

the hon. member that his object in making this motion is simply to put the Government on the alert, so that they may see that we have not only sufficient small arms for use in case of emergency, but that we are also supplied with proper ammunition for them. I thank the hon. gentleman for bringing this subject under my notice, and I may add that this question has already been considered by the Government and also by the Commandant. He suggested some days ago that as the Imperial Government were re-arming their men with the magazine rifle, it would be a good time to apply to them for some Martini-Henri rifles, and some ammunition also. The suggestion has been adopted, and an application will go home very shortly. Should, however, the Imperial Government refuse to entertain it, the Agent General will be instructed to purchase a sufficient supply for use in the colony in the event of an emergency. Having said so much, I am sure the hon. member will recognise that it would be most unwise to disclose the state of our armament. Only a day or two ago a Bill was introduced into the Lower House making it penal to disclose the state of our defences, and it is obvious that if the Government were to disclose what the hon. member seeks it would be almost a breach of that law. I can assure hon. members that the Government are fully considering this question, and every step will be taken not only to render our present forces properly armed and be supplied with that ammunition which is suitable, but it is also proposed to largely increase the number of our local forces. Part of the scheme for the defence of Albany is that 600 volunteers should be enrolled in Perth and Fremantle, a portion of which should be used in case of emergency at Albany, because the force stationed there, if not accompanied by a sufficient infantry support, might be taken in the rear. I trust that after this explanation the hon. member will see fit to withdraw his motion, feeling sure that the idea he had in bringing this subject so forcibly to the notice of the Government will have the effect he desires in placing the colony in a proper condition as far as the defences are concerned.

THE HON. J. MORRISON: After the interesting and satisfactory speech of the

Hon. the Colonial Secretary, I beg to withdraw the motion.

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

DEATH OF SIR T. C. CAMPBELL.

THE PRESIDENT (Hon. G. Shenton): Before we adjourn I have to inform hon. members that I have received the following letter from Lady Cockburn-Campbell in reply to the resolution of sympathy agreed to by the Council on the death of her husband, Sir Thomas Cockburn-Campbell:—

Perth, 12th November, 1892.

DEAR SIR,

In answer to your letter of yesterday's date, enclosing a resolution from the Legislative Council in reference to the death of my late husband, may I ask you to tender my sincere thanks to the members of the Legislative Council for the kind words of sympathy expressed therein.

I remain, &c.,

LUCY COCKBURN-CAMPBELL.

ADJOURNMENT.

The Council, at 3.15 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, 17th November, at 8 o'clock p.m.

Legislative Council,

Thursday, 17th November, 1892.

Protector of Natives in North-West District: appointment of—Geraldton Post and Telegraph Offices and Jetty: delay in commencement of works—Safety of Defences Bill: first reading—Treasury Bills Bill: first reading—Electric Light for Council Chamber—Adjournment

THE PRESIDENT (Hon. G. Shenton) took the chair at 8 o'clock.

PRAYERS.

PROTECTOR OF NATIVES IN NORTH-WEST DISTRICT — APPOINTMENT OF.

THE HON. T. BURGESS asked the Colonial Secretary, what has caused the

necessity for the appointment of a Protector of Natives in the North-West District; and whether it is intended to make similar appointments in the Southern districts of the colony?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. S. H. Parker) replied:—The appointment referred to was, I believe, made by the Aborigines Protection Board, which Board is appointed by His Excellency the Governor, and is in no way under the control of or responsible to Ministers. I am not aware of the reasons which induced the Board to make the appointment, nor whether the Board proposes to make any similar appointments in the future.

GERALDTON POST AND TELEGRAPH OFFICES AND JETTY: DELAY IN COMMENCEMENT OF WORKS.

THE HON. T. BURGESS asked the Colonial Secretary, What is the cause of delay by the contractors in commencing the works of building the new Post and Telegraph Offices at Geraldton; also for that of the new jetty.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. S. H. Parker) replied: The commencement of the Post and Telegraph Offices has been delayed for a month to permit of certain revision of the plans. The contractors for the jetty have experienced great difficulties in getting their plant conveyed to Geraldton, but arrangements are now completed, and the works in both contracts will be commenced immediately.

SAFETY OF DEFENCES BILL.

This Bill was received from the Legislative Assembly, and was read a first time.

TREASURY BILLS BILL.

This Bill was received from the Legislative Assembly, and was read a first time.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. S. H. Parker): In moving, sir, that the second reading of this Bill be made an Order of the Day for Tuesday next, I am happy to inform the House that from information received by the Government, and which has been communicated to the Press, it is improbable that the Government will require to take advantage of this Bill. The financial agents of the Government at Home—the London and Westminster Bank—have taken steps to place on the market a further sum of £400,000 of our authorised loan at par,

and I may say that they have done this without any pressure on the part of the Government. There can, therefore, be no doubt as to its success, for an institution of the standing of the London and Westminster Bank would not, I imagine, have entered the market without being certain as to the result.

THE HON. J. W. HACKETT: Will the hon. gentleman inform us whether, in the event of the instalment of the loan passing off successfully, as we all trust it will, he will still proceed with this Bill.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. S. H. Parker): I propose to proceed with the Bill in any case.

THE HON. J. W. HACKETT: And for the full amount?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. S. H. Parker): Yes. If the £400,000 is raised by way of loan, we shall then only have power, under this Bill, to raise the balance of the authorised loan. The raising of money by loan reduces the power to raise money under this Bill. I may add that the £400,000 will give the Government ample funds for all their requirements during the coming year.

Question—put and passed.

ELECTRIC LIGHT FOR COUNCIL CHAMBER.

THE HON. J. W. HACKETT: There was a general desire, sir, last session that this Chamber should be lit with electric light. Perhaps the Hon. the Colonial Secretary will make some inquiries as to why nothing has been done in the matter.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. S. H. Parker): I should think that this is rather a matter for the President.

THE HON. J. W. HACKETT: Yes, but I cannot very well put a question to the President.

THE PRESIDENT (Hon. G. Shenton): Certain correspondence, I may say, has taken place on the subject, and at the next meeting it might be as well for the Clerk to read it to hon. members, and this will probably meet the case.

ADJOURNMENT.

The Council, at 8.15 p.m., adjourned until Friday, 18th November, at 3.15 o'clock p.m.