

the Government might not think it necessary to have another session. He thought if the House took a reasonable and consistent view of the position they would decline to pass this bill, in its entirety, but agree to a portion of the proposed appropriation; so that they might have some guarantee that they should meet there again at some early date, to further consider the Constitution Bill.

MR. SHOLL did not see what was to be gained by refusing to pass this bill, seeing that the money had already been voted: had it been otherwise they might have had some ground for doing so. He did not know whether it was the intention of the Government to bring in an Excess Bill this session. He noticed there had been a lot of unauthorised expenditure; he did not know whether the Government intended to legalise it or not.

MR. HENSMAN thought the hon. member for Wellington need not be afraid but that some of them would appreciate his suggestion that by voting only a portion of this bill they would be sure to be called together again. Moreover, he did not see why they should pass this Appropriation Bill until all the other important business had been disposed of. There was a good deal of important business yet, and it might become a question whether they ought to vote the whole of the bill, or only a portion of it—which was the only power they could exercise. They could not call themselves together when they chose; that was in the hands of the Governor, who might be influenced by the Secretary of State, and they might not meet again until towards the end of the year, unless they kept their hands upon this Appropriation Bill. In the present state of the House (many hon. members being out of the House) he would move that the debate be adjourned.

MR. MARMION said if there was no immediate necessity for it, he saw no reason to oppose the second reading of the bill. There were other stages to come.

MR. LAYMAN said he should support the adjournment of the debate on this occasion. It appeared they had but little to do next week, and the House might be in a better tune on Monday.

Question put—That the bill be now read a second time.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. C. N. Warton): I understood there was a motion to adjourn the debate.

THE SPEAKER: It was not seconded. Question negatived.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) said he had no wish to force the bill upon the House, but no argument had been brought forward in support of postponing the second reading—none at all. The bill would have had three more stages to go through before it passed—the committee stage, the report stage, and the third reading. He would give formal notice that he should move the second reading of the bill on Monday next.

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

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Monday, 9th April, 1888.

Loan Moneys expended on Geraldton-Greenough Railway—Re-appropriation of Balances of 1884 Loan: in committee—Message (No. 14): Replying to address re Copies of Depositions in Native cases—Message (No. 15): Companies Mining Bill—Message (No. 16): Replying to address containing Resolutions on the subject of Responsible Government—Message (No. 17): Returning the Victoria Public Library Bill for amendment—Message (No. 18): Transmitting Messrs. C. & E. Millar's Cable proposals—Appropriation Bill, 1888: second reading—Relaxation of restrictions on the Importation of Stock (Message No. 13)—Adjournment.

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

PRAYERS.

LOAN MONEYS EXPENDED ON GERALDTON-GREENOUGH RAILWAY.

MR. HENSMAN, in accordance with notice, asked the Director of Public Works to lay on the table a Return containing full details with dates of the expenditure of loan moneys upon the Geraldton-Greenough Railway, during the year 1887.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright) promised

that the return should be laid on the table as soon as prepared.

RE-APPROPRIATION OF BALANCES OF 1884 LOAN.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser), in accordance with notice, moved that the House resolve itself into a committee of the whole, to consider the re-appropriation of certain unexpended balances of the 1884 Loan for public works.

MR. MARMION thought it was absolutely necessary that the Director of Public Works should be in his place in the House, to furnish the information which members would require before agreeing to these re-appropriations.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) said unfortunately the Director of Public Works was confined to his room with illness, but in the absence of his hon. colleague he was prepared to give every information within his power upon the various items proposed to be dealt with. He would point out that the present object of the Government was simply to release these unexpended balances. The House would have another opportunity of considering their re-appropriation, when he hoped his hon. friend the Director would be sufficiently recovered to attend in his place.

The House then went into committee.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) said the motion which he had to move was: "That in the opinion of this Council it is desirable that a bill to re-appropriate certain unexpended balances of the 1884 Loan should be brought forward by the Government to provide as follows:—

1.—Harbor Works and Jetties.

a. From item "Harbor Works, Fremantle," the balance of £16,282 10s. 6d. to be expended on further extension of Fremantle Jetty—£10,000, and on improved Custom House Arrangements in connection therewith—£6,282 10s. 6d.

b. From item "Geraldton Jetty Extension and Goods Shed," the balance of £1,385 9s. 7d. to be expended on Public Works, Geraldton.

4.—Works and Buildings.

c. Item "Government House and Domain, Additions," £2,500 to be expended on Public Offices, Perth.

d. From item "Mandurah Breakwater," the balance of £981 11s. 7d. to be expended on Public Buildings, Pinjarrah.

5.—Miscellaneous.

e. From item "Steam Launch, Fremantle," balance of £1,422 14s. 4d., and item "Steam Launch, Marine Survey, £500," together a total of £1,922 14s. 4d., to be expended on Improvements, Fremantle Lunatic Asylum.

He was not aware that it was necessary for him to go back further than the Act of 1884, under which this loan money was raised—and he might here state that the above items had been arranged under the same heads as they appeared in the schedule to that Act. Hon. members were aware that had since been amended, in detail, by two Re-appropriation Acts. The first was the Act of 1886, which re-appropriated certain moneys out of a sum of £105,000 voted for Fremantle harbor works, for the purpose of constructing telegraphs in the Kimberley district, which were now either in course of construction or about to be constructed there. A portion, also, of that money was voted for the extension of the Fremantle jetty, and also for a water supply at that port. Last year there was a further re-appropriation of moneys originally apportioned in the Loan Act of 1884, which were diverted for the purpose of improving the Swan River. The committee would see that it was not proposed to disturb that appropriation, but only to immediately utilise the balance remaining to the Government as shown in the loan estimates laid on the table the other day. Hon. members would see it was proposed to redistribute these moneys for public purposes, which he really believed would meet with the general approval of that committee. With regard to the first item, hon. members would see, on reference to the loan estimates, there remained a balance of £16,282 10s. 6d. from the original amount appropriated for harbor works at Fremantle. He thought it would be agreed that we were not prepared, at

present, to go on with the extensive scheme of harbor works at Fremantle, although it was to be trusted the colony would be in a position to carry it out before long. If hon. members would refer to the Appropriation Act, it would be seen that it was agreed these sums should be recouped out of the next loan. In re-appropriating the rest, they were not, in any way, departing from the principle which influenced them when agreeing to the re-appropriation of those sums. He thought it would be agreed that it was desirable they should prosecute what improvements they could with the sums at their command. A plan had been prepared, showing the extension of the jetty at Fremantle into the depth of 22ft. of water, the total cost of which would be £20,000. But the extension of the jetty about 1,000ft.—which he was told could be done for the sum proposed, £10,000—would greatly improve the wharfage accommodation at Fremantle at the present time. It would enable ships, much larger than those which now called at Fremantle, to discharge and load their cargo, and at the same time would not prevent the further extension of the jetty at such time as there should be funds available. The extension would also be a very proper adjunct to the great harbor works scheme which they hoped to see carried out at a future time. With regard to the second item, the House had repeatedly been told of the insufficiency of the accommodation at the present Custom House, and he was sure that every member would agree that the present arrangements were most unsatisfactory. The very buildings which were erected for transit sheds had to be taken possession of for the purpose of loading goods. In order to perfect the buildings, a plan had been prepared showing very complete arrangements for the Custom House. It was desired to expend £6,282 10s. 6d. in completing these arrangements. In accordance with the wish of hon. members, he would now move the first item: *Harbor Works and Jetties—*(a.) From item "Harbor Works, Fremantle," the balance of £16,282 10s. 6d. to be expended on further extension of Fremantle Jetty—£10,000, and on improved Custom House arrangements in connection therewith—£6,282 10s. 6d.

MR. SHENTON said he was disap-

pointed at the manner it was proposed to spend this balance. Hon. members were aware that he had given notice of his intention to move that the whole of this unexpended balance, £16,282 10s. 6d., should be devoted entirely to the extension of the jetty. It was unnecessary for him to go into details as to the desirability of further extending it, and of the great advantages it would afford to the shipping, having already spoken on the same subject last year. The proposed further extension would in no way interfere with any scheme of Sir John Coode's. Even if Sir John Coode's scheme were to be commenced now, it would be many years before it was completed, and, unless the jetty be extended as he proposed, the shipping at Fremantle would be put to great inconvenience. The Colonial Secretary admitted that £10,000 would not be sufficient to extend the jetty as far out as might hereafter be desirable, and, for his own part, he believed it would be of very little service. It would provide but very little additional accommodation for the larger class of ships; but, by expending the larger amount, improved facilities would be given to this class of vessel. He did not think that £6,282 was required to be spent on the Custom House at the present time. Within a very few months the new Post Office would be completed, and then he presumed arrangements would be made for removing a portion of the Customs establishment to the present building, which would give increased storage accommodation in the "A" store. His own experience was that it was not large and costly buildings that we required, so much as shed accommodation. Our public buildings were too expensive altogether for our requirements. Those who had travelled to England by the mail steamers would have noticed the large extent of shed accommodation at Port Suez—plain, covered sheds, which would answer every purpose at Fremantle. He thought about £1,500 would be ample to supply all the requirements of Fremantle at the present time. What was required was not so much extra store accommodation as better management as regards the whole establishment. There seemed to be no proper system of storing. He noticed that among the other items proposed to be re-appropriated

was a sum of £1,922 14s. 4d. provided for steam launches, which it was proposed to spend in improvements at the Fremantle Lunatic Asylum. He thought it was an injustice to the shipping at Fremantle that money voted for increasing the facilities in the harbor should be applied to the Lunatic Asylum, however desirable that work might be. If this amount were expended in providing increased Customs accommodation—which would be a more legitimate re-appropriation—it would leave the £6,282 10s. 6d. free for the extension of the jetty, together with the £10,000. He did not think anyone who had taken the trouble to inspect or make inquiries as to the increased facilities afforded by the recent extension of the jetty, but must be convinced of the very great improvement it was, and that a further extension, such as he now proposed, would be a still further improvement. He therefore moved, as an amendment, that all the words after “jetty” be struck out, thus leaving the whole of the £16,282 10s. 6d. for the proposed extension. While speaking on this subject, he would suggest to the Government that all the piles should be of jarrah, while the top planking might be of karri, which would give both timbers a share.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) said an admirable scheme was brought forward some time ago by the Chamber of Commerce, which provided for the shed accommodation referred to by the hon. member for Toodyay. The further extension of the jetty, so as to carry it out to its full length, without providing the necessary inshore appendages, appeared to him to be putting the cart before the horse. He should be very glad indeed, if the necessary funds were at their disposal, if they could undertake both works; but the Government were assured by his hon. friend the Director of Public Works that a less sum than that particularised here would be insufficient to complete these improved Custom House arrangements.

MR. SHENTON did not think the colony was in a position at the present time to go in for these costly style of buildings. As he had already said, our public buildings, as now designed by the Works Department, were too elaborate altogether, and beyond our means. What

was wanted was such plain accommodation as we could afford; instead of which, the Public Works Department of late seemed to delight in wasting as much money as they could in elaborate and expensive structures. As for the shed accommodation at Fremantle, all that was wanted was a plain galvanised iron shed, where goods could be placed until they were removed.

MR. MARMION protested against these items being dealt with in the absence of the Director of Public Works to give the House every information. Where were the plans, where the specifications, of these new buildings? What description of buildings were they to be? Nobody seemed to know. They were simply asked to fritter away this money on something or other, simply because it was harbor works money.

MR. LAYMAN would support the amendment, for he thought the extension of the jetty was a work that was much required. He thought the Customs arrangements might wait until some future time. Surely we could not expect to do everything in a minute.

MR. SHOLL did not think that the plans and specifications would be of much assistance, for he noticed it was very seldom that the plans and specifications of the Works Department agreed with the tenders, or the tenders with the plans and specifications. He agreed to a great extent with the hon. member for Toodyay, that something ought to be done about this jetty; but he thought the House was entitled to a little more detailed information than was before it at present.

MR. A. FORREST said hon. members called for plans and specifications. What was the good of them? He would give hon. members an instance or two of the value of the plans and specifications provided by the Public Works Department. A certain tender was taken for £19,116, but the work when paid for cost £23,586, or an advance of about £5,000 upon the original tender. Another contract was for £11,639, but before the work was completed the Government paid £16,000. He thought they might just as well be without such plans and specifications. All agreed that this Fremantle jetty ought to be extended. There was no chance at present of our being able to

carry out Sir John Coode's harbor scheme, and, as there was this balance left out of the money set apart for harbor works, he did not think they could spend it more properly than in extending the jetty, which would be a reproductive work. He thought the proposed extension would be a great saving to all classes of the community, inasmuch as it would reduce the charges for discharging vessels. They all knew that the hon. member for Toodyay was an authority on Fremantle shipping matters, and he should vote with him that evening.

MR. RICHARDSON presumed some soundings had been taken of the proposed extension [Mr. SHENTON: The Admiralty charts.] What he wanted to know was—what increased depth would they get by spending the larger amount? He thought if £16,000 would take them to 20ft. of water it would be wise expenditure.

MR. MARMION: It won't do it.

MR. MORRISON said this money having been voted for harbor works ought to be spent upon the harbor, and, instead of splitting it into two items, and giving a portion to the Custom House, he should be inclined to devote the whole of it to the extension of the harbor jetty. He should be prepared to go even further than the hon. member for Toodyay, and add some of the other sums—"public buildings at Pinjarrah" for instance—to this vote, and make a really good job of it. He was afraid it would be a long time before we would be able to tackle Sir John Coode's scheme, and he thought if we had this jetty properly extended we could do without harbor works for some years to come.

MR. PEARSE was opposed *in toto* to the proposed diversion of the harbor works money for the purposes specified. The present jetty would accommodate three-fourths of the ships that traded to Fremantle; and, to spend £10,000 more upon it, would not make it accommodate any larger class of vessels than it could accommodate now. Therefore, it would be money thrown away, so far as increasing the accommodation went. If they could afford to spend £20,000 it might do some good. He should prefer this £16,000 being expended in providing shelter or protection for the present jetty, as suggested by Sir John Coode. As to the

Customs arrangements, what they wanted at Fremantle was improved office room—the present office was a disgrace to the colony; and more shed accommodation—not expensive buildings, but a plain, substantial, covered shed. He agreed with the hon. member for Toodyay that the designs of our public buildings of late had been too elaborate altogether. He thought if the present Post Office at Fremantle were converted into a Custom House, it would provide all the accommodation required for many years to come.

MR. SHENTON said that, on looking at the plan, he found that if this £16,000 were expended on the jetty it would take it out to nearly 20ft. of water, which would give accommodation to nearly all the sailing ships that come to Fremantle; and this was all we required at the present time. When our finances came to be in a more flourishing state, we might hereafter carry out the more extended scheme. By the last mail from England he had a letter from one of the largest London ship-brokers, who had read the debate that took place on this subject last year, and he said that, if the extension now proposed were carried out, it would remove a great deal of the objections which ship-owners had at present to sending their vessels to Fremantle.

MR. MARMION said he in no way agreed with the hon. member for Toodyay, as to his statement that the proposed extension would, to any very great extent, improve the shipping facilities at the port of Fremantle. He thought it would in no way do so. He did not believe it would induce a single ship to come alongside that did not do so at present. It would be no protection during the winter months, when no ship would ever venture to come near the jetty—unless indeed the hon. member intended to extend it to Owen's Anchorage. If he didn't, what was to become of the shipping during the remaining five months of the year? They would still have to anchor at Owen's Anchorage, and there would be this inconvenience to contend with then. There would probably be no lighters, as at present, for loading and discharging vessels, as it was not likely that people would keep lighters for the sake of a few months in the year, during the winter. He said it again, and he said it with the strongest possi-

ble protest—they were simply asked to spend this money just for the mere sake of spending it, because it was lying to the credit of the Fremantle harbor works. But he thought that was no reason why they should literally pitch it into the sea. He must again deprecate the course adopted in proceeding with these items in the absence of the Director of Public Works.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. J. Forrest) did not know that anyone on that bench wished to press this matter forward unduly; at the same time they did not wish to have the business delayed unnecessarily. It was not often that they found a member opposing the expenditure of public money in his own district, and he must say he thought the two Fremantle members must at any rate be commended for their disinterestedness in this matter. He himself, however, was at a loss to understand the reasons why these two hon. members should be so strongly opposed to the Government in their desire to carry out a work that would be of great and permanent benefit to Fremantle, and at the same time provide that employment which they were told was so much required. The hon. member, Mr. Marmion, said that they were frittering this money away. He thought if the Government were worthy of being entrusted with the expenditure of the large sums borrowed in past years, they might surely be entrusted with the expenditure of this comparatively small sum. There was no reason to doubt it would be spent in an economical manner, and to the best advantage. As for waiting for Sir John Coode's scheme being carried out, he believed Sir John himself estimated it would take ten years to finish it; and there was no reason why this jetty extension should not be made to dovetail with the larger scheme contemplated. No doubt the lightening interest would be affected if vessels were able to lie alongside this jetty [Mr. MARMION: Only in the summer time.] No doubt some persons would be injured; but was that any reason why a public work of admitted necessity and utility should not be carried out? They were always being told by the hon. member for Fremantle that what we wanted was a bold policy.

MR. MARMION: This is a stupid policy, not a bold one.

MR. SHENTON said, as to vessels not being able to come alongside in the winter months, hon. members must be aware that our gales were not continuous; there was often a spell of ten or fourteen days of fine weather, when vessels could safely come alongside, and load in a couple of days, instead of having to wait as many weeks.

MR. PEARSE said he had never yet known of a sailing vessel coming to the jetty from Owen's Anchorage, in winter, to load or unload.

MR. SHENTON said that was simply because the jetty at present was too close to the shore, and it would be hardly safe for them to come alongside; but it would be different when it was extended as now proposed; and we should be in a better position to berth these sailing ships than we had been. There were two steam tugs now available in the harbor.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) said the question now was whether this money should be entirely expended on the jetty, or whether a part of it should be appropriated for providing that improved accommodation in connection with the Customs which the trading public were crying out for. Unless there was a unanimity of opinion on the subject he should not be disposed to press this item to a division that evening, in the absence of the professional adviser of the Government. What members were now asked was to affirm the principle, that it was desirable to release these loan moneys and dedicate them to some other works, and that a bill for that purpose should be introduced.

MR. RANDALL thought the hon. members for Fremantle had made out a very good case. He thought it was very desirable that the Director of Public Works should be present. There was much more information desirable, he thought, before they agreed to the expenditure of £16,000, or even £10,000 on this jetty; and that information they could only obtain from the Director. They wanted some information as to the timber to be employed, and the nature of the works inshore. Undoubtedly, considerable improvement was required in the wharfage accommodation at Fremantle,—caused in a great measure, he

believed, by the insufficiency of the staff employed and the appliances available. Possibly they might require something more than an open shed. Our climate could not be compared with that of Suez, where they might not get rain for years together. But he did think that, instead of having expensive structures, galvanised iron sheds would do well enough, and cost considerably less money. He also thought the wharfinger was entitled to better accommodation; his present office was a disgrace to the colony; and that House was guilty of its share in the disgrace for not removing it. He thought there were several reasons why the debate might be adjourned, as regards this important matter—important in many ways. Their object ought to be not simply to spend this money for the sake of spending it, but to spend it for the benefit of the port of Fremantle, and, to a certain extent, for the benefit of the colony generally.

MR. HENSMAN said it appeared to him that every member should endeavor to understand what value we were likely to get for this money; and, up to the present time, it had not been clearly explained what class of ships, and in what number, was likely to come up to this jetty, if extended, that did not come up to it now,—in other words, what increase of shipping tonnage it was likely to bring about? Would the expenditure bring in some return? Merely carrying out the jetty farther, for the sake of having a longer structure, was not what their object should be. A longer jetty might be something to be proud of, but unless it afforded increased facilities and brought in some revenue, that was hardly a good reason for spending £16,000 upon it. He hardly thought they would be justified in spending it in providing a promenade for the good people of Fremantle.

MR. SHENTON thought he might safely say that if the jetty went into the depth of water that he proposed, all ships now trading with Fremantle would be able to make use of it, and the revenue would be correspondingly benefited by the increase of jetty dues. But it was not so much for the sake of the direct profit as for providing increased conveniences for the shipping, and removing the stigma now lying upon Fremantle as

a harbor, that he wished to see this work carried out.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. C. N. Warton) said as there seemed to be a desire that the debate be postponed until the Director of Public Works was able to attend, he moved that the further consideration of this item be postponed.

The committee divided—

Ayes 10

Noes 10

AYES.	NOES.
Mr. Congdon Hon. J. Forrest Hon. Sir M. Fraser Mr. Hensman Mr. Marmion Mr. Pearce Mr. Randell Mr. Sholl Mr. Venn Hon. C. N. Warton	Captain Fawcett Mr. A. Forrest Mr. Harper Mr. Layman Mr. Morrison Mr. Parker Mr. Richardson Mr. Scott Hon. J. G. Lee Steere Mr. Shenton (Teller.)
(Teller.)	

There being an equal number of votes, the Chairman gave his casting vote with the Ayes.

Progress reported, and leave given to sit again.

MESSAGE (No. 14): DEPOSITIONS IN NATIVE CASES.

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

"In reply to Address No. 11 of the 28th ultimo, the Governor has the honor to inform the Honorable the Legislative Council that he will issue instructions that copies of the depositions in all criminal cases before Magistrates, in which aboriginal natives appear as prosecutors or accused, shall be sent to the Aborigines Protection Board.

"Government House, 9th April, 1888."

MESSAGE (No. 15): COMPANIES MINING BILL.

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

"The Governor has the honor to inform the Honorable the Legislative Council, in reply to Address No. 12 of the 29th ultimo, that he has given instructions for the preparation and introduction into Your Honorable House of a Bill based upon the Companies Mining Act of Victoria, 1871.

"Government House, 9th April, 1888."

MESSAGE (No. 16) : RESPONSIBLE
GOVERNMENT RESOLUTIONS.

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

"The Governor has the honor, in reply to Addresses Nos. 13 and 14 of the 6th instant, to inform the Honorable the Legislative Council that the additional Resolutions now passed by the Council on the subject of Responsible Government, together with the *Hansard* report of the debates thereon, will be transmitted, as requested, to the Right Honorable the Secretary of State.

"The Governor will endeavor to bring about the earliest possible settlement of the Constitutional question now pending, and agrees with Your Honorable House as to the necessity of carrying the proceedings to a conclusion without loss of time.

"A reference to the despatches which have been laid before the Council will show that the Governor is not in a position, at present, to do more than transmit the Resolutions of the Legislature to the Secretary of State; but Your Honorable House may rest assured that there will be no delay in taking any action warranted by further instructions, when these shall have been received from Her Majesty's Government.
"Government House, 9th April, 1888."

MESSAGE (No. 17) : RETURNING VIC-
TORIA LIBRARY BILL FOR AMEND-
MENT.

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

"The Governor has the honor to return, herewith, to the Honorable the Legislative Council, the Bill intituled :—

"*An Act to provide for the establishment, maintenance, and government of the Victoria Public Library.*"
for the consideration of the following amendments therein :—

"Clause 2, line 3—The words 'by the Governor' to be inserted after the word 'appointed.'

"Clause 10, lines 3 and 4—The words 'in Executive Council' to be omitted.

"The above amendments will bring the Bill into accord with existing practice

"and legislation, without affecting any principle which, in the event of a change of the Constitution, may hereafter control the matter. Under the present Constitution, appointments are not made by the Governor 'in Executive Council,' but by the Governor alone, on his personal responsibility, which it seems best to preserve. A new mode of procedure might also give rise to legal and other questions producing difficulty.

"Government House, 9th April, 1888."

MESSAGE (No. 18) : FORWARDING
MESSRS. C. & E. MILLAR'S APPLICA-
TION re CABLE CONCESSION.

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

"The Governor has the honor to transmit, herewith, for the consideration of the Honorable the Legislative Council, a letter* dated the 6th instant, which he has received from Messrs. C. & E. Millar, applying for a concession to lay a submarine cable connecting the Western Australian telegraph system with that of the Indian Government.

"In connection with the matter, the Governor refers the Council to the select committee report, dated the 11th of September, 1884, respecting a similar concession applied for by Sir Julius Vogel, and would be glad to know whether Your Honorable House will now authorise a contract with Messrs. C. and E. Millar in accordance with the recommendations contained in that report.

"Government House, 9th April, 1888."

* "To His Excellency Sir F. Napier
"Broome, K. C. M. G., Governor of
"Western Australia.

"Perth, April 6th, 1888.

"SIR,—We have the honor, on behalf of a Melbourne Syndicate, to lay the following proposals before Your Excellency for your consideration.

"We are prepared to lay a submarine cable from a point on the North-West coast of Western Australia between the North-West Cape and Cambridge Gulf, to connect the telegraph system of Western Australia with that of the Indian Government, should your

"Government allow us the following concessions:

"To grant us the sole right to construct and work this cable; and

"To allow us a rebate of twenty-five per cent. on the ordinary rates upon all messages passing over West Australian wires between Europe and the Eastern Colonies.

"And we are prepared to carry out and complete our undertaking within a period of two and one-half years from the date of the concessions being granted.

"We need scarcely point out the great advantage this cable would prove to the Colony of Western Australia, as it will be the shortest route between the Eastern Colonies and Europe; it will possess the great advantages of avoiding the shallow waters and coral formations which have proved a source of so much trouble to the more Eastern line, and will also possess the great advantage, in the event of a European war, of passing entirely through British territory.

"It would also add greatly to the business of the West Australian lines between the North-West coast and Eucla, and must render them highly profitable.

"In laying this scheme before Your Excellency's Government, we feel we are making a proposal which will materially advance the best interests of the Colony, while not involving it in any direct outlay.

"Trusting that the above proposals will have the early and favorable consideration of Your Excellency's Government,

"We have, &c.,

"C. & E. MILLAR."

APPROPRIATION BILL, 1888.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser), in accordance with notice, moved that this bill be read a second time. Owing, he believed, to a misunderstanding on the part of hon. members at the last sitting, when the motion for

the second reading of the bill was inadvertently negatived, he had to move it again. He trusted that hon. members on this occasion would not demur to the bill passing this stage, seeing that it was most desirable that, as soon as practicable, the bill should become law. Although at present the Government were carrying on necessary works, upon no other authority than the votes of the House, still the fact of no Appropriation Bill having been passed would cause certain delays, and certainly inconvenience. Hon. members, he presumed, would agree as to the desirability of passing the bill; at the same time he had no wish to push it through its remaining stages that evening. He hoped the House would not distrust the Government in this matter, nor any other matter. Hon. members might rely, whether the bill passed through all its stages that evening or not, it would in no way affect the action of the Government in regard to any other business that might be brought before the House.

MR. HENSMAN said they were told it would make no difference to the due carrying out of that programme (if he might so call it) which the elected members might wish to have before them during the remainder of the session, if they passed this bill. That may or may not be. But he thought the House would not very soon forget the way it was prorogued last July; he thought it was prorogued in a manner that, to say the least of it, was not respectful towards the House. They were simply told by a superior authority that they were to be prorogued. It might be so again. He merely wished to remind the House that it retained a certain power in its hands by keeping this bill back until all the business they wished disposed of had been disposed of. He did not think the Government could be inconvenienced in any way if the second reading of the bill were put off for a few days. Of course there were the remaining stages, but, in passing the second reading, they formally approved of the principle of the bill; and it might be that, at some future stage of the session, members might wish to have something to say with regard to the principle of the bill. Therefore, he thought it would not be well for the elected members to pass the second reading, without

consideration of whether it was not desirable it should be kept back for a few days. He made these remarks tentatively, with the view of eliciting the opinion of other members, and he spoke simply as an independent member.

MR. A. FORREST thought they should not proceed with this bill until the Bayswater-Busselton Railway proposals had been disposed of, and also Messrs. Millar's cable proposals. He thought when once they passed the second reading of the Appropriation Bill, very little further business would be done. The Government would be independent, and without the Government they would not be able to carry on the business. He should like to see this bill kept back until the last thing, so that the House might be in a position to stand upon its dignity.

MR. VENN said if the House had no intention of proposing any alterations in the figures or amounts, he did not see any reason for postponing the consideration of the bill; for the bill would be no more law after passing its second reading than it was now.

MR. RANDELL said it was really very instructive to witness the hon. member for Kimberley developing a kind of political talent for keeping the Government in order, and proposing a resort to obstructive tactics. He could quite understand the hon. member's position under Party Government, but, under the present constitution, such tactics appeared to him out of place. As to affirming the principle of the bill, he thought the Appropriation Act stood on a different footing from any other bill, as the House had already affirmed the principle of these appropriations, and scrutinised every item when they appeared before them on the Estimates; and there could be no reason, therefore, on the ground of principle, to object to the second reading. He really thought it would be inconvenient, and perhaps prejudicial to the public service and the public interests of the colony if the passing of the Re-appropriation Act were deferred unreasonably, and without good ground. He was surprised and sorry to think that some hon. members seemed to hesitate, because there might be some trickery or something of that kind on the part of the present Government. Under party Gov-

ernment perhaps they expected such tactics, but he could not see a single valid reason to suppose that the present Government could be influenced by any such unworthy motive.

Motion for second reading agreed to.

RELAXATION OF RESTRICTIONS ON IMPORTATION OF STOCK (MESSAGE No. 13).

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) said hon. members would recollect that a few days ago His Excellency sent down a Message, forwarding certain papers showing the action recently taken by the other colonies, in relaxing the restrictions placed some time ago on the importation of stock from abroad. His Excellency asked the House to consider whether this colony should not adopt the same action as its neighbors in this matter. Some time ago, it might be remembered, this colony at the invitation of the other colonies agreed to place certain restrictions upon the importation of live stock from places outside Australasia, and the result of those restrictions had been that, with the exception of horses—which were not included in the prohibition—no live stock in the shape of horned cattle or sheep had been allowed to be introduced into this colony from abroad. The Government had been advised that the other colonies—for reasons which the papers before hon. members disclosed—were now desirous of removing these restrictions, influenced, in a great measure, by the proceedings of the Intercolonial Stock Conference. Some of the other colonies had entirely removed the restrictions, others had done so in part; and the resolution he was about to propose steered what he might call a middle course, removing the restrictions, so far as this colony was concerned, as regards cattle and sheep, on the understanding that they shall be accompanied by a certificate from a veterinary surgeon stating that they had been inspected and declared free from disease. He now moved the following resolution: "This Council, having considered the question raised by His Excellency the Governor in Message No. 13, is of the opinion that the existing restrictions upon the importation of cattle and sheep from places outside the Australian colonies should be rescinded

upon the understanding that in such cases they be inspected and declared free from disease by a duly qualified veterinary surgeon before shipment to this colony."

MR. RICHARDSON said it appeared to him there was one link in this chain of protection missing, and that was the inspection of stock at this end, by a qualified veterinary surgeon. However carefully an animal may have been inspected at the port of shipment, the mere fact of its being apparently free from disease then was no effectual safeguard that it might not develop disease on the voyage. But, so far as this colony was concerned, he did not see much utility in the resolution, because we could get all the breed of stock we required from the other colonies, with the exception perhaps of horses. It appeared we had imposed these restrictions at the request of the other colonies, and the House must have had some grounds for acceding to the request; but now it suited the other colonies to remove the restrictions which they imposed, and they turned round and asked us to follow suit. He had no wish to block the resolution, but he did think it was absolutely necessary on our part that we should have all imported stock examined by a qualified veterinary surgeon at this end, to ascertain whether the animals were free from disease upon landing in the colony. He doubted, however, whether we had a competent and duly qualified veterinary surgeon amongst us, whose services would be available.

MR. VENN said that about two years ago he attended a meeting of prominent Victorian stockowners, held at Scott's Hotel, in Melbourne, and they were very sore indeed at that time because this colony had not joined them in prohibiting the importation of stock from Europe. The meeting resulted in our Government being communicated with on the subject, and, the very next session, the House was asked to assimilate the laws of this colony with those of Victoria. They were then told that we could get all we required in the shape of first class live stock from the other colonies, and that we would not suffer in the least by imposing these restrictions as regards all foreign markets. It was also pointed out that unless this colony adopted the same prohibitory regulations as the other

colonies, there would be danger of disease being introduced into those colonies through our own. He had been thoroughly in accord with the action of the House on that occasion—not because of what he had been told by the Victorian stockowners, but because he considered it desirable, in view of the question of Federation, that we should, as far as possible and as far as consistent, assimilate our laws with those of the sister colonies. But he could not understand why we should now be asked to remove the restrictions. The same reasons for continuing them existed now as existed when they were imposed, some eighteen months or two years ago; and he thought we were rather too anxious to undo what we did on that occasion, without good ground for doing so. He thought, until we could protect ourselves as they did in the other colonies, by having our imported stock inspected on landing by properly qualified veterinary surgeons, we might leave the existing regulations to remain as they are. It was all very well for the other colonies, who had any number of duly qualified veterinary surgeons to inspect their imported stock on arrival, to remove the present restrictions, but it must be borne in mind that we had not the same means of protecting ourselves.

MR. MARMION thought we might take it for granted that the other colonies had discovered their mistake in imposing these prohibitory restrictions, and they now asked this colony to join them in undoing what we did at their request, some time ago. He thought it would be a pity, unless good reason could be shown to the contrary, if we did not remove the existing restrictions. He did not think we ought to allow ourselves to be led astray by the statement that we can get all we require in the shape of live stock for breeding purposes from the other colonies, without going abroad for it. It appeared the other colonies did not think so among themselves, and hence their desire to have the restrictions removed, so that they could go abroad for their stock. He saw no reason why we should proclaim to the world that we, in this colony, were less ambitious than our neighbors. He would draw the attention of the Government to one thing—this resolution not only referred to European countries but also

to Batavia, Java, or Singapore, which were, comparatively speaking, only a short distance from this colony; and as regards those countries, or any contiguous countries, provision should be made for the quarantining of stock imported thence, in view of the shortness of the voyage, so as to allow time for the development of any disease that might happen to be latent. The mere inspection, before an animal was shipped, would be very little protection in the case of stock imported from these countries, which were only a few days sail from the colony.

MR. HARPER was opposed to the resolution, and to any relaxation of the present restrictions. The same arguments did not apply to this colony, with its widely scattered ports, which were in no way guarded, as applied to the other colonies, where they probably had precautionary measures established at every port. Here we had a number of outports—and especially on our North-West coast—where there were no stock inspectors nor veterinary surgeons to take any precautionary measures. As to the point raised by the hon. member for Fremantle, that we were more in danger of introducing disease from places a short distance from the colony, such as Java or Batavia, he would point out that possibly the most dread disease to be guarded against, the foot-and-mouth disease, remained latent for a long period—as long as six months, he believed. He thought there could be no sound argument, so far as this colony was concerned, for removing or relaxing the present restrictions. He had gone carefully through the report of the Intercolonial Stock Conference, and it appeared from that report that the people who were moving most strongly in this matter were the importers of stock, with whose business the present restrictions seriously interfered. The movement was not favored by the owners of stock; on the contrary, he believed, the majority of stockowners were opposed to a removal of the restrictions; and there were many reasons why they should not be removed, particularly as regards this colony.

MR. A. FORREST said it had been his intention to have supported the resolution, but after the remarks that had fallen from the hon. member for York,

with reference to the unprotected state of our Northern ports, he thought it would be most dangerous to remove those restrictions. The greater proportion of the stock now introduced into this colony went to the North, and it was very desirable we should be extremely careful.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. J. Forrest) said it appeared to him there were some persons in this colony who were very particular indeed about disease in stock. It would occur to most people that the great and flourishing colonies to the Eastward would be equally particular and equally careful, with ourselves; yet they were prepared to remove or relax these restrictions; and why we should set up more stringent regulations than those colonies considered necessary he did not understand. As for stock imported from Java, or any of those islands, he did not think there was much stock there to import; and if we had the stock inspected at both ends there could not be much danger. He thought we would do well to act in concert with our Eastern neighbors in this matter. We were a small country compared with them, as regards live stock at any rate, and if those colonies considered there was no danger in removing these restrictions, he did not think we would go very far astray if we followed their lead in this, as we had done in other matters.

MR. MORRISON moved, as an amendment, to strike out the words "places outside the Australian colonies," and insert the word "Europe." He thought they might safely remove the restrictions as regards importations from Europe, because they had one strong safeguard in the excessive rates charged for shipping stock from England. There were not the same safeguards as regards countries a shorter distance from our shores. He quite agreed as to the absolute necessity of having all imported stock inspected on their arrival by some competent authority, if these restrictions were to be removed.

MR. HENSMAN did not think there was any necessity to provide in the present resolution for imported stock being inspected upon landing. There were several Acts on the statute book—at least three—dealing with this subject of imported stock. One of these provided

that all stock must be accompanied by a certificate to the effect that the stock were free from disease, or indication of disease, when placed on board; others gave the Governor power to issue proclamations restricting and regulating the importation of stock, and for the inspection of newly-introduced stock. He could not see any danger of disease being introduced if the Acts already on the statute book were acted upon. As to our Northern ports, power was given to the Governor in Council at the present moment to be able to see that there was proper protection at any "port" within the meaning of the Customs laws; and, in the absence of such protection, any port could be blocked. It was said that we could get all the stock we wanted from the other colonies; but why should a man be compelled to go to the other colonies for his cattle?

MR. LAYMAN thought the Government had already protected themselves very well against the introduction of cattle disease, and that the House might safely pass this resolution. He was in the House when the present restrictions were put on, and, he confessed, he did not like it at the time; and the only thing that made him give way was the argument that it would assimilate our laws with those of the other colonies. Now, it appeared, those colonies had seen the folly of what they did, and of what they induced us to do; and he thought we would be wise in retracing our steps, as they had done.

MR. MARMION said it must be borne in mind that we never thought of imposing these restrictions until we had been pressed to do so by the other colonies. The necessity of doing so would probably never have occurred to us.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) said he had no objection to accept the amendment suggested by Mr. Morrison.

MR. RICHARDSON said although it might have been a wise thing to follow the advice and example of our neighbors when we placed these restrictions on, no good reason had been shown that it would be a wise thing for this colony to follow them in removing the restrictions, simply because interested motives had been allowed to prevail with our neighbors. Notwithstanding all these wonder-

ful Acts of Council referred to by the hon. member for the Greenough, it appeared that Acts of Council afforded no protection in New South Wales, when scab was introduced there from America, and it cost them £60,000 to eradicate it. If we worked our stock up to the standard of the other colonies, we should have no necessity for going to Europe at all. Even England, with all her protective legislation, and all her preventive measures, was getting disease introduced from other European countries. He hoped himself the resolution would be negatived.

The resolution, as amended, was then put, and, upon a division, the numbers were—

Ayes	10
Noes	5

Majority for	...	5
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AYES.	NOES.
Mr. Congdon	Mr. A. Forrest
Captain Fawcett	Mr. Harper
Hon. J. Forrest	Mr. Pearso
Mr. Hensman	Mr. Venn
Mr. Layman	Mr. Richardson
Mr. Marmion	(Teller.)
Mr. Morrison	
Mr. Scott	
Hon. C. N. Warton	
Hon. Sir M. Fraser	
(Teller.)	

The resolution was therefore adopted.

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

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Wednesday, 11th April, 1888.

Rules of the Supreme Court—Goods Shed at Bunbury—Boring plant for Yilgarn—Mining Companies Bill: first reading—Messrs. C. & E. Millar's Cable proposals (Message No. 18): referred to select committee—Municipal Footpaths Bill: third reading—Appropriation Bill, 1888: in committee—Victoria Public Library Bill: Proposed amendments (Message No. 17)—Re-appropriation of Balances of 1884 Loan—Adjournment.

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

PRAYERS.