

do so; but he did not think it wise for any member to remain passively silent when he was misconstrued, and when wrong conclusions were placed before the House, on what he considered to be an important matter. In asking the House to agree to the following resolution, he did not think he asked them to agree to too much, seeing that they were at present debarred from introducing a Bill dealing with the subject of transfer duty this session. The resolution he would ask the Council to affirm was as follows: "That this House, after a due consideration of His Excellency's message in reference to a Bill passed last session entitled *An Act to enforce the payment of duty on the transfer of land*, regrets that His Excellency did not communicate his views on the matter at an earlier date in the session: That it considers the amount of revenue which would accrue from the measure beside the question, and cannot concur with His Excellency in saying that the legal profession prefers the old system of conveyancing to that provided by the *Torrens Act*: That the House fails to recognize that the manner of the introduction of the Bill was opposed to those sound principles of legislation which make the Government responsible for bringing forward the ways and means: That the Bill in question, merely seeking, as it did, to enforce the payment of a duty already imposed on the transfer of land, was not open to the objection of being uncalled for in the interests of the public; and this House is opinion, that so long as such a duty is imposed, means for enforcing its payment should be provided."

The resolution was adopted without discussion, and ordered to be presented to His Excellency by Mr. Speaker.

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

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Thursday, 16th August, 1877.

Messages from the Governor: Assent to Bills: *Transfer Duty on Land—Ballot Act, 1877*: debate on Governor's Message—*Appropriation Bill*: first reading—*Steam communication between this Colony, the Straits Settlements, and India—Paris Universal Exhibition—Western Australian Agricultural Association—Third readings.*

THE SPEAKER took the Chair at noon.

PRAYERS.

MESSAGE FROM HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR.

THE SPEAKER reported the receipt of the following message from His Excellency the Governor:—

"The Governor informs Your Honorable House that he has this day assented, in Her Majesty's name, to the undermentioned Bills passed by the Legislative Council during the present session of the Legislature:—

"*An Act to further amend 'The Elementary Education Act, 1871.'*"

"*An Act to amend and extend 'The Telegraphic Messages Act, 1874.'*"

"*An Act to amend 'The Scab-in-Sheep Ordinance of 1866.'*"

"*An Act to vest in certain Officers of Customs in this Colony, certain Powers which by 'The Merchant Shipping Act, 1871,' are in the United Kingdom vested in the Board of Trade.'*"

"*An Act to amend the Law relating to Procedure at the Election of Members to serve in the Legislative Council.'*"

Government House, Perth, 16th August, 1877."

MR. STEERE moved, That that portion of the Message assenting to the *Ballot Act* be now taken into consideration. He did not think His Excellency was empowered to give his assent to such a measure. It was an Act that affected the constitution of the Colony, and the Imperial Act under which the constitution is founded states expressly that any measure dealing with the manner of electing members to serve in the Legislative Council, or providing for the increase of members, shall be reserved for the signification of Her Majesty's pleasure thereon. He had recently had some conversation with His Excellency

on this very point—but not with reference to the Ballot Bill. His Excellency was of opinion that he was empowered to veto any Bill passed by the House for the adoption of Responsible Government; but he (Mr. Steere) had maintained that such was not the case, and that such a Bill would have to be reserved for the signification of Her Majesty's pleasure. The question, so far as it related to the Ballot Bill, was perhaps of no importance—they were all glad to find the Bill assented to; but the principle involved was a very important one. He therefore begged to enter his protest against the course pursued by His Excellency with reference to the Ballot Bill, in assenting to that measure, which might form a very injurious precedent. He felt confident that if any representations on the subject were made to the Secretary of State he would say that His Excellency had no power to give his assent to such a Bill.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. H. H. Hocking): Unfortunately we have none of us our book with us—that is, the Imperial Act in question. I don't profess to carry all the words of an Act of Parliament at my fingers' end; but His Excellency submitted this very question to me, and I could see nothing in the Act which precluded His Excellency assenting to the Bill. I don't know what the Governor of the Colony would be reduced to if he were not allowed to exercise his powers without a protest being entered against it by hon. members in this House. There is no doubt in my mind that the Governor has the power to assent to the Bill in question, and I fail to see why any hon. gentleman should think fit to enter his protest against the course pursued by His Excellency.

MR. STEERE: You acknowledge you know nothing about the Imperial Act yourself.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. H. H. Hocking): I beg your pardon. I have lately had occasion to refer to it with reference to this very question.

MR. STEERE: In every other case where the constitution has been amended, the Bill was reserved for the signification of Her Majesty's pleasure thereon—a fact which of itself strengthens my argument.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. H. H. Hocking): I should like to know in what respect the provisions of the Ballot Bill infringe upon the provisions of the Imperial Act, or affect the constitution. The constitution was amended in 1873 by the addition of two new electoral districts, and, this being a question which came precisely within the terms of the Imperial Act, the Bill dealing with it was reserved for Her Majesty's assent. I think the hon. member is speaking without his book.

MR. STEERE: I think the hon. gentleman is, too.

There being no copies of the Imperial Act in question in the House, a messenger was despatched for one to the Colonial Secretary's Office. On his return,

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. H. H. Hocking) read portion of the 31st section of the 5th and 6th Victoria, cap. 76, which enacts that "all Bills altering "or affecting the divisions and extent of "the several electoral districts and towns "which shall be represented in the "Legislative Council, or establishing "new and other divisions of the same, "or altering the number of the members "of the Council to be chosen by the said "districts and towns respectively, or increasing the whole number of the "Legislative Council, or altering the "salary of the Governor shall, in every "case, be reserved for the signification "of Her Majesty's pleasure." Clearly, the hon. gentleman said, the Ballot Bill did not come within the meaning of that clause.

MR. STEERE: You are not reading the right clause. Read the 32nd section of the 13th and 14th Victoria, cap. 59, which enacts that the Governor and Legislative Council may, from time to time, alter the provisions or laws for the time being in force, "concerning the "election of the elective members; provided always that every Bill which "shall be passed by the Council for any "of such purposes shall be reserved for "the signification of Her Majesty's "pleasure thereon." That's the clause affecting the Ballot Bill, and I think I am right in what I said. It appears to me that the hon. gentleman did not look into the matter as carefully as he might have done.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. H. H. Hocking) (after a pause): I must candidly admit my attention was not called to that section of the Imperial Act, and I must confer with His Excellency and see what can be done in the matter. The Bill certainly seems to fall within the provisions of that clause.

MR. STEERE: As I said before, I have no objection to the Bill itself; and the reason I protest against its being assented to by His Excellency is that it might establish a dangerous precedent.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. H. H. Hocking): It cannot be made a precedent of, seeing that it is contrary to the provisions of the Imperial Act. And that being the case, the question is whether the Governor's assent to the Bill is of any validity.

The Attorney General then left the Council Chamber in order to confer with His Excellency, and the House adjourned during pleasure. On its resuming,

MR. STEERE said he had no wish to act or speak in any way disrespectively of the Attorney General nor of His Excellency the Governor; but he thought it was necessary that some record should appear in the "Votes and Proceedings" of the House with reference to this matter. If His Excellency's message appeared without any notice having been taken of it by the Council, it might be regarded as a precedent, and that the House tacitly acquiesced in the course adopted by His Excellency in assenting to the Bill. He would therefore move, for the further guidance of the House, the following resolution:—"That with reference to that portion of His Excellency's message giving his assent to the Act to amend the law relating to procedure at the election of members to serve in the Legislative Council, the Council is of opinion this Act comes within the scope of the 13th and 14th Victoria, cap. 59, sec. 32, and therefore ought to have been reserved for the signification of Her Majesty's pleasure."

MR. BROWN seconded the resolution.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. H. H. Hocking): Before the resolution is agreed to, I submit it is purely unnecessary. Attention was called to the matter, and very properly, by the hon. member for Wellington, who maintained he was right in stating that His Ex-

cency was not empowered to assent to the Bill. I, in my ignorance, contended that His Excellency had the right to do so, and read to the House the section which I had considered in connection with the subject when it was referred to me. But it appears there is another section which I did not consider, and from the construction of which it is perfectly obvious that a mistake has been made. It does not appear to me at all likely that the matter will ever be regarded as a precedent, for not being valid it cannot be so regarded, and a mere reference to the Imperial statute will always settle the question. Under the circumstances it does appear to me altogether unnecessary to place the matter on record. I suppose the whole blame of the matter rests on myself, and if the resolution of the hon. member were simply to the effect that this House regrets the Attorney General has made such a blunder, I should not have a word to say. No doubt I omitted to notice the section quoted by the hon. member for Wellington—I had to borrow the Act to look at it—and, as I said before, if the motion was one simply condemning myself I should not have a word to say against it. But I do not think the House would be acting consistent with its desire to maintain a respectful attitude towards the Governor, to place such a resolution on record, seeing that His Excellency has acted under advice in the matter, and in the face of the admission on the part of the Government that an obvious mistake has been made, and the formal declaration which I am about to make that a Bill will be introduced to rectify the error as far as possible. Under these circumstances, it appears to me ungenerous on the part of hon. members to place on record the simple fact that the Governor has made a mistake—which he fully admits—and in the face of the impossibility of a recurrence of such a mistake.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. A. O'Grady Lefroy): I cannot say more than has been said by my colleague, the hon. the Attorney General, on this point. It appears to me altogether unnecessary to place this matter on the Minutes of our Proceedings: if any good result were likely to occur from such a course, it would be

quite another thing, but the question is one about which there can be no possible doubt, and no possible mistake in the future. When it is frankly admitted that an error has been committed, it does appear to me as if it were the desire of hon. members, the moment they discovered a mistake on the part of the Government, to take an unfair advantage of it. It seems to me it would be far more generous and far more respectful—and he was sure no hon. member present would wish to act otherwise than with respect towards His Excellency—to let the matter pass, in the face of the admission that a mistake had occurred.

MR. PADBURY: I do not think any hon. member blames the Governor in the matter at all. The Attorney General takes it all on himself, and no doubt he is to blame. If my lawyer comes to me with a document and says to me, "Sign this, Padbury," I sign it, as a matter of course. It is the same, no doubt, with the Governor and his responsible legal adviser. You cannot therefore blame His Excellency. The Attorney General stands up in rather an humble way and admits he has done wrong. Let us hope he won't do wrong again, and let us get to work.

MR. BROWN: I am quite sure that the hon. member for Wellington has no wish whatever to humble the Governor in any way, his only desire in putting forward the resolution being to show that the House conceives that His Excellency had no right to adopt the course which he did with regard to this Bill. The hon. member conceives it necessary that the views of the House should be recorded, but I am sure if the hon. member could see his way clear not to press the motion he would be extremely glad to do so. For my own part, I do consider it very necessary that we should guard against affording a precedent to the Governor of the Colony assenting to bills which in any way affect the Constitution, and I agree with the hon. member for Wellington that it is desirable that the House should show, by reference to its Minutes, that it did not become a party to such an unconstitutional proceeding. However; I place myself entirely in the hands of the hon. member who has moved the resolution,

and if he cannot see any way of dealing with the matter other than the manner in which he proposes to deal with it, I shall certainly support him. At the same time, if he does feel that the circumstances would be sufficiently met by what has transpired, and sees his way clear to withdraw the resolution, I shall be glad to go with him.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. M. Fraser): Seeing that no harm can possibly arise—His Excellency having seen his mistake, and frankly owned to it—I do think it seems somewhat ungracious on the part of the House to insist that an acknowledged error shall appear among the Minutes of their Proceedings, especially when it is borne in mind that the whole of the present discussion will appear in the pages of *Hansard*.

MR. SHENTON did not think the resolution in any way implied a vote of censure upon His Excellency, who appeared to have been blameless in the matter. But he thought that some record should be made of the case for the future guidance of the House.

MR. BURGESS would support the resolution. He did not think there was any desire on the part of any hon. member to act discourteously or ungenerously towards their departing Governor, but he thought the resolution was one which should be embodied among the records of the House as a guide on future occasions. He fully concurred in the sentiments expressed by the hon. member for Wellington and the hon. member for Geraldton.

The motion was then put to the House, and a division called for, with the following result:—

Ayes	...	...	8
Noes	...	...	6
Majority for			2

AYES.	NOES.
Mr. Brown	The Hon. H. H. Hocking
Mr. Burgess	The Hon. M. Fraser
Mr. Burt	Mr. Parker
Mr. Hardey	Mr. Padbury
Mr. Hamersley	Mr. Glyde
Sir T. C. Campbell	The Hon. A. O'G. Lefroy
Mr. Shenton	(Teller.)
Mr. Steere (Teller.)	

(No other hon. members were present.)

The motion was therefore affirmed.

APPROPRIATION BILL—FIRST READING.

A Bill to appropriate the sum of £151,115 7s. 8d. out of the General Revenue of the Colony for the service of the year 1878, was read a first time.

MESSAGE FROM HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR—DUTY ON TRANSFER OF LAND.

MR. SPEAKER announced the receipt of the following message from His Excellency the Governor:—

“The Governor has received from Mr. Speaker a copy of the Resolution adopted last night by your Honorable House, in reference to the Governor’s Message on the subject of the Bill passed last Session, entitled “An Act to enforce the payment of duty on the transfer of land.

The Governor retains the opinions which he expressed in his Message as aforesaid, and regrets that it is not in his power to concur in any respect in the view taken of this question by the Honorable the Legislative Council.

Government House, Perth, August 16th, 1877.”

STEAM COMMUNICATION WITH THE STRAITS SETTLEMENTS AND INDIA.

IN COMMITTEE.

MR. PADBURY, in accordance with notice, moved the following resolution: “That the Government be authorised, during the recess, to make arrangements with the Banda or other Steam Navigation Companies for regular steam communication between the ports of this Colony, the Straits Settlements and India, if possible, at a subsidy not to exceed £6000 per annum.” The hon. member said the only difference between his own resolution and that which stood on the notice paper in the name of the Acting Colonial Secretary* was, that he (Mr. Padbury) wished to empower the Government to expend a sum of £6000 in a subsidy (if required), and if possible that the service should include India as

well as the Straits Settlements, whereas the resolution of which the hon. gentleman opposite had given notice limited the subsidy to £4000, and did not include India. He could not help thinking it would have been a good thing for the Colony if the House had agreed to his proposition years ago, to purchase two steamers for this service: the subsidy they were now paying for steam communication on the coast would more than cover the interest on the cost of the steamers. An offer had now been made to the Government by the Banda Navigation Company—an offer that appeared almost too advantageous for the Colony, as regarded the subsidy asked for; but rather than the opportunity should be lost he would empower the Government to deal more liberally with the promoters. He believed it would pay the Colony to go even to the extent of £6,000 a year by way of a subsidy for such a service. What he proposed was that the steamers should call at Champion Bay and Nickol Bay, as well as Fremantle. Nickol Bay district alone could send to Singapore from 5000 to 7000 fat sheep a year, besides horses; and half that number of sheep to Fremantle at a time of the year when fat sheep could not be procured in this part of the Colony. That would be no slight boon. Once this service were established it would on the other hand open a fine market for our gardeners, who would have all Nickol Bay as well as the Straits Settlements—to say nothing of India—to supply with vegetables and fruit: vegetables for Nickol Bay, and fruits for the Straits. There was another thing to be considered in connection with this scheme:—he believed it would tend more than anything to establish steam communication with the other colonies. The subject had been so often under discussion in the House that he need not trespass on the time and patience of hon. members by dwelling any longer on the many benefits which the Colony would derive were the scheme he proposed carried into effect, which he hoped would be the case if the House adopted the resolution which he had submitted for its approval.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. M. Fraser) said he did not rise to oppose the resolution, but to say that when he was on a visit to the

* “That, with reference to the resolution adopted during last Session authorising the Government to subsidize Steam Communication with the Straits at a cost not exceeding £3000 per annum, the Government be authorised to incur an additional expenditure of £1000 per annum for this service, in the event of the negotiation with the Banda Steam Navigation Company or other Company proving successful.”

other colonies he had endeavored to make such an arrangement with shipping firms there as was contemplated in the hon. member's proposition; but the result was *nil*. One great objection to the scheme was the high price of coals at the Straits Settlements, which would necessitate a very large amount of tropical trade to make it pay. The steamers engaged in the service would have to carry sufficient coals to last for the whole voyage, and, for that reason, would have to be of such a heavy tonnage that the service was not likely to pay. Unless the House was prepared to double the subsidy proposed by the hon. member for Swan, he did not think we would ever get the service established. The Netherlands India Steam Navigation Co. had recently entered into a five years' contract with the Dutch and South Australian Governments for a steam service between Singapore, the Eastern Archipelago, and India, for which service they received, from the two Governments, no less than £16,000 or £17,000 a year, and it was simply absurd to think that we could obtain such a service for a subsidy of £5,000 or £6,000. He was convinced that the offer of the Banda Steam Navigation Co., was a mere speculation, contemplated in utter ignorance of the extent of our trade and commerce. No one was more in favor of opening up steam communication than he was, but he was perfectly satisfied that no subsidy which this Colony could at present afford to offer would enable us to obtain an efficient steam service between here and the Straits Settlements. When in Melbourne he had made it his duty to gather information on this very point, and he had been assured by gentlemen well qualified to form an opinion—such as Sir J. Ploos Van Amstel, the consul general for the Netherlands, and others,—who had satisfied him there was not the slightest chance of our getting the service performed at anything like the subsidy proposed by the hon. member for Swan. The communication which he would like to see opened up was from the other colonies to Fremantle, and, if possible, to Nickol Bay, which, in his opinion, would tend to advance the Colony far more than the scheme before the House.

MR. BROWN would support the reso-

lution of the hon. member for Swan in preference to the resolution which next appeared on the notice paper, in the name of the hon. the Acting Colonial Secretary. The former did not lose sight of the importance of extending the service to India, which was in no way referred to in the latter resolution. He would be very sorry, indeed, if they stopped short of India, for the sake of a difference of £2,000 a year in the subsidy. As to the offer of the Banda Steam Navigation Company, it would be impossible for them to carry out the proposal bi-monthly, on the subsidy mentioned, and he did not entertain any hope whatever that anything would come out of their offer; but the resolution before the House empowered the Government to treat with other steam companies. Nor was it made a *sine qua non* condition that the service should be a monthly one, but "regular." He did not think our requirements were such that we need, of necessity, have monthly communication; he thought, once every three months would be quite often enough, and it would pay the Colony to give £6,000 a year for such a service. He had no doubt that if the Government had been aware of the intention of the hon. member for Swan to propose the resolution now under consideration, the Acting Colonial Secretary would not have tabled the motion which stood in his name, dealing with the same subject, inasmuch as the former gave the Government more power and greater latitude than was contemplated in the latter.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. M. Fraser) thought some arrangement might possibly be made for periodical trips by steamers between India, the Straits Settlements, and this Colony. By utilising the telegraph, which would soon place us in instantaneous communication with these parts, a cargo might always be ensured for steamers visiting us at appointed intervals. It would never pay to have a steamer calling here "fishing" for cargo. The Government might be empowered to subsidise such a service as he referred to, which, in time, might be developed into a regular monthly service.

MR. PADBURY: One firm at any rate—the Banda Steam Company—have voluntarily offered to perform a bi-monthly

service for a subsidy of £2,000 less than that proposed in my resolution. As for my own self, I should be satisfied with a monthly service, or even less frequently than that, so long as we have regular periodical communication.

MR. STEERE: I cannot understand the object of the hon. member in bringing forward such a motion. Here we have a distinct offer of a bi-monthly service for £4,000 per annum, and yet he wants to make it £6,000—not that I believe we would get such a service performed for either amount. I shall, however, be prepared to support the resolution standing next on the notice paper, although I am somewhat puzzled to know where the money is to come from.

MR. BROWN thought the House should never be afraid to expend money upon measures calculated to develop the resources of the Colony.

MR. BURGESS would support the resolution before the House, because it was more comprehensive than that which appeared in the name of the Acting Colonial Secretary.

SIR L. S. LEAKE: It is difficult to disconnect the two resolutions, but I am inclined to support that put forward by the Government, for this reason:—here we have a direct offer made to perform a certain service for the subsidy proposed. The Government have already, by a resolution adopted at a previous session, been empowered to offer a subsidy of £3,000 for this very service, and finding they have now a definite offer to carry it out for an extra £1,000, they ask the House to increase the subsidy to that extent. And to that extent I am prepared to go. I cannot understand the feelings of some hon. members who seem to be ready to spend the public funds broadcast, among anybody who likes to ask for it. They say, in effect, to these people, "If you are not satisfied with £4,000, ask for more: you have made a great mistake, we assure you: your offer is too liberal altogether; we shall give you £6,000 instead of a paltry £4,000, and it is quite immaterial to us whether you run your steamers once a month or once every three months, or, to be liberal, once a year, or not at all." That seems to be the spirit in which some hon. members would deal with the public money. I think the House will

find that we shall have as much as we can do to meet the estimated ordinary expenditure next year. We have already voted over £150,000, and other claims have since been put forward; and I am only afraid that, when we come to look into the Estimates of Revenue we shall find it a hard matter to pay our honest debts. Glancing at the Estimates of Revenue now before me, I am afraid there are several items that will not realise what is set against them. In the item of beer, for instance, I fear there will be a great deficiency under that head, for I believe that at the end of the present year (1877) there will be a sufficient quantity of beer, duty paid, in the Colony, without any necessity for importing any more. Altogether, I am afraid the estimated revenue will fall far short of what the actual receipts will be. Most sincerely do I hope it may not, as must everyone who has the interests of the Colony at heart; but I do feel we have no prospects of meeting such very liberal subsidies as that proposed by the hon. member for the Swan.

MR. BROWN said the hon. the Speaker seemed to tax the House with having already voted such a large sum that it was very doubtful whether they would be able to pay their honest debts. He (Mr. Brown) admitted they had no right to incur liabilities which they had no likelihood of meeting, but the hon. gentleman who had just sat down seemed to be oblivious of the future, and of their obligation to pledge the country and its resources if by so doing they would advance its interests and promote its welfare. This question of steam communication was a step in that direction, and it was in that belief that he had given it his support, and assented to the expenditure which it would entail. If they were to confine their annual operations to the estimated revenue, they would never progress. Had they adhered to that policy in the past, they would never have had the Geraldton railway, nor would they have considered the question of the proposed line between Fremantle, Guildford, and the Eastern districts. As to the revenue not meeting the ordinary expenditure, he had listened to the same tale for the past five or six years, and, heretofore, it had been found that the actual revenue generally ex-

ceeded the estimated revenue by a good round sum. He entertained the same hope with regard to the next year.

The resolution of the hon. member for Swan was then put to the vote, and a division being called for there appeared:

Ayes	...	...	7
Noes	...	...	5
<hr/>			
Majority for	...		2

AYES.	NOES.
The Hon. A. O'G. Lefroy	Sir L. S. Leake
The Hon. M. Fraser	Mr. Burt
Mr. Brown	Mr. Parker
Mr. Burges	Mr. Shenton
Mr. Hamersley	Mr. Steere (Teller.)
Mr. Crowther	
Mr. Padbury (Teller.)	

(No other hon. members were present.)

The motion was therefore adopted.

PARIS UNIVERSAL EXHIBITION.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. A. O'Grady Lefroy) moved, in committee, That His Excellency the Governor be authorised to spend a sum not exceeding £1,000 towards defraying expenses connected with forwarding exhibits from this Colony to the Paris Exhibition of 1878.

MR. SHENTON, looking at the large amount they had already voted for the public service, hardly thought they were in a position to afford this sum.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. A. O'Grady Lefroy) said, although the Government asked for £1,000, a lesser sum would be expended if it were found that in doing so they could secure a proper representation of the Colony's products and resources.

MR. BURT thought it would be wise to consider whether they should be represented at Paris at all. Unless they were in a position to do the Colony full justice, they had better keep aloof altogether. No interest whatever seemed to have been manifested in the collection of exhibits by the various committees which had been appointed, and, for his own part, he would like to see the matter dropped.

MR. PADBURY: If we can make anything like a decent show, I think the money will be well spent.

Resolution agreed to.

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION.

MR. STEERE moved, That an humble address be presented to His Excellency the Governor, requesting him to authorise the expenditure from public funds of the sum of £100 as a grant-in-aid of the above association. So favorably impressed had His Excellency been with the show of last year that he had promised the committee to place a sum of £100 on the Estimates for the following year, and, in view of this promise, the committee had arranged their schedule of prizes accordingly, forgetting that the vote on the Estimates would not be available until 1878. The object of the present resolution was to enable the committee to draw the money in time to pay the prizes at the approaching show.

Motion agreed to.

THIRD READINGS.

The Railway Act, 1873, Amendment Bill, and the Arrest of Absconding Debtors' Act, Amendment Bill, were read a third time and passed.

The House adjourned at a quarter past 4 p.m.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Friday, 17th August, 1877.

Ballot Act, 1877, Suspension Bill—Salary of Director of Public Works—Police Ordinance, 1861, Amendment Bill—Appropriation Bill—Immigration—Messages from His Excellency the Governor—Prorogation.

THE SPEAKER took the chair at noon.

PRAYERS.

BALLOT ACT, 1877, SUSPENSION BILL.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. H. H. Hocking), in accordance with notice, moved, The first reading of a Bill to suspend the operation of "The Ballot