

IN COMMITTEE.

MR. BROWN moved, "That this Council having considered His Excellency the Governor's Message No. 34, respectfully expresses its satisfaction at finding that His Excellency acquiesces in its desire that a subsidy of £1,000 per annum shall be offered to any firm that will undertake to run a line of steamers from Fremantle to Singapore; and that a subsidy of £150 per trip, each way, shall be offered as a bonus to a line of steamers between London and Fremantle. This House observes that it is His Excellency's intention to place upon the Estimates for this purpose half the sum that may be required for the latter service, and it will be prepared, when considering the Supplementary Estimates next year, to vote the remaining moiety."

Agreed to, without discussion.

MESSAGE (No. 35)—LILLY & CO.'S PROPOSAL RE SUPPRESSION OVERLAND MAIL SERVICE TO ALBANY.

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

"The Governor would be glad to receive the opinion of the Honorable the Legislative Council on the enclosed communication, dated the 3rd instant, from Messrs. Lilly and Company, the Agents of the Adelaide Steamship Company.*

"Messrs. Lilly and Company raise the question whether weekly steamers to and from Albany, so timed as to forward without delay the Colonial and English mails, would justify the suppression of the present expensive overland mail service, and the substitution thereof of an economical equipment sufficient for the local postal needs of the districts traversed.

"Government House, Perth, 4th September, 1883."

*See Printed Paper, A 21.

The Message was ordered to be considered next day.

TELEPHONIC EXCHANGE: MR. B. C. WOOD'S PROPOSAL.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) laid upon the table a communication from Mr. B. C. Wood, of

Fremantle, relative to the establishment of a Telephonic Exchange, and moved that it be taken into consideration next day.

Agreed to.

IMMIGRATION BILL.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. A. P. Hensman), with leave, without notice, moved the first reading of a Bill intituled an Act to promote the further Settlement of the Colony of Western Australia by the establishment of a Board of Immigration and of an Immigration Fund.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

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

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Wednesday, 5th September, 1883.

Land Regulations—Tramway between Cossack and Roebourne—Message (No. 36): Replying to Addresses—Transfer of Land Act, 1874: Amendment Bill: first reading—Estimates: further considered in committee—Wild Cattle Nuisance Act, 1871, Amendment Bill: second reading—Dog Bill: third reading—Aboriginal Native Offenders Bill: third reading—Imported Labor Registry Bill: recommitted—Furness Judge's Salary Bill: in committee—Shipping and Pilotage Acts Amendment Bill: in committee—Rabbits Bill: in committee—Private Bonded Warehouses Bill: in committee—Adjournment.

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

PRAYERS.

LAND REGULATIONS: RIGHT TO CUT TIMBER ON CROWN LANDS.

MR. CAREY asked the Commissioner of Crown Lands, "If he would have printed Circulars sent to all the Police Stations in the Central Districts of the colony, notifying the alteration in the Land Regulations proclaimed by His Excellency the Governor 13th July, 1883, giving per-

"mission to any holder of Fee Simple Lands, not exceeding in the whole 200 acres, the right to cut and remove from any unimproved Crown Land such timber as may be required for domestic uses, the construction of buildings, fences, stockyards, or other improvements on the said fee simple lands?"

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. J. Forrest) said the request would be complied with, and the Government Printer had been asked to prepare a circular, which would be in the form of the notice now laid on the table.

TRAMWAY BETWEEN ROEBOURNE AND COSSACK.

MR. McRAE moved an humble address to the Governor, praying that His Excellency would take such steps as may be necessary for the construction of a tramway between Roebourne and Cossack, in accordance with the recommendation of the Government Resident, and suggesting that provision to meet the necessary expenditure for carrying out the work should be made on the Estimates for next year, upon the understanding that such expenditure shall be included in the next loan raised by the colony, and subsequently recouped to revenue from the loan account. The hon. member said it would be seen that the North was very modest in its demands for improved means of communication, compared with the South with its grand transcontinental and other railway schemes. All they asked for was an ordinary tramway, over a very short distance, and at a comparatively small cost. The actual distance between Roebourne and Cossack was about seven miles, part of which consisted of a marsh or quagmire which made traffic between the two places very expensive, and sometimes impossible, portions of the distance being, at times, covered with two feet of water. The upkeep of this short piece of road cost the Road Board something like £400 or £500 a year, and it would cost about a thousand pounds to put it in repair at the present moment. It would involve the expenditure of thousands to maintain it in a permanent state of repair; so that, even on economical grounds, he thought a tramway would be

a saving in the end. The length of the proposed tramway would be about 8½ miles, as it was intended to make a slight detour, and it was estimated that the cost would be about £1,500 a mile, or about £14,000 altogether. The present goods traffic, calculated at £1 per ton, was about £1,300 a year, while the passenger traffic might be estimated at about another £1,200, reckoning twelve or fourteen passengers a day at 5s.,—giving a total estimated traffic of about £2,500. This might be considerably reduced and yet leave sufficient to pay good interest on the outlay, so that there was no doubt the work would be a reproductive one in the sense of covering the cost of the outlay, while, at the same time, it would be a source of the greatest convenience to the people of the district. He might add that there were some very promising copper and lead mines within about six miles from Roebourne, which were not worked now because of the cost of transporting the ore from the mines to the port of shipment; but, if this tramway were constructed, no doubt some enterprising firm or other would connect it with these mines, and thus develop a valuable industry, while at the same time considerably increasing the traffic and receipts on the proposed tramway.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said hon. members were aware that the Government had endeavored to meet their wishes this session in every possible way, consistent with the resources at their command—and they had now, as they were told by the Governor in his message, pretty well come to the end of their tether. This was rather a large work, involving an outlay of at least £15,000, which was beyond our resources at the present moment. Even with the expenditure already voted or agreed upon, there would be but a very small margin left for contingencies—smaller than any other Government had been contented with for many years past, and he hoped the hon. member would be satisfied with the knowledge that he had performed a duty which he owed his constituents, in bringing this matter under the attention of the House. The Government were perfectly aware of the desirability of this and other important local works, and, for his own part, he only wished the means were available for carrying them out. For the

present, however, this was out of the question, but he might inform the hon. member that the Government proposed placing a sum of £1000 on the Estimates for 1884 for expenditure upon the marshy road referred to, between Roebourne and Cossack, in addition to the usual grant-in-aid, and he hoped the hon. member would be satisfied with that for the present.

MR. BROWN presumed that the hon. member's object in bringing forward this motion was to elicit discussion, or an expression of opinion as to whether it was desirable to have this work constructed. He should have supported him this year had they not been told by the Colonial Secretary that, so far as the Estimates were concerned, we had come to the end of our tether; but, as the hon. member had altered the wording of his motion so as to make it apply to next year's Estimates, the only question now before the House was the question of the desirability of constructing this tramway. He quite agreed that the work was one of such magnitude and character that it should not be undertaken out of general revenue, but by loan; at the same time no one would think of asking the Government to place a loan for £14,000 on the market. In any case it would not be competent for the Government, in the face of this resolution, to proceed with the work without its being ratified by the Legislature, and some provision would have to be made for it on the Estimates. The hon. member seemed to be merely desirous of paving the way for it thus early, and he thought it very desirable that the House should express an opinion on the subject. The present road was undoubtedly a very expensive one, and must always remain so—unless some other means of traffic be provided. He thought this tramway would be an economical arrangement for the colony.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. J. Forrest) thought it would be well if the House were to adopt the Colonial Secretary's suggestion. He failed to see what was to be gained very much by this resolution. If the House affirmed it this session, it would be hardly consistent on their part next session to review their action, and refuse to sanction the work approved this session. Even if a tramway could be

constructed for the amount stated, there would still be a necessity for a road, for he had still to learn that railways or tramways did away with the macadamised roads. He thought it would be more advisable to have steam power than horse power, especially in view of the development of the mines, which they were told existed in the neighborhood. He thought, however, if they got a good road, it would meet the requirements of the district for a long time. The population was small, and the traffic was not large, as there were several ports along the coast which took away a good deal of the traffic—the Degrey, the Fortescue, and the Ashburton.

MR. SHENTON said he thought at this late period of the session, and in view of the statement made by the Colonial Secretary, it would be mere waste of time to discuss the subject, as no matter what resolution the House might pass, the Government would not be in a position to spend any more money this year upon local works. The subject might be brought up again when the Supplementary Estimates were under consideration next year, and, if the finances of the colony should then be in such a prosperous state as to warrant such an expenditure, he thought that would be a more favorable opportunity than the present for submitting the proposal for the consideration of the House. He would therefore move that the Chairman do now leave the chair.

MR. WITTENOOM said the amount required was a large amount, but if the district was in a position to make this tramway a reproductive work, or make it pay its expenses, there could be no harm in including the amount in our next loan. But he should vote against it, if the money was to come out of general revenue.

MR. GRANT said he had advocated this work being undertaken last year, and it would have been brought forward earlier this session had not the Government mislaid the papers connected with it. The present road was a continuous source of expense, and would always continue to be so; and any money expended upon it would be money thrown away.

The motion—That the Chairman leave the chair—was then put and passed, and the House resumed.

MESSAGE (No. 36): REPLYING TO ADDRESSES.

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

"The Governor has the honor to inform the Legislative Council that he will not fail to give his best consideration to the matters represented in the following Addresses of their Honorable House:—

"No. 45. Grant of a Timber-cutting privilege to Messrs. Smith and Company;

"49. Harbor Department (Spit Buoy Inquiry);

"50. Grants to Orphanages;

"51. Doorways, &c., of Public Buildings.

"Government House, Perth, 5th September, 1883."

TRANSFER OF LAND ACT, 1874, AMENDMENT BILL.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. A. P. Hensman) moved the first reading of a Bill to further amend "The Transfer of Land Act, 1874."

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

ESTIMATES, 1884.

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

Poor Relief Department, Item £6,110 12s. 6d.:

Agreed to, without discussion.

Government Storekeeper's Department, Item £623 10s. 7d.:

Agreed to, without comment.

Government Gardens, Item £350:

MR. CAREY said he noticed a new office here, that of "Gardener, £100."

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said it was not a new office but the re-establishment of an office that had been abolished some two years since. It would be absolutely necessary to have a person to superintend the acclimatisation of plants, etc., for which the House had already proposed an expenditure of public funds. In his opinion it was a pity the office was ever abolished. He thought that when hon. members met again next session they would find a very different state of affairs as regards the

condition of these Gardens from what they now saw.

The vote was then put and passed.

Aboriginal Department, Item £14,000:

MR. MARMION said he moved for a return the other day, showing how this vote had been expended last year, and the return had certainly caused him some surprise, for more reasons than one. He found that the board and clothing of the children at the half-caste and native institutions cost the Government 1s. per day, while the grant for the Protestant and Catholic Orphanages was at the rate of 8d. for each child. He noticed that in this respect half-caste and native children were treated with more consideration than whites; he supposed their appetites were sharper, and that they required more clothing than white children. He was also very much surprised at the number of blankets said to have been distributed amongst the aboriginal natives in the various districts of the colony, the total number being 897. Of these he noticed that 117 were sent to Geraldton, and 100 to Kimberley. It appeared to him there was not much judgment displayed in the distribution of these blankets. He failed to see why so large a number should be sent to the Kimberley district; he should imagine that considerable difficulty would be experienced, in the first place, in catching natives in that district to present them with a blanket, and when they did catch them he hardly thought that a blanket would be greatly appreciated by the natives in a hot climate like Kimberley. He thought these blankets were more intended for the half civilised natives near the centres of population, rather than among the wild savages of the interior. Was there any check kept upon the distribution of the blankets?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said the distribution was made in accordance with a practice which had prevailed for some years. The blankets were sent to the principal officers representing the Government in the various districts or to the managers of the native institutions, and their distribution was left to the judgment of these gentlemen. He thought what had fallen from the hon. member for Fremantle was worthy of consideration, and, in future, fuller and more searching

inquiry would be made by the Government as to the manner in which these blankets were allotted and distributed.

MR. GRANT was very glad indeed to hear the hon. gentleman say so. He could give the hon. gentleman some information as to how they were dealt with at the North. Blankets were sent up there to be issued to the natives, which were never issued, but were allowed to rot in a store-house, instead of being distributed, and the police made use of them as saddle cloths, and perhaps for other purposes. He thought if these blankets were intended for the natives, it was the duty of the Government to see that natives got them, and that they were not misapplied and misappropriated, as they were now.

MR. MARMION suggested that these blankets should be made of some peculiar color, or texture, or that they should bear some mark, so that they might be identified, in the event of their being misappropriated, or of their being bartered away.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser): A very good suggestion.

MR. CROWTHER said the practice adopted in his district was for the settlers to send in a list of natives known to them as deserving of a blanket, and that the distribution was made in accordance with these recommendations of the settlers.

MR. CAREY regretted that such was not the course adopted at the South, and he hoped efforts would be made to have the blankets distributed earlier in the year than at present. He had seen them lying in the Bunbury court-house weeks and months after the natives ought to have had them.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said the matter would receive the attention of the Government. He had another item to add to this vote, which he believed would meet with their general concurrence, in view of the missionary efforts which were about to be made by some philanthropic persons, to civilise and to improve the condition of the aborigines. He therefore moved the following addition to the vote: "Grants to Missions, £300."

The vote, as amended, was agreed to. *Volunteer Department, Item £2,175:*

MR. SHENTON said he was informed

by gentlemen who were well conversant with the feeling among the Volunteers that the proposed appropriation of this vote was not at all in accordance with the object they all had in view—the welfare of the Volunteer movement. One of the great difficulties which the officers of the various corps experienced was with regard to the insufficiency of the capitation grant, which was fixed at £1, which was not enough. At present, besides giving up their time, the men were expected to subscribe at least a shilling a month towards the expenses of the company to which they belonged, and although the amount of subscription was small, it was considered a hardship by the men. The officers were either unable to send for the necessary uniforms for the men, or else became personally responsible for the payment. He thought this was most unfair towards both the officers and the men. He was informed that if the capitation grant were increased from £1 to £1 10s. per man, much of this dissatisfaction would be obviated, and he was informed it might be done without in any way interfering with the efficiency of the Volunteers, or increasing the vote on the Estimates. The second officer on the list (Drill Instructor, £150) was a new officer altogether. On turning to Governor Robinson's despatch to the Secretary of State, dealing with the proposal to appoint an Inspecting Field Officer, he noticed that His Excellency mentioned, among the other qualifications required in such an officer, that "he should be of sufficient standing and experience to command the respect and confidence of the Volunteers, while at the same time he should be active and energetic in his habits, as he would have to move about the country inspecting and drilling the men." From this it would appear that it was part of the duty of the Inspecting Field Officer to act as drill instructor. The Inspecting Field Officer accepted the appointment with a knowledge that he would be expected to perform this duty, and, that being the case, he failed to see what necessity there was for appointing another Drill Instructor at a salary of £150 a year; so that this item might be saved. Then again there was an item, "Maintenance of four Field Guns, in-

clusive of Ammunition, £150." On reference to previous returns furnished to the House he found that the outside cost of these guns had been about £80 or £90 a year, and he thought £100 would be an ample vote for this purpose; so that there might be another saving here, of £50. There was another item "Prizes for Rifle contests, £100," which he was informed was not required at all, and certainly not so far as the Perth, Fremantle, and Champion Bay companies were concerned. These companies had not the slightest difficulty in obtaining the amount required for competition prizes from the public, who subscribed liberally and readily towards these rifle contests. So that here again there might be a saving of another £100. A further saving of £50 might be made in the item of "Travelling expenses of Field Officer and Drill Instructor, £100," for if they had no Drill Instructor there would be no vote required for his travelling expenses. The total savings in the items he had mentioned would be:—

	£
Drill Instructor	150
Maintenance of Four Field Guns	50
Prizes for Rifle Contests	100
Travelling Expenses, Drill Instructor	50
	£350

If this amount were added to the capitation money, that grant might be increased from £1 to £1 10s. Each company would have its drill sergeant as at present, and the vote need not be increased, while at the same time it would do away with the present source of complaint, that the grant for clothing was insufficient. He thought they ought to do all they could to remove any feeling of discontent among the men, seeing that they gave their services gratuitously, whereas the other colonies were expending large sums of money for defence purposes.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said the Government had brought in a Bill this session to give our Volunteers that status which they ought to have in the colony, and, after consultation with the Inspecting Field Officer, the Government had come forward with a redistribution of the vote, in the belief that it would tend to produce what they all desired—the pro-

ficiency of the force. A great deal had been said in that House from time to time about amateur work: the hon. member for Toodyay, he was afraid, was only an amateur soldier, and had not gone far beyond the goose step in his drill; yet the hon. member took upon himself to criticise certain minutiae which had been approved and prepared by the Inspecting Field Officer himself. What the Government proposed to do was to give that officer an efficient assistant for drill purposes: it was impossible, he maintained, for one man to do all that was expected from the Inspecting Field Officer. It had been that officer's desire for some time past to have assistance, and he need hardly say it was the desire of the Government to do all it could, consistent with the means of the colony, to make the force one of which the country might feel proud. With regard to the small amount set apart for prizes for rifle shooting, he thought it would be a misfortune and a national discredit if the House refused to vote this sum. He gave the hon. member for Toodyay credit for good intention, but he hoped the committee would let this Volunteer Vote stand as it is for the present, with a slight addition which he was sure all hon. members would agree to, namely, an additional £20 for the Perth Band.

MR. CROWTHER thought the thanks of the House were due to the hon. member for Toodyay for calling attention to any feeling of dissatisfaction which might exist among our Volunteers, and he only regretted the hon. member had not brought forward this matter earlier. As to the hon. member being an amateur soldier, the proposals he had made had not emanated from the hon. member himself but from men who knew exactly what the Volunteers wanted, and it was what the Volunteers themselves wanted that we should try to grant, so as to maintain among them a feeling of satisfaction and contentment, and preserve a feeling of mutual trust and confidence between the men and their own officers. It was almost in the face of a protest from that House and from the Volunteers themselves that this Inspecting Field Officer was not wanted. What was required was a Drill Instructor, and it was understood that this officer was sent for, for that purpose. He thought the

ing Field Officer had some cause for complaint in his being under some mistaken idea as to what his position in the service would be. He thought every deference should be paid by the House and the Government to the recommendations of the Volunteer officers, as expressed through the hon. member for Toodyay, and which must indicate the feelings of the men on the subject.

Mr. SHENTON said that the suggestions he had put forward came from two gentlemen who were among the prime movers of the Volunteer organisation, and who, he believed, represented the wishes of the Volunteers. He did not ask to have the vote increased now; he would wait until the money grant in lieu of land was no longer required. Next year he hoped the House would be in a position and in a mood to increase the vote very considerably, as the claims for a money grant instead of land would then, he believed, have all been liquidated.

Mr. BROWN thought there must be good ground for increasing the capitation grant, although up to the present the Volunteer movement had proved a success notwithstanding the inadequacy of this grant. At the same time, it never was intended that the whole expense of the Volunteer movement and the upkeep of the corps should fall upon the State. It was an honor, and one which he thought the Volunteers themselves could afford to pay a little for. At the same time he should not be disinclined to vote for an increase of the capitation grant. But the hon. member for Toodyay had asked them to do so at the expense of doing away with a Drill Instructor, reducing the maintenance for field guns, doing away with the prizes for rifle-firing, and other reductions. For his own part, he should not be inclined to increase the capitation grant at the expense of these items. If it was deemed desirable to have an Inspecting Field Officer they must pay some deference to his opinion, and although it might be said by persons cognisant with the requirements of the force that these alterations might be carried out without interfering with the efficiency of the force, still the House must be perfectly well aware that the officer in command of the force was not of that opinion, and he (Mr. Brown) was inclined to give his

support to that officer's recommendations, and to give his system a trial. It appeared to him that if the House accepted the responsibility of doing away altogether with some of these votes, and of reducing others, they could not hereafter blame the Inspecting Field Officer in the event of the force deteriorating in efficiency. For this reason he should vote for the items as they appeared on the Estimates. Next session, they might deal with the question of increasing the capitation grant.

Mr. MARMION said, as to the desirability or otherwise of appointing an Inspecting Field Officer, he did not propose to enter upon that question now, but having appointed such an officer it did seem strange that they should take the opinion of others in preference to his, on a question of detail like this. One thing he felt certain of—whether it was desirable or not to make the reductions suggested by the hon. member for Toodyay, he felt certain it was absolutely necessary to increase the capitation grant. He had heard complaints from various officers commanding district corps throughout the colony on this subject, and he felt sure that unless the allowance be increased the result would be that, sooner or later, the various corps would collapse. He thought it would be wise to add £270 to the vote for capitation money, which would raise the allowance for each man from £1 to £1 10s. Of course, if the Colonial Secretary said it was impossible to do this now, they must be satisfied to wait until next session, when he hoped the Government itself would make this proposal.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said that if no private member proposed it, in the improved state of our finances, next year, he should be quite prepared and very happy himself to do so, to the extent suggested, or even more. But when they had the officer in charge of the force making certain recommendations, he thought they should pause before they interfered with these recommendations, especially in matters of detail; and, if the House knocked from under him all these supports on which he trusted, how could they expect him to carry out what was necessary to carry out, in order to increase the efficiency and utility of the corps. He

hoped that next year the desire of the hon. member for Toodyay, and of other hon. members, in regard to increasing the capitation grant, would be realised, and that such a sum would be found on the Estimates as would give general satisfaction. Even if the capitation grant were doubled, he should be most happy.

MR. CAREY said possibly the Colonial Secretary might see his way clear to place a sum on the Supplementary Estimates sufficient to increase the capitation grant from £1 to £1 10s. In that way, the Volunteers would not be deprived of it next year.

MR. RANDELL thought this discussion would have a very good effect in one particular: it would show the Volunteers that the Government were prepared, when the proper time arrived, to increase the capitation grant, and that they recognised the claims of the men to an increase. He was sure that this of itself would tend to increase that good feeling which prevailed among our Volunteers, as a body. He was quite able to believe that a feeling of dissatisfaction existed with regard to the amount of the capitation grant at present, but the debate which had taken place on the subject would show the men that both the House and the Government recognised their claims, and would be prepared, when the time arrived, to satisfy them. He was very glad indeed to find that it was proposed to make a slight addition to the allowance for the Perth Band,—a very deserving tribute he thought to the Bandmaster, whose duties were very onerous indeed.

MR. SHENTON said that after the promise made by the Colonial Secretary that the capitation money shall be increased next year, he did not propose to press his amendment. But he would give the Government fair warning that, unless some steps were taken by them next session to increase the capitation allowance, they would find that half the members of the force, at Perth and Fremantle at any rate, would resign, and the fault would rest with the Government and not with that House.

The Volunteer Vote was then put and passed.

Special Coast Survey, Item £2,000:

MR. BROWN asked what steps had been taken by the Government towards

procuring a steam launch for this survey?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said the matter had been under the consideration of the Government, and it had been decided not to take any further steps until the return of Staff-Commander Coghlan from his present trip. No steps had been taken up to the present.

MR. BURT said that when this vote was under consideration last year, the hon. member for the Swan pointed out that it would very much facilitate the work of surveying at the North-West if a steam launch were obtained for the service, to work in conjunction with the *Meda*. The officers of the Survey had themselves also expressed a strong desire to obtain a steam launch, as, on that part of the coast, owing to the tides and the temperature at certain seasons of the year, the work was at a standstill, as it was impossible for the men to pull about in open boats, for any length of time, without exhausting themselves. The then Colonial Secretary said that the matter had not escaped the attention of the Government, and now another Colonial Secretary told them, a year afterwards, that the matter had been "under the consideration" of the Government, and that was all. It did not seem to have advanced a step. All they could get out of the Government was that the matter had not "escaped their attention." What the House wanted, and what the Admiralty surveyors wanted, was a steam launch; never mind the Government and their "attention." This "attention" would continue until the time for getting a steam launch for this survey had passed. Lord Gifford told them last year that it was the intention of the Government to open up negotiations with the Admiralty on the subject, and the hon. member for the Murray and Williams told the noble lord that if the Government entered into negotiations with the Secretary of State it would entail a great deal of unnecessary delay. He would now ask whether the hon. member for Murray and Williams was not right? Of course he was right. He would ask again, "Where is the steam launch?" Captain Coghlan was now on the very spot where this steam launch was required, and he had

endeavored to get one before he went away. The Government probably told him the matter would "receive their consideration"; and that was about all it was likely to get. There was yet time to procure this steam launch; but, for goodness' sake, let them not hear any more about the matter not having "escaped the attention" of the Government. Let them have the steam launch itself, or let them be told once for all that it could not be had. He believed the Home Government were quite prepared to share the expense; and, if not, he supposed we had enough money now to obtain a launch of our own, which any business firm would get for us in a month.

MR. BROWN regretted that the Government had taken no notice whatever of the expressed wish of the House on this subject—a wish expressed on more than one occasion. The Government last year placed on the table of the House the report of the Admiralty Surveyor upon the surveys carried out by the Survey under his charge, and, referring to this subject of a steam launch, Capt. Coghlan in his report said: "Surveying work 'carried out in a sailing schooner, with 'strong tides and often light winds to 'contend against, and a base of operations (Perth) distant from 1,000 to 1,500 miles, must necessarily make but 'slow progress as compared with steam 'power. In the absence of the latter, 'with a coast so peculiarly circumstanced 'as is the North-West coast of this 'colony, a steam cutter attached to the 'Survey would be of the greatest service.'" On this point the House and Capt. Coghlan were quite in accord, and the House last year expressly wished the Government to provide the necessary steam cutter without delay. The House went so far as to say that, if the Imperial Government would not share the expense the House would be quite prepared to pay for the steam launch itself. Under these circumstances he regretted very much that nothing had been done by the Government in the matter.

The vote for the Special Coast Survey was then put and passed.

Works and Buildings, Item £16,615:

MR. BURT asked whether it was the intention of the Government to employ the Steam Dredge for the purpose of

facilitating the navigation of the river, in the locality of the Causeway? Although we had a railway now to Guildford, that was no reason why we should not also have a navigable river. At present a very fine water-way was rendered useless for the sake of quarter of a mile of dredging. He saw no good in voting this money at all, unless the dredge was put to some really useful work, of public utility, instead of being employed in reclaiming a piece of land for the Government to sell at a high figure.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. H. Thomas) did not see why the Dredge should not be employed in doing what the hon. member suggested it should do, namely, in removing the obstructions to the navigation of the river, Guildford-way. But at present it was laid up, and it required new buckets; but he thought that when it was in fair working order again, it might very well be employed in doing what the hon. member suggested.

MR. BURT, referring to the item "Canning River improvements, £200," said that from what he knew of the river they might as well pitch this money under the bridge at once. It had appeared on the Estimates, off and on, for years past, but he never knew what good it had done. The amount was too small to do any substantial service, and unless the House and the Government were prepared to vote a much larger sum than this, they might as well leave the river alone. How was it proposed to expend this vote?

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. H. Thomas) said the vote was placed on the Estimates for the purpose of opening up a channel, which was constantly silting up. In former years the money had been entrusted for expenditure to Mr. Bird, the owner of the timber station, and now it was proposed, he believed, to leave it to Mr. Shaw. He quite agreed with the hon. member that it would take a very large vote to effectually clear this channel, and what was now done was done principally in the interests of the timber industry.

MR. RANDELL admitted that it was impossible to do a great deal with such a small sum, but, judiciously expended, it

might produce a good result, not only in regard of affording assistance to the timber trade but also in facilitating the transport of fire-wood for public consumption. He believed it was intended by the owner of the timber station to supplement this amount, and to endeavor to get others interested to supplement it as well.

MR. BROWN, referring to the item "Converting Pensioners' Barracks, £450," asked what it was proposed to do with this vote?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said the intention was to locate the police in the Barracks, who now received a lodging allowance,—an arrangement which had been in contemplation for some time past, and which it was believed would be a considerable saving.

MR. BROWN: When is the work likely to be done?

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. H. Thomas): As soon as the money is voted, I shall take it into my serious consideration. I should think the Barracks might be made ready for the reception of the police within a month after the money is available.

MR. CROWTHER incidentally expressed a wish that some steps might be taken for utilising gas for lighting the Council Chamber.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser): That might be done out of the vote for "Minor Works," and placed on the Supplementary Estimates. It shall not be lost sight of.

The vote for Works and Buildings, with some additions already approved by the House, was then put and passed. The additions proposed and agreed to were as follows:—Improvements Port Cossack (vote increased from £700 to £1000); repairs to Government House, £1000; telegraph, Roebourne to Cossack, £250; troughs at wells between DeGrey and Fitzroy Rivers, £200; Fremantle Town Hall, £500; police station, Murchison, £300; fender piles, Fremantle Railway Bridge, £100.

Roads and Bridges, Item £15,000:

MR. BURT said if the Government could see their way clear, equitably bearing in mind the claims of other districts, to complete the road between Pinjarrah and Mandurah, the Murray people would

be very much obliged. This was the only bit of road these people had, and it would not take much to complete it.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said he hoped something might be done to meet the hon. member's wishes. He had now to move that the following new items be added to the vote: Metalling bridges, £1,000; Marsh Road, Roebourne to Cossack, £1,000.

This was agreed to, without comment, and a vote of £17,000 appropriated for Roads and Bridges.

Immigration Grant, Item £10,000:

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) moved, without comment, that this vote be increased by £10,000:

Agreed to, and a sum not exceeding £20,000 granted for Immigration purposes.

Ecclesiastical Grant, Item £3,543:

MR. CROWTHER said that on the 2nd of August he asked to be furnished with a return showing how this vote was expended, and the same request had been made more than once before; but the information asked for had not yet been forthcoming. He regretted this very much, as the return asked for would have been useful. He proposed asking the House to reduce this vote, if not abolish it altogether, for, to his mind, the money was not expended in the direction that people wished. Those who required it the least got the most of it, and those to whom it might be of some real benefit received very little of it. He believed a great portion of the vote was expended in Perth and Fremantle, where people could very well afford to pay for religious ministrations, and that very little of it was expended in the country districts where it might be wanted. He would move that the item be reduced by ten per cent—£343.

SIR L. S. LEAKE said that again he stood forward as the champion of the Church. He looked upon this motion as the insertion of the thin end of the wedge to do away with State aid altogether. What could possibly be fairer than that the State should contribute towards the support of all Churches *pro rata*? He thought it was a very serious matter to propose that all aid should be withheld from our Churches, so far as the State was concerned, and, if this motion were carried, it would be a step

in that direction. He felt sure the majority of hon. members would not allow any reduction to be made in this vote.

Mr. MARMION said he had come to look upon the proposition before the committee as the hon. member for the Greenough's annual motion, and it was one which, so far as he (Mr. Marmion) was concerned, would always meet with opposition on his part. The hon. member referred to the wants of country districts in the way of religious ministrations, more so than the towns, and yet the hon. member asked the House to reduce the vote, which, to say the least, was a little inconsistent.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said the returns which the hon. member for the Greenough had moved for had been inquired for, from the heads of the various denominations, but he was not yet in possession of them. The present apportionment of the vote was based upon the census returns of last year. For his own part he could only hope that so long as the present political constitution lasted, the vote would not be reduced.

Mr. RANDELL was very sorry the returns asked for had not been furnished, although he did not suppose anyone thought for a moment that the money was misappropriated, but it would simply be in accordance with the principle upon which the House acted as regards votes of public money that it should be furnished with some information as to how the money was expended. Under the old Act (4th Vict., No. 6) it was incumbent upon the recipients of the grant to satisfy the Governor that the duties in respect of which the grant was made were sufficiently and regularly performed. Possibly, owing to the long time which had elapsed since this Act was passed, its provisions had been overlooked by the Government. The Act provided that, if it appeared to the Governor-in-Council that the duties of the clergy were neglected, the vote might be withdrawn. Although disestablishment took place in 1870, so far as the Church of England was concerned, nothing he believed had been done in the way of supplying this information, and he submitted it was competent for the Governor, if he liked, to call upon the heads of the various

Churches to furnish a return showing the manner in which the grant made to them was distributed. If, as the hon. member for Greenough stated, the money was for the most part expended in Perth and Fremantle, rather than in the country districts, he thought that was another strong ground in favor of these returns being furnished, and also for withdrawing State aid altogether, for, if there was any ground at all in favor of the grant, it was that it should be the means of providing religious ministrations for residents in the bush, and not for those who dwelt in towns and the centres of population. What the supporters of this annual motion hoped for was to influence public opinion and to sway the minds of hon. members of that House in the direction which the movers of the abolition of State aid for religion wished to see public opinion directed,—that the cause of religion was best promoted by the voluntary efforts of those who professed it, and that to the extent you subsidise religious bodies so you hinder and obstruct the flow of private benefaction. Public opinion in England was growing stronger and stronger in this belief; and, in the other colonies, it had resulted in almost every one of them, if not all of them, discontinuing State aid. They had not heard that the cause of religion had suffered in any way, in consequence, but, on the contrary, the result had been to give a greater stimulus to private contributions, and to imbue the various sects with greater zeal and energy. In the United States of America he believed State aid was never given, and he fearlessly asserted it was the most religious country in the world,—a fact which was supported by the liberal support which the country extended to missionary enterprise, and other Christianising objects. The cause of the disfavor in which some American institutions were held was owing to a lack of knowledge of the wants and circumstances which determined the character of a country. People forgot that there was an influx into the States every year of an immense number of people from every part of the world, and some of them not of the best sort,—some of them being among the cleverest people in the world and probably the greatest rogues. But notwithstanding this influx of impure

blood, the grand old Puritan stock retained its good qualities and its high character for morality and religion. Especially was this the case in those States whose populations were descended from a Puritan ancestry. He merely mentioned this fact in proof that the voluntary principle was the right principle in reference to religion, and that where people relied upon their own individual efforts to support the religious teachings which they professed, there would religion itself flourish most vigorously. He did trust it would not be long before the Legislature of this colony arrived at the conclusion that it would be in the best interest of religion itself to gradually reduce this vote—he did not advocate its immediate and complete abolition—until it ceased altogether. He was sure the experiment would be a success.

MR. MARMION pointed out that, in reality, the grant was diminishing, for although the population of the colony had increased considerably since 1871 this vote had not increased at all, but was the same now as then, when it first appeared on the Estimates in this form.

SIR L. S. LEAKE thought the Government, when they induced the House to put this lump sum on the Estimates, instead of appearing as it did before, took advantage of the ignorance of hon. members. Not a member of the House knew at the time what they were doing: they were sold by the Government,—simply sold by the Government of the day. [THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: No, no.] He had no hesitation in saying it, and he was sorry it was ever done. The thing was sprung upon them.

MR. SHENTON said it was done in Governor Weld's time, and Governor Weld acted upon a despatch from the Secretary of State instructing him to carry out certain provisions. The Governor had no choice in the matter. It was done in order to carry out some policy introduced by the Imperial Government as regards other colonies. He had always thought the House had made a great mistake when it assented to the proposal, and he had ever since blamed himself for the share he taken in the transaction.

The motion submitted by Mr. CROWTHER—That the item be reduced by

£343—was then put, and, a division being called for, there appeared—

Ayes	7
Noes	12

Majority against	...	5
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AYES.
Mr. Grant
Mr. Higham
Mr. McRae
Mr. Randell
Mr. Shenton
Mr. Venn
Mr. Crowther (Teller)

NOES.
Hon. M. Fraser
Hon. A. P. Hensman
Hon. J. H. Thomas
Mr. Brown
Mr. Burt
Mr. Carey
Mr. Glyde
Sir L. S. Leake
Mr. Marmion
Mr. S. S. Parker
Mr. Wittenoom
Hon. J. Forrest (Teller)

Question—That a sum not exceeding £3,543 be granted to Ecclesiastical Grant—put and passed.

Literary, Scientific, and Agricultural Grant, Item £820:

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) moved that the item be increased by £10,—a grant for the Mechanics' Institute at Jarrahdale.

Agreed to.

MR. SHENTON asked for a grant of £10 for the Northam Farmers' Club. There was no money voted for any Agricultural Society in that district, and the Farmers' Club had the same objects in view as these Agricultural Societies had.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said he was not prepared at that moment to say whether it would be practicable to include the Farmers' Club in this vote. If practicable, it should be done.

The vote was then put and passed.

Pensions, Item £1,714 lls.:

MR. SHENTON asked how it was that Mr. Grimaldi's pension was increased from £20 to £25?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said it must be a clerical or typographical error. He had no knowledge of the fact.

MR. SHENTON asked how it was that the names of the Rev. G. Sadler and the Rev. F. Lynch had been added to the list?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser): On account of advanced age and infirmities, each of them having passed the age and the period of service contemplated by the Superannuation Act. I am informed it is the intention

of both these reverend gentlemen to retire at the end of the present year.

MR. MARMION called attention to the claims of Mrs. Pyke, late matron at the Fremantle Lunatic Asylum, to an increase of pension.

Several hon. members supported the claims put forward by Mr. Marmion on her behalf, and the Colonial Secretary said he would bring her case under the attention of His Excellency the Governor.

The vote for Pensions was then agreed to.

Revenue Service, N.W. Coast, Item £1,140:

This vote was agreed to, without comment.

Miscellaneous, Item £18,306:

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) moved to increase the vote for "Travelling Expenses of Officials, £1,000," by £100, in view of the proposed appointment of an Inspector of Works.

MR. CAREY hoped this £100 would cover all this officer's travelling expenses, and that, if his expenses did not come up to £100, he would not pocket the difference, as had been done in some cases, when the money was voted.

MR. BURT: Why is it considered necessary to have an Inspector of Works?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said he would be prepared, presently, to give full information on the subject, when the vote for this officer's salary came before the committee. It was found absolutely necessary there should be an addition to the staff of the Works' Department.

The motion to add £100 to the vote for "Travelling Expenses of Officials" was then agreed to.

MR. CAREY referred to the item "Stationery for Public Offices, £1,500," which, he said, was an exceedingly large amount. He thought a considerable reduction might be made in this vote, if paper a little inferior in quality were used in the Government Offices, and for printing purposes. He noticed that the official returns and other papers received from the other colonies were printed on paper that was nothing equal in quality to the paper used here.

MR. CROWTHER said if there was anything that House and the colony had reason to be proud of it was the good

quality of our stationery and the excellence of our printing, and he hoped that whatever reductions were made it would not be in this direction.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said the greatest economy was exercised in the issue of stationery. The public business of the colony, however, was increasing every year, and the consumption of stationery must also increase. He was only asking barely what it was estimated would be required.

MR. MARMION asked for some explanation as to the reason why the vote under the head of "Incidental Expenses" had been increased from £1,900 to £4,000.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said it was impossible to foretell what demands might be made upon this vote, which in the past had always been overdrawn, and the wish of the Government, as far as possible, was not to make any demands upon the Finance Committee or the Supplementary Estimates, but to ask boldly for such a sum as was considered to be sufficient.

MR. MARMION, referring to the item "Subsidy for Steamer and extension of Steam Service to North-West Coast," said he noticed this item was increased from £6,000 to £7,576. He thought this must be intended to include the Kimberley service, and if so, he should like to see the words "and Kimberley" added after "North-West Coast."

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said he was quite agreeable.

MR. SHENTON, referring to the item "Proportion of Subsidy for Duplication Sea Cable, £500," asked how much longer this vote was likely to appear on the Estimates?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said we must be content to wait for some years yet, according to the agreement entered into.

MR. SHENTON asked how it was that other colonies had managed to get out of this agreement? New Zealand, Tasmania, and he believed New South Wales had succeeded in withdrawing from the arrangement, and this colony was now almost left the sole contributor.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) failed to see how we could get out of an agreement entered into,

with our eyes open, until the term expired.

MR. CROWTHER, alluding to the item "Reprinting Statutes, extra labor and expenses, £200," asked how it was that this amount was required, the House having already voted £1,000, which it was understood would cover the whole cost of this work, as per contract.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said the contract was made for printing only: the question of binding did not seem to have entered into the minds of those who made the contract.

MR. BURT: I suppose the meaning of that is that the contractors have taken the Government in. While on this subject, I cannot help thinking it would have been much better in every way if these statutes had been consolidated before they were printed. It was simply a waste of money to reprint all the old rubbish to be found on the statute book; if the statutes had been consolidated in the first place the cost of printing would have been about half what it will be now, and the consolidation, I believe, might have been done without any expense to the Government, if they had asked professional men in the colony to assist them. Is it a fact that a sum of £100 or more has been paid to a young gentleman in Melbourne for making what he calls an index to these two volumes?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said the accounts were not to hand yet, to enable him to answer that question at the present moment.

MR. BROWN said, as a matter of fact, the Council originally voted the money for consolidating the statutes, but the Government used the money for some other purpose, much to his disappointment, and they were now obliged to take what they could get. He thought the sooner the statutes were consolidated the better, and, for his own part, he should be prepared to give his vote next year in favor of a sufficient sum of money to have it done.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. A. P. Hensman) was glad to find that the question of the consolidation of the local statutes was a question which had already engaged the attention of the Council, and that its importance was

recognised. So far as he had had an opportunity of studying the statutes of the colony, he was bound to say they were not in a satisfactory state at present. Many of them were practically repealed, and to all intents and purposes were obsolete, and there were so many amending statutes, and so many complications, that he was bound to say that anyone whose duty it was to study them would find it a somewhat difficult task. The phraseology of the early statutes was not suitable to the altered circumstances of to-day, and all this was very confusing. It seemed to him that a consolidation of the statutes was a very desirable thing, and should be carried out as soon as it could conveniently be done. At the same time he could not say that what was being done in the way of reprinting the statutes was not a useful work, and a step in the right direction, as it would to a certain extent facilitate the labors of those who eventually will be called upon to consolidate them.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) moved that the following new items be added, as already agreed upon: Oyster propagation, £50; London direct steam service, £1,200; Singapore steam service, £1,000.

These votes were approved, without comment, and a sum not exceeding £20,656 granted for "Miscellaneous" purposes.

Refunds, Item £300:

Agreed to, without discussion.

Estimates reported.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) moved that the Estimates be now recommitted.

Agreed to.

Works and Railways Department, reverted to:

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) moved that the following new item be added: "Inspector of Works and Draftsman, £300." Hon. members were aware that the necessity for making this appointment had been impressed upon the House by His Excellency the Governor, and he thought all would agree that the appointment was a desirable one. Our public works now were becoming a rather important item, and required looking after.

MR. SHENTON hoped that in making the appointment the Government would

bear in mind the express wish of the House that the officer appointed should have some knowledge of architecture. Large public buildings would be required in the course of the next few years, and it was absolutely necessary, it appeared to him, that the officer holding this appointment should know something about architecture.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. H. Thomas) would be very glad indeed if he thought we could secure the services of an architect of any reputation for £300 a year, but it was not very likely we would be able to do so. It had been his intention, however, all along, that the officer who obtained this appointment should be one who was practically conversant with buildings, and be able to see that contractors faithfully performed their work. He was quite certain, if such an officer had been appointed, when he asked for it, in Governor Ord's time, thousands and thousands would have been saved to this colony. He would endeavor to get a good "all round" man for the position.

The vote was then agreed to.

MR. CAREY referred to the promise made in His Excellency's Message (No. 23) that a sum would be placed on the Estimates for the repair of a causeway and two bridges in Busselton. He was informed by the Colonial Secretary that the money for this purpose would come out of the vote for Roads and Bridges, but that was not his (Mr. Carey's) intention in moving the address. He did not intend that this work should be paid for out of the grant made to the District Roads Board, but that a sum should be placed on the Estimates for the purpose, and His Excellency in his message said he would have much pleasure in giving instructions for the amount to be placed on the Estimates. He should be glad if the Colonial Secretary would assure him that the money would be taken out of the vote for "Minor Works."

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said his instructions were to let it come out of the vote for "Roads and Bridges." The hon. member's application had not been lost sight of.

MR. CAREY hoped the usual vote for the district roads would be in no way reduced, in consideration of this special work.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser): Quite so.

The vote for the Works and Railways Department was then put and passed.

Post and Telegraph Department, reverted to:

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) moved to add £30 to the item "Third Clerk and Accountant, £220." This officer had undertaken the duties of Accountant on the understanding that he was to receive £250 a year, which he was now drawing. The arrangement had in reality caused a saving to the colony of £25 a year.

The motion was agreed to.

Estimates reported,—the committee having agreed to a total expenditure of £245,486 0s. 3d.

WILD CATTLE NUISANCE ACT, 1871, AMENDMENT BILL.

MR. CAREY, in moving the second reading of this Bill, said the necessity for amending the present Act had been forcibly brought to his notice. At present it was impossible for licenses to destroy wild cattle to be issued at any time throughout the year except upon the first Wednesday in April,—although the Act was somewhat ambiguous and contradictory on that point. One clause enacted that the licenses might be issued annually by the board for licensing public houses, at their annual meeting. This annual meeting was held on the first Monday in December; but the 12th section of the Act provided that the licenses for the destruction of wild cattle were to be issued on the first Wednesday in April. What he now proposed to do was to repeal this 12th section, and to provide that these licenses shall be issued at the quarterly meetings of the Licensing Bench in each district.

The motion for the second reading was then agreed to.

DOG BILL.

Read a third time and passed.

ABORIGINAL NATIVE OFFENDERS BILL.

Read a third time and passed.

IMPORTED LABOR REGISTRY BILL.

This Bill was recommitted for the purpose of introducing a verbal amendment, which was agreed to, without discussion.

PUISNE JUDGE'S SALARY BILL.

This Bill passed through committee *sub silentio*.

SHIPPING AND PILOTAGE ACTS AMENDMENT BILL.

This Bill, also, passed through committee without discussion.

RABBITS BILL.

The House went into committee for the further consideration of this Bill.

New Clause (moved by Mr. Shenton on Sept. 3): "Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the preceding section contained, it shall be lawful to keep or have rabbits upon any island within the territorial dominion of the colony, situated not less than five miles from the seaboard, and which may not be leased by the Crown for pastoral purposes."

This clause, upon being put, was now passed without discussion and ordered to stand as clause 4.

Preamble and title—agreed to.

Bill reported.

PRIVATE BONDED WAREHOUSES BILL.

This Bill passed through committee *sub silentio*.

The House adjourned at midnight.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Thursday, 6th September, 1883.

Tramway between Roebourne and Cossack—Intestate Estates Bill: in committee—Puisne Judge's Salary Bill: third reading—Shipping and Pilotage Acts Amendment Bill: third reading—Rabbits Bill: third reading—Consideration of Message (No. 35): Adelaide Steamship Company's Offer re Postal Steam Service between Fremantle and Albany—Message (No. 37): Grand Juries Abolition Bill—Message (No. 38): Bonus to Steamers between London and Fremantle: Fender Piles for Railway Bridge, Fremantle—Imported Labor Registry Bill: third reading—Telephone Exchange (Mr. B. C. Wood's letter)—District Roads Act Amendment Bill: in committee—Private Bonded Warehouses Bill: recommitted—Transfer of Land Act, 1874, Amendment Bill: second reading—Immigration Bill: second reading—Ecclesiastical Grant: how expended—Suspension of Standing Orders—Adjournment.

THE SPEAKER took the Chair at noon.

PRAYERS.**TRAMWAY BETWEEN ROEBOURNE AND COSSACK.**

MR. SHENTON said that when the motion in favor of a tramway between Roebourne and Cossack was under discussion the other day, he moved the Chairman out of the chair, and so caused the matter to drop. But he understood the hon. member for the North (Mr. Grant) had desired to speak on the motion, and he now begged to move that the hon. member be heard.

MR. GRANT: I decline to have anything to say in the matter, until a future occasion.

INTESTATE ESTATES BILL.

The House went into committee for the consideration of the Bill for the better administration of the estates of deceased persons.

Clause 1—A Curator to be appointed: Agreed to, without discussion.

Clause 2—Estate of deceased persons to vest in Curator:

Agreed to, *sub silentio*.

Clause 3—Powers of Curator until probate, or letters of administration granted:

Agreed to, without comment.

Clause 4—"The absence of probate of the will of a deceased person for six years, or the absence of any person from Western Australia for six years