

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. F. P. Barlee) moved the suspension of Standing Order No. 2, in order that the Council meet on Saturday, the 21st November, for the further consideration of the Estimates in Committee, and the transaction of other matters.

Question put and passed.

The Council adjourned at 1.20 a.m. (Saturday).

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Saturday, 21st November, 1874.

Swearing in of Member—Church of England Incorporation Bill: select committee report—Estimates: in committee—Appropriation Bill: first reading: Standing Orders Suspension: second reading and committee: third reading—Church of England Incorporation Bill: second reading and committee: third reading—Adjournment.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at 11 a.m.
PRAYERS.

SWEARING IN OF MEMBER.

The SPEAKER administered the Oath of Allegiance to Mr. Broadhurst, nominee member.

CHURCH OF ENGLAND INCORPORATION BILL.

Select Committee Report.

Mr. BURT brought up the report of the select committee appointed to consider a Bill intituled "An Act for the Incorporation of the Standing Committee of the Diocesan Synod of Perth as Trustees of the Branch of the Church of England in Western Australia," and moved that the same be read.

Question put and passed.

ESTIMATES.

In Committee.

Resumed debate.

Item: Inspectors of Sheep, £1,000.

Mr. BROWN, after a lengthy conversational discussion on the subject, moved that if the sheepowners in the Victoria district are prepared to pay the salary of a second inspector, the Government be authorized to appoint such a second inspector.

Question put and passed.

Item agreed to.

Item: Ecclesiastical, £3,543.

Item: Education, £6,165.

Items agreed to.

Item: Works and Buildings, £13,165.

Mr. STEERE asked that £1,000 of the amount allocated for jetty extensions be appropriated for extending Bunbury jetty 600 ft., which, he was informed, would carry the structure to a depth of 16 ft. or 17 ft., thus enabling the mail steamer to come alongside. He thought he might fairly claim this amount for the district he represented, and that other districts which had money out of the public funds freely expended in them should be content to wait a year or two for any further expenditure.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. F. P. Barlee) thought that all that would be required in the shape of jetty extension at the four ports where it was proposed to expend the vote, would be met out of the sum set down in the Estimates for that purpose. The necessary lengthening of the jetties at Bunbury and at the Vasse might, he believed, be made at a cost of £800 for each district; the very trifling extension necessary for the Champion Bay jetty would, he was told, only involve an expenditure of about £300, and the requisite alteration of the jetty at Albany might be made for £150.

Mr. CROWTHER suggested that a trifling sum be appropriated for Port Irwin jetty; about £200 would render it available for the steamer, and this, he conceived a very desirable and necessary expenditure.

Mr. BROWN supported the application.

Mr. PADBURY also spoke in favor thereof, and asked for £50 to be appropriated towards building a wool shed at Jurien Bay, than which there was not a better bay in the colony.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. F. P. Barlee) suggested the advisability of waiting for the report of the Admiralty Marine Surveyor before expending any money at the Irwin or Jurien Bay.

Mr. STEERE recommended that a moiety of the sum proposed to be expended on the Champion jetty should be devoted to the extension of the jetty at Port Irwin. He understood there was some doubt as to the suitability of the position of the former jetty, and that very probably a new one would have to be erected at another spot; it would, therefore, be impolitic to expend much money on the present structure.

Mr. BROWN said that in the opinion of the majority of the inhabitants of Champion Bay the existing jetty was in a proper position.

Mr. STEERE intimated that his authority was Governor Weld, who had hinted as much at a public assembly.

Mr. BROWN did not consider Governor Weld the best authority on every subject connected with the colony, nor did he consider

Governor Weld the best authority on the subject of the suitability or non-suitability of the position of the jetty at Champion Bay, or on the necessity, or not, of extending it.

The matter then dropped.

Item agreed to.

Item: Roads and Bridges, £9,150.

Mr. PADBURY did not object to the item £1,000 for construction of a road from Cossack to Roebourne, nor yet to the grant for making a track from the Murchison to Shark's Bay, but he did think that £8,000 was a totally inadequate sum for the maintenance and conservation of the roads of the colony. He certainly considered the amount should be increased at least fifty-fold, if not a hundred-fold. The traffic on our roads was increasing daily, and the roads at the present time were in a wretched state of preservation. Where the money was to come from he did not know, but he did know that £8,000 would not be more than half enough to maintain our roads and bridges in order during the ensuing year. It was a matter for regret that goods roads, once formed, should be allowed to fall into disrepair. At the last session of the Council, it might be remembered, he had presented a petition from the inhabitants of the district which he had the honor of representing, praying for a grant towards the construction of a bridge across the Swan to connect West Guildford with the town. Since then subscriptions amounting to half the amount necessary to build the bridge had been raised in the district, and he had now to ask that a sum of £400 be placed on the Estimates towards the erection of this very desirable and necessary structure. He had also been requested to ask for £1,000 for the Melbourne district, for a bridge over a branch of the Moore River, at New Norcia. During the winter months, when the river was flooded, the mails were unable to cross for days together.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. F. P. Barlee), with every desire to gratify the wishes of the hon. member who had just spoken with regard to the erection of a bridge over the Swan, a bridge over the Moore River, and an additional grant of £1,000 for the roads of the colony, would be glad to know where the money was to come from. The revenue for 1875 had been estimated to the fullest extent he was justified in doing; indeed, he was informed by those who were in a position to judge thereof that he had over estimated it. The proposed expenditure already amounted to within £400 or £500 of the total estimate of revenue, and the only way any further expenditure could be met was by the imposition of harsh taxation. It was for the House to say, whether at this stage of the session, it was prepared to go into the question of increased taxation.

Mr. PADBURY said our *ad valorem* duties were already three per cent higher than those of the neighboring colonies, and double on some articles, such as tea. He, therefore, objected entirely to any increase of taxation; the people of this colony were already taxed high enough in all conscience. It only remained, he supposed, for the settlers themselves to devise some means, even if they had to put their hands in their pockets, for the preservation of the roads in order to render them fit for traffic. It was much to be regretted there was no money available out of the public funds for so necessary a purpose.

Mr. MONGER concurred. The condition of the roads in some parts of the colony was really disgraceful; portions of the main road to Albany, for instance, were utterly impassable. It was a singular fact that three years ago the grant for roads and bridges was the same as it is at present, although the traffic had increased to the extent of 30 or 40 per cent, and the public revenue had also increased in the same proportion. It was neither just nor reasonable to ask the country settlers to tax themselves, in order to keep the public roads of a colony in repair; as well ask the inhabitants of the seaports to tax themselves in order to keep their jetties in repair.

Mr. STEERE said it must be within the knowledge of every member of that House that the sum of £8,000 was totally inadequate for maintaining the roads and bridges of the colony in passable order. The grant, however, would go much further if expended only on the main roads. A great deal of money was frittered away on the "minor" roads of the colony. As to the idea of fresh taxation—the saying was rather musty—but they could not extract blood out of a stone.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. F. P. Barlee) approved of the suggestion made by the hon. member for Wellington relative to the expenditure of the grant upon main roads only, which would suffice to keep the trunk lines in good repair. Means were already provided for the various Roads Boards to raise funds for the maintenance of minor roads by local taxation. He thought that a resolution to the effect that the grants should be devoted to the conservation of main roads only would be very desirable and a step in the right direction.

Mr. BROWN concurred, in the belief that as a temporary expedient the proposition would prove of great service. Nevertheless, there were so called "minor" roads which it would not be fair nor responsible to expect the settlers to maintain in permanent repair by means of local taxation.

Mr. MARMION would support a resolution of the nature suggested by the hon. member for

Wellington, believing that if carried out it would prove of vast benefit, by preventing anything like abuse in the expenditure of the grant.

Mr. CROWTHER felt himself in the position of the man with the happy family,—he agreed with all that had been said by everybody on the question under discussion.

Mr. STEERE thought perhaps it would hardly be fair to carry out the suggestion he had offered in its integrity, on such a short notice. He would therefore move, as a modification of the proposition he had just submitted, that at least 75 per cent of the grant allotted for roads in each district be expended on the main lines of road, as already defined.

Mr. S. HAMERSLEY suggested that, in future, the consideration of so important a question as roads and bridges be taken at an earlier stage in the debates on the Estimates, and not when all the money available for expenditure had been voted away.

Mr. BICKLEY could not conceive why there should be any expenditure at all of public funds on bye roads; it was the main trunk lines of traffic alone that ought to be maintained out of the general revenue. The settlers themselves should defray the cost of keeping bye roads in repair; they were obliged to do so in all the other colonies, and they should be compelled to do so here.

After some further discussion, question, "That at least 75 per cent. of the amount for Roads allotted to each District should be expended on the main lines of road as already defined," put and passed.

Item agreed to.

Item: *Aborigines*, £1,188.

Item agreed to.

Item: *Miscellaneous Services*, £30,850.

Mr. MONGER, in accordance with notice, moved that an additional sum of £400 be added to the Volunteer Vote, for the purchase of the Arms and Accoutrements, and the Maintenance of a Mounted Volunteer Corps in the York district.

Mr. STEERE had no wish to depreciate the value of the volunteer movement, but he thought it would not be a judicious expenditure to increase the present grant.

Mr. BICKLEY said there was £500 already on the Estimates for the volunteers, with which he thought was quite enough to "play at soldiers", for, after all, he did not believe the volunteer movement was anything else. It was all very well taking the slouching gait out of our young men, but as for any other use of volunteering he did not believe in it at all. The grant already on the Estimates was amply sufficient.

The motion, finding no support, was, with leave, withdrawn.

Item agreed to.

The CHAIRMAN reported to the House that the Committee had considered the Estimates, and had agreed to same, with amendments.

APPROPRIATION BILL.

First Reading.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. F. P. Barlee), with leave, without notice, moved for leave to bring in a Bill to appropriate the sum of £152,116 8s. 2d. out of the General Revenue of the Colony for the service of the year 1875.

The Bill was read a first time.

Suspension of Standing Orders.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. F. P. Barlee) moved for the suspension of Standing Orders, with a view to now pass the Bill through all its stages.

Question put and passed.

Second Reading and Committee.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. F. P. Barlee) moved that the Bill be now read a second time.

The Bill was read a second time, and passed through Committee without amendment or discussion.

Third Reading.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. F. P. Barlee) moved that the Bill be now read a third time.

The Bill was read a third time and passed.

CHURCH OF ENGLAND INCORPORATION BILL.

Second Reading and Committee.

Mr. BURT, in accordance with leave, moved that the Bill be now read a second time.

The Bill was read a second time, and passed through Committee without amendment or discussion.

Suspension of Standing Orders.

Mr. BURT moved for the suspension of Standing Orders, with a view to now read the Bill a third time.

Question put and passed.

Third Reading.

Mr. BURT moved that the Bill be now read a third time.

The Bill was read a third time and passed.

ADJOURNMENT.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. F. P. Barlee) moved that the House do now adjourn until Friday, the 22nd January, 1875.

Question put and passed.

The Council adjourned at 1.30 p.m.