

case at present. I think the Government were perfectly right in resisting, and I think they have shown a good deal of good-natured weakness in allowing the title deeds of these Crown lands to be issued. If there is a weakness in the Government, it is their susceptibility to clamor. It is only necessary for a few individuals in a country town, if they want anything, to get together and kick up a "bobbery," and publish telegrams in the newspapers, and then the Ministers at once take alarm and put their tails between their legs like whipped curs—like the "noble seven," as mentioned by the Premier in his speech at Geraldton, when he described the Opposition as running away with their tails between their legs like whipped curs. Alas! one of those seven has got his tail erect, and deserted to the Government; but still there are six left, and I hope the hon. member (Mr. Traylen) will rest his tail between his legs and march to this side of the House. Rather than that the other six should be like so many "whipped curs" with their tails between their legs, I think that if the Government give them reason to speak openly, they will find the six with their tails erect, ready for action.

Motion—put and negatived.

#### TREASURY BILLS BILL.

Read a third time, and transmitted to the Legislative Council.

#### ADJOURNMENT.

The House adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

### Legislative Council,

Tuesday, 15th November, 1892.

Small Arms and Ammunition: Return as to—Death of Sir T. C. Campbell: Reply from Lady Campbell to Resolution of Sympathy—Adjournment.

THE PRESIDENT (Hon. G. Shenton) took the chair at 3 o'clock.

#### PRAYERS.

#### SMALL ARMS AND AMMUNITION— RETURN AS TO.

THE HON. J. MORRISON moved, That a return be laid upon the table of the House showing—1. The total number of small arms (rifles) at the disposal of the Government, either in stock or in use throughout the colony. 2. The different patterns and numbers of each. 3. The amount of ammunition in stock for each pattern. He said: A similar motion to this was made by me last session, but owing to the prorogation taking place soon after it was quite reasonable to suppose that no answer could be then given, and even now I am aware that it may be said that such a motion as this might rather hamper the Government, inasmuch as they might not desire to expose the strength of the colony in this respect, or make us appear weak before the outside world. I can see that there may be considerable force in this, and I do not wish to place the colony or the Government in any awkward position. All I desire is that if the Government do not deem it advisable to supply this return, they will nevertheless look into the matter and see that the small arms and ammunition are in equal proportions, that is, the Government should see that what small arms we have are properly supplied with ammunition, so that if the colony were called upon to make use of them we should not find ourselves in the awkward predicament others have found themselves, having Martini-Henri rifles in great numbers and the cartridges for other rifles. My only desire is that the matter should be looked into, and proper ammunition kept in hand.

THE HON. R. W. HARDEY seconded the motion.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. S. H. Parker): I am glad to hear from

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