

## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

*Tuesday, 30th October, 1888.*

New Police Station and Court House for Pinjarrah—Rickets or Wabbles in Cattle—Appropriation Bill (Supplementary), 1888: second reading—Gold Declaration Bill: third reading—Boat Licensing Bill: third reading—Scab Bill: referred to select committee—Adjournment.

THE SPEAKER took the Chair at noon.

## PRAYERS.

## NEW POLICE STATION AND COURT HOUSE FOR PINJARRAH.

CAPT. FAWCETT, in accordance with notice, asked the Director of Public Works what steps had been taken (if any) to build a new police station and court house at Pinjarrah?

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright) said the matter was under consideration.

## RICKETS OR WABBLES IN CATTLE.

CAPT. FAWCETT, in accordance with notice, moved the following resolution: "That the House take into consideration the desirability of appointing a Commission, or, otherwise, engaging an experienced Veterinary Surgeon, to study the disease known as rickets or wabbles in cattle, so as to assist settlers in discovering the best method of preventing the increase of this serious disease." In his opinion, this disease known as "wabbles" in cattle was almost as bad as scab in sheep. We had got rid of scab in sheep, it appeared, and he thought it would be an excellent thing for cattle breeders if we could discover some cure for this other disease. A large cattle owner in his district had requested him to bring this matter before the House, so that, if possible, we might find out some information that would enable us to get rid of it, or ascertain the cause of it. Nobody seemed to know what the cause of it was; but it was very prevalent among cattle in this colony. He had been allowed by the Colonial Secretary to read some correspondence on the subject, from different districts of the colony, and he found that there were fifteen districts infected with wabbles and eight districts not infected

with wabbles. Hon. members might laugh, but it was no laughing subject for people who had cattle; in fact, it was so serious that unless a cure were discovered for it, a large breeder in his district, Mr. David Murray, had informed him he would have to give up cattle breeding. He therefore hoped the House would agree with him as to the desirability of a Commission, or of a competent Veterinary Surgeon, being appointed to inquire into the matter. Rickets were known in other countries; the disease affected the bones, and especially the spinal bones or vertebræ, and was generally supposed to arise from a deficiency of phosphate of lime—so the dictionary said. He knew this: the disease did not occur among cattle at the Williams; being so far away from a coast run they did not get a change, and cattle there did not seem to get the rickets. Murray was the worst district of all for it, and there cattle changed their runs for the coast. His own opinion was that this was the cause of it, for cattle that never went to a coast run seemed to escape it. At any rate he thought it would be a good thing if the Government could be persuaded to spend some £500 or so in obtaining the services of a thoroughly practical man from the other colonies, or to appoint a Commission, so as to enlighten us as to the real cause of the disease and the cure for it.

MR. RICHARDSON said he had much pleasure in seconding the motion, though he thought it would be advisable to alter the wording of it; he thought it would be better to leave it to the Commission to decide whether it was necessary to appoint a Veterinary Surgeon or not. It might be advisable to have a chemical analysis made of the plants or shrubs which might be supposed to be the cause of the disease, when eaten by cattle. The hon. and gallant member told them this was a very serious question to owners of cattle infected by this disease, and there was no doubt he was right. He himself knew many breeders who said they would have to give up cattle breeding altogether; the disease was such an affliction to them that it was utterly hopeless for them to endeavor to breed and make it pay. That, in the Southern districts, would be a very serious thing for the colony. His

own opinion of the matter was that whether a cure could be found for it or not it would prove so expensive in its application as to render it impracticable. But they might ascertain the cause of it, and thus aid our settlers in taking steps to prevent their cattle being attacked by it. Such information would be of great value.

**THE COLONIAL SECRETARY** (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) said that some years ago an inquiry was made by the Government as to this disease, and, as the hon. member for Murray and Williams had said, he had shown to the hon. member the papers and correspondence on the subject, from the various districts of the colony, so that he might satisfy himself how far the inquiry had gone. The Government at that time endeavored to find out the root of the evil, in order if possible to provide a remedy, but he was sorry to say they were not successful, on that occasion. Whether the appointment of a Commission of practical men might have the desired result of course he could not say; and, so far as he was aware, there could be no objection to the resolution as it stood. He thought no stone should be left unturned to ascertain the cause of this disease among our cattle, but, as he had already said, the result of the inquiry made in the past did not advance our knowledge of the origin of the disease in any way; they were just as wise after the inquiry as they were before.

**MR. HENSMAN** said as the hon. member for the North, who had suggested an amendment in the wording of the resolution, was debarred from addressing the House again, he moved to substitute the following amendment: "That an humble address be presented to His Excellency the Governor, praying that he will appoint a Commission, with a view to making inquiries into the nature and cause of the disease in cattle known as rickets, or wabbles, and to recommend such steps as they may deem requisite to eradicate such disease."

The amendment, upon being put, was carried.

#### APPROPRIATION BILL (SUPPLEMENTARY), 1888.

**THE COLONIAL SECRETARY** (Hon. Sir M. Fraser), without comment, moved

the second reading of this bill, which was agreed to *sub silentio*.

Bill read a second time.

#### GOLD DECLARATION BILL.

Read a third time and passed.

#### BOAT LICENSING AMENDMENT BILL.

Read a third time and passed.

#### SCAB BILL.

On the order of the day for the commitment of this bill,

**MR. HARPER** moved, as an amendment, that it be referred to a select committee, consisting of the Colonial Secretary, Mr. Burt, and the mover.

Agreed to.

The House adjourned at a quarter to one o'clock, p.m.

#### LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Wednesday, 31st October, 1888.

Cotton Waste for Railway Department—Reward for capture of the bushranger, Hughes—Public Buildings, Finjannah: Why not proceeded with—Reduction in Subscription rates, Telephone Exchange—Railway Van Receiver for late Letters and Newspapers—Reduction of Fees under Gold Mining Regulations—Reply to Message (No. 3): the "West Australian" Petition and the Chief Justice—Roads Bill: in committee—Adjournment.

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

#### PRAYERS.

#### COTTON WASTE FOR RAILWAY DEPARTMENT.

**MR. HORGAN** asked the Director of Public Works whether, within the past 12 or 18 months, a bale of cotton waste for railway engine purposes, of the value of £4 8s., was forwarded by the Crown Agents to the Railway Depart-