

was to receive this money, and what service was to be performed for it?

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY replied that hitherto the Imperial Government had provided both Colonial and Imperial prisoners with religious ministrations, but since the Colony had taken over the charge of Colonial prisoners it became necessary to provide religious ministrations for them, apart from the Imperial convicts.

Item agreed to.

Item: Rottnest Penal Establishment, £2,087 10s:

MR. PADBURY said this item kept increasing year after year, and if this was to continue without any proportionate increase of revenue from the establishment, it became a question whether the native prisoners could not be turned to some better account. He would suggest that they be employed on the roads of the Colony; they would thus do some good, and also reduce the cost of maintaining the establishment at Rottnest.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY said that formerly the native prisoners were worked in gangs, in irons, but the custom was considered so barbarous that it was discontinued. No doubt it would be a very good thing, if these men could be made more useful, but there were many difficulties in the way of utilising their services in the manner described by the hon. member for Swan.

Item confirmed.

Item: Government Printing Department, £1,155 3s:

MR. MARMION said he was at a loss to know how the expenses of this department was increasing year after year. No doubt a large amount of work was performed at the office, but he could hardly account for the necessity for this yearly increase. As our revenue increased so did our expenditure.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY said that was the case everywhere. As our business increased, so would our printing. Every economy was exercised with reference to the cost of this as well as of other departments of the public service. The printing executed in connection with that House alone was very heavy, and involved a considerable amount of expenditure, which was un-

avoidable so long as the work had to be done.

Item agreed to, and progress reported.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Tuesday, 5th September, 1876.

Land Transfer Duty Bill: in committee—Estimates: (resumed) in committee—Addresses for public money.

LAND TRANSFER DUTY BILL.

IN COMMITTEE.

Preamble:

MR. RANDELL opposed the motion that the preamble stand part of the Bill, and moved, as an amendment, that progress be reported. The Bill was not wanted; nor was it expedient that a portion of the revenue derived from the transfer of land should be given up, as was here contemplated. Any attempt to relieve landed property from taxation was unjust, and should be discouraged.

MR. BURT said the House having already affirmed the principle of the Bill, it could not very well refuse to agree to the preamble. The legal profession had no personal motive whatever in bringing forward the Bill; the sole object in view was to equalise the two systems of land transfer. He would be just as pleased if, as an alternative, duty were imposed under both systems. Had the Government brought forward a measure having that object in view, it would have received his support; but as they had not done so, the Bill before the committee proposed to equalise the two systems by removing the duty off the one as it was already off the other. He would certainly oppose the motion to report progress. He had assented to the consideration of the Bill being postponed for a week or ten days, to allow of another Bill being brought forward; but no one had thought fit to do so; and, inasmuch as the House had already approved of the principle of the

Bill, he could not see how, with any show of consistency, hon. members could vote for the motion that progress be reported.

MR. STEERE regretted that the hon. member who had introduced the Bill (Mr. Burt) had not brought in a measure to impose a duty upon the transfer of land under the two systems of conveyancing; such a Bill would have met with the support of the House. He understood that the Government had promised to consider the matter, and to give effect to the wish of the House, by bringing in a Bill of that nature. It was not for private members to do so. If, next session, the hon. member would introduce a Bill to impose a transfer duty on all landed property, he would be almost sure to receive the support of the House.

MR. BURT: If the present Bill is thrown out, I apprehend I am not precluded from bringing in another measure this session, to impose a duty on land transferred under the new system.

Progress was then reported.

ESTIMATES—RESUMED.

IN COMMITTEE.

Item: "Police Department, £22,956 1s." reverted to:

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY said he had communicated with the Superintendent of Police with regard to the motion for the reduction in the number of Sub-Inspectors from four to three, and he was informed by the Superintendent that the change proposed was a mere change in the denomination or the rank of an officer now holding the position of a Divisional Sergeant; there was no increase of pay. As a Sub-Inspector, the officer in question would be invested with greater powers of inspection and control than as a Divisional Sergeant. The Superintendent considered this change absolutely essential to the efficiency of the service.

MR. STEERE: The explanation, I think, is very unsatisfactory indeed, and I shall persist in moving my amendment that "four sub-inspectors" be struck out and "three" inserted in lieu thereof. If the Superintendent of Police has altered his mind as to the necessity of sub-inspectors, I have not; nor have other hon. members. These sub-inspectors are

like the fifth wheel of a coach—more hindrance than help.

MR. RANDELL would support the amendment. He had made enquiries as to the necessity of these sub-inspectors among those likely to know, and he was informed that they were not wanted; certainly they were not needed in Perth. He thought our police force, like the armies of some foreign countries, appeared very magnificent on paper; but he was of opinion that a little more practical oversight over the force would produce more practical results. The present Superintendent of Police had himself once expressed an opinion adverse to the appointment of sub-inspectors, and there seemed to be a very general feeling that they were of no practical utility in the force.

MR. SHENTON: The Superintendent of Police for the past four months has been filling the office of Sheriff as well, which shows at any rate that his time is not fully occupied with the duties of his own office. Why not do a little more of the work of inspection himself?

MR. PADBURY: It appears from what I can gather that the sergeants are more efficient than the sub-inspectors. I consider that we have too many officers altogether in our police force—more officers than privates.

MR. CROWTHER: Whatever good sub-inspectors may be in town, I know they are of no earthly use in country places. There was a distinct understanding that these appointments, when they became vacant, should not be renewed, and this should be adhered to. So far as country districts are concerned, there is no doubt that a good sergeant would be far more useful than these sub-inspectors.

Amendment agreed to.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY then moved that after the item "Three Sub-Inspectors at £170 each, £510," "One Divisional Sergeant at £170" be inserted. If hon. members chose to render the force inefficient, they would be responsible for it, and not the Government. This officer was already in receipt of a salary of £170, and the House would surely not break faith with him.

MR. STEERE: The hon. member's motion appears to me to be mere child's

play, in the face of the result of the debate upon the amendment just agreed to. As to crippling the service, the Superintendent would still have the same number of officers on the force.

MR. MARMION: The only objection I see is that you do away with any prospect of these sergeants receiving an increase of pay.

MR. RANDELL: I think their pay is very good pay indeed; £140 a year, and £25 for lodging allowance. They have no ground for complaint on that score.

The amendment was then put and negatived on a division [*Vide* "Votes and Proceedings, p. 102.].

MR. RANDELL called attention to the item "Ten per cent. on £10,401 10s.—£1040," and asked how that amount was arrived at. It was distinctly understood that the ten per cent. increase of salary should not apply to any rank above a sergeant.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY said he was not aware that there had been any such intention to limit the increase of pay to the subordinate officers of the force. Last year the Superintendent and the Inspector were the only two officers who did not share in the ten per cent. increase, and the same provision was made in this year's Estimates.

MR. SHENTON: The result, in some cases, will be that a subordinate officer will receive as much salary as his superior officer. This, for instance, would be the case with the Inspector and the Deputy Inspector.

MR. RANDELL: I know of nothing in the circumstances of the Colony to warrant the payment of such salaries as we are paying to the officers in the higher grades of this department.

MR. MARMION did not approve at all of the principle of the system of thus rewarding police-constables, by giving them an increase of ten per cent. all round on their regular salaries. The principle was not adopted in any other department of the public service. He thought it would be far better that their salaries should be increased according to their deserts.

SIR L. S. LEAKE concurred; it had better be done in a fair and open way, by increasing their fixed salary.

MR. STEERE saw no necessity for any increase of salary. The police were

the best paid men in the Colony at the present moment. He would move that the item "Ten per cent. on £10,401 10s.—£1040 3s." be struck out.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY: All I can say, if you do so, is, that you will so reduce the efficiency of the force that only the most worthless will enter the service. It is not intended as a permanent increase on their salary, and when the price of provisions and the cost of living are reduced, the item may be struck off. If it was deemed necessary to vote this ten per cent. increase last year in consequence of the high price of provisions, I think it is still more necessary to do so this year.

The motion of the hon. member for Wellington was negatived on a division [*Vide* "Votes and Proceedings," p. 102].

MR. RANDELL then moved, as an amendment upon the original item, That "ten per cent. on £10,401 10s.—£1040 3s." be struck out, and that item "ten per cent. on £9341 10s.—£934 3s.," be inserted in lieu thereof.

Agreed to.

Item: 36 Native Constables, at £30 each, £1080:

MR. MONGER said that a native constable had not been seen at York for the past six months, and he did not think they were at all necessary in Perth or Fremantle, where the police were not likely to get lost and the services of native trackers be called into requisition. These native constables were only of use in country districts, but, as he had just said, there was not one to be seen at York for months together. He had called the attention of the Sub-Inspector to this fact, but he took no notice of it.

MR. STEERE thought that these native constables should not be paid by the police constables whose assistants they were, as was the custom at present; they ought to be paid by the Inspector or Sub-Inspector of the district. In many places these blackfellows were made to chop the wood and to hunt kangaroos for the white policeman, their master.

Item: Lodging for one Inspector, one Deputy, and four Sub-Inspectors, at £30 each, £180.

MR. STEERE moved, That "four" be struck out, and "three" inserted in lieu

thereof, and that "£150" be substituted for "£180."

Motion affirmed.

Item: Water Police, £210:

MR. STEERE: I understand that an arrangement has been made for giving the Superintendent of the Water Police £100 a year out of the Imperial grant. When we take over the police force, as we shall have to do in course of time, we shall be called to provide this extra £100 out of colonial funds. I protest against it.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY: I am not aware that any such arrangement or payment has been made, or is about to be made.

Question—That the item "Police Department, £22,650 ls.," stand part of the Estimates—put and passed.

Item: Poor House and Charitable Allowances, £3,502 10s:

Agreed to.

Item: Immigration, £7,000:

MR. SHENTON said it had been brought under his notice that the Supervisor of the City Council (Mr. Lazenby) was about to leave for England at the end of the year, for Yorkshire or Lancashire, where he (Mr. Shenton) believed some of the very best settlers we ever had in the Colony, and the very best agricultural laborers, had come from. He was informed that during Mr. Lazenby's leisure time he would be happy to go round the villages in those counties and endeavor to induce a suitable class of people to emigrate to this Colony. He thought it would be well if the Government were to give Mr. Lazenby some power to treat with these people.

MR. CROWTHER was quite of the same opinion. He had great faith in the influence which a man like Mr. Lazenby would have among the rural population of his native county. The difficulty to be experienced in inducing these people to emigrate was not the difficulty of persuading them to leave home to come to the Colony, but to induce them to go to London. It was far more difficult to persuade them to go sixty miles from home than to go to the other side of the world. A man like Mr. Lazenby was far more likely to have an influence over these people than all the emigration agents we could have in England.

MR. PADBURY was very glad to

think there was a prospect of our getting a better class of labor than we had been receiving for the last two or three years. He believed a man like Mr. Lazenby would be able to do a great deal of good in this respect. There was Mr. Seubert, also, who might possess some influence with his own countrymen. He (Mr. Padbury) would be glad to see some Germans introduced into the Colony: if of the right stamp, he would let them have a useful piece of land where they could settle together, and he would further help them by advances on their property, in order to give them a fair start. If, say half a dozen German families were introduced by way of an experiment, and they succeeded in life here, they would not be long in inducing their friends to follow them. A German family would live and thrive where an English family would almost starve.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY: It is no doubt a question of very great importance to this Colony, the selection of suitable emigrants; better be without them than have a worthless, thriftless class. For good farm laborers—and it is people of that stamp that we want—there is immediate and constant employment, and as their good qualities are discovered so will their remuneration increase. As to Mr. Lazenby, I should be very glad to see such persons engaged in selecting a suitable class of agricultural laborers amongst the villages of Yorkshire or Lancashire; but, whoever we may employ, some inferior immigrants are sure to drop in. No blame, I think, in this respect attaches to our present emigration representatives; on the contrary, they are deserving of every praise. Nevertheless, I think they would no doubt be very happy to avail themselves of the services of a man like Mr. Lazenby. When he goes home, the Government will give him a letter of introduction to the Emigration Agents in England. With regard to German immigrants, the Government have been in communication with a number of settlers on this point, who were asked how many of this class of immigrants they would be prepared to take into their employ. Nine months have now elapsed since this enquiry was made, and the Government have only received one application. It would be a suicidal policy to induce these

men to come out here, unless we are prepared to give them immediate employment; to disappoint them would do more harm than good, for they would soon write home to their friends, and emigration from that quarter would soon cease to flow in. No doubt they are a very desirable class of immigrants, these German peasants, and would do very well here if congregated together in villages of their own, where, no doubt, they would thrive and prosper. Mr. Seubert has proposed a scheme for the introduction of a number of his countrymen into the Colony, but he could give no definite estimate of the expenditure it would involve, and so the matter has dropped.

The item "Immigration, £7,000," was then agreed to.

Item: "Pensions, £2,402 3s."

MR. SHENTON: Following out the policy affirmed by the House the other night with regard to pensions, I move that the item "H. B. Grimaldi, late Colonial Chaplain, £20," be struck out.

MR. STEERE seconded the motion, and challenged the Attorney General to show him under what clause of the Superannuation Act this pension could be claimed. The only clause, he fancied, under which there could be any pretext for granting it was the 4th clause, which rendered it lawful for the Governor to grant a public servant who had been compelled to quit the service before he had completed the period entitling him to a superannuation, by reason of bodily injury occasioned without his own default in the discharge of his public duty, a certain amount of gratuity. But this was not a case of bodily injury. The fifth clause empowered the Governor to grant gratuities in case of short service, but not pensions.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL said the hon. member for Wellington had challenged him to cite a clause under which there was any pretext for granting the pension alluded to. He would refer the hon. member to the 9th clause of the Superannuation Act, which empowered His Excellency to grant a superannuation allowance to a person under sixty years of age, upon medical certificate to the satisfaction of the Governor in Executive Council that the person was incapable from infirmity of mind or body to discharge the duties of his situation. In

Mr. Grimaldi's case, a medical certificate to that effect had been given, testifying that from infirmity of body the rev. gentleman was unable to discharge the duties of his office in a hot climate like this; and the Governor in Executive Council had been perfectly satisfied with the evidence brought before him on this point.

MR. SHENTON: You cannot make much of that argument, for on the same pension list I find the name of another Colonial Chaplain who is still holding a chaplain's situation in the Colony, and yet draws his pension.

MR. CROWTHER: To grant that pension and to refuse Mr. Grimaldi's would be to make fish of one and flesh of the other. What I object to is the principle of giving these men pensions which were not at all contemplated under the Superannuation Act. As to the Rev. Mr. Brown, it is not just to this Colony that he should receive a pension unless in case of real necessity. I am informed that his present salary is about £300 a year, and that he has a free house. A gentleman in that position, surely, has no just claim upon the Colony for a pension of £90 a year. On the other hand, we find Mr. Meares, who spent his health and strength and wealth in the service of the Church of England here, only getting a pension of £15. The whole system of pensions is rotten to the core; it is neither just or equitable. I shall not vote for the striking out of the item of Mr. Grimaldi's pension, but I shall heartily support a bill next session for the abolition of pensions.

MR. PARKER said he would oppose the motion to strike out the item under discussion. Mr. Grimaldi's only chance of saving his life was by returning to England, or to some other colder country than this. Since his arrival at home, it appeared he had happened to obtain the chaplaincy of a workhouse, at a very small salary. He was in the colonial service for about eleven years, and it was a matter of life or death with him whether he remained longer in it or not. As to Mr. Brown, he (Mr. Parker) did not think that his salary, including his pension, amounted to more than £300; and he was doing, and had done, good service to the Colony.

MR. SHENTON: As to Mr. Grimaldi,

he came here an invalid and went away an invalid.

MR. HAMERSLEY: He told me himself that he came to this Colony for the sole object of improving his health. Had he recruited his strength he would have remained here. As to Mr. Brown, I believe his emoluments from all sources are more than £300; he has lands and other possessions which considerably increase his income, and if we could fairly do away with the pension in his case I would do so.

MR. BURT: I shall vote for the "£20," and would also vote for the "£90" to be struck out. I do not think the Superannuation Act was ever intended to apply to such cases. Mr. Grimaldi admittedly came here with a shattered constitution, and had no health to lose. I have the greatest personal respect for him, and if he were in real want, I would gladly subscribe to relieve his necessity.

MR. PADBURY: I would do the same.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY: I hold that the pension granted to the Rev. Mr. Grimaldi is a fair and just one, and is in accordance with the provisions of the Superannuation Act. The Government have the medical certificate required by the Act, signed by two of the leading physicians in London, and the Imperial Treasury has sanctioned the pension. I think, as to Mr. Brown's pension, it would have shown much better taste on the part of hon. members to have refrained from reflecting on their own acts and votes in this House. These pensions were placed on the list in accordance with a vote of this Council, and I think it is very bad taste on the part of hon. members to carp at them now. The only new pension on the list is that to Mr. Grimaldi, to which he was fairly and justly entitled under the Superannuation Act; and so long as that Act exists this pension cannot, without a breach of faith, be refused.

Question.—That the sum proposed to be struck out stand part of the item—put and affirmed, on a division. [*Vide* "Votes and Proceedings, p. 103.]

Item agreed to.

Item: "Inspectors of Sheep, £1,000"—put and passed.

Item: "Ecclesiastical, £3,543"—put and passed.

Item: "Education, £10,035."

MR. CROWTHER: I think that the amount under the head of "Upper School" should be £700 and not £800—according to the Bill before the House.

SIR L. S. LEAKE suggested that the consideration of this item should be postponed until the High School Bill was disposed of.

THE CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES: According to *May*, p. 569, a motion for postponing a vote in committee of supply cannot be entertained. Each vote is a distinct motion, which may be agreed to, reduced, negatived, superseded, or, by leave, withdrawn; but cannot be otherwise disposed of.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY moved,—That the sum "£800" be struck out, and "£700" inserted in lieu thereof.

Agreed to, and vote for "Education" confirmed, as reduced.

Item: "Works and Buildings, £11,850."

MR. SHENTON moved, That "Court House, Geraldton, £1,500," and "Town Hall, Fremantle, £2,000," be struck out. Taking into consideration, and knowing as every member must do, that we should have a falling revenue, he did not think the House would be justified in voting these sums. As to the Geraldton Court House, it was a good building yet, and would afford the necessary accommodation for some years to come. As for the proposed Town Hall at Fremantle, he regretted very much having to oppose it, and he merely did so in view of the probable diminution in the revenue. When we came to have more prosperous times, he would be most happy to support the vote; but he did not think the Colony was in a position now to spend £2,000 upon a Town Hall. If anything was to be done in the way of improving our court-houses, he thought the Supreme Court-house should have their first consideration.

MR. PADBURY supported the motion for striking out the two items. The revenue would not afford the expenditure, nor did he think that the two proposed new buildings were necessary. As to a Town Hall at Fremantle, let the inhabitants of the town find the material, and let the building be erected by convict labor.

The motion was not put to the committee at this stage.

"Quarantine Station, Albany, £600."

MR. MARMION failed to see the necessity of spending £600 upon this station, which, at no distant date, might be of little or no use.

SIR L. S. LEAKE said he had had some personal experience of the quarantine station at Albany, and had seen the necessity of expending an additional sum in improvements upon it. Although, so far as his experience had been, he had been very comfortable while confined on the station, still had there been any infectious disease among those detained the result would have been very serious. There was only one house on the station, for both infected and uninfected persons. He considered this vote a very necessary provision.

Agreed to.

"Jetty Extension, £500."

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY: Since the Estimates were framed, it has been discovered that this amount will not suffice to cover the actual expenses of the proposed jetty extensions, and I would therefore move that the amount be increased to £1,000.

MR. SHENTON said he proposed to move for a sum of money for a jetty at Owen's Anchorage, the necessity for which had been pointed out to him by the masters of several vessels. Would the increased vote cover the expenses of such jetty?

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY: I cannot pledge myself to that, but there would, of course, be more money available for the purpose if the vote were increased as I have moved it should.

MR. STEERE asked if the jetties at Bunbury and Busselton would be included in this vote?

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY: Instructions have been issued for the repair of those jetties.

MR. CROWTHER hoped the Government would not overlook the claims of Dongarra to a jetty.

MR. MARMION thought a great deal of money was thrown away upon this vote, year after year.

Motion for increasing vote from "£500" to "£1,000" agreed to.

"Court House, Geraldton, £1,500."

MR. STEERE moved that this item be struck out.

MR. BURT, as an amendment, would move that "Supreme Court House, Perth," be inserted in lieu thereof. The inadequacy of the accommodation at the Supreme Court House had been commented upon by jury after jury, and petitions had been sent in over and over again, praying that the Chief Justice would bring the matter under the consideration of the Government. Increased and improved accommodation was much more needed there than at Geraldton.

MR. MARMION opposed the amendment, not because he did not think that improved accommodation was needed at the Supreme Court House, but that the matter had not been sufficiently considered. He thought that plans and specifications of proposed new buildings, or alterations in old ones, should be laid on the table of the House before the Council should be asked to vote sums for carrying them out.

MR. STEERE concurred; when it was proposed to erect new public buildings, plans and estimates should be placed before the Council. This course was adopted in most Legislative assemblies, and it would be a good plan if the same rule were laid down here. He was opposed to the vote of "£1,500" standing on the Estimates at all, on the ground that the Colony at present could not afford the expenditure.

MR. BURT: Then I shall withdraw my amendment, and bring it forward next year, fortified with plans, drawings, and specifications, which I hope will meet with the approval of the House.

Amendment, with leave, withdrawn.

Motion put—That "Court House, Geraldton, £1,500," be struck out:

MR. CROWTHER maintained that the present building did not contain ample accommodation for the purposes for which it was designed. Not a week passed by but the business of the Court had to be stopped, in consequence of the noise and traffic outside; and, on the occasion of quarter sessions, the accommodation proved very inadequate. He did not think it would be wise to patch up the present building; it would be far wiser policy to build a new Court House at once.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY:

TARY said that was the opinion of the Government Engineer. As to the necessity of enlarged accommodation, there could be no doubt about it. If the House was of opinion that the business of the Court could be carried on in the present building for some time longer, he supposed it could be done; but if there were ways and means available he thought this would be a very necessary expenditure. As the House, however, did not seem to think that the Colony could at present afford this expenditure of money, the Government would not press the vote. As to plans and specifications of proposed new public buildings, he quite concurred that, in all cases, they should be prepared and laid on the table of the House before hon. members were asked to vote the money for the erection of such buildings.

Motion agreed to, and item struck out.

"Town Hall, Fremantle, £2,000."

MR. STEERE moved that this item be expunged.

MR. MARMION opposed the motion. He had certainly expected that, out of a feeling of common fairness, the citizens of Perth would have been in favor of this expenditure, regard being had to the splendid Town Hall which adorned the city, and which, without the expenditure of a single penny on the part of the inhabitants, was of great public utility and an ornament to the metropolis. At Fremantle, the second town of importance in the Colony, they had not even a public assembly-room—not even an apology for a public building. In this respect, Fremantle had been utterly neglected by the Government; there was no doubt about that. Their post-office was a retail store; their court-house was stuck on a hill, and almost inaccessible; their custom-house, where the principal portion of the revenue of the Colony was collected, was a dingy room 10ft. square. Yet these were the only public buildings the principal port of the Colony could boast of! The inhabitants had at last asserted their rights to some consideration at the hands of the Government, and were only asking at the hands of the Council a simple act of justice. Possibly, some blame did attach to the inhabitants that they did not years ago take this step, when convict labor was plentiful; but they were too modest and too unselfish. That was about it. Even at present they did not ask the

Council to vote the whole cost of the proposed building, but simply to assist the inhabitants to supply a long-felt want. He trusted that, on the good old principle of helping those who helped themselves, the House would agree to this vote, which would possibly extend over a period of three or four years; for it was not intended to spend it all in one year. The object in view in seeking the vote, was to enable the Town Council to levy a rate to enable them to raise the remainder of the money necessary for building the hall.

MR. PADBURY: Fremantle has the finest building in the Colony (the Convict Prison): let it be vacated, and they will have ample room for post office, court-house, assembly room, custom house, and town hall. What better purpose could it be applied to?

MR. MARMION: Neither the members for Fremantle, nor the inhabitants, have any desire for any intimate connection with the building in question.

MR. PEARSE hoped the House would agree to this vote, especially when it saw that the inhabitants were ready to tax themselves in order to assist in the erection of the proposed hall.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY said the vote had been placed on the Estimates at the request of a very respectable deputation representing the inhabitants of Fremantle. It was very seldom in this Colony that the inhabitants of a town came forward voluntarily to tax themselves in order to assist in carrying out any public undertaking, and he thought the principle was one which ought to be encouraged. Most hon. members were acquainted with Fremantle and its requirements, and he did not think there was any which the inhabitants felt the want of so much as a town hall for public purposes. He thought they had a fair claim upon the public funds. As to the probability of the Convict Establishment, and other buildings belonging to the Imperial Government, being handed over to the Local Government, he thought it very problematical. Certainly some considerable time must elapse, before those buildings could be converted to any of the uses alluded to by the hon. member for Swan.

The motion that the item be struck out was affirmed on a division [*Vide* "Votes and Proceedings," p. 103], and

the vote for "Works and Buildings, £8,850," was ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Items: Roads and Bridges, £11,000; Aborigines, £1,188—put and passed.

Item: Miscellaneous Services, £14,600:

MR. RANDELL asked for an explanation as to the increase in the vote for "Volunteer Corps" (from £550 to £1,000).

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY replied that petitions had been sent in to the Government praying that Volunteer Corps should be established at Bunbury and at Geraldton. The Commandant had highly recommended the formation of these companies, and estimated the amount upon which the corps could be maintained.

MR. MARMION thought this Volunteer movement was becoming very expensive to the Colony, without any corresponding advantages or beneficial results.

MR. BURT was somewhat surprised that a House which displayed such excessive zeal in cutting down expenditure—and especially the hon. member for Swan—should have allowed this item to pass unchallenged. He (Mr. Burt) would move, as an amendment, that the vote be reduced by the sum of £500. What was the use of these Volunteer Corps in outlying districts; it was merely playing at soldiers? He believed they had a Volunteer Corps at Guildford, and what on earth was the use of it? He did not think it was becoming of the Council, regard being had to the state of the exchequer, to vote such a large sum as this upon Volunteering.

MR. PADBURY: The hon. member has asked, What's the use of Volunteers? I can assure him they form a fine recreation to the children and the girls on a fine afternoon such as this; and that's all. But there is no mistake about it, we want recreation for our young men, and young women, too. I would almost as soon see a theatre built in Perth as another church; I believe the one would do as much good as the other. At the same time, I would not object to half this grant for Volunteers being struck off.

MR. STEERE: If you reduce it by one half, you may as well strike it out altogether. The question resolves itself into this, Are we to have Volunteers or not? If we are, the movement should be

encouraged, not alone in Perth and Fremantle, but all over the Colony. I shall support the vote, mainly because Volunteering affords a means of healthful recreation and amusement to our young men. I think it redounds to the credit of the Commandant that the corps already formed have maintained their efficiency as they have done. I consider that if we get five hundred Volunteers at an expense of £1,000, it is not an expensive movement to the Colony.

MR. SHENTON thought it highly desirable that the Volunteer movement should be encouraged as far as possible. If we could get the country defended for £1,000 a year, he thought it was very cheap protection.

MR. CROWTHER: To my mind, this vote is fairly chargeable under the head of the Educational Grant. The real education of a man's life begins after he leaves school, and I consider that the training which the Volunteers receive, and the discipline to which they are subjected, tends to foster in them a spirit of self-dependence and self-respect. The vote shall have my support.

MR. PARKER asked if the increase was intended for any particular districts, or to be distributed throughout the whole of the country districts. There was a strong-felt desire at York for the formation of a Volunteer corps in that town, and a large number of young men were ready to enrol themselves.

SIR L. S. LEAKE: This House was applied to some time ago for a vote towards the formation of a Volunteer corps at York, but the application was refused, and I think we should not be doing our duty if we did not consider York in the distribution of this grant. York was undoubtedly the first in the field, and therefore has a prior claim to Bunbury or Geraldton. At any rate, York should have its fair share of the vote.

MR. MARMION thought it was quite time the House framed some rule with regard to the formation of these corps throughout the Colony, which would give the Governor and the Commandant a voice in the matter, so as to prevent any invidious distinction between one district and another. He certainly thought that the York people had a preferential claim to a portion of the present grant.

Mr. Burt's motion was negatived, and the original vote ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

"Admiralty and Colonial Survey, £1,500."

MR. STEERE said he understood that the officer in charge of the Admiralty Survey on this coast had been in communication with the Local Government, as also with the Imperial Government, relative to the placing of a steam vessel at his disposal, to enable him to expedite the work of surveying the coast of the Colony. He understood that to carry this out, this Colony was to be asked to contribute £1,000 a year more than it at present contributed towards the cost of these surveys. He considered this proposition so reasonable that he thought the House should not hesitate to accept it, if it came before it in a definite shape. The survey would then be completed in about two years, whereas with the present means at the disposal of the survey party it would take many more years before the work was brought to a close, and even then it would not be so well done. He was sorry there was no extra sum placed on the Estimates for this service.

MR. SHENTON also regretted that no provision had been made for carrying into effect so desirable a proposition,—a proposition which would not only enable the survey party to perform their work more efficiently, but which would also, in the end, prove a saving to the Colony. He would like to know if the Government were prepared to accede to the proposal.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY said the question was under the consideration of the Government, and he need not say if a definite proposal were made, and it was found it would be to the advantage of the Colony—as he had no doubt it would, by facilitating the survey work—the Local Government would not be at all inclined to oppose it.

"Payment of Interest on Funds in Post Office Savings' Bank, £1,000."

MR. MARMION asked if the deposits had increased a hundred per cent. during the past twelve months, so as to necessitate an increase of this vote from £500 to £1,000?

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY: The increase in the funds of the Savings' Bank has been such that the

Postmaster General thinks this sum will be necessary to provide for the payment of interest. On the other hand, it must be borne in mind that the interest which the Government receives from the funds amounts to about the same sum.

"Purchase of a Vessel for North-West Coast, £1,500."

MR. MARMION: We voted £1,500 in 1876 for this very purpose, and it appears to me quite unnecessary that such an item should be placed on the Estimates again for 1877. If the Government intend to purchase the vessel which it is reported they do, the whole of this sum will not be required.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY: The Government intend purchasing a vessel suitable for the service it will be called upon to perform; it would be useless doing otherwise. As yet we have not succeeded in obtaining such a vessel, but in consequence of the plunder of guano which we have reason to believe is going on, on the islands on our North-West Coast, the Government purpose, as a temporary expedient, chartering a vessel as suitable for the service as can be had; not alone for the purpose of checking depredations, but also to obtain further information as to the position of the islands and the quantity of guano deposited on them. If the money granted for this purpose is not spent, the vote will lapse.

MR. MARMION thought that a vessel might be built in the Colony as suitable as could be obtained out of it, and this could be done at once, and without further delay.

The vote was agreed to.

"Preliminary and final surveys, Fremantle, Guildford, and Eastern Districts Railway, £2,000."

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY moved that this item be added to "Miscellaneous Services."

Agreed to; and further consideration of the Estimates postponed.

ADDRESSES FOR PUBLIC MONEY.

"Boat Jetty at Owen's Anchorage, £250."

MR. SHENTON moved that an humble address be presented to His Excellency the Governor, asking him to place

on the Estimates the sum of £250 for a boat jetty at Owen's Anchorage.

Motion affirmed.

"Telegraphic communication between York and Beverley, £1,000:"

MR. MONGER moved that an humble address be presented to His Excellency the Governor, requesting him to place on the Estimates the sum of £1,000, for the extension of telegraphic communication from York to Beverley.

Agreed to.

"Steam Communication with Straits Settlements and India:"

MR. PADBURY moved that an humble address be presented to His Excellency the Governor, praying that he will be pleased to place on the Estimates a sufficient sum as a subsidy for a steamer or steamers to run between this Colony and the Straits Settlements.

MR. STEERE moved, as an amendment, That after the word "sum," and before the word "as," the words "not exceeding £3,000," be inserted.

The resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

"City Band of Hope and Temperance League, £25:"

MR. RANDELL moved, That an humble address be presented to His Excellency the Governor, asking him to be pleased to place on the Estimates the sum of £25, in aid of the City Band of Hope and Temperance League.

Motion negatived.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Wednesday, 6th September, 1876.

Miners Water Supply Bill: motion for second reading—Trespass on Crown Lands Bill: second reading; in committee—Punishment of Masters of Vessels for taking certain Passengers Bill: in committee—Municipal Institutions' Bill, 1876: (resumed) in committee—Message No. 6 (in re Imported Stock Bill): in committee—Land Regulations: Report of Select Committee; in committee—The High School Bill: adoption of report of Select Committee.

MINERS WATER SUPPLY BILL, 1876.

MOTION FOR SECOND READING.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY, in moving the second reading of a Bill to provide for a supply of pure water to persons engaged in mining, said

a Bill making a similar provision had been introduced by the Government two or three sessions ago, but it was then rejected by the House. The Government had again felt it their duty to bring forward the Bill, which appeared to him to have been conceived and framed in a wise and certainly in a humane spirit. Representations had been made to the Governor, both by the Resident Medical Officer and the Resident Magistrate in charge of the mining district at Champion Bay, of several cases of lead poisoning, of a more or less aggravated character, among persons engaged in mining pursuits, consequent upon the consumption of impure water. The hon. gentleman here read the reports of the medical officer on this point, and said that in the face of the representations embodied therein the Government had felt it incumbent upon them to introduce the Bill before the House. He did not, at this stage, ask the House to agree to the details of the measure; these would be subject for consideration in committee; but he thought the principle of the Bill was such as must commend it to the favorable consideration of hon. members. He would therefore move that it be now read a second time.

MR. CROWTHER was fully convinced that the Government in bringing forward the Bill had done so in the belief that, in the face of the representations made to them, it was their bounden duty to legislate for the abatement of what they conceived to be a source of suffering and disease; but he had no hesitation in saying that their fears on this head were altogether groundless. Some years ago a commission was appointed to enquire into these cases of alleged lead-poisoning, and he had been permitted to accompany the commission, and had taken down the evidence of the various witnesses examined. The evidence then, as now, went to prove, beyond a doubt, that since the first establishment of the Geraldine mine—and the Bill in its operation would be limited to that mine—not a single case of lead-poisoning had been known to have been contracted by any Cornish miner engaged at the mine, simply because these men had taken the ordinary precautions to keep their bodies clean by daily ablution, and to abstain from drinking water known to be impregnated with metal. On the other