would withdraw it.

**MR. CROWTHER** was quite sure that the desire of the hon. member when he submitted his amendment was to show the world that there was no reason for apprehending that the credit of the Colony was not firmly established, and that the public Revenue maintained its buoyancy, notwithstanding adverse circumstances. As a matter of fact, the actual amount of the Revenue for 1877,

exclusive of the Imperial grant in aid of police and magistracy, was £150,118 18s. and the Revenue from the same sources during the past year—independent of the Imperial grant—was £150,094 8s., showing a difference of only £24 10s. This difference would have appeared on the other side of the ledger, had the tea ships arrived within the year. The apparent falling off of £2000, referred to by the hon. member for Fremantle, was in reality the sum of the difference between the Imperial grants for 1877 and 1878.

**MR. PARKER** said he had no wish to press his amendment, if the general feeling of the House was not in favor of it.

The report of the Committee, as originally worded, was then adopted.

**THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy)** moved that the address be presented to His Excellency by Mr. Speaker and other members of the House who might choose to attend, on Thursday, 31st July.

Agreed to.

The House adjourned at half past nine o'clock until the following day.

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## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

*Thursday, 31st July, 1879.*

Responsible Government: question by Mr. Brown—Address to His Excellency the Governor—The Governor's Reply—New Bills—Adjournment.

**THE SPEAKER** took the Chair at noon.

**PRAYERS.**

### RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT.

**MR. BROWN**, in accordance with notice, asked the Colonial Secretary, Whether the Government can give the House any information as to the probable cost, direct and indirect, which the

adoption of Responsible Government would entail upon the Colony: also any further information as to the circumstances attendant upon the introduction of Responsible Government in the neighboring Colonies, and as to the conditions under which it has been worked. The hon. member said that in asking the question he was aware that the Government had interested itself to obtain some reliable information from official sources on this subject, and he thought it was very desirable that the public should be placed in possession of that information, if there was no objection on the part of the Government to furnish it.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy) said the Government saw no objection to the information asked for being afforded, and the same would be laid on the Table as soon as the necessary documents were printed.

#### ADDRESS TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR, AND THE REPLY.

At half-past twelve o'clock the Council adjourned during leisure, and members present accompanied the Speaker to Government House, to present the address in reply to the opening speech by the Governor. On returning,

MR. SPEAKER announced the fact, and also that His Excellency had been pleased to make the following reply:—

“MR. SPEAKER AND GENTLEMEN OF THE  
“LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,—

“I thank you for the reply you have  
“been good enough to make to me, in  
“answer to my address to you on the  
“opening of the Session.

“I am confident that the result of  
“your deliberations cannot fail to operate  
“in securing for the Colony beneficial  
“and progressive legislation.

“H. St. GEORGE ORD.

“Government House, Perth, 31st July,  
“1879.”

#### FIRST READINGS.

The following Bills were introduced and read a first time: (1)—A Bill to prohibit the use of Dynamite or other explosive substances for the purpose of catching or destroying fish in Western Australia. (2)—A Bill to further amend “The Customs Ordinance, 1860.” (3)—

A Bill to amend “The Railways Act, 1878.” (4)—A Bill to amend “The Vendor and Purchaser Act, 1878.” (5)—A Bill to give effect in Western Australia to Probates and Letters of Administration granted in any part of Her Majesty's Dominions. (6)—A Bill to make additional provision for Prison Discipline in Western Australia.

The House adjourned at half-past one o'clock, p.m., until Friday.

#### LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

*Friday, 1st August, 1879.*

The Council met in accordance with adjournment, but no business was transacted, the Notices of Motion and Orders of the Day being postponed until Monday.

#### LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

*Monday, 4th August, 1879.*

Personal Explanation—High School: By-laws and Regulations—Ruling of Mr. Speaker as to reference of Questions of Finance to select committees—Aides-de-camp to Colonial Governors—International Exhibitions, Melbourne and Sydney—Financial Returns—Public Officers Bill: third reading—Fisheries Dynamite Bill: second reading; in committee—Customs Ordinance, 1860, Amendment Bill, 1879: second reading—Railways Act, 1878, Amendment Bill, 1879: second reading—Vendor and Purchaser Act, 1878, Amendment Bill, 1879: second reading; in committee—Foreign Probate Bill: second reading; in committee—Prison Discipline Bill, 1879: second reading; in committee—Adjournment.

THE SPEAKER took the Chair at seven p.m.

PRAYERS.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION.

MR. CAREY rose to make a personal explanation. He said that in the course

of his remarks in the debate on the address in reply to the Governor's speech, on Wednesday evening, and referring to the late Acting Colonial Secretary (Hon. A. O'Grady Lefroy), he had made use of words which he certainly at the time did not intend should convey the meaning which those words did. When he found, afterwards, that he had made use of rather strong language—although, in no way, unparliamentary language—but, when he found that he had spoken rather plainly on the occasion referred to, he made it his business to obtain from the reporter of the House a copy of the exact words which he had made use of, and they were these: "When he (the 'Acting Colonial Secretary') made that 'statement [referring to the unexpended 'balance in the Treasury chest on the '30th June, 1877,] he must have known 'that he was not making a correct 'statement. The hon. member for 'Toodyay has given an explanation of 'the Acting Colonial Secretary's conduct, 'so far as to offer a sort of apology for 'him—that the hon. gentleman made a 'statement, rightly or wrongly, and 'having made it he stuck to it. That's 'about it.' Now he would be very sorry, very sorry indeed, in common with every member of that House, to say anything attributing to one so well known as Mr. Lefroy any conduct such as those words attributed to him, or to give utterance to anything reflecting upon that gentleman's honesty, integrity of purpose, or truthfulness. What he meant to have said was that Mr. Lefroy—holding the position which he then did, not only as the Acting Colonial Secretary, but being in reality the Colonial Treasurer also—before putting forward the figures which he did, was in duty bound to have carefully examined the accounts, to ascertain whether the figures were correct or not, more especially as they had been challenged by the Press. Instead of that, he appeared to have put them forward without having instituted a careful examination of the accounts, which, had it been done, would have shown that the figures were incorrect. That was what he meant to have said, and not that Mr. Lefroy, having made a statement which he knew to be untrue, stuck to it. He would be sorry, as he already said, to impute any such dishonorable conduct to

one so well known for his honesty and probity as the late Acting Colonial Secretary. He (Mr. Carey) believed he had also erred in referring as he had done to the action of the Government with reference to the Royal Mail service, he having been under the impression that the report of the Superintendent of Police (to which he had alluded) was dated last year, and not this.

#### HIGH SCHOOL—BY-LAWS AND REGULATIONS.

MR. SHENTON asked the Colonial Secretary whether the Governors of the High School had, in pursuance of the provisions of the Act, made any by-laws and regulations; also, whether they had taken any, and what, steps with reference to the internal conduct and management of the school, and the course of education given at it? Neither the House nor the country had, so far, received any information as to the progress made by this institution, which was quite as much under the control of the Government and of the Legislature as were the Elementary State Schools, and he considered it was as much the duty of the governors to furnish the House with an annual report as to the progress and the working of the school as it was incumbent on the Central Board of Education to furnish, as they did every year, a report on the condition of the public elementary schools. The hon. member also called the attention of the House to the fact that, pursuant to the provisions of the second section of the High School Act passed last year, it would be necessary to elect a governor in place of Mr. Randell, who, by being absent from the Colony over a certain period, had forfeited his post.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy) said the papers asked for by the hon. member would shortly be laid on the Table of the House.

#### PREVIOUS RULING OF MR. SPEAKER WITH REFERENCE TO QUESTIONS OF FINANCE BEING REFERRED TO SELECT COMMITTEES.

THE SPEAKER: It will be in the recollection of the House that last year

when it was resolved that the Excess of Expenditure Bill should be referred to a Select Committee, my attention was called by the hon. member for Vasse to the question of whether such a proceeding would not be out of order, the hon. member maintaining that all questions of finance should be considered in a Committee of the whole House only, and that it was not competent to refer such questions to a Select Committee. [*Vide Hansard*, vol. III, p.p. 38-41.] Believing at the moment that the hon. member was right, I ruled that it would be out of order to refer the Over-Expenditure Bill to a Select Committee; but, entertaining some doubts on the subject, I took the trouble of referring the question home, and I may now inform the House that I have received some very valuable opinions on the Point of Order raised—the opinions, in fact, of the Speaker of the House of Commons and of the Chairman of Committees of that House, who, with the utmost courtesy, have taken very great trouble to furnish me with the proper ruling on the point. I need not read *in extenso* the opinions with which I have been favored by these eminent functionaries, but I shall be happy to show them to any hon. member who wishes to peruse them. I think it will suffice now if I read to the House an extract from the letter of the Chairman of Committees (Mr. Henry Cecil Raikes), which is as follows: "I infer also that the Australian Speaker misapprehended Rule 19 of the Standing Orders of the Legislative Council by assuming that it extended to the proceedings on Bills, whereas I conceive it was intended to follow the English rule, which applies only to money resolutions."

#### AIDES-DE-CAMP TO COLONIAL GOVERNORS.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy), in accordance with notice, moved, That the House do now resolve itself into a Committee of the whole, to consider a question of expenditure regarding the pay of military officers appointed as aides-de-camp to Colonial Governors.

Agreed to.

#### IN COMMITTEE.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy) said that among the papers which had been laid on the Table of the House the other day was a despatch from the Secretary of State for the Colonies regarding this subject, in which it was represented that "under the provisions of the Royal Warrant for promotions of the 13th of August, 1877, it is no longer possible to allow an officer to hold the appointment of Aide-de-Camp to a Colonial Governor, or any other Colonial appointment, without replacing him in his regiment; and that under these circumstances the additional cost of appointing an officer to such a post will not now be limited to the Staff pay and allowances, but will involve the increased charge of his Regimental pay, which in the case of a Captain is £211 per annum. As the conditions on which Aides-de-Camp have been allowed to Colonial Governors have been that the whole additional charge shall be met by the Colony, it will in future be necessary for the Colonies either to pay the full Regimental pay of these Officers, when claimed by the War Office, in addition to the Staff pay and allowances, or (which the Secretary of State for War thinks will be the most convenient course), to make arrangements with each Officer to pay him his total emoluments for the whole term of service fixed for the appointment." The Secretary of State further said that "it is to be understood that the amount of the Staff pay and allowances of an Aide-de-Camp to a Colonial Governor may be fixed at such rates as each Colonial Government may decide upon," and that "the Regimental pay of such Officers will continue to be defrayed from Imperial Funds until the 31st of March next inclusive; but from that date either it must be defrayed from Colonial Funds, as well as the Staff pay and allowances, or the Officers must return to their regiments from which they can no longer be spared." Hon. members would thus perceive that they had no alternative but either to pay His Excellency's Aide-de-Camp, or let him go without one. He did not suppose for a moment that the House would consent to the latter alter-

native. In the case of the present Aide-de-Camp (Lieut. Ord, R.A.), the amount which would have to be provided on the Estimates for this purpose was £125, and he did not think the House would object to make that provision for the Officer who now occupied the post. He would therefore move—"That this Council having taken into consideration the despatch to His Excellency the Governor from the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for the Colonies, regarding the pay of military officers appointed as Aides-de-Camp to Colonial Governors, recommend that an Humble Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor, praying that he will be pleased to place on the Estimates the sum of one hundred and twenty-five pounds one shilling for such purpose."

The resolution was agreed to without discussion.

#### INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITIONS— MELBOURNE AND SYDNEY.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy), having moved the House into Committee to consider the correspondence relative to the International Exhibitions to be held at Sydney and Melbourne, said he need not read the correspondence, as hon. members had already had an opportunity of perusing it. He might at once say that the Government were very sorry to have been unable to see their way to have the Colony represented at the approaching Exhibition in Sydney, in consequence of the limited time available for collecting and preparing such a display of exhibits as would do justice to the resources and capabilities of the Colony. He hoped however that next year we would be in a position to make a creditable display at Melbourne, as there was ample time to make the necessary preparations, and he thought it would be a pity if we did not avail ourselves of the opportunity thus afforded us of securing an adequate representation of the Colony. Possibly it might be said we would not be able to exhibit to much advantage side by side with the other and more prosperous members of the Australasian group, still he thought we could make a very effective display, if we worked energetically to that end. He hoped, however, if the

House voted a grant of money for the purpose of having the Colony represented, the Government would not be asked on all sides by intending exhibitors to pay for the exhibits furnished, as had been the case in connection with the Paris Exhibition. On that occasion people were willing enough to contribute articles for show, if the Government would purchase them, but they did not care to part with them on any other terms. He trusted this would not be the spirit by which the Colonists would be animated in preparing for the Melbourne Exhibition; if it were, he was afraid no commission which might be appointed by the Government would be able to do but very scant justice to the Colony. He would be very sorry to find Western Australia attempting a show that would be unworthy of its resources and capabilities, and he therefore trusted that the Colonists themselves would readily co-operate with the Government, and display a little more liberal and patriotic feeling than on former similar occasions. He now begged to move formally—"That this Council having taken into consideration the correspondence relative to International Exhibitions to be held at Sydney and Melbourne, recommend that an Humble Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor, praying that he will be pleased to place on the Estimates such sum, not exceeding £1,000, as will ensure the products of this Colony being properly represented at the forthcoming Exhibition, to be held at Melbourne in 1880."

MR. BROWN had much pleasure in supporting the resolution, and he believed every hon. member present would likewise be pleased to find that the Government were desirous of having the Colony properly represented at Melbourne. At the same time he could not agree with the hon. the Colonial Secretary that the movement should be left chiefly in the hands of the people themselves, and for this reason—there were very few products in this Colony we could expect private individuals to exhibit. We had made little or no progress in arts and manufacturing industry, and all we would be able to contribute would be exhibits illustrative of the natural resources of the Colony. There was timber for instance; he did not think it would be

reasonable to expect any local company to go to the expense of forwarding exhibits on their own account. The same again with wheat; what object was there to induce individual settlers to have their grain exhibited, or their wool? It would yield them no benefit, personally. It was the same again with lead and copper ore, and the other material resources of the Colony, to secure an adequate representation of which the Government should use every exertion, and not depend upon private individuals. It was on this understanding that he supported the resolution.

**THE COLONIAL SECRETARY** (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy) said it could hardly be expected that the Government would, single-handed and unaided, undertake to secure an adequate representation of the capabilities and resources of the Colony.

**MR. S. H. PARKER** was somewhat surprised to find the Government thus fostering a feeling of self-dependence on the part of the Colonists, and advocating a policy of de-centralisation. It had always struck him, so far as he had observed, that the general desire of the Government of this Colony was to centralise everything in the Government, and he was therefore astonished to find they were not anxious to take this movement under their charge and control. As for himself, he regretted extremely that the Colony was not to be represented at Sydney as well as Melbourne. As to the Paris Exhibition, he never regarded it as a matter of any importance whether we showed there or not; the mere fact of the principal Colonies of the group exhibiting there would shed a lustre upon the whole family, and Western Australia would not be missed. But it was a very different matter at an International Exhibition held in our own part of the globe, and the fact of this Colony not being represented, side by side with its sisters, would be a lasting disgrace to us, and create a most unfavourable impression on the minds of visitors. He, therefore, hoped that no efforts would be spared to secure such a representation of our resources at Melbourne as would attract attention, even among the more effective displays of our neighbors. He hoped we should at any rate cut a better figure than we did at the Paris Exhibition, with regard to which a lady friend wrote

to him at the time, that she actually used to "sneak" in and out of the Western Australian court, as she was ashamed to be seen there, and to own that she belonged to a Colony that made such a poor display. Yet it appeared we had paid £500 to a certain gentleman (Sir P. Cunliffe Owen) for doing us the honor of representing us at that Exhibition. He trusted that at Melbourne the Colony would have a more worthy representative, and one who would do something more for his money. The resolution had his cordial support, but he quite agreed with the hon. member for Geraldton that the Government should not expect the settlers to take upon themselves the whole burden of securing an adequate representation of the Colony's products and resources. He had no doubt if the money voted were placed in the hands of a Commission it would be properly and economically expended.

**THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS** (Hon. M. Fraser) was quite sure his hon. friend the Colonial Secretary and the hon. members who had spoken on the subject were in reality quite in accord as to what should be done by the Government and what should be done by the settlers themselves in this matter. There was no desire on the part of the Government to shirk any responsibility in connection with the work of preparation, but they did hope that in their labors they would meet with the cordial support and active co-operation of the Colonists, so as to render the Western Australian court in every respect worthy of the varied resources of the country. What the Colonial Secretary meant was that the Government should not be called upon to pay for every article secured for exhibition, but that the settlers would freely come forward with exhibits, even at a little personal sacrifice, and that the Government should undertake to have the various exhibits carefully shipped to Melbourne and on their arrival there be displayed to the best advantage. The only doubt on his mind was whether the sum asked for would be adequate to ensure our making such a show as the Colony was capable of making.

**SIR L. S. LEAKE** thought it was rather early in the Session for the House

to vote away even hundreds, much less thousands of pounds. Hon. members were well aware that there was a falling off in the revenue, which would have to be met, and he thought before they voted any sums of money it was their duty to see whether they were in a position to afford it, and what was likely to be required to meet the ordinary expenditure of the country. He would like to see the resolution withdrawn for the present, until they went into the question of ways and means. The amount might be placed on the Estimates with other items, and the House would then be in a position to see whether we could afford to spend this sum or not on the object in view.

MR. MARMION, while inclined to agree, to a very great extent, with what had just fallen from the hon. member for Perth (Sir L. S. Leake), thought that at all hazard we ought to be represented at Melbourne. It would be a discredit and a lasting disgrace to the Colony if we did not put in an appearance with the other members of the family group. He could endorse what had fallen from the hon. the Colonial Secretary as to the apathy and lukewarmness displayed by the Colonists in connection with the exhibits for the Paris Exhibition, as he was one of the commission appointed to ensure the representation of the Colony on that occasion. People seemed to think in regard to this, as in other matters, that the Government ought to do everything for them,—to undertake all the labour and to take all the trouble,—although it was not the Government but the Colony that would share in the honor and glory. It did seem strange to him, and it appeared somewhat anomalous, that a community aspiring to become one of the self-governing members of the Australian family should thus manifest so little patriotism and spirit of self-dependence.

MR. MONGER said that, while agreeing with much that had fallen from the hon. member for Fremantle, he thought it would be useless to expect the settlers to supply exhibits and pay the cost of carrying them to a port of shipment; very few people would be prepared to make that sacrifice, when they could expect to reap no benefit. He remembered attending one committee meeting

at York in connection with the Paris Exhibition, and he was so disgusted with the want of enterprise shown on the occasion that he never attended another meeting of the committee, but decided to send some exhibits of his own, and pay the cost of their transport to Perth. Other exhibitors hearing of his intention to do this, expressed their readiness to forward exhibits, and prevailed upon him to send them down with his own, assuring him that the Government would recoup him any expense he went into. He did so, but from that day to this he never got a penny refunded by the Government or anybody else. That however did not deter him from forwarding his exhibits, and he was very proud indeed of the medals which were awarded to him, although they were only bronze. This, he thought, ought to be some encouragement to others to go and do likewise.

The resolution was then put and carried.

#### FINANCIAL RETURNS.

MR. S. H. PARKER, in accordance with notice, moved, That an Humble Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor, praying His Excellency to be pleased to direct that the several returns mentioned hereunder be laid on the Table of the House:—

“A.—A Return showing the exact financial condition of the Colony on the 1st day of January, 1879; such Return to be made up in the nature of a balance sheet for the year 1878; and to show the balance brought forward from 1877; the various items of Revenue and Expenditure during 1878; as also the monies owing by and to the Government, on the 31st December of that year; and the Banks or persons to which or whom the Government owed money on that date, with the respective amounts so owing.

“B.—A Return giving the various items of ‘Miscellaneous Services,’ as they appear in the Colonial Estimates for the year 1878; with one column showing the amount voted by the Legislature for each item of the said services for 1878, and another column showing the amount expended on each of the said items.

"C.—A Return of the whole cost of organising and equipping the Government Overland Mail Service; such return to give in detail the number and cost of horses purchased, the cost of carriages, harness, and other necessaries, and the cost of the erection and repair of buildings, stables, and fences on the Albany Road.

"D.—A Return of the whole cost and expense of the working of the said Mail Service from its commencement until the 31st May last, with a list of the number of men, horses, and carriages now employed in the said service.

"E.—A Return of the whole cost and expense of and incidental to the introduction of the fifty Chinese Coolies recently imported to the Colony by the Government.

"F.—A Return, with dates and items, showing (so far as the same can at present be made up) the whole cost of the construction of the Northern Railway; the cost of all Rolling Stock; the cost of lands purchased or taken for the said Railway or its Stations; the cost of the erection of Stations, and all other incidental expenses."

MR. PARKER said he thought all hon. members would agree with him in concurring in a remark that was made by His Excellency the Governor in the speech with which His Excellency opened the House last year, namely "that the finances of a country were undoubtedly the most important matter with which its Administration had to deal," and it would be observed that the returns which he now asked for related to that matter—the financial condition of the Colony. It appeared to him, however, that the Government here always acted, and had always acted, apparently under the impression—which appeared to be traditional—that the people themselves had no right to look too closely into money matters. Apparently, it had always been the opinion of the Executive that so long as they gave a rough sketch of the financial condition of the Colony to the Legislature once a year, they had done all that could be asked of them, and that the public should be satisfied therewith. For some years past they had had nothing more than a rough sketch, and even so late as last year, His Excellency when opening the Session and referring

to the financial condition of the Colony, passed the subject over by a cursory remark to the following effect: "This time last year (1877) there seems to have been reason to believe that there was a considerable balance to the credit of the Colony, and it was anticipated that it would be larger by the end of the year. I regret to say that these anticipations have not been fulfilled, and, although there is nothing in our financial position to give cause for apprehension, I think it will be found necessary to use economy in our expenditure during the remainder of the current year." That was all the information vouchsafed to the House. They never received any financial statement showing exactly what there was to the credit of the Colony on the 1st January, 1877, and again on the 1st January, 1878. It was true that some time near the close of the Session, in pursuance of a resolution of the House, they were furnished with a return showing that the balance in the Treasury chest available for public expenditure on 1st January, 1877, was £8669, and that on the 1st January next year this sum had dwindled down to £4063. But these returns not being considered satisfactory, he (Mr. Parker) called for another return a few days afterwards—a return showing the exact financial condition of the Colony on the 1st January, 1878, and the amount actually overpaid by the Colonial Treasurer at that date. The return in question showed this amount to have been £11,651 17s. 5d., whereas it now appeared, from the speech with which His Excellency opened the present Session that the Colony at that date was indebted £17,885, showing a difference of over £6000 in the two official statements. Hon. members would observe that His Excellency, even in the speech delivered a few days ago, did not appear to be at all certain as to the actual financial condition of the Colony; he appeared to deal with the subject more as a matter of conjecture than of certainty. His Excellency's words were: "I regret to say that an investigation into the accounts proves these assumptions to have been erroneous, and that whatever may have been the surplus at one time, at the period referred to it had altogether disappeared. Nor will



"this, I think, cause much surprise when it is known that between 1875 and 1878 there was expended on the Eucla telegraph line the sum of £49,565, and that in 1877 and 1878 the Legislature authorised by resolutions the expenditure of upwards of £12,000 on services for which no provision was made in the "Estimates." Now he (Mr. Parker) regretted he failed to see how the balance existing on the 30th June, 1877, could have been affected by any votes of the Legislature in 1877 and 1878. Throughout the whole of His Excellency's speech when dealing with the finances of the Colony, there was nothing certain, nothing definite—mere assumptions and probabilities; but he (Mr. Parker) hoped that when the returns he now moved for were furnished they would have something more definite than assumptions. The first return he asked for was one showing the exact financial condition of the Colony on the 1st day of January this year, to be made up in the form of a balance sheet, showing the balance brought forward from 1877, the various items of revenue and expenditure during 1878, as also the monies owing by and to the Government on the 31st December in that year. He had been very precise in the terms of this notice, and purposely so; he had done it advisedly, simply because he was anxious that there should be no loophole for escape, and that the House should be furnished with a correct and true statement of the financial affairs of the country. It would not be said that he was taking the Government by surprise in moving for these returns, for so far back as the 15th January, this year, he had given notice of his intention to move for them. He would also direct the attention of hon. members to the abstract of the cash accounts of the Crown Agents for the year ending 31st December, 1877, where it was certified under the hand of the Auditor General that there was a balance of £6717 4s. 7d. in the hands of those gentlemen on that date; but, turning to the abstract of the Crown Agents' cash account for the year ending 31st December, 1878, he found that, instead of there having been a balance of £6717 4s. 7d. in hand at the beginning of the year to commence with, the Agents had been overpaid at that time a sum of £4897

10s. 11d.—showing a discrepancy of £11,614 15s. 6d. No explanation whatever was vouchsafed as to this discrepancy in the Auditor General's statement published with the "Votes and Proceedings" of the House.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy): Did the hon. member read the footnote at the bottom of the page?

MR. S. H. PARKER said he had. The note was as follows: "The whole of the loan expenditure by the Crown Agents is included in the above abstract. In previous abstracts it has been excluded." He must confess he was so obtuse that he could find no explanation of the discrepancy in that. According to one return, that furnished last year, there was a balance of £6,717 4s. 7d. unexpended in the hands of the Crown Agents on the 31st December, 1877; but, according to the return furnished this year, there was an amount of £4,897 10s. 11d. overpaid to the Crown Agents on that day. This latter statement was in accord with the return furnished to him (Mr. Parker) on the 24th July, 1878—or, at any rate, within a penny, which was neither here nor there. He mentioned these discrepancies in order to show why he had been so precise and exact in the terms of the notice he had given for the returns now asked for, so that the Government could have no excuse for saying that they had misunderstood what he wanted. The second return he wished for was one giving the various items under the head of "Miscellaneous Services"—the amount voted by the House for each particular item, and the amount actually expended on such item. The Colonial Secretary had already placed on the Table of the House a statement affording some explanation relating to the overdraft under this head; but what he wanted was a return showing the amount authorised by the House to be expended on each particular item, and the amount which the Government had actually expended. For instance, there was £1000 voted for the Volunteers, but for all the House knew not a penny of that vote had been expended on the service for which it was authorised, and he thought the country was entitled to every information on these points. It was the people's money

they were spending, and the people were entitled to know how it was spent. The next return he had moved for was one showing the whole cost of organising and equipping the Government overland mail service, and he hoped this would be given with every minuteness and detail, both as to the number of horses employed, the cost of breaking them in, the cost of the red and yellow van, of the harness, and of the stations on the road—what horses had been transferred from the police service to the mail service, and what proportion of the upkeep of those horses was chargeable to the Post Office department, and the same again with regard to the policemen employed, and the native constables. The next return asked for was one relating to the cost of introducing the fifty Coolies lately imported by the Government—a return which he was sure the Government would have much pleasure in furnishing. Another return was one relating to the expenditure in connection with the Geraldton and Northampton Railway, which return he thought the public had a right to obtain; he therefore hoped no impediment would be placed by the Government in the way of furnishing it.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy) said the Government were quite willing to furnish the returns marked A, B, and C, but the preparation in detail of the returns denoted by the letters C and D would involve so much clerical labor and waste of time that he trusted the hon. member would not press his motion with regard to these returns. Ample information as to the cost of organising and equipping the overland mail service was embodied in the papers already furnished to the House, and if the hon. member thirsted for more detailed information, embracing particulars as to the color of the horses, their brands, ages, etc., he hoped he would bear in mind the clerical labor it would involve, and not press for such information, which, after all, would hardly be regarded as absorbingly interesting to the House or to the public. With regard to the return marked E, the Government had no objection whatever to its being furnished, but he trusted the hon. member would see the inexpediency of furnishing the return marked F, when he informed

the House that litigation was pending in connection with the railway works referred to.

MR. S. H. PARKER said he was not aware that any litigation was pending between the Government and the contractor. Of course, he did not wish the Government to furnish any information that might tend to prejudice any defence which the Government might have to offer in a court of law.

#### PUBLIC OFFICERS BILL.

Read a third time and passed.

#### FISHERIES DYNAMITE BILL.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy) moved the second reading of a Bill having for its object the prohibition of the use of dynamite, or any other explosive substances for the purpose of catching or destroying fish in the waters of this Colony. Hon. members must be aware of the necessity of the measure, more especially at Perth, where the practice of using dynamite for the purpose of catching fish in the Swan had of late been resorted to.

Bill read a second time.

Bill committed and reported.

#### CUSTOMS ORDINANCE, 1860, AMENDMENT BILL, 1879.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy) moved the second reading of a Bill to further amend the Customs Ordinance. The first section of the Bill provided that goods might be unshipped from mail steamers on Sundays—a very necessary provision in some cases, and one which would become still more necessary when the bi-monthly mail service came into operation. The second clause was introduced for the purpose of restoring certain schedules to the Customs Ordinance, which were inadvertently repealed under the provisions of the recent Boat Licensing Act. The third and last section of the Bill empowered magistrates to commit a convicted smuggler to prison, in the event of his goods and chattels not being sufficient to answer the amount of any fine inflicted upon him.

Bill read a second time, without discussion.

# RAILWAYS ACT, 1878, AMENDMENT BILL, 1879.

THE ACTING ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. G. W. Leake) moved the second reading of a Bill to amend "The Railways Act, 1878." That Act, when it came to be referred to for the purpose of framing certain regulations connected with the survey and maintenance of railways, was found to be singularly defective in some respects. The twenty-seventh section of the Act empowered the Commissioner of Railways to make certain by-laws for the regulation of traffic and for the preservation of order on a railway; but it did not empower him to make by-laws for such purposes as regulating the mode by which, and the speed at which, carriages using the railway were to be moved or propelled, or for regulating the times of the arrival and departure of trains. The Bill now before the House rendered it lawful for the Commissioner to frame such regulations, as well as others, which he was not empowered to do under the present Act. The thirtieth clause of that Act limited the liability of the Commissioner as a common carrier, and, in addition to the limitation there provided, it was now proposed to empower that official to regulate the description of animals, passengers, and goods which may from time to time be refused to be received for carriage on any railway. Under the present Act, the Commissioner had no power to refuse to carry anything. He thought when hon. members came to consider the Bill in Committee, it would be found to be a very necessary and useful measure.

MR. SHENTON believed there were several other respects in which the existing Act was singularly deficient, and which it would be necessary to provide for, when they came to consider the Bill in Committee. He had no intention to oppose the Bill, but he hoped its committal would be postponed for a day or two at any rate.

Bill read a second time, and ordered to be considered in Committee on Wednesday.

# VENDOR AND PURCHASER ACT, AMENDMENT BILL.

THE ACTING ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. G. W. Leake) moved the

second reading of this Bill, the object of which is to repeal a section of the Imperial Act which the Bill passed last Session did not repeal.

Bill read a second time and passed through Committee without discussion.

# FOREIGN PROBATE BILL.

THE ACTING ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. G. W. Leake) moved the second reading of a Bill to give to probates and letters of administration granted in any other part of Her Majesty's dominions, the like force and effect as if originally granted in this Colony, upon the same being re-sealed.

Bill read a second time, and passed through Committee *sub silentio*.

# PRISON DISCIPLINE ACT, AMENDMENT BILL.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. M. Fraser) moved the second reading of a Bill to make additional provisions for the punishment of persons convicted of surreptitiously conveying any article to a prisoner undergoing sentence of penal servitude or imprisonment, or of concealing any article for the purpose of being received by such prisoner.

Motion agreed to, and the Bill passed through Committee without discussion.

The House adjourned at ten minutes past nine o'clock, p.m.

# LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Wednesday, 6th August, 1879.

Petition—Salaries of certain Public Officers: Report of Commission—Hansard, Votes and Proceedings, and Blue Book—Nominated Immigrants and Chinese Coolies—Public Park at Fremantle—Customs Ordinance, Amendment Bill: in committee—Third Readings—Adjournment.

THE SPEAKER took the Chair at 7 p.m.

PRAYERS.