

Melbourne and elsewhere could be effected quite as cheaply with steamers regularly trading between Adelaide and the other Australian ports. The two sides of the question were now before the House, and, without at this stage moving any distinct resolution, he would simply ask it to arrive at some decision on the subject, for the guidance of His Excellency in dealing with the matter definitively.

After a pause of a few seconds, and no hon. member rising,

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. M. Fraser) moved that progress be reported, and that the Committee should ask leave to sit again on Wednesday.

This was ordered.

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

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Tuesday, 4th June, 1878.

Address to His Excellency the Governor—Governor's reply to same—Lighthouse at Rottnest—Opening Mails and distributing Letters on Sundays—First readings—Ballot Act, 1877—Sheep Inspectors: return of work performed by—Adjournment.

THE SPEAKER took the Chair at noon.

PRAYERS.

ADDRESS TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR.

Members present accompanied the Speaker to Government House, to present the address in reply to the Opening Speech by the Governor. On returning the Speaker announced the fact, and also that His Excellency had been pleased to make the following reply;—

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

“I thank you for the reply you have been good enough to make to me in

answer to the Speech I had the honor to address to you on the 29th ultimo; and I am gratified to find that so many of the views expressed in it meet with your concurrence.”

H. ST. GEORGE ORD.
Government House, Perth, }
4th, June, 1878. }

ROTTNEST LIGHT-HOUSE.

MR. SHENTON called the attention of the Colonial Secretary to certain defects in the light-house at Rottnest, caused by the diminutive size of the panes in the lantern, and the amount of wood-work used in the framing of these panes. The hon. member recommended the substitution of one large pane of plate glass, which would remedy the defect complained of by masters of vessels as to the obstruction and consequent dimness of the light.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy) said the Director of Public Works had furnished a report to the Government on the subject, and that a sum of £100 had been placed on the Estimates for 1879, to put plate glass in the lanterns, to improve the lamps, and to repair the tower generally. Nothing more could be done except to put up a new lighthouse, and this, Captain Archdeacon (the Admiralty Surveyor) considered unnecessary, the present light being sufficient for all purposes.

OPENING MAILS AND DISTRIBUTING LETTERS ON SUNDAYS.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy) laid on the Table a printed paper containing a resolution of the Legislative Council, adopted at its last Session, as to opening mails and distributing letters on Sundays, together with minutes, etc., showing the action taken by the Government in the matter.

FIRST READINGS.

The following Bills were read a first time: Municipal Institutions' Act, 1876, Amendment Bill, 1878; Perth Drainage Act, 1875, Amendment Bill, 1878; Land Quarantine Bill, 1878; Wines, Beer, and Spirit Sale Act, 1872, Amendment Bill, 1878; Boat Licensing Bill, 1878; Vaccination Bill, 1878; Jetties Regulation

Bill, 1878; Vendor and Purchaser Bill, 1878; Factors Bill, 1878; Contingent Remainders Bill, 1878; Partition Bill, 1878; Real Property Limitation Bill, 1878; Wild Cattle Nuisance Bill, 1878; Waste Lands Unlawful Occupation Act, 1872, Amendment Bill, 1878.

BALLOT ACT, 1877.

MR. S. H. PARKER asked the Colonial Secretary whether the Government had received any despatch relative to the Ballot Act, or whether Her Majesty had been pleased to assent to the same?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy) replied that the Act referred to was sent home on the 23rd August, 1877, but up to the present time His Excellency had received no information with reference to it; nor had His Excellency's predecessor. It was only within the last few weeks that the circumstance of there having been no reply received from the Imperial Government had been brought under the notice of the Governor. Had His Excellency been aware of the importance attached to the measure by the House and by the country at large, he would have communicated with the Secretary of State by telegraph, and this His Excellency would do unless some information relating to the Bill were received by the next mail.

SCAB INSPECTORS.

In reply to MR. MONGER, THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy) said a return showing the amount of work done by the various scab-inspectors of the Colony from 1st January to 31st May, of the present year, would be laid on the Table, at the earliest possible convenience.

The House adjourned at one o'clock until Wednesday evening.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Wednesday, 5th June, 1878.

Public Loan, 1873—Coal Seam, Upper Irwin—First Readings—Opening Mails on Sunday—Steam service between Western Australia and the Eastern Colonies: in committee—Adjournment.

THE SPEAKER took the Chair at 7 o'clock, p.m.

PRAYERS.

PUBLIC LOAN, 1873.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy) laid on the Table the return asked for by Mr. Shenton, on the 3rd June.

COAL SEAM ON THE UPPER IRWIN.

MR. CROWTHER asked the Government what steps had been taken to carry out the wishes of the House with respect to testing the coal seam on the Upper Irwin.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. M. Fraser) replied that inquiries had been made by the Government to ascertain if the services of competent persons to carry out the necessary prospecting could be obtained in the Colony, but they had been unable to discover that such was the case. Moreover, the cost of a thorough test would involve a much larger expenditure than contemplated by the hon. member last year, and could not be efficiently and satisfactorily carried out under anything less than £500.

FIRST READINGS.

The following Bills were read a first time: Game Acts, 1874-6, Repeal Bill (introduced by Mr. S. H. Parker); and the Confirmation of Expenditure Bill.

OPENING MAILS ON SUNDAY.

MR. SHENTON, in accordance with notice, called the attention of the Honorable the Colonial Secretary to a Resolution passed by this Honorable House, at its last sitting, in reference to opening Mails on Sunday:—"That in the opinion of this Council the present system of opening the Mails and distributing letters on Sundays, is not at all necessary, and is a great hardship on the officers of the Postal Department, and that an Humble