

yet in the face of that he was convicted. There was nothing in the depositions to show that he could appeal on any point of law, and he therefore took the only course open to him. Yet the Governor tells him he cannot interfere because he did not appeal to the Supreme Court, when in point of fact he had no grounds upon which to base such an appeal, as there was no point of law involved.

Motion negatived.

MUNICIPAL INSTITUTIONS ACT, 1876, AMENDMENT BILL, 1878.

This Bill was recommitted, and some verbal amendments made in clauses 3 and 4. (*Vide* "Votes and Proceedings," p. 92.)

THIRD READINGS.

The "Wild Cattle Nuisance Act, 1871, Amendment Bill, 1878," and The "Vaccination Bill, 1878," were read a third time and passed.

FOREIGN SEAMEN OFFENCES BILL, 1878.

IN COMMITTEE.

Clause 1.—Short title:

Agreed to.

Clause 2.—Interpretation of terms:

Agreed to.

Clause 3.—"If any seaman belonging to any foreign vessel in any port, harbor, roadstead, or river of Western Australia, or otherwise within the limits thereof, shall desert from such vessel or otherwise abscond or absent himself from his duty, or shall be charged with having committed any of the offences hereafter in the next section enumerated, any Justice, upon information on oath of the master, mate, or other person having charge of such vessel, may issue his warrant for the apprehension of such seaman, and thereupon, at the request of such master, mate, or other person informing as aforesaid, may order such seaman to be put forcibly on board the vessel to which he may belong, or may deal with such seaman as hereinafter provided, or may place such seaman at the disposal of the consul of the nation or state to which such vessel shall belong."

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. H. H. Hocking) moved, That after the word "seaman" and before "belonging" in the first line, the words "not being a slave," be inserted:

Agreed to.

Clauses 4 to 11—agreed to.

Bill reported.

CUSTOMS ORDINANCE, 1860, AMEND- MENT BILL, 1878.

The Order of the Day for the further consideration of this Bill in Committee was postponed until Wednesday, 3rd July.

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

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Tuesday, 2nd July, 1878.

Transfer Duty Bill: second reading; in committee—Postal Card System—Payment by Postage Stamps for despatch of Telegrams—Transfer of Land Act, 1874, Amendment Bill, 1878: recommitted—Foreign Seamen Offences Bill, 1878: recommitted—Adjournment.

THE SPEAKER took the Chair at noon.

PRAYERS.

TRANSFER DUTY BILL.

MR. BURT, in accordance with notice, moved the second reading of a Bill to enforce the payment of duty on the transfer of land. It would be in the recollection of hon. members that, for some unaccountable reason, on the last occasion he had brought forward this Bill they did not think fit to agree to the motion for the second reading, but he believed that a majority were now prepared to support the Bill. He had already stated his reasons for introducing it, the whole object of the Bill being to enforce the payment of a duty already imposed by law. The only objection

raised against the Bill was that it would slightly increase the cost of transferring land under the "Land Transfer Act, 1874." It appeared to him that that Act conferred so many advantages, and rendered the process and the expense of transferring land so simple and so cheap, that it might well afford to bear the slight additional burden which the present Bill would entail. Bearing in mind that the country paid £1000 a year—over and above the fees received in the office—for carrying on this department, he failed to see why landowners, who as a rule, were men of means, should evade the payment of a duty which the law had already imposed for the transfer of land under this Act, but which had not heretofore been enforced.

MR. HARDEY seconded the motion for the second reading.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy): On the former occasion when a similar motion was brought forward, the Government opposed it, but upon a re-consideration of the whole matter I may say that it is not the intention of the Government to offer any further opposition to the motion for the second reading.

MR. BROWN moved, as an amendment, that the Bill be read a second time that day six months. He regretted he had not adopted this course on the former occasion, for he felt satisfied that had he done so the amendment would have been carried. He had been pleased to find on that occasion that the Government were in a majority, and had he then moved that the Bill be read a second time that day six months the motion would have been adopted. But he would not be at all surprised on the present occasion, to find the amendment negatived by a large majority. It would not be the first time he had known hon. members vote one day in one way, and next day vote in a directly opposite way. Without traversing the old arguments brought forward over and over again, he would simply say that he felt sure if the present Bill became law,—regard also being had to the provisions of the Bill introduced by the Government—it would do away with all the benefits conferred by the Land Transfer Act, from which the country had anticipated to reap such great advantages.

MR. CAREY, in seconding the amendment, said he was more than surprised to find that the Government, having so strongly opposed the second reading of a Bill last week, should now come forward to support it. He hoped they would never again talk about the inconsistency of hon. members on that side of the House.

MR. S. H. PARKER said it was very gratifying to find that on the present occasion, at any rate, the hon. member for Geraldton was not the exponent of the views of the Government, and he was very pleased to find the hon. gentleman occupying his proper position as leader of the Opposition.

The House divided on the motion for the second reading of the Bill, with the following result:

Ayes	...	9
Noes	...	3
Majority for		6

AYES.
The Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy
The Hon. M. Fraser
Sir T. C. Campbell
Mr. Crowther
Mr. Hardey
Mr. Harper
Mr. S. H. Parker
Mr. S. S. Parker
Mr. Burt (Teller.)

NOES.
Mr. Carey
Mr. Hamersley
Mr. Brown (Teller.)

Bill read a second time.

IN COMMITTEE.

The various clauses of the Bill, and the preamble and title, were agreed to in Committee, without discussion or amendment.

POSTAL CARD SYSTEM.

SIR T. COCKBURN-CAMPBELL, pursuant to notice, moved the following resolution: That, in the opinion of this House, the introduction of the post card system in this Colony would be a great public convenience; and that this House desires respectfully to call the attention of the Government to the subject. His attention had been drawn to the system by receiving one of these post cards by the last mail from Port Darwin, and it seemed to him that if in such an out-of-the-way place as that they had these conveniences, Western Australia might fairly aspire to secure the same facilities of postal communication. When he was in England these cards had not been intro-

duced there, nor were they in use in the neighboring Colonies when he last visited them, and he dared say many hon. members were better aware of their advantages than he was. That they would be of great public utility, and save a good deal of time in conducting correspondence, being much less formal than a letter, must be apparent to all who knew anything about the system. No doubt the reason they had not already been introduced here was simply because it had had not occurred to any one to propose the adoption of the system. He was sure that the matter need only be brought under the attention of the present energetic Administration—ever ready to adopt progressive measures—to ensure the introduction of the system into this Colony at as early a date as possible.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy) said the resolution was one which he thought must commend itself to the favorable consideration of the House, as it certainly did of the Government. The system was one which had been found to work very advantageously in England and other countries where it had been introduced. In England the postage on these cards was one half the rate of postage on a letter, but they were not subject to all the same privileges as a letter; in the event of there being a great influx of letters, the delivery of which would tax all the resources of the Post Office, these cards were held back until the next mail delivery. This drawback possibly would not occur here, and, subject to certain conditions, the cards would in many cases be found to possess the same advantages as an ordinary letter, and prove a great boon to the community. The hon. baronet's resolution would have his cordial support.

MR. S. H. PARKER had great pleasure in supporting the motion. He believed it would be found that when the system was introduced here, it would be found to work most advantageously, and conduce greatly to the convenience of the mercantile and commercial section of the community.

MR. CAREY also would heartily support the resolution, and expressed his surprise that the subject had not occurred before to the occupants of the Treasury bench.

MR. HARPER considered the proposition an admirable one, and would be glad to see the principle extended, so as to bring the system into operation in connection with intercolonial communication. The system was in general operation in Europe, and these cards could be sent from Italy, France, and other continental countries to England.

Resolution put and passed.

PAYMENT BY POSTAGE STAMPS FOR DESPATCH OF TELEGRAMS.

SIR T. COCKBURN-CAMPBELL asked the Colonial Secretary, whether in the case of persons unable personally to despatch a telegram at a telegraph office, it is competent for them to pay the cost of the telegram by affixing postage stamps to the form. The hon. baronet thought if this were permissible it would be a source of great convenience to persons residing long distances from a telegraph office.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy) said it was not permissible at present, but he thought the suggestion made was a very good one, and, if such was the wish of the House, the Government would be quite prepared to take steps to carry it into effect.

SIR T. COCKBURN-CAMPBELL said he would, at a future sitting of the House, move a resolution affirming the desirability of the Government doing so.

TRANSFER OF LAND ACT, 1874, AMENDMENT BILL, 1878.

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

MR. S. H. PARKER moved, as an amendment, that the Bill be recommitted. The provisions of the sixth clause would interfere with applications which had already been made for the transfer of land, but as regards which no conveyances had yet issued. Some proviso ought to be made in these cases, so as not to interfere with applications already in the hands of the Commissioner, and in which the applicants had requested the certificates to be made out in the name of the purchaser. These forms would be void, in the event of the present Bill coming into immediate operation, unless some provision were made excluding them from the operation of the

Act. In order to effect this object he would move that the Bill be now re-committed.

Agreed to.

IN COMMITTEE.

Clause 6 reverted to:

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. H. H. Hocking) moved that all the words before the word "section" in the third line, be struck out, and that the following words be added to the Clause, "and section twenty-one of the said Act shall be and the same is hereby amended, by omitting the words 'or in the name of such person as may have been directed in that behalf.' Provided always, that this last mentioned amendment shall not apply to the case of any application that may have been made before the passing of this Act, to bring land under the operation of the Transfer of Land Act, 1874, in the name of any person other than the applicant."

Agreed to, and clause as amended ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Bill reported.

FOREIGN SEAMEN OFFENCES BILL, 1878.

This Bill was re-committed, and some verbal alterations were adopted without discussion. [*Vide* "Votes and Proceedings," p. 97.]

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

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Wednesday, 3rd July, 1878.

Colonial Wine Licenses—Messages from His Excellency the Governor—Applications under clause 43 of Land Regulations—House Allowance for Resident Magistrate, Roebourne: Point of Order—Messages No. 1 and 4: Eastern Railway; in committee—Customs Ordinance Amendment Bill: further consideration of, in committee—District Roads Boards Audit Act, 1871, Amendment Bill, 1878—Adjournment.

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

PRAYERS.

COLONIAL WINE LICENSES.

MR. CAREY, in accordance with notice, drew the attention of the Council to the working of the 10th section of the 36th Vict., No. 5 (Wines, Beer, and Spirit Sale Act, 1872), and moved, "That in the opinion of this Council, an alteration in the law as to the free sale of colonial wine, in quantities of not less than five gallons, by vineyard proprietors or lessees, is desirable." The hon. member said he had submitted the resolution with a view to elicit an expression of opinion on the part of the House, with a view to future action in the matter. The revenue derived from these licenses was very trifling indeed. He found there were thirty-six licenses issued this year, bringing in (at £2 each) the sum of £72 per annum. On looking over the names of the licensees he discovered that eighteen of them were wine-growers. It was unnecessary to point out to the House the evils arising from the existence of these wine-shops—they were the source of a great deal more mischief than public houses, being for the most part beyond police surveillance. On the other hand he failed to see why every encouragement should not be afforded to the *bonâ fide* wine grower to dispose of the fruits of his labor, and it appeared to him that to return to the old system would be better than the present law, and far more satisfactory to the grower as well as to the general public. It would be a great boon to the workmen employed on the farm, who, instead of periodically rushing off to the nearest public house—possibly many miles distance—there to spend their substance in riotous living for days or weeks—would be able to have their wants supplied on the spot, within moderation, for no employer would be so regardless of his own interests as to supply his men with quantities that would render them unfit for work. As he had already said, his main object in proposing the resolution that stood in his name was to elicit an expression of opinion on the part of the House as to whether an alteration in the existing system was desirable or not, so that the Government may become possessed of the views of the Council on the subject.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. H. H. Hocking), though not prepared to support the resolution before the House,