

and passed it through all its stages; and ever since the present Bill had been introduced, it had struck him (Mr. Parker) that they were treating the hon. member for Geraldton with scant courtesy, by passing it in his absence. As the hon. member would be in attendance in the course of a day or two, he would move that Progress be reported, in order to enable the hon. member to take part in the debate.

The motion to report Progress was negatived upon a division.

MR. STEERE said he sympathised with much that had fallen from the hon. member for the Murray and Williams, as to the desirability of giving such a body as the board of advice a legal status, and such a recommendation was made to the Governor, but His Excellency positively declined to give the board such a status on the ground that it would be creating an *imperium in imperio*. He felt bound to say, however, in justice to His Excellency, that the board as at present constituted had never made a single suggestion which had not been carried out by the Government.

The amendment submitted by the Attorney General was agreed to.

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

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Wednesday, 3rd August, 1881.

Goats Bill, 1881: first reading—Diseases in Vines Bill: first reading—The Defence of King George's Sound—Cost of alterations and repairs to Tank Engines—Hospital Accommodation, Williams River—Barristers Admission Bill: third reading—Protection of Immature Sandalwood: Report of Select Committee; Adjourned debate—Scab Act Amendment Bill: third reading—Adjournment.

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

PRAYERS.

GOATS BILL (GERALDTON).

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. A. C. Onslow) moved the first reading of a Bill to provide for the destruction of goats, within the precincts of the municipality of Geraldton.

Motion agreed to.

DISEASES IN VINES BILL.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. A. C. Onslow) moved the first reading of a Bill for the prevention and eradication of Diseases in Vines.

Motion agreed to.

THE DEFENCE OF KING GEORGE'S SOUND.

MR. S. H. PARKER:—I rise to move the adjournment of the House in order to draw attention to a paragraph which appeared to day in the columns of a "leading journal" (I speak in inverted commas), and which I read with surprise. It is as follows: "We are happy to learn that Colonel Scratchley, R.E., leaves Melbourne for Albany on the 15th August, for the purpose of reporting to Her Majesty's Government on the defence of King George's Sound. It may be assumed that the resolution of the late Intercolonial Conference held at Sydney on this question has formed the subject of correspondence between His Excellency and the Secretary of State, for we learn that an officer of the Colonial Government has been directed to hold himself in readiness to meet Colonel Scratchley at Albany. It is probable that the Deputy Surveyor General, or the Assistant Colonial Secretary, may be selected to proceed on this important mission." I say I read this paragraph with surprise, for this reason: I believe it is always customary, when the House of popular assembly is in Session, for the Government of the day to adopt the earliest possible opportunity for informing the House of any important topic that may have been brought to the attention of the Government, affecting the public interests. I believe this course is always adopted in the House of Commons, where the Premier or some other Cabinet minister takes the earliest opportunity of informing Parliament, while in Session, of any subject of importance

which may crop up, affecting the welfare of the community; and I cannot help thinking, if the information contained in this newspaper paragraph is correct, that the Government of this Colony might have extended the same courtesy to us, and not allow us to become acquainted with such an important item of information through the medium of a public print. I think the information would have come with much better grace from the noble lord whose duty it is to expound the policy of the Government in this chamber, and my object in moving the adjournment of the House is to enable the right hon. gentleman to inform us whether the statement referred to is correct—if it is, it is one of great importance and of public interest—and whether it is a fact that His Excellency is prepared to lay the correspondence before the House, or to allow any information to be officially furnished to the Legislature on the subject. Perhaps, at the same time, the noble lord will inform hon. members why the ordinary courtesy due from the Government towards this popular assembly was not, in this instance, extended to the House, and why the same information was not given to us as was, apparently, given to the newspaper in question.

The motion for the adjournment of the House was then put and negatived.

ALTERATIONS AND REPAIRS TO TANK ENGINE.

In reply to MR. SHENTON, THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Lord Gifford) said that the total cost of the alterations and repairs to No. 1 tank engine, on the Eastern Railway, up to 30th July ultimo, was £86 16s. 5d., of which about £40 was for wood bunkers.

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION, WILLIAMS RIVER.

MR. BURT, in accordance with notice, asked the Colonial Secretary, "What steps the Government had taken, since the Session of 1880, towards providing hospital accommodation at the Williams River?"

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Lord Gifford) replied that the subject was under the consideration of the Government, and that the building referred to

would probably be undertaken next year, when it was hoped that the vote for "Minor Works" would admit of it.

BARRISTERS ADMISSION BILL.

Read a third time and passed.

SANDALWOOD PROTECTION: REPORT OF SELECT COMMITTEE.

Adjourned debate:

MR. BURT, who had moved the adjournment of the debate on the previous day, said his only object in doing so was to enable hon. members to grasp the scope of the amendment submitted by the Commissioner of Crown Lands upon the motion for the adoption of the report of the Select Committee, and to enable the hon. gentleman to further explain the purport of his amendment, and how the Bill prepared by the Select Committee—which the hon. gentleman had probably since had an opportunity of perusing—was likely to clash with the prerogative of the Governor, with regard to the Land Regulations. Perhaps the hon. gentleman would inform the House whether he still insisted upon the necessity of his amendment or not.

After a pause, and there being no response, the amendment (moved on the previous day by the Commissioner of Crown Lands) was put to the House and carried, upon a division, the numbers being—

Ayes	...	...	...	...	9
Noes	...	...	...	...	5

Majority for ... 4

AYES.	NOES.
Lord Gifford	Mr. Burges
The Hon. A. C. Onslow	Mr. S. H. Parker
The Hon. M. Fraser	Mr. Randell
Mr. Hamersley	Mr. Shenton
Mr. Higham	Mr. Steere (Teller.)
Mr. S. S. Parker	
Mr. Stone	
Mr. Venn	
Mr. Marmion (Teller.)	

MR. MARMION rose to say that the amendment had not his support, inasmuch as it expressed "approval" of the report of the Select Committee.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. A. C. Onslow): There is no report now to approve of. The House is landed in this absurdity: a report was prepared by a Select Committee and brought up for adoption; and a motion to that effect being submitted, it was proposed as an

amendment to add a certain rider to it. But, as the result of the division just taken, the report itself is thrown out, and the rider remains—if I may say so, without the horse—in consequence, I am afraid, of the mismanagement of an hon. member.

SCAB ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

This Bill was read a third time and passed.

The House adjourned at eight o'clock, p.m.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Thursday, 4th August, 1881.

Supplementary Estimates for 1881.

THE SPEAKER took the Chair at noon.

PRAYERS.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES FOR 1881.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Lord Gifford) moved that the House do now resolve itself into a Committee of Supply, in order to consider certain expenses requisite to be incurred in certain departments, over and above the sum voted in the Appropriation Act last Session, for the services of this year. The noble lord said the original estimate of revenue for the current year was £192,154, and, on that basis, he was now coming before the House to ask it to confirm or to approve an increased expenditure over that sum which the Government had anticipated would have sufficed to carry them through the year. He might otherwise have come before the Committee with possibly a more hopeful financial statement, and stated that our revenue for the first half of the current year having reached the sum of £106,881, there was therefore good reason for supposing that the revenue for the next

half year would suffice to meet the whole of the expenditure which they were now asking the House to confirm. The Government, however, did not think that necessary, as they still had a credit balance on their original estimate; but, in addition to that estimate they now asked the House to re-vote two small items which were placed to special account for expenditure on the following services, but which were not now required, namely—repairs, Mount Eliza Dépôt, £223 14s. 4d., and Court House, Roebourne, £350. These two additional items, taken in conjunction with the original estimate of revenue (£192,154), would bring the total amount available for this year up to £192,727 14s. 4d. With regard to the two small items just mentioned, it was found that, as regards the vote for the Dépôt, only £60 would be required, and, as regards the vote of £350 for the Roebourne Court House, that would not be required for that purpose at all, as provision was made for this service in the Bill for the re-appropriation of the £5,000 appropriated three years ago for the purchase of a steam tug, which, afterwards, it was not considered expedient to obtain. So much for the revenue. With regard to the Supplementary Estimate of expenditure which the Committee were now asked to confirm, the two first items—interest and sinking fund on loans due on 31st December last (£8,671 5s.), and interest on this year's loan, due on 31st December next (£2,500)—these amounts were authorised and provided for by special enactments, and consequently would not require confirmation, though they were shown on the Estimates placed in the hands of hon. members, in order to enable the House to see what the total expenditure was estimated to be. The original estimate of ordinary expenditure for the year was £168,894 13s. 10d., which, however, would be reduced by a sum of £1,573 12s. 11d., consisting of various amounts provided for by the Estimates for 1881, but which it was found would not be required, and to which he would presently refer in detail. The corrected amount of expenditure therefore (less interest and sinking fund on loans) was £167,321 0s. 11d., and the Supplementary Estimate which the Committee was now asked to confirm was