

"be determined on by one person to be appointed by the purchaser and one by the lessee or licensee. Any difference of opinion between such persons to be determined by an umpire to be appointed by themselves, or in case they shall not agree in such appointment, by the Government Resident, or Resident or Police Magistrate of the district in which the land is situated, on which such fence as aforesaid shall have been erected."

The clause was agreed to without discussion, and the Bill reported as having passed though Committee, with amendments.

#### DISTILLATION ACT AMENDMENT BILL, 1881.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. A. C. Onslow) moved, The first reading of a Bill to amend "The Distillation Act."

Motion agreed to; Bill read a first time, and second reading fixed for Thursday, 1st September.

#### LAW AND PARLIAMENTARY LIBRARY ACT, AMENDMENT BILL, 1881.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. A. C. Onslow) moved, The first reading of a Bill to amend "The Law and Parliamentary Library Act, 1873."

Motion agreed to; Bill read a first time, and second reading fixed for Thursday, 1st September.

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

### LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

*Wednesday, 31st August, 1881.*

Telegraph Office Hours—Immigration in connection with the contract for the Eastern Railway Extension—Mail Service to Southern Districts—Goods Shed at City Railway Station—Diseases in Vines Bill, 1881: recommitted—Reply to Message (No. 18) re Control over Loan Monies—Estimates: further considered in committee—Sandalwood Bill: third reading—Fencing Bill: further consideration of, in committee—Adjournment.

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

PRAYERS.

#### TELEGRAPH OFFICE HOURS.

MR. MARMION, in accordance with notice, asked the Colonial Secretary, "Whether it is the intention of the Government to make the alteration in the working office hours of the operators in the various Telegraph Offices of the Colony, in accordance with the suggestion of the Departmental Commission; and if so, at what date?" The hon. member said that, as far back as 1877, shortly before the Eucla Telegraph Line was opened, he put the following question to the then Acting Colonial Secretary: "Whether it is the intention of the Government, upon the opening of the Eucla Telegraph Line, to assimilate the system of working Western Australian Telegraphs with that of the other colonies, more particularly with regard to office hours, and tariff of charges upon inter-colonial messages?" The reply he received to that question was "Yes as far as possible." A long time had elapsed since then, but no alteration had yet been made in the working hours at the Telegraph offices in this Colony, to the very great inconvenience of the public, and more particularly of the mercantile portion of the community. He thought it was a great mistake, and frequently a source of much annoyance and inconvenience, that our telegraph offices should be closed from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m., and again in the evening from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m., thus shutting out all means of communication during what he might call the best part of the day for telegraphic intercourse, and thereby causing a considerable loss to the revenue. The Departmental Commission, in reporting upon our telegraph system, said: "The Superintendent of Telegraphs has suggested an alteration in the hours of the Head Telegraph Office"—that, he presumed, was a misprint; it would be useless altering the hours at the Head Office alone, and no doubt the intention was to do so at the principal offices—"which will be an advantage to the public, and also lead to a slight decrease in the expenditure of the Department. The hours at present in use are from 7 a.m. to 8 a.m., from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. The hours which have been suggested, and which we recommend, are from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., without intermission. We think that

"these hours will afford greater facilities in sending messages than those at present in use. If this re-arrangement is adopted, one operator can be dispensed with, as the work of the office will be relieved to a certain extent." Even supposing it were to slightly increase, rather than decrease, the expense, he thought the increase would be far more than made up by the increased business which would result from the proposed alteration of hours, and he hoped to hear that it was the intention of the Government to adopt the suggestion of the Superintendent and the recommendation of the Commission.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Lord Gifford) replied, "that the Government hoped to be able to make arrangements for an alteration of the Telegraph hours, which would be more convenient to the Public; and, if possible, the change would be introduced shortly."

#### IMMIGRATION IN CONNECTION WITH THE CONTRACT FOR THE EASTERN RAILWAY EXTENSION.

##### IN COMMITTEE.

MR. STEERE, in accordance with notice, moved the following resolution: "That the Council is of opinion that in any contract entered into for the construction of the Eastern Railway extension, arrangements should be made with the contractors whereby they should be required to introduce into the Colony not less than 100 laborers, to be employed in the construction of the proposed railway works; and that the contractors should be paid by the Government at the rate of £6 per head for each statute adult so introduced." The hon. member said that if the contractor for this railway was going to depend upon obtaining the necessary labor in the Colony, for carrying out the work, great inconvenience would be felt both by the contractor as well as by the employers of labor, consequent upon the scarcity of the supply; and he did not think the House could do a more advantageous thing for the Colony than to adopt this resolution, which, if acted upon, would in his opinion be a financial gain to us, and an arrangement which in every respect would be beneficial to the

Colony. That it would prove a profitable arrangement, from a financial point of view, he believed, for this reason: the Government are themselves large employers of labor on the railway already constructed, and when the line came to be extended they would be able, if the proposed arrangement were carried out, to obtain a further supply of skilled labor, which otherwise they would have to introduce themselves. Viewing the matter from another point of view, he thought the proposal was worthy of consideration, for these 100 laborers would necessarily be large consumers of produce grown in the Colony and also of duty-paying articles imported here. On an average, every person in the Colony consumed, annually, upwards of £3 worth of dutiable goods, so that in two years time—about the period that would probably be occupied in constructing the railway—these one hundred laborers would contribute £600 to the revenue, through the Customs, which was equivalent to the amount that the Government would have to pay for their passages hence, at the rate of £6 per head for each statute adult. He had fixed the amount at that rate because this is what was formerly allowed by the Government to any one introducing labor from the other colonies. If, however, hon. members considered this allowance too high, he should offer no opposition to reducing it, or otherwise modifying the terms of the resolution, so long as the principle involved was not vitiated. He had always thought, himself, it was a great pity and a mistake, when the first section of this railway was commenced, that the Government should have put a stop to the system of assisted immigration from the other colonies. It appeared to him it did not signify much how or where we obtained our supply of labor, so long as we got a desirable class.

MR. GRANT would like to see the amount to be paid in respect of each immigrant reduced from £6 to £4. He thought the object in view would be as likely to be attained then as if they offered the larger capitation grant.

MR. MARMION did not think the General Revenue should be made to bear the burden of introducing these men—even granting that the policy of offering a bonus was a good one. For that reason

he would move as an amendment that all the words after "works," in the ninth line, be struck out. He thought the object in view would be better attained by making the contractor introduce these laborers at his own expense. Of course, in doing so, he would take care to include the cost of introduction in the amount of his contract; but in that way the expense to the Colony would be met out of the Railway Loan, instead of out of General Revenue. If the policy involved in the resolution was a good one, he failed to see why it should not be extended to others, as well as railway contractors. There was no reason why the same system should not be applied in the case of other employers of labor. It would equally benefit the Colony. He did not wish to offer any violent opposition to the proposal, but he hoped his amendment would be accepted, so as to relieve the General Revenue from the burden which would otherwise be cast upon it, and which by rights ought to come out of the Railway Loan, so long as the labor was specially introduced for railway purposes.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Lord Gifford) said he rose, not altogether to oppose the resolution, but he thought the House would do well to pause, and consider what was proposed to be done. Would it not be regarded by the neighboring colonies as rather sharp practice on our part? Hon. members were aware that the system proposed to be introduced had been in operation before, but the Colony gained very little by it, and from representations made to the Government it was discontinued. If we did this much for railway contractors, we ought to extend the same privilege to any other employers of labor. The House should bear that in mind.

MR. SHENTON said, as to the cry of unneighborly treatment raised by the other colonies, that was almost stale now, and, regard being had to the action taken by the representatives of those colonies with reference to our policy of Chinese immigration, he did not think they were entitled to much consideration on our part. What we ought to study was our own interests, and not those of our neighbors, who were well able to look after themselves.

MR. BROWN said the hon. member for Toodyay was quite right in saying that this cry of "injustice" raised by our neighbors was one that had been heard for many years in this Colony, and he was not prepared to say that there was no foundation for it. He felt very much inclined to take the same view of the subject as the Colonial Secretary, namely, that in adopting this policy we should be treating our neighbors unfairly, by offering inducements to laborers to leave their shores for our own—laborers who had been introduced there at the public expense. The difficulties we ourselves had experienced in obtaining labor from abroad ought to make us sympathise with our neighbors, and to treat them generously, rather than to seek to entice their immigrants to come over here to fill the gap in our own labor market. As to the action of the representatives of the other colonies at the Conference, all he could say was, he hoped we were not going to emulate our neighbors in that respect. Because they treated us on that occasion in a manner we consider unfair, that was no reason why we should treat them likewise. He did not think Western Australia, if it came to that, was in a position to quarrel with her neighbors, and he thought our best policy towards them was to be just as well as generous. The amendment proposed by the hon. member for Fremantle commended itself to him (Mr. Brown). Let the contractor get his labor where he liked, from wherever he comes from, but let not the revenue be taxed to introduce labor for his convenience.

MR. GRANT said, with reference to the treatment we had received at the hands of the delegates assembled at the Sydney Conference, he did not think after that we ought to be very scrupulous in our dealings with the other colonies, as regards immigration. Emigration from one colony to another was nothing new. Tasmania, years ago, offered free passes to immigrants from Victoria, and hundreds of people took advantage of them, while thousands went to New Zealand under the same system and a further inducement in the shape of grants of land. Under these circumstances, he failed to see why we should be so very scrupulous and conscientious in our dealings with our neighbors, who did

not care a straw whether we ever got any immigrants or not.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. A. C. Onslow) said "Let us do unto others as we would be done unto ourselves" was a golden rule, applicable to nations or communities as well as to individuals. He was not going to expatiate upon the text, but he thought it would be wise and expedient on our part that, in our dealings with our neighbors, we should not deliberately make enemies to ourselves. We knew, to our cost, what it was to put our hands in our pockets to introduce immigrants to our shores from the mother country and elsewhere; each immigrant brought hence from England was said to cost the Colony £18. What would we say to the other colonies, if, acting upon the same principle as was embodied in this resolution, they were to offer £10 for each of these immigrants to come over there, after our paying their passages here? Would we not complain of such treatment, and justly complain? The seduction of 100 laborers from New South Wales or Victoria might be a small matter for those thriving colonies, nevertheless the principle was the same as if we sought to deprive them of such numbers as would seriously hamper their industrial operations, and we would give them a handle to use against ourselves which they could not be blamed for taking advantage of.

MR. STEERE said he was willing to accept the amendment submitted by the hon. member for Fremantle, which would relieve the immigration vote, but he would still stipulate for the introduction of the proposed number of men. As to extending the same privilege to other employers of labor, he should only be glad if the Government were to adopt the same system in all cases where labor was required and could be profitably utilised.

MR. RANDELL looked upon the subject purely as a matter of business, and not of sentiment towards the other colonies. The resolution, as amended, simply amounted to this—we told the contractor he had better bring his labor with him. He believed the feeling outside was in favor of extending this bonus system to other avenues of labor, as well as railway construction. There could not possibly be any objection to the resolution, as amended. He saw no reason

whatever why it should arouse the ire of our neighbors. He did not know whether or not the contractor ought to be under the same conditions with regard to his laborers as other people were who nominated immigrants from home, and who had to give a guarantee to the Government that the persons nominated by them should not become chargeable to the Colony. This was a phase of the question which deserved some consideration.

The amendment was then put and passed, and the resolution, as amended, adopted.

#### MAIL SERVICE TO SOUTHERN DISTRICTS.

MR. VENN moved the resolution standing in his name, affirmative of the inadvisability of altering the present system of mail service to the Southern Districts. The hon. member said he had been induced to bring forward the motion in consequence of some remarks in the report of the Departmental Commission, who, although they did not exactly condemn the present service, recommended that tenders should be invited to ascertain what the service could be done for by contract. The Commission, however, added that they would not recommend reverting to the contract system unless a very material economy could be gained by it, as the present system afforded great facilities, and a loss would probably be entailed in the sale of plant and horses. He looked upon this as a sort of saving clause in the Report of the Commission, and he refrained from taking any action in the matter until he noticed that the Government, following out the suggestion made by the Commission, had advertised in the *Gazette*, inviting tenders for the performance of the service by contract. In order to avert the calamity that might ensue were the Government to accept any of these tenders, he had brought forward the present resolution, which he trusted would meet with the support of the House, and be carried without a division. He regretted, on this occasion, that so many hon. members of that House had been appointed on the Commission referred to, because to a certain extent they would feel bound to support the recommendations of the Commission; but he thought he saw a

loophole for them to escape from that position in the saving clause which he had already referred to, in which the Commission, in effect, recommended that no change should be made unless a very material saving could be gained by it. He proposed to show, from the figures furnished by the Postmaster General in his report, that no "very material economy" would be effected by reverting to the contract system, and, if he succeeded in doing that, he hoped he would carry with him the votes of those hon. members who sat on the Commission, as well as the votes of all other hon. members in the House. He found from Mr. Helmich's report that the Southern Districts Service, under the present system, had been worked up to a state of great efficiency, and that in the course of last year the receipts amounted to £903 16s. 7d. (being £735 7s. 3d. from passengers, and £168 9s. 4d. in respect of parcels). The cost of the service—which he presumed included all the expenditure connected with it, except equipments—amounted to £1,822 18s. 6d., or £929 in excess of the receipts. Under the contract system, the annual cost of the service was £800, being only £129 less than the loss under the present arrangement. But there was an item of £1,495, charged for equipments, in connection with this and the other two Mail Services performed by the Government—the Eastern Districts and the Albany Service. Therefore, accepting one-third of that amount as the share of the charges incurred in connection with the Southern Districts Service, they had a sum of £498 to be taken into consideration under the head of equipments. This, of course, was not an annual charge, and consequently it would not be proper to add it to the expenditure connected with last year's services. He thought that a very fair calculation would be to reckon 10 per cent. upon the first charge for equipment, as the annual proportion of expenditure under this head for wear and tear; and this would increase the deficit from £129 to £179, or, in other words, the present system cost the country last year that much more than the old contract rate. But that difference provided for the public a most efficient service in every respect, and one conferring many benefits which

were never enjoyed under the old system. And the question for consideration was, whether the advantages presented by the existing system did not more than counterbalance the slight difference in the cost? He thought all hon. members would agree with him that they did, and that it would be most inadvisable to revert to the old system, with all its inconveniences, delays, and discomforts.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Lord Gifford) said he had listened with great attention to the hon. member's remarks, and he might say at once that he fully recognised the conveniences and advantages which the present service conferred upon the public. But, in view of the recommendation put forward by the Commission, he thought no other course was open for the Government but to ascertain, by inviting tenders, whether the service could not be conducted as efficiently, but more economically, by contract. That was all which the Government had done in the matter, and if contractors were prepared to carry out the service as it was at present carried out, and at a considerable saving to the Colony, of course it would be the duty of the Government to do the best they could in the public interests. It remained, however, yet to be seen whether contractors would be prepared to perform the service much cheaper than it was being conducted at present, and at the same time afford the public the same facilities and conveniences. Hon. members would observe, on reference to the *Gazette*, that the terms upon which tenders were invited were very stringent, and that every precaution was taken to ensure a thoroughly efficient service. But as he had already said, it yet remained to be seen whether this could be done, and, at the same time, "a very material economy" effected; and hon. members might rely that the Government would not revert to the old system unless a substantial saving would be gained in the cost of the service. He thought the House might safely leave the matter in the hands of the Government, with the full knowledge that they had the public interests at heart.

MR. SHENTON said the attention of the Commission was called to the matter by people outside, and it would be observed that the Postmaster Gene-

ral also remarked upon the increased cost of the present service as compared with the contract system. No one doubted that a boon had been conferred on the travelling public by the Government Mail Service, as regards comfort, punctuality, and convenience; but the question was, whether the same advantages could not now be secured at less expense to the Colony.

MR. BURGESS supported the resolution. He hoped the Government would not revert to the miserable contract system which had never given the public satisfaction. He did not think that a saving of a few pounds should be made subservient to the public convenience in the matter of these mails. He considered it strange conduct on the part of the Commission to crack up the efficient manner in which the service was at present performed, and in the same breath to recommend the Government to revert to the old system, with all its inconveniences and discomforts.

MR. MARMION said the hon. member who had just spoken appeared to be oblivious of the object for which the Departmental Commission was appointed, namely, to inquire whether any reduction could be made in the expenditure connected with the Public Service. The Commission, upon inquiry, were led to believe that possibly these mail services could be performed by contract at a considerable reduction of expense to the Colony, and they would have been wanting in their duty to the country if they had not brought the subject under the attention of the Government. All the Commission recommended was that steps should be taken to ascertain whether this belief was well founded, but, if it were discovered, after inviting tenders, that no material economy could be effected, the Commission did not recommend any change, and they left the responsibility of reverting to the old system upon the Government.

MR. BURT said, although he had been one of those who had opposed the introduction of the present system of mail carrying, by the Government—a change which the House at the time regarded as a somewhat high-handed proceeding on the part of the then Governor—yet, seeing that considerable expense had been incurred in organising

and equipping the service, and that the new system had only been in vogue about twelve months, and had not had a fair trial, he thought it would be unwise at present to break up the Government service and revert to the contract system. The existing arrangement had not been long enough in operation yet to enable them to judge whether it was likely to pay or not, and for that reason he deprecated the proposed change.

MR. BROWN concurred. The present system was undoubtedly a vast improvement upon the old one, and he was free to confess it had not been so expensive as he had at first anticipated. The difference between the cost of the two services, according to the report of the Commission, was only about £200,—the conveyance of the southern mails under the present system costing annually £1,026 (including provision for contingencies), while, under the contract system, the annual cost was £800. He thought that this slight increase was more than compensated for by the increased facilities and improved accommodation afforded under the present system, which he thought it would be inadvisable to change. He thought, however, the matter might safely be left in the hands of the Government, without any expression of opinion on the subject on the part of the House. It certainly could not do any harm to ascertain at what rate the mails could be carried by contract, but, unless a very material saving could be effected, he thought it would be inexpedient to make any change, for, although they might get the service performed cheaper for a few years, there was no guarantee that, at the end of the first contract, they would be able to get it renewed at the same rate. There was such a thing as combination, and there would be nothing to prevent mail contractors taking advantage of it.

SIR T. COCKBURN-CAMPBELL could not at all agree as to the advisability of leaving the matter in the hands of the Government, without any expression of opinion on the part of the House. No doubt the Government were most anxious to do what they conceived to be for the best, but he felt convinced that if these tenders were accepted the whole thing would break down, and the country would be put to a great expense in reorganising the service, on the same efficient

scale,—and the public having once enjoyed the facilities and convenience afforded by the present service would never be content with a less efficient one. He considered it would be highly inexpedient to make any change at present, and most inadvisable to leave the matter in the hands of the Executive without adopting some such resolution as that before the House, expressive of the views of the Legislature on the subject.

MR. STEERE said the hon. member for Wellington could hardly expect the members of the Commission to support a resolution which expressed disapproval of their own recommendation. He quite agreed, however, with all that had fallen from the hon. member as to the superiority of the existing service over the old one, and that great credit was due to the Government and all concerned for the efficient manner in which the service was carried out. At the same time a great deal had been said, both inside the House and outside of it, as to the expensiveness of the present arrangement, and the Commission thought it was only right that they should advise the Government to call for tenders in order to ascertain whether or not the same service could be performed at any material reduction of expenditure; if not, then no change ought to be made. This was the view taken of the matter by the Commission. His own opinion was, that, regard being had to the stringent conditions proposed to impose upon contractors, according to the terms of the *Gazette* notice, we should not be able to make any material reduction, and at the same time maintain the present efficiency of the service. Personally, he hoped the existing system would be adhered to, and that the service would continue to be performed by the Government with as much satisfaction to the public as at present. The matter, however, was one which he thought might safely be left in the hands of the Executive.

MR. S. H. PARKER, in order to meet what appeared to be the views of the majority of hon. members, moved, as an amendment upon the resolution submitted by the hon. member for Wellington: "That the House having considered the Report of the Departmental Commission, and being of opinion that the

"Royal Mail Service to the Southern Districts is carried out in a most satisfactory manner, deems it would be inadvisable to revert to the contract system, unless it be found that the mails to Bunbury and the Vasse can be carried at a considerably less cost than at present." As a general rule he believed it would be found that Governments could not carry out any undertaking as economically and successfully as private enterprise, but he was ready to admit that as regards this mail service every economy was being exercised, and, as the Government were now possessed of the necessary equipments for carrying on the service, he did not think there was any prospect of the work being performed at much less cost than at present. Nothing, however, would be lost by advertising for tenders, in order to test the point, and there was nothing in the amendment to offend the susceptibilities of the members of the Commission.

MR. RANDELL considered that the Commission had received scant courtesy at the hands of that House. It was appointed, he might say, at the request of the House, and the members of it certainly took great pains in the discharge of the duties devolving upon them. They had carefully inquired into this matter, and recommended a certain course of action for the Government to adopt, which the Government, very properly in his opinion, had pursued, and he did not see how the House could expect the members of the Commission to stultify themselves by affirming that it would be inadvisable to adopt the course which they had recommended. He thought the Commission deserved all honor at the hands of the country and that House, for their earnest endeavors to discharge their duties thoroughly and conscientiously, in endeavoring to curtail expenditure as much as possible. It was not their fault if they had not accomplished more than they had succeeded in doing. He would support the amendment, in preference to the original resolution, though he thought they might well leave the matter in the hands of the Government.

MR. VENN deprecated the idea that he had intended to cast any reflections upon the Commission. It had appeared

to him that what he called the "saving clause" in their report would have enabled the members of it to have supported his resolution without in any way stultifying themselves.

SIR T. COCKBURN-CAMPBELL would be very sorry indeed if it were thought for one moment that any remarks which had fallen from him were intended in any way to disparage the labors of the Commission. He did not agree with a great many of their recommendations, but he was perfectly well aware that they had a very hard task, and an uphill work to perform. As to the amendment he entirely disagreed with it, for it stated, in effect, that in the event of tenders being sent in for the service at a much lower rate than its present cost, the Government might revert to the old system. He thought that would be a great mistake, being convinced that the result would be a breakdown, and that, ultimately, the affair would involve them in much greater expenditure than the service at present entailed.

MR. STONE had been all along consistently opposed to the Government undertaking the work of carrying the mails, and, whenever a favorable opportunity offered, he would do his best to cause them to revert to the contract system. But as the Government had now equipped the service, and incurred a very considerable outlay in doing so, he thought they ought to be very cautious before they interfered with the existing system at the present time. He thought the Government would understand that the mere fact of the tenders being lower than the present cost of the service would not, in the opinion of the House, and he might say of the Commission, warrant them in reverting to the old system, unless they were also guaranteed that the same facilities would be afforded to the public as were afforded at present.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Lord Gifford) said the House might rely upon it that the Government were not going to upset the existing arrangements, unless they could see their way clear to effect a substantial saving to the country and at the same time maintain the efficiency of the service. They would not sacrifice the public convenience for the sake of £100 a year or so.

The amendment submitted by Mr. PARKER was then put, and carried, upon a division, the numbers being:—

Ayes	...	...	12
Noes	...	...	6

Majority for	...	6
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AYES.	NOES.
Lord Gifford	Mr. Burges
The Hon. A. C. Onslow	Mr. Burt
The Hon. M. Fraser	Sir T. C. Campbell
Mr. Brown	Mr. Grant
Mr. Higham	Mr. Hamersley
Mr. Marmion	Mr. Venn (Teller.)
Mr. S. S. Parker	
Mr. Randall	
Mr. Shenton	
Mr. Steere	
Mr. Stone	
Mr. S. H. Parker (Teller.)	

The amendment was therefore adopted.

#### GOODS SHED AT CITY RAILWAY STATION.

##### IN COMMITTEE.

MR. S. H. PARKER, in accordance with notice, moved, "That an Humble Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor, praying that he will be pleased to appropriate the sum of £500 for the purpose of erecting a Goods Shed at the Railway Station, Perth." The hon. member said the necessity of providing some place for the deposit of goods forwarded by rail was obvious; no one would be so foolish as to entrust goods or merchandise for transport, unless there was some place to protect them from the weather and from depredation when they arrived at their destination. He understood that the only difficulty in the way was that of money to build the shed, but he thought there were other things of less importance which might remain in abeyance. After expending £130,000 in the construction of the line, were they, for the sake of £500, to let it remain useless, for the purposes of goods traffic, simply because we could not find the money to build a shed? Were they going to spoil the ship for the sake of this ha'p'orth of tar? If ever there was an example of a penny wise and pound foolish policy, this was one.

MR. SHENTON, in seconding the motion, hoped the Government would see its way clear to give effect to it. The necessity for a goods shed was obvious to everybody, and a few hundred pounds should not be allowed to stand in the way of providing this much needed

accommodation at the Metropolitan Station.

MR. BROWN did not intend to vote against the motion, for he considered it highly desirable that there should be a goods shed at Perth; but he did think it was a great pity that provision was not made out of loan money for this purpose, and that it was a great mistake to erect buildings in connection with our railways out of general revenue, which we could ill afford. This was one of the reasons why we had such large deficits,—the appropriation out of general revenue of sums which properly ought to come out of loan.

MR. STEERE quite agreed with the hon. member for Geraldton that such a building as this should not, if it could possibly be avoided, be constructed out of current revenue, but out of the railway loan. A goods shed, however, was absolutely necessary at Perth, as well as at the two termini of the line. If there was none of the railway loan available for this purpose, he thought the necessary sum might be appropriated out of the unexpended £5,000 voted for public works in 1878, and which the Government proposed to expend in extending the public offices. He thought a portion of that amount might be devoted to the erection of this goods shed.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Lord Gifford) said the proposition made by the hon. member for the Swan was worthy of consideration. It was very evident that the revenue would not bear any further strain, in view of the gloomy prospects of the season, and the heavy expenditure contemplated in other directions, leaving little or no margin for contingencies. He would even go further than the hon. member, and suggest that they should appropriate not merely £500 out of this £5,000, for a goods shed at Perth, but also a similar amount for the same purpose at Geraldton. It was evident that they would not require the whole £5,000 next year, and the £1,000 deducted from it might be recouped when the revenue could afford it.

MR. S. H. PARKER moved, That Progress be reported, in order to enable the Colonial Secretary to consult with the Governor on the subject.

The motion to report Progress was

agreed to, and leave given to sit again next day.

#### DISEASES IN VINES BILL, 1881.

On the Order of the Day for the third reading of this Bill,

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Lord Gifford) moved, That the Order be discharged, and the Bill be re-committed.

Agreed to.

#### IN COMMITTEE.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Lord Gifford) moved a verbal alteration in clause 2, which was adopted without discussion.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. A. C. Onslow) moved, That the following new clause be added to the Bill, to stand as clause 8: "The words 'Stipendiary' 'Magistrate' wherever used in this Act shall be construed to mean any Government Resident, Resident Magistrate, or Police Magistrate, and the term 'District' shall mean the district of any Government Resident, Resident Magistrate, or Police Magistrate."

This was agreed to, and the Bill reported as amended.

#### REPLY TO MESSAGE (No 18): RE CONTROL OVER LOAN MONIES.

MR. STEERE, in moving a resolution in reply to the Message received from His Excellency the Governor, on August 23rd, relative to Legislative control over loan monies, said it would be in the recollection of the House that His Excellency, in his Message, stated that he had ascertained that the practice in the other Australian colonies was as follows:

(1). In Victoria "the Legislature defines the purposes to which money shall be applied, and limits by Act the amount to be expended on lines of railway. The details of expenditure are left to the Department."—(2). In New South Wales "the Legislature has no control over the expenditure of the Loan monies for the construction of railways. The Government is responsible for the proper expenditure of such monies in terms of Loan Act under which the Loan is raised."—(3). In Queensland "the Government has control of the expenditure of the money raised, which should be expended on the works for

"which voted."—(4). In South Australia "the only control the Legislature has" over Loan monies is by Loan Estimates, "which are laid on the Table and passed" every year." His Excellency proceeded to say that if he were to be guided, as the House had suggested in its Address, by the practice of the other colonies, as regards giving the Legislature control over loan monies, he would leave matters as they are at present, but that he was quite prepared to adopt the South Australian plan, so far as it may be practicable to do so. It appeared, however, that the telegraphic summary of the practices prevailing in the other colonies, as furnished to the House in His Excellency's Message, did not strictly define the procedure adopted in some of those colonies, nor enter into such details as would make it clear what the practice really is in the various colonies as regards the expenditure of loan monies. He might state that, since the receipt by His Excellency of this telegraphic summary from the Governments of the sister colonies, he had had a conversation with His Excellency on this subject, and had pointed out to him, from a report recently published by the Controller and Auditor General of New Zealand,—dealing with the system of audit obtaining in the several Australian colonies, as regards the public revenue and the expenditure of loans,—that so far from the respective Legislatures of those colonies possessing little or no control over loan monies, as would appear from the telegraphic summary furnished to His Excellency, as embodied in his Message, the Legislatures of those colonies possessed considerable control over the expenditure of borrowed funds. He found from the report of the New Zealand Treasurer—who was specially commissioned by his Government to visit the Australian colonies for the purpose of reporting upon the subject—that the practice in Victoria was this: "In all the recent Acts for raising Loans, the purpose for which the loan is raised is stated in the Act, or in a schedule, and a clause is inserted requiring the Treasurer to lay before Parliament annual accounts of the expenditure; and, before incurring any expenditure, or entering into any contract, to lay before Parliament an Estimate of the proposed Expenditure, to be submitted for the sanction of the

Legislative Assembly in the same manner as the annual Estimates of expenditure for the Public Service." That was the practice in Victoria, and, on looking at the last Appropriation Act passed in that Colony, he noticed that the minutest details, as regards proposed expenditure of loan monies to carry out public works, are given. In Queensland the practice was as follows: The sixth section of the Loan Act of 1879 (which provided for a loan of three millions for public works purposes) enacted that the appropriation of all sums paid on account of salaries, or to supplement salaries, from monies received under the authority of the Act, shall be annually sanctioned by the Legislative Assembly. It would appear, therefore, that in Queensland the control of the Legislature over loan monies was restricted to salaries. As to South Australia, the practice had been correctly described in the telegraphic summary forwarded to His Excellency,—the Loan Estimates were presented to and voted by the Legislature annually, and only so much money is appropriated as is estimated to be required during the current financial year. That was the practice which His Excellency proposed to introduce here. In New Zealand, the appropriation of loan monies was formerly effected by the Loan Acts, and partly by Acts for the construction of railways, the appropriation being permanent without reference to years. But by the Public Works Act, 1876, all former appropriations were repealed, and it was enacted that the Minister shall, as soon as conveniently may be after the opening of each Session, lay before Parliament full and detailed estimates of the expenditure proposed to be made upon all Government works during the financial year, and that no such works shall be undertaken unless Parliament appropriates money for the execution thereof. It would be observed that very much the same practice existed in New Zealand as in Victoria, the loan monies being annually appropriated by the Legislature, in exactly the same manner as the ordinary revenue; and he had no doubt that the same system would soon be adopted in the other colonies. It was the one which he should wish to see introduced in this Colony, and therefore he moved the following resolution:—"In reply to Your Excellency's Message

"No. 18, the Council has observed with satisfaction that Your Excellency is prepared to acquiesce in the desire which has been expressed by the Legislature, that its control over Loan Moneys should be exercised by means of Loan Estimates, to be laid on the Table, and passed every year. The Council, however, is of opinion that the Legislative control of Loan Moneys cannot be effectually provided for except by a legal enactment providing that Loan Estimates shall annually be presented for the confirmation of the Council, and it requests that Your Excellency will be pleased to introduce a measure for such purpose." He thought hon. members would agree with him that if they wished to carry out the object in view effectually, and to exercise that control over the expenditure of borrowed money which they now did over the expenditure of the public revenue, it must be done by legislative enactment. Although the present Governor had expressed his readiness to adopt the South Australian plan, and to present loan estimates for the confirmation of the House annually—and he was quite sure that His Excellency would carry out what he said he was prepared to do—still they might have another Governor who would not be prepared to do anything of the kind, and, when remonstrated with, would tell them there was no law to compel him to do so, and that consequently he would not do it. He therefore thought there ought to be an enactment rendering it incumbent upon the Governor for the time being to do what Governor Robinson had expressed his readiness to do, without such enactment.

The resolution was agreed to without discussion.

#### ESTIMATES: FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF.

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

*Survey Department*, Item £8,349 7s. 6d.:

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. M. Fraser) moved, That the item "Photolithographer and Draftsman, £300," be struck out, as the officer

in question (Mr. Woodhouse) had resigned, and steps had been taken to carry on the work without appointing a successor to the office.

MR. S. H. PARKER hoped that the department would not suffer thereby. It struck him that although the photolithographed plans and maps prepared in this branch of the Survey Department might not be directly a paying speculation, but cost a considerable sum of money to the Colony, still he looked upon the fact of the distribution of a large number of these plans out of the Colony, and within the Colony, as of great advantage, and well worth the money.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. M. Fraser) said it was with regret that he had received the resignation of the officer referred to, but as he had left the Colony, and knowing that the work could be carried on by another officer employed in the same department, he hoped to be able to do without appointing a successor to Mr. Woodhouse at present. At any rate, they would make strenuous efforts to continue the work with the present staff, and the addition of a lad whom he proposed taking into the office to learn the business. In the meantime, he hoped the public would not have to suffer any inconvenience.

The item was then struck out.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. M. Fraser) moved some further amendments in the items connected with his department, which were agreed to without discussion (*Vide* "Votes and Proceedings," p. 117).

MR. STONE drew attention to the number of officers provisionally employed in connection with the Survey Department. He thought it was very hard indeed upon these officers, or at any rate upon many of them, that they should appear, year after year, upon the provisional, instead of the permanent, staff. Some of them had been in the service for years, and might be regarded as being on the fixed staff to every intent, except that they were not allowed to enjoy the privileges attaching to officers placed on the permanent list. If they dealt with these men in this way, why should not all the clerks in the service be provisionally employed? He did not

think the House would agree to that, and he did not think it was fair that these particular officers should be kept for ever on the provisional staff, and thereby be deprived of the privileges granted to those employed on the fixed establishment.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. M. Fraser) said that, so far as had lain in his power, since the year 1871, he had endeavored to reorganise the department, and to do so without increasing the staff. It was then arranged that a certain number of officers should be employed provisionally, which was a very convenient arrangement for the Government, in the event of any reduction being necessary, or a reorganisation of the department being required. If he were to consult his own feelings in the matter, he would be glad to place these officers on the fixed staff, but he had hesitated to do so, having regard to the convenience of the public service. It should be borne in mind that these men obtained an increase of salary which they probably would not have got were they on the permanent staff.

MR. STEERE asked for some explanation with regard to the item "Special Survey from Murchison River to Ashburton River, £1,950."

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. M. Fraser) said hon. members who had read his annual report, and who had perused the small diagram attached to it showing the large extent of territory taken up in the district referred to, and who knew the difficulties experienced by the settlers in ascertaining the positions of their runs, must allow that as soon as possible a sufficient reconnaissance survey ought to be made of the whole country to enable them to fix the boundaries of their runs. He wished the House to understand that his estimate of the whole cost of the work proposed to be carried out was about £3,900, and that the present vote was the first moiety of that amount. It would be useless to undertake the work unless they could carry it right through to completion. A considerable outlay would have to be made before the work could be started, in the purchase of horses, pack saddles, tents, etc., which was provided for in the estimate now before the Committee. He

relied upon the House to vote the other moiety of the amount required, when the money was wanted, so that the work might be completed without intermission. It was useless voting the sum now asked for unless the remainder would be forthcoming on a future occasion, when required.

MR. SHENTON hoped this most important work would receive the support and countenance of all hon. members. At the same time, he would like to draw the attention of the Commissioner to the report of the Select Committee on the Over-Expenditure Bill, two years ago, as to what was considered the exorbitant allowances made to the officers connected with a previous surveying expedition, and he hoped the remarks of the Select Committee would not be lost sight of.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. M. Fraser) said that so far as the proposed survey was concerned, the surveyor in charge would receive £500 a year without any allowance whatever, and the other officers employed would receive a fixed salary, varying from 30s. a day to £15 a month, with no additional allowances, beyond, possibly, rations, which would have to be provided while they were actually employed in the field.

MR. SHENTON expressed his satisfaction with the proposed scale of remuneration.

MR. STEERE asked whom it was proposed to send in charge of the party?

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. M. Fraser): If nothing prevents him, the Deputy Surveyor General will go in charge. I propose that the party shall start about February or March, so as to complete the work, if possible, before the close of the year. It is not improbable, therefore, that it will be necessary to draw the whole sum next year, and, for my own part, I should have liked to have seen the full amount placed on the Estimates, instead of a moiety.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Lord Gifford) said it had been the intention of the Government at one time to have done so, but regard being had to the very small margin left between the estimated Revenue and Expenditure for the ensuing year, it was considered wiser to ask for a moiety only.

The vote for the Survey Department was then agreed to.

*Immigration Grant, Item £3,000 :*

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Lord Gifford) said the nominated system of immigration was working most satisfactorily, and he was of opinion that the immigration vote for the current year would be slightly exceeded, in consequence of the large number of colonists who had availed themselves of this system of introducing their friends and acquaintances into the Colony. He was sure hon. members would not object to a little overdraft in this vote, seeing the acknowledged want of the Colony as regards labor. They had already obtained eighty-six European immigrants this year under the nominated system, at a cost of £18 each, which simply represented their passage money, the persons nominating them being responsible to the Government that, upon their landing here, they shall not become a charge to the Colony. In addition to these European immigrants, there were the Chinese coolies, also introduced out of this vote, which, as he had already said, would probably be slightly exceeded this year. It would be observed that the sum of £3,000 was placed on the Estimates for immigration purposes next year, and, although the Government would have been glad to have appropriated a larger sum for the purpose, yet, regard being had to the financial condition of the Colony, they did not feel justified in asking the House to vote a larger amount for the ensuing year. As the financial equilibrium became restored, no doubt it would be desirable to make further efforts in the way of supplying the wants of the labor market than they were able to do now.

The vote was agreed to without discussion.

*Literary, Scientific, and Agricultural Grant (Mechanics' Institutes and Working Men's Associations, £320; Perth Museum, £25; Acclimatisation purposes, £50; Agricultural and Horticultural Societies, £300)—£695 :*

MR. S. H. PARKER noticed that the vote for mechanics' institutes and working men's associations for next year was £140 less than the amount of the grant for the present year, and he would be glad if the Colonial Secretary would furnish the

Committee with some explanation as to the cause of this proposed reduction.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Lord Gifford) said the explanation was a very simple one. If the hon. member would look at the comparative statement of estimated and actual expenditure for the past year, he would see that the amount actually spent in support of these associations was £654, there being an underdraft of £270. As a matter of fact, there had been an underdraft in this vote for some years, and he saw no reason why the House should be asked for a larger amount than was actually required, or likely to be required. The vote now asked for was based upon the number of institutions which it was expected would require Government aid. It was not proposed to reduce or withdraw the grant now paid to any existing association.

MR. S. H. PARKER was glad to hear it. He also noticed that it was proposed to reduce the vote for the Perth Museum from £50 to £25. He thought this was a very unwise reduction, seeing that this museum was the only establishment of the kind in the Colony, and was a very useful institution. Indeed, had it not been for the geological specimens and other interesting objects which the Government were able to borrow from the committee, this Colony would never have been able to put in an appearance at the Paris Exhibition, which fact alone was worth £25. Not only that, so gratified were the Government with the great success which had attended the display we made at Paris, that, without even consulting the museum committee, they despatched a considerable number of these same specimens again to the Melbourne Exhibition; where, he believed, they were the source of considerable attraction and much curiosity. Yet an ungrateful Government now proposed to reduce the vote granted towards the support of this national museum from £50 to £25 a year. Not only was the museum a source of attraction to the residents of Perth, it was open to all visitors, and was one of the first places to which the Immigration Agent introduced newcomers, to show them the splendid capabilities of their adopted home.

MR. BURT said there was another view to be taken of this question besides that presented to the House by the hon.

member for Perth. To his mind this museum had proved most disastrous to the Colony. On the hon. member's own showing, it had involved us in an expenditure of £1,000 in connection with the Paris Exhibition, where the Colony made a lamentable exposure of itself and of its resources; and had not the Government been able to wheedle these specimens from the trustees of the museum, we should have been spared that disgrace, and, better still, saved our money. He found on reference to the report of the committee of management that out of the £50 grant made by the Government towards the support of the museum, no less than £33 was paid to the Curator, leaving only £17 for expenditure upon additional specimens. Under these circumstances it was not to be wondered at that the museum did not prosper. He thought that about the finest specimens of colonial produce to be seen there at present was—dust.

MR. BROWN hoped the day was not far distant when the House would be able to afford a much larger vote for this museum, so as to render it a credit to the Colony. He also hoped that they would soon be in a position to engage a competent geologist, for he felt that the Colony was now losing a great deal indeed by not having such an officer, to examine and report upon the geological formations of the country.

MR. STONE said if anything should induce the House to condemn this vote it was the statement that immigrants upon their first arrival in Perth were introduced to this museum, in order to impress them with the capabilities and natural resources of the Colony. He could not conceive anything more calculated to create an unfavorable impression upon new-comers, accustomed to visit the museums of the mother country, than to be ushered into the presence of the dingy specimens collected together in this dingy room dignified by the name of a museum. As to the institute attached, residents in Perth were well aware to what purposes that building was appropriated, the reading room being converted into a lending library, and the fine assembly room attached converted into a dancing saloon. He thought the attention of the Government should be directed to the question of whether such

associations were deserving of being supported out of public funds.

SIR L. S. LEAKE said he had the honor of being president of the mechanics' institute in Perth, and he ventured to say that it was among the most useful institutions in the city, affording our mechanics and others, as it did, an instructive and harmless means of recreation. It was open to all strangers and visitors, free of charge, and contained a very fair library, while the reading room was supplied with all the local papers as well as the leading journals of the other colonies; and surely such an institution was deserving of some public support. He would ask the noble lord, the leader of the Government, as a personal favor, to continue the vote granted heretofore to the museum attached to this institute. This museum, if it was not all that he should like to see it be, was so because of the small interest taken in it by the citizens and the public generally.

MR. S. H. PARKER thought the Working Men's Association was more deserving of support than any other institution of the kind in the city, for the members of that association had certainly displayed most commendable energy in securing for themselves a building which was an ornament to the town.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Lord Gifford) consented to increase the vote for the museum from £25 to £50, as heretofore.

The item was then agreed to, and the House resumed.

#### SANDALWOOD BILL, 1881.

Read a third time and passed.

#### THE FENCING BILL.

On the Order of the Day for the further consideration of this Bill in Committee,

MR. STEERE moved that the Speaker do now leave the Chair.

MR. BROWN said, in order to be consistent, and to show the feeling entertained by himself and those hon. members who had voted against the fourth clause of the Bill the other day, he would move as an amendment that the Bill be further considered in Committee that day six months.

MR. STONE: Before the question is put I think the House ought to know what position the Government are taking with regard to this Bill, and especially as to the 4th clause. I would, therefore, ask the noble lord, the representative of the Government, whether the House is to understand that the Bill has the support of the Government?

MR. BURT: Is it competent for such a question to be asked? What do we care, so far as the elected members of this House are concerned, whether the Government are in favor of the Bill or not. I should like to know how it is that the hon. member for Geraldton and those who voted with him for the second reading of the Bill, and who in doing so affirmed the principle of the Bill, can justify their action in opposing this fourth clause, which embodies the only vital principle in the whole Bill?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Lord Gifford) said, although he did not feel called upon to answer the question put to him by the hon. member Mr. Stone, he might say that, so far as he was concerned, he was acting entirely according to his own views with regard to the Bill, and without any reference whatever to His Excellency's views on the subject. He had received no definite instructions either to support it or to oppose it, but was acting entirely on his own responsibility in the matter.

MR. STEERE intimated that, upon the motion for the third reading of the Bill, he intended to modify the provisions of the fourth clause, so as to render it more acceptable to the majority of hon. members. But whatever amendments he introduced, he was aware he could not expect the support of the hon. member for Geraldton, who, he understood, was opposed to the Bill *in toto*. (Mr. Brown: No, no.) As to Government support, he had himself shown the Bill to His Excellency, and had seen a memorandum to the effect that, so far as His Excellency himself was concerned, he had no objection to the Bill. Of course, he did not know whether that was His Excellency's opinion still.

MR. BROWN said that, so far from objecting to the Bill *in toto*, he looked upon it, on the whole, as a very valuable measure; but there were two features in the Bill which he was strongly opposed

to, namely, the proposal to make it retrospective in its operation, with regard to compelling persons to contribute towards the cost of fences which were of no use to them whatever; and also because prospectively it would operate in the same direction, and compel people to pay half the cost of erecting a fence in which they had no interest in the world. To the rest of the Bill he had already given his adhesion, in the belief that it was a measure which would prove of great value to the Colony; but these were features in it which he could never bring himself to support.

MR. VENN hoped hon. members were not going to be led, or misled, away by what the Government thought of the Bill, or to allow their opinions to be warped by what the Governor's views were. They had nothing to do with whether His Excellency was in favor of the Bill or opposed to it. If His Excellency chose to take upon himself the responsibility of vetoing it, let him do so; but let not hon. members waver in their support of the Bill on that account. They had a duty to perform to the country, and he hoped they were not going to be swerved from the performance of that duty by any tittle-tattle as to what the Governor might say or do with regard to it. So far as his own views were concerned, in reference to the now famous 4th clause of the Bill, he saw no reason whatever why he should recede one point from the position which he took up with regard to it the other day.

MR. MARMION said the hon. member who had just sat down had spoken plainly on behalf of himself and the supporters of the Bill. He thought it became the other side to speak with equal plainness. Personally he did not care any more than the hon. member himself cared whether he was in accord with the views of the Governor or not. He simply hoped, if the Bill passed the House, in opposition to the views and the wishes of those hon. members who represented the people in that House equally with those who supported the Bill, His Excellency would take the same view of this 4th clause as the elected members who opposed it did, and that he would veto the Bill, and give the country an opportunity of expressing an opinion upon it. He was sure if this were done,

it would be found, at the next Session of Council, that those who opposed the compulsory principle of the Bill, as embodied in the 4th clause, would be found to reflect the opinions of the majority of the people of this Colony. The hon. member for Wellington said they had a duty to perform. So they had. And the duty which those who, like himself (Mr. Marmion), objected to this clause had to perform was to show a strong spirit of hostility towards the Bill, and to oppose its progress at every stage, in order to strengthen the hands of His Excellency, should he think proper to adopt the course which he had referred to,—veto the Bill and let the country express an opinion with regard to it. He had no doubt of the result. The division which was now about to take place could not affect the fate of the Bill, nor would it prevent hon. members hereafter from considering whatever amendments the hon. member for the Swan might propose in the 4th clause, but it would show His Excellency that, should he feel inclined to veto the Bill, he had a fair proportion of the elected representatives of the people in that House who were in accord with him.

The House then divided, when the original motion was carried, the numbers being:

Ayes	...	...	10
Noes	...	...	8

Majority for	...	2
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AYES.  
 Lord Gifford  
 The Hon. A. C. Onslow  
 The Hon. M. Fraser  
 Mr. Burges  
 Mr. Burt  
 Sir T. C. Campbell  
 Mr. Grant  
 Mr. Randell  
 Mr. Venn  
 Mr. Steere (*Teller*.)

NOES.  
 Mr. Hamersley  
 Mr. Higham  
 Mr. Marmion  
 Mr. S. H. Parker  
 Mr. S. S. Parker  
 Mr. Shenton  
 Mr. Stone  
 Mr. Brown (*Teller*.)

The amendment was therefore negatived, and the Bill committed.

#### IN COMMITTEE.

The preamble and title of the Bill were agreed to, and the third reading made an Order of the Day for Monday, September 5th.

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

## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

*Thursday, 1st September, 1881.*

Correspondence between Swan Roads Board and Superintendent of Roads—Reply to Message (No. 17): re Ocean Steamers calling at Fremantle—Municipal Institutions Act, Amendment Bill: second reading; in committee—Distillation Act, 1871, Amendment Bill: second reading—Law and Parliamentary Library Act, Amendment Bill: second reading—Brands Bill, 1881: third reading—Adjournment.

THE SPEAKER took the Chair at noon.

#### PRAYERS.

#### CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN SWAN ROADS BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT OF ROADS.

SIR T. COCKBURN-CAMPBELL, in the absence of Mr. BURT, in accordance with notice, moved, "That an Humble Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor, praying that he will be pleased to lay on the Table all correspondence to date between the Swan Roads Board, or its Chairman, and the Government, on the subject of the work done under the direction of the Superintendent of Roads on the Gingin road, together with the report or reports of those members of the Central Road Committee who inspected such work." The hon. baronet said he did not exactly know what the object of the hon. member for Murray was in moving for this correspondence, but he understood that its production would tend to remove a certain impression caused by some animadversions made upon the Roads Board.

The motion was agreed to.

#### REPLY TO MESSAGE No. 17: RE SUBSIDY FOR OCEAN STEAMERS CALLING AT FREMANTLE.

#### IN COMMITTEE.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Lord Gifford) said the message received from His Excellency the other day—informing the Council that it was not impossible that the Netherlands India Steam Navigation Co., or some other line of ocean steamers, might be induced to allow their boats to call at Fremantle, if supported by this Government—was a very important one to the Colony at large. He might inform the House that the Government had received communica-