

the other colonies, who understood the work thoroughly : it was very simple, and the cost need not be anything like £10 a week. He looked upon the Director of Public Works as an obstructionist.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) suggested that the hon. member for the North should himself place his services at the disposal of the Government to boss the running of this machinery. The thing might be economically worked then.

MR. GRANT said he intended to direct his energies in a more useful direction. He proposed endeavoring to obtain some quartz at the North, to send down to be crushed by this machinery, and, in doing that, he considered he would be doing his share towards the development of the colony's resources.

MR. MARMION said this machinery had cost a large sum of money, and it was a great pity it should be allowed to go to ruin. If the Government did not intend to use it themselves they had better dispose of it to somebody who would.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) thought probably that was the best thing they could do with it—sell it for what it would fetch. At any rate it would be as well to strike the words relating to the erection of this machinery out of the amendment.

THE HON. J. G. LEE STEERE consented to do this, and, with leave, the following words were expunged : "and that the Government at an early date should erect at Fremantle the quartz crushing machinery now lying there."

The amendment, as amended, was then put and passed.

APPROPRIATION BILL (SUPPLEMENTARY), 1884.

This bill was passed through committee *sub silentio*.

CUSTOMS ORDINANCE, 1860, AMENDMENT BILL.

Read a third time and passed.

The House adjourned at a quarter past ten o'clock, p.m.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Friday, 8th August, 1884.

Telegraph Station at Fortescue River—Trucks for Eastern Railway—Indian Remount Service: Colonel William's visit—Medical Officer for the Kimberley District—Landing Platform at Ashburton—Public Works at Derby—Local Court at Victoria Plains—Closure of Streets in York Bill: first reading—Albany Mechanics' Institute Bill: in committee—Deeds of Grant Bill: in committee—Kimberley Sugar Lands, Resumption of from Sale: adjourned debate—Bank Holidays Bill: third reading—Appropriation Bill (Supplementary), 1884—Adjournment.

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

PRAYERS.

TELEGRAPH STATION, FORTESCUE RIVER.

MR. McRAE asked the Director of Public Works, If it is intended to have a telegraph station at the Fortescue River, on the Northampton and Roebourne telegraph line? He had received a letter from the settlers of that locality requesting him, if possible, to endeavor to secure this facility for them.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Mr. C. T. Mason) said that no provision had been made for a station at the Fortescue, but, should it in the future be deemed advisable to have a station there, one would be established.

TRUCKS ON THE EASTERN RAILWAY.

THE HON. J. G. LEE STEERE asked the Commissioner of Railways, What number of additional trucks are required to afford the necessary means of meeting the requirements of traffic on the Eastern Railway, and when such additional number of trucks will be available for use?

THE COMMISSIONER OF RAILWAYS (Mr. C. T. Mason) said that at the present time, having regard to the increasing traffic on this line, the question was rather a difficult one to answer, because what might be required to-day might not be required to-morrow, and what may have been required yesterday might not be required to-day. But he could assure the hon. member that the matter of providing a sufficient number of trucks to meet the requirements of traffic was one that had already engrossed and would in future engross his attention, and that every provision would be made to carry

out what was necessary. The increase of traffic constantly necessitated additional trucks, which were being built and placed on the road as fast as possible.

INDIAN REMOUNT SERVICE: VISIT OF COLONEL WILLIAMS.

SIR T. COCKBURN-CAMPBELL asked the Colonial Secretary, Whether the Government had been in communication with Colonel Williams of the Indian Remount Service, in respect of his visit to this colony; and whether the Colonial Secretary could inform the House at what time that visit is likely to take place? He had been requested to make this inquiry by several settlers, who thought it desirable in the interests of horse-breeders here that they should have some idea when Colonel Williams was likely to visit this colony, on the mission which he had undertaken for the Indian Government.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said he was sorry he was unable to furnish the hon. member with any definite information on the subject. The attention of the public to the probability of Colonel Williams visiting this colony was drawn by a *Gazette* notice on the 3rd of April last, the Government in the previous month having received a communication from the Indian Military Department respecting the visit which Colonel Williams was about to make to Australia, to ascertain the suitability of these colonies for horse-breeding, in connection with the supply of remounts for the Indian army. The reply made to that communication was that this Government would be glad to assist Colonel Williams in every possible manner, in the prosecution of his mission, so far as this colony was concerned. There had been no further communication on the subject.

SIR T. COCKBURN-CAMPBELL suggested the desirability of the Government communicating with Colonel Williams as to his intended visit, so as to ascertain when he is likely to come here. He believed he was now in New South Wales.

MEDICAL MAN FOR THE KIMBERLEY DISTRICT.

MR. McRAE, in accordance with notice, moved, "That an humble address be

"presented to His Excellency the Governor, nor, praying that he will be pleased to place on the Estimates a sum of £200 as salary for a medical man for the Kimberley District." At a public meeting held at Derby a few weeks ago he was asked by the settlers to endeavor to get the Government to have a medical officer stationed there, and he thought the request was a very reasonable one. It was now four or five years since the first settlers went to this district, and something like eighteen months since a Government establishment had been sent there, and he thought hon. members would agree with him that in a trying climate like Kimberley, where there were a lot of settlers and a large Government staff stationed, it was most necessary there should be a medical man in the district. He was only surprised that the Government had not taken some action before this to procure a medical officer for Kimberley. The amount asked for was only a small sum, although a little more than was given to medical officers in the southern districts of the colony; but he expected we should have to pay more to induce a doctor to settle in a trying climate like Kimberley than we would have to do in this part of the colony.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) drew attention to the despatch which had been already published on this very subject, between His Excellency the Governor and Lord Derby. The hon. member who moved this address said he was surprised the Government had taken no action in the matter before now; but if the hon. member had looked at the correspondence which had taken place between the Governor and the Secretary of State he would have seen that the matter had not escaped the attention of the Government. On the 6th June last His Excellency wrote to Lord Derby in the following terms: "A medical officer is much required for the Kimberley district, but cannot be obtained for the salary provided on the Estimates, namely, £100 a year. The difficulty would be surmounted if it were possible to meet with a gentleman who could act both as magistrate and medical officer, and who, besides being a qualified medical practitioner, possessed the character and experience which would render

him an efficient magistrate and representative of the Government in the district." The hon. member would see that so far from having lost sight of the subject, every effort had been made by the Government to secure a medical man for this district, and also for another district where a medical officer was much wanted, —the Gascoyne. In the meantime he had nothing more to say on the subject. If the hon. member still wished this address to go before His Excellency, he was not aware there could be any objection to it.

MR. McRAE said he scarcely thought it was likely the Government would succeed in getting a suitable man to act as magistrate and medical officer: at least the probability was that a long time would elapse before they would do so, and he thought the district had already been a long time enough without a doctor. The Government, in his opinion, should offer £200 instead of £100 towards the salary of a medical man for this district, in order to try to secure the services of such an officer without further delay.

The address was then agreed to without opposition.

LANDING PLATFORM ON THE ASHBURTON.

MR. McRAE, in accordance with notice, moved, "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 £200 to defray the cost of erecting a landing platform on the Ashburton river, Ashburton roads." The hon. member said it would probably be necessary he should state, for the information of the House, where the Ashburton was, as this was the first time they had ever been asked for anything in the shape of public funds for the district, and probably they might not know there was such a place,—except for the revenue derived from it. He might state that the place was surveyed by the officers of the *Meda* some twelve or eighteen months ago, who reported very favorably of the anchorage near the mouth of the river. There was a good landing place on the east bank of the river, about two miles from the mouth, where the stream was about 150 yards wide, with a depth of

10ft. at high water, close up to the bank. But at extra high tides, and during flood times, the water rose over the bank two or three feet, necessitating goods to be carried through some 2ft. or 3ft. of mud and water to get on solid ground. There was already some sort of platform at this landing place, but it was not such a structure as was wanted, and afforded little or no convenience to the settlers at high water. The district was growing in importance every day. There was already a hotel there, and also a store, and the steamers called there monthly now, besides the usual coasters, and, altogether, there was a considerable amount of traffic there. There were twelve or fourteen stations in the district, and about 80,000 sheep, and the export of wool this year would not be less than 700 or 800 bales, which would be shipped direct to London; and it would be a great convenience to the settlers to have this platform erected. The district gave every promise of becoming a prosperous one. There was any quantity of country yet unstocked, and the place showed every likelihood of going ahead; so that the House would be quite justified in agreeing to this expenditure.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser): Has the hon. member satisfied himself as to the sufficiency of the sum asked for?

MR. McRAE thought £200 would meet all their requirements for a year or two.

MR. GRANT said he looked upon this district as a most important part of our Northern territory. This platform would serve a large extent of country, and be of the greatest service to the settlers, some of whom had to bring their wool a distance of 200 or 300 miles for shipment at this place. He had no doubt that in the course of a few years there will be hundreds of thousands of sheep in the district. He did not know whether £200 would be sufficient for this landing; he should have thought it would be better to spend £300 or £400 while they were at it, and have a good strong substantial jetty erected, that would stand for years.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Mr. C. T. Mason) said he did not rise to oppose the motion in any way, for he considered it a fair and reasonable one, and he was satisfied himself that

His Excellency would have much pleasure in assenting to the address, if adopted. But when an hon. member spoke of spending £300 or £400 on a work which it was admitted might be constructed for about half that sum, he thought that was a proposition which was not likely to meet with support. When they were told by the hon. member who moved the address, and who knew the locality well, that there were 10ft. of water close to the river's bank, and that all that is required is a platform, and not a jetty, he was quite confident that the sum asked for (£200) would do all that was necessary, and, so long as this amount was not exceeded, he was not prepared to oppose the motion in any way.

This address was then agreed to.

PUBLIC WORKS AT DERBY.

MR. CROWTHER, in pursuance of his previously expressed intention, moved the following resolution: "That in the opinion of this House no further expenditure on Public Works at Derby (in the Kimberley District) should be made until some competent official or person has visited that townsite, and inspected and reported upon the works now in progress there and the works proposed." The hon. member said that in moving this resolution he did not do so in any way with a view to interfere with the action of the Government, but in order that the money voted by that House for these works shall not be expended until the Government have an opportunity of judging for themselves whether the money is being judiciously spent or not.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Mr. C. T. Mason) said this motion, he thought, was rather calculated to prove somewhat embarrassing to the Government, and he would state why. At the present time, as hon. members were aware, there was a foreman of works and certain number of laborers under him stationed at Derby; they were taken up there on the understanding that when their services were no longer required they would be brought back again at Government expense. Owing to the long distance from head quarters, it was quite impossible for him to state what stage these works were in at the

present moment, but he had every confidence in saying that the men were still employed, and likely to continue so for some considerable time; but if this motion were carried—and of course the Government must pay attention to a resolution of this kind—they might possibly find themselves in a rather awkward fix. A certain amount of timber was required for these works and there would be no money available to pay for it—when he said no money he meant very little money; and the wages of these men would have to be paid, and also their return passages. Therefore if the hon. member pressed his motion the Government would be in this fix: they would either, he was going to say have to pay no regard to this resolution—they would have to put it on one side as if it had never been passed, or, on the other hand, stop the works now in course of progress, at a very short notice, and stop the supplies, which would probably have the result of doing a great deal of damage to the work already done. He thought it was understood that some officers of the Government would be going up to this district very shortly, somebody qualified to make a report on the subject, and to take the necessary steps for carrying on these works efficiently. Hon. members might rest assured that unless it was absolutely necessary to spend the money voted for this purpose it would not be spent. The Government were very anxious to ascertain what state the work already commenced was in, and not to expend any more money than they could possibly help. But, as he had already said, this motion if carried was calculated to embarrass the Government very considerably, and he must ask the hon. member whether, under the circumstances, he would not withdraw it.

THE HON. J. G. LEE STEERE hoped the hon. member would not withdraw it. He did not see that it would embarrass the Government at all. They would have no means of communicating with Derby until His Excellency went up there next month, accompanied, as he understood, by the Director of Public Works himself and probably the Commissioner of Crown Lands. When these works were inspected by some competent officer the Government would not be precluded by

this resolution from incurring further expenditure in connection with them, and he failed to see how it would embarrass the Government in any way. The only object which the House had in view was to prevent any further waste of money. Quite enough had already been thrown away upon public works at Derby.

Mr. McRAE said that a short time ago he visited the Kimberley district and had an opportunity of seeing what had been done in the shape of public works at Derby, and he felt bound to say that some thousands of pounds had actually been thrown away upon these works. The jetty and tramway had evidently been planned under an erroneous idea as to the rise and fall of the tides, which in the summer months rose some 3ft. or 4ft. higher than during the winter months, and these works had evidently been designed for the winter tides. The result was that when the high tides of summer came the jetty was 3ft. or 4ft. under water. At all events all the material which had been used for the jetty had been scattered about the country for miles, and it would have cost more to recover it than to replace it. The tramway which was in course of construction when he was there would probably be completed by this time, and carried across the marsh, and there it would probably remain during the winter tides, but when the summer tides set in, it would be broken up and swept away. While it was in course of construction about 200 yards of it was washed away in one day, and the men were quite unable to carry on the work until the winter tides set in. From his own personal knowledge of the place and from the information given to him by pearlers and others who had visited King Sound, his impression was that there could not be a better and more convenient harbor for all purposes and all parties than this Mary Island, but he thought the Government would have to spend some £2000 or £3000 at the very least before they got suitable harbor works there; and he thought that House had a right to insist that no more money shall be spent upon these works until the Government had sent some thoroughly practical man to report upon the subject, who should be responsible afterwards for the expenditure of this money. There was no doubt

that a place like Derby, intended to be the principal port of an extensive district like Kimberley, must have a suitable landing place, and he thought the proper steps for the Government to take would be to send a practical man up there at once, and have a proper estimate made of what is actually required.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. J. Forrest) said he should like to point out that the resolution did not give any latitude to the Government, but bound them not to incur any further expenditure; so that any expenditure which might occur at Derby tomorrow would be a breach of this resolution. It was well known to hon. members that the Government had a party of men up there, and that the works were going on, and it would be impossible to stop these works without some time elapsing, so that at any rate the resolution would have to be amended, in order to enable the Government to proceed with the works now being carried out. The Colonial Secretary informed the House the other day that His Excellency the Governor was about to visit the district, but this resolution went so far as to say that the House would not trust the Government even until His Excellency went up. He had heard a great deal about the levels being erroneous; all he could say was, they were taken by a competent gentleman, and, until they were proved to be erroneous, he for one would maintain that they were correct. He certainly did not construct the plan from the levels, but he saw it, and by that plan the jetty was 3ft. above high-water mark, and he could not understand what was said to the contrary until he received some further information. According to the information which he now possessed, if the jetty as alleged was 3ft. under water the whole country would be flooded. No doubt the tides might rise a little higher than they had expected, but he certainly could not understand how the jetty could be 3ft. under water. Even if the levels were incorrect—which he did not admit—surely the officers up there were not going to build a jetty 3ft. under water. They would not be bound to follow a plan that would only give a jetty which would be of no use. As for there having been a great waste of money upon these works, in consequence of the timber

having been washed away,—nothing, he presumed, could have prevented the timber being washed away, under the circumstances. No doubt the officer in charge did all he could—at all events it was on record that he did. The same thing had happened to settlers up there; the Government were not the only people who had suffered loss by reason of the high tides washing timber away, and it would be just as unreasonable to blame the managers of private stations for the losses which the owners had sustained as to blame an officer of the Government for the losses caused by these floods. He hoped the House would see that there really was no occasion for this resolution, which, as he had already said, if interpreted in its literal sense, would render the Government open to a charge of acting in defiance of the expressed wish of the House if any further expenditure were incurred at Derby to-morrow.

MR. BROWN did not think there was much fear that the Government would misunderstand the meaning of the resolution, or understand in the way the hon. the Commissioner of Crown Lands had chosen to understand it. He did not think it could be seriously supposed for one moment that the House expected the Government to stop all expenditure at once. Everyone reading the resolution must see that all it meant was that as soon as the Government were in a position to stop expenditure they should do so. Whatever might be said to the contrary, he was satisfied himself that thousands of pounds had been expended at Derby which in a very great measure had been thrown away. He was not blaming anyone at the present moment for this waste, but he thought the House would be doing very wrong in not entering its protest against any further expenditure, until the report of some competent person is received as to the works in progress. It would be better for the men up there to be paid for doing nothing, than be paid for wasting the public funds.

MR. S. H. PARKER thought they might give credit to the Government for having acted with the best of intentions in this matter, and possibly the whole cause of this wasteful expenditure arose from the fact of the Government not having a competent person on the spot

to superintend the works. Under these circumstances, he thought that instead of adopting the resolution now proposed, the House might accept the following amendment: "That in the opinion of this House it is most expedient that the Government take measures to have the Public Works now in progress or intended to be carried on at Derby visited and inspected at the earliest possible opportunity, by some competent authority; and that no more expenditure of public moneys than absolutely necessary be made at Derby on such works, until such authority has reported and advised thereon."

MR. CROWTHER said he was quite prepared to withdraw his resolution in favor of the amendment. The hon. gentleman opposite (the Commissioner of Crown Lands) seemed to think that he had made a complaint against the Government in this matter. He had done nothing of the kind. He had simply taken a common-sense view of the matter—a view which he thought the Government also was quite competent of taking. He never dreamt that the Government should stop these works to-morrow—works a couple of thousand miles away, with no means of communication, and subject to all the drawbacks of pioneer settlement.

The amendment was then put and passed.

LOCAL COURT, VICTORIA PLAINS.

MR. SHENTON moved, "That an humble address be presented to His Excellency the Governor, praying that he will be pleased to take the necessary steps to establish a Local Court at New Norcia, Victoria Plains." The hon. member said he brought forward the motion in consequence of the House having already agreed to a similar address, in favor of the establishment of a Local Court at Bridgetown, and because it would become a great boon and convenience to the settlers of the district.

MR. S. H. PARKER, who seconded the motion, said if the settlers were desirous of having these facilities for going to law, he certainly was not going to offer any opposition to it.

The motion was agreed to, without opposition.

CLOSURE OF STREETS IN YORK BILL.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. A. P. Hensman) moved the first reading of a Bill to make it lawful to close up certain portions of Streets in the town of York.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

ALBANY MECHANICS INSTITUTE BILL.

This bill passed through committee without discussion.

DEEDS OF GRANT BILL.

The House then went into committee for the consideration of this bill, and the three clauses were agreed to *sub silentio*.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. A. P. Hensman) said an important suggestion had been made to him since the Bill was printed, and he had not yet been able to embody the suggestion, as he should like to, in a fresh clause. He would therefore move that progress be reported, and leave given to sit again.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. J. Forrest) said the proposed new clause had reference to deeds issued in the early days of the colony, in which errors had been found, which could not be dealt with under any existing statute. He should like to have the same power as the Commissioner of Titles had, to recall deeds in which it was known an erroneous description or other errors had occurred, so as to rectify them.

Progress was then reported, and leave given to sit again on August 13.

RESERVATION OF KIMBERLEY LANDS FROM SALE.

ADJOURNED DEBATE.

THE HON. J. G. LEE STEERE said he had moved the adjournment of the debate upon the amendment submitted by the hon. member for the North (Mr. McRae) in order that the House might see the amendment in print. He noticed that the amendment proposed that certain lands north of the Leopold Range were to be excluded from sale until a comparison has been made between the sugar lands of Queensland and our northern lands. He did not intend to offer any

opposition to the amendment, though he failed to see how or when a comparison was likely to be made between our northern lands and the sugar lands of Queensland. He did not know whether the hon. member intended that some person should be deputed to visit Queensland, and institute this comparison.

MR. BROWN trusted that hon. members would neither pass the original resolution nor the amendment. He could not say there might not be something in the proposition, and probably the time may come when it may be desirable to take some such step as this; but he did think it was undesirable we should do so now. His feeling at present was that all that people now got by going up to this district, they well deserved. If they purchased land there and put it to the test, whether for sugar growing or any other useful purpose, he thought they would be doing the colony an immense deal of good rather than harm. Again, if this amendment were carried a monopoly would then be given to pastoral lessees and pastoral lessees only, as regards the disposal of lands in the district; and he objected to that principle altogether. He thought the lands of the colony should be open to everybody, and not to one class alone. But, according to this amendment, no land in the Kimberley district could be disposed of or dealt with except on pastoral lease.

MR. MARMION said he did not so understand the amendment. He thought the only object in view was to reserve the land from sale, whether for pastoral or any other purpose, and that it was not advisable to deal with it otherwise than by leasing it.

MR. BROWN said the amendment evidently contemplated that no land except such as was adapted for pastoral purposes should be dealt with in any way, and he looked upon that as virtually giving a monopoly of the land to pastoral lessees. There was another reason why he objected to this motion. Every session, ever since they had framed land regulations for this Kimberley district, they had been altering and amending them, and he really thought it was enough to make the Colonial Office sick and tired of the whole affair. A compromise had recently been arrived at—

very much against the grain of the Colonial Office, he thought, and much more liberal than hon. members imagined at one time the Colonial Office would sanction; but, liberal though it was, he did not think it would answer. He believed we should find it absolutely necessary to reconstruct the whole of these regulations, and he thought we should have a better chance of obtaining what he conceived to be reasonable and proper regulations if we let the matter alone for the present. He thought the best way to get rid of any obnoxious law or regulations was to enforce it to the full, and let it be shown how injurious and detrimental it was and what hardships it worked. They would then probably have a remedy applied and the law altered.

MR. LOTON said he intended, so far as he was individually concerned, to support the amendment. They were told the other evening by the hon. member for the district (Mr. McRae) that the land which it was proposed to withhold from sale—and that, he thought, was the real intention of the amendment, and nothing more—was, as regards the greater portion of it, well suitable for the growth of sugar, and they were also told at the same time that it was not suitable for carrying sheep. The hon. member was somewhat positive in his remarks on that head, having himself visited the district; and there was no doubt in his (Mr. Loton's) mind that the larger portion of the land in question will be found suitable for sugar growing. Under these circumstances, and bearing in mind the tenor of the land regulations in force in the Kimberley district, he thought if this area were reserved from sale it would not impose any hardship whatever upon the present pastoral lessees. They would still have the grazing rights which were given to them under the regulations, and it was not at all probable that for some time to come any other use was likely to be made of the land except for grazing purposes. If in the course of two or three years a large portion of this Kimberley district should be found to be worth, not 10s. an acre but £5 or £10 an acre at a low estimate, there was no reason to his mind why the Government should not have the benefit of that extra price when the land came to be sold.

The main argument to his mind against the proposition was that we were tampering too frequently with these land regulations; but, as he had already said, he did not see that if the amendment were carried out it would impose any hardship upon pastoral lessees, as they would still have the same grazing rights as they now had, although this land might be reserved from actual sale.

MR. GRANT said he had brought forward the original motion solely from what he had seen and read of the Queensland sugar lands, which the Government of that colony had allowed to go into the hands of speculators and monopolists, at a great loss to the revenue of the colony. What he wanted was to save this colony from suffering the same loss. No hardship whatever would be inflicted upon the pastoral leaseholders who held lands in the district, but a serious loss might be inflicted upon the colony, unless these sugar lands were for the present kept out of the reach of speculators.

MR. VENN said he cordially endorsed what had fallen from the hon. member for the Gascoyne on this subject, and he regretted to see the retrograde motion now before the House supported by the hon. member for the North. He thought we were over-legislating in this matter, as we had been apt to do in reference to most of our land legislation. The hon. member for the North had drawn a comparison between the value of Queensland lands now and their value before they were found to be suitable for sugar-growing; but the hon. member had not told them of the thousands of pounds that had to be expended before these lands realised their present high price. No doubt the hon. member was actuated in this matter by a conscientious desire to protect the interests of the colony; at the same time it might be that the hon. member had in view the day when that part of our colony would be separated from this part, and, in the meantime, it might be desirable that these northern lands should be excluded from sale.

MR. MARMION said the same idea had occurred to himself. It had struck him that the hon. member for the North might have some ulterior view in bringing forward this motion. [MR. GRANT: Not at all.] It was not impossible that if these lands were withdrawn from sale

for a few years, the revenue which would meanwhile be obtained from them would be locked up and hereafter flow into the treasury of Kingsland, or whatever name the hon. member intended to give this territory in the event of separation taking place. He should like to ask the Commissioner of Crown Lands whether, under the existing regulations, Kimberley lessees had not the right to purchase the land within their leases, at 10s. an acre? He looked upon a Crown lessee in the same light as a tenant who took up land from a private landlord, and that if at any time during the currency of his lease he wished to purchase any portion of the land, at a stated price agreed upon, he might do so. If that was the case with regard to these Kimberley lands, he thought this resolution would be useless.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. J. Forrest) said the question put by the hon. member for Fremantle was a question of law rather than of departmental administration. His own opinion, however, was that the lessees had no pre-emptive right as regards the fee simple of any of their land, and were only entitled to the grazing privileges granted to them under their leases. With regard to the resolution before the House, if the House should be of opinion that this area of country should be exempted from sale, he thought they ought to make up their minds to some definite course of action in regard to making a comparison between these lands and the Queensland sugar lands. It was not at all desirable that any portion of this territory should be shut up for an indefinite period; but, if within a reasonable time steps were taken to carry out what the mover of the resolution had in view, he did not suppose many hon. members would object to the proposition. It was in the interests of the colony no doubt that we should know the capabilities of this land, and its real value. It would not be well, either for us who sold the land nor for those who purchased it, to buy what was called "a pig in a poke"; but at the same time we must be careful not to lock up these lands for too long a time. We were receiving a large revenue from this Kimberley district; we had already this year received about £20,000, and it

would not do to have any portion of the land shut up indefinitely.

MR. CROWTHER, while confessing that his sympathies were with the amendment, felt that they were placed in this dilemma: nothing whatever had fallen from the hon. members who had brought forward this proposition indicating any subsequent action on their part, or on the part of the Government, as to instituting a comparison between our sugar lands and the sugar lands of Queensland. If the hon. members were prepared to follow this up with some practical resolution dealing with that question, the motion would have his cordial support.

MR. BURT said it was rather amusing to him to see the attempt made by the hon. member for the North to shut up these lands from sale. He should have thought the hon. member would have known from past experience that there was no necessity for such a motion as this. The policy of the Government in the past with regard to its lands should have taught the hon. member that there is no occasion at all for taking this step. The Government would take good care that none of this land should be sold. They always did that. It was well known—or at any rate it ought to be well known by this time—that if anybody came here to buy land from our Government, in any part of the colony, that land was immediately locked up. He had not the slightest doubt, if he were to apply to-morrow morning for 20,000 acres of sugar land in the Kimberley district, they would see a *Government Gazette* out next day, notifying that these lands were excluded from sale. Hon. members laughed; but was not that their experience of the Government in the past? Witness the land on the Darling Range. Witness the land in the Eucla District, and in other parts of the colony which he could name—all shut up, because people wanted to buy them.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. J. Forrest): I may remind the hon. member that the Eucla lands were reserved from sale by a resolution of this House.

MR. BURT: I do not mean to say that this House is always right. This House is generally wrong, I think, in most cases. When the House isn't wrong, the Govern-

ment generally is. There seems to be always some sort of triangular policy pursued by the Government with regard to its lands. If they let the land they reserve to themselves the right to sell it, and when people ask them to sell it they get frightened, and instantly lock it up. The longer side of the triangle is in favor of reserving the land, and not selling it at all. I think it is quite unnecessary for the hon. member to go to the trouble of passing this resolution. The Government will take perfect good care that if any application is made for the purchase of any sugar lands in the district, those sugar lands shall be locked up from sale at once. This is our past experience of the Government land policy, and I do not suppose they are likely to depart from it in this instance.

MR. RANDELL thought hon. members were hardly prepared that evening to deal with the amendment of the hon. member Mr. McRae, and he would move that the debate be adjourned until Wednesday next.

This was agreed to.

BANK HOLIDAYS BILL.

Read a third time and passed.

APPROPRIATION BILL (SUPPLEMENTARY), 1884.

Read a third time and passed.

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

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Monday, 11th August, 1884.

Reserve for Public Cemetery—Land Quarantine Bill: first reading—Bridge over Wilgurnup Brook—Adjourned debate on Message (No. 13): Steam Service to Singapore—Closure of Streets in York Bill: second reading—Wines, Beer, and Spirits Sale Act Amendment Bill—Bills of Exchange Bill: third reading—Adjournment.

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

PRAYERS.

RESERVE FOR PUBLIC CEMETERY FOR PERTH AND FREMANTLE.

MR. RANDELL, in accordance with notice, moved: "That an humble address be presented to His Excellency the Governor, praying that he will be pleased to cause the necessary steps to be taken to reserve a portion of land, about equi-distant from the towns of Perth and Fremantle, and at some convenient and desirable point adjoining the Eastern Railway, for the purpose of a Public Cemetery or Necropolis; to be vested in, and to be under the control of, the Municipalities of Perth and Fremantle." He thought it was unnecessary for him to say any more than a few words in support of this address, for he was inclined to think it would commend itself to all hon. members. He might, however, state that he had been informed, as regards Fremantle, that there was some little difficulty felt there already, or will be in a short time, with reference to interments, in the burying ground in that town, and especially was this difficulty experienced in the case of one denomination. The grounds as originally laid out were very small, and, as regards the Congregational body—which was the denomination he referred to—it was probably owing to the liberality of the heads of that denomination in treating others than those who belonged to their own body, as regards giving them burial room, that they themselves had become straitened as to the available space for interments in their part of the public cemetery. The fact that no charge was made by the Congregational body had no doubt contributed to this state of affairs, and the result had been that already some difficulty and inconvenience was experienced. As to Perth, although there was a large area of ground set apart for public cemeteries, yet in view of the city extending in that direction, and the consequent sanitary considerations that must arise, he thought it would be found undesirable to continue the present practice of burying there for many more years to come. He might also say that a large portion of the inhabitants of the north-west of Perth thought the time had arrived when a public burying ground should be declared at that end of the town, in view of the long distance from the present