

husband, or her brother, or her sweetheart. Under the present regulations these licences were renewable for a second year, and it was often the case that they were renewed without any intention whatever to exercise the right to prospect or to mine. It was, therefore, now proposed to add a stipulation, to the effect that the lease should be renewable only if it were shown that the mine was being prospected and about to be worked. If this condition were not complied with, the land would revert to the Crown. He next came to the supplementary regulations, relating to grants of land to immigrants. However much some hon. members might agree with the framers of these regulations, he thought, himself, they were unnecessarily cumbrous. They provided that after two years' residence in the Colony—and not before—an immigrant might select from any unimproved rural Crown lands open to selection, a lot not exceeding 50 acres—thus making it obligatory upon the new arrival to subsist here for two years before he could enjoy the privilege of selection. This regulation it was now proposed to modify. With regard to the provision that no greater quantity of land than 150 acres in all be allotted to any one family, he entirely agreed with it; but, instead of rendering it obligatory upon an immigrant to reside in the Colony two years before he can claim his right of selection, it was now proposed that this right should be exercised within twelve-months after the arrival of the selector. There was also a provision made as to the ages of immigrants entitled to claim. Under the present regulation land could only be selected by adults and by persons between the ages of sixteen and twenty-one,—adults, 50 acres, and juniors of the ages specified, 25 acres. It was now proposed that adults should have the right to select 50 acres; persons between the ages of fourteen and twenty-one, 25 acres; and children under such age, if with parents, half that quantity: provided that no greater quantity than 150 acres be allotted to one and the same family. Another proposed amendment was that the occupation certificates allotted to immigrants shall only be deemed transferable in case of the death of the holder; this was done in order to prevent jobbing and the selling of these

certificates. There were four further recommendations embodied in the report, all so clearly expressing the intention of the committee that he saw no necessity to offer any explanatory remarks relating to them. With these observations, he commended the report to the consideration of the House with a feeling that the further settlement of the Colony would be encouraged by the adoption of the proposed alterations, and that some portion of the pastoral, and, to a certain degree, the agricultural interest, would be benefited by their introduction. He must again express his regret at the inability of the committee to do more with regard to the concession of grazing rights to the small farmer than they had been able to do. He begged to move the adoption of the report.

On the motion of MR. SHENTON, progress was reported, and leave obtained to sit again on the following Tuesday.

MUNICIPAL INSTITUTIONS' BILL.

IN COMMITTEE.

Various amendments were proposed by THE ATTORNEY GENERAL to several clauses, and the Bill was re-committed with a view to the introduction of further amendments, which elicited no discussion. [*Vide* "Votes and Proceedings," p.p. 93, 94, and 95.]

Progress reported.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Monday, 4th September, 1876.

Guano Deposits: removal of—Estimates: in committee.

REMOVAL OF GUANO FROM LACEPEDE ISLANDS.

MR. SHENTON, in accordance with notice, Asked the Commissioner of Crown Lands to lay on the table of the House a return showing the number of applications that had been received from persons wishing to remove guano from

the Lacedæde and other islands, and how those applications had been dealt with. His reasons for asking for the return was that he thought it desirable that the House should know how the different applications which had been sent in to the Government had been disposed of. He hoped the Government had not compromised themselves in any way with regard to these islands, and that they were still within the jurisdiction and control of the Commissioner of Crown Lands. He thought that tenders should be called for from persons willing to lease these islands or portions of them, and that the Government should have an officer on the spot to issue licenses for the removal of guano. He understood there were persons in the Colony who were now prepared to pay a royalty of £1 per ton, and if, as he was informed, there were no less than about 100,000 tons of guano on these islands, the revenue derived in this way would be very acceptable, and would tend to make up any deficiency which might arise from the depression in wool, and pearls, and sandalwood, and the probability of a bad season for pastoral purposes.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS said the return asked for should be laid on the table as soon as completed.

ESTIMATES.

IN COMMITTEE.

On the motion of the ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY, the House then went into a committee of supply.

Item: Establishment of His Excellency the Governor, £261 6s. 8d.

Agreed to.

Item: Legislative Council, £500.

SIR L. S. LEAKE said he felt some little disappointment at the fact that no provision had been made in this vote for the Chairman of Committees. He believed it was the wish of several hon. members that a sum should be placed on the Estimates for that purpose, and he would, therefore, move that an humble address be presented to His Excellency the Governor, asking him to do so. The duties of the office were very arduous, and the House had already experienced considerable difficulty in inducing any hon. member to undertake the duties appertaining to it. In the other colonies, the

Chairman of Committees was a paid official, and he thought he should be the same here.

MR. MARMION had much pleasure in supporting the motion, and he would suggest that a sum of £50 should be voted for carrying it into effect.

MR. CROWTHER would make it £100.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY said the matter had already been under the consideration of the Government. His Excellency was quite in accord with the House in the opinion that the Chairman of Committees, discharging the onerous and responsible duties which he did, was fairly entitled to a recognition of his services. After the expression of opinion which had just been made by the House, he had pleasure in moving that, after the item "Speaker, £150," the item "Chairman of Committees, £100," be inserted.

The motion was agreed to.

Item: Colonial Secretary, £1,213.

MR. STEERE, referring to a vote of £100 under this head—and which represented an increase given to the Colonial Secretary shortly before he left for England—trusted that in the event of Mr. Barlee not returning to the Colony and the office being filled by the appointment of a successor in England, this extra £100 would not be considered as part of the salary attaching to the office. The sum was voted for Mr. Barlee in recognition of his long and valuable services in connection with the Colony, and was never intended by that House to be regarded as a fixed addition to the salary of the Colonial Secretary. He thought it would be unjustifiable, in the event of Mr. Barlee not returning, and a stranger being appointed to the office at home, that this sum should be added to his salary. He would move a resolution on this point before the Estimates were finally disposed of.

Vote agreed to.

Item: Treasury, £500.

This vote was agreed to *sub silentio*.

Item: Surveyor General, £7,010.

This item was also passed without comment.

Item: Office of Works, £1,513.

MR. STEERE, referring to the vote of £150 under this head, for forage and travelling allowance for the Government

Engineer, said he thought it would be a saving to the public if instead of granting a lump sum to officials for forage and travelling allowances, the actual travelling expenses incurred by such officials, while discharging public duties, should be defrayed out of public funds. He thought it preposterous that the Council should be asked to vote such immense sums as were placed on the Estimates every year under the head of forage allowances, and which in the majority of cases could not possibly be expended for that purpose.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY believed, that so far as regarded the particular department under review, hon. members would agree with him that the duties which would devolve upon the Government Engineer would be of a very extensive character, and would necessitate a great deal of travelling to and fro, throughout the length and breadth of the Colony. He believed that, actually, his travelling expenses would be in excess of the vote placed on the Estimates. A system such as that suggested by the hon. member for Wellington had formerly been in operation in connection with this very department, and the officer in charge of works was paid his actual expenses when travelling, which expenses were verified by voucher. The result was in favor of the present system of fixed allowances.

MR. MARMION asked whether this sum of £150 covered all the travelling expenses of the Engineer-in-Chief. In the event of his going North or South by steamer, for instance, would his expenses be defrayed by the Government, or by himself out of this allowance?

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY said the vote was supposed to cover the whole of the Engineer's travelling expenses, whether by steamer or otherwise.

MR. PADBURY thought the Clerk of Works travelled about quite as much as anyone connected with the department, and he only got £50 towards travelling allowance.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY said that was simply to provide forage for a horse, whereas in the Engineer's case the allowance was to cover all that officer's travelling expenses.

The item was then passed.

Item: Auditor General, £820.

This item was agreed to without discussion.

Item: Lands Titles Office:—Commissioner, £600; Registrar, £250—total, £850.

MR. SHENTON had understood last session that the Registrar of Land Titles was also to perform the duties of registrar of deeds, brands, births, marriages, &c., so that the whole work of registration should be confined to one office. He had since been informed that the officer in question had declined to perform these additional duties, and still refused to do so. He (Mr. Shenton) thought that cases of this kind could be effectually dealt with under the 6th clause of the Superannuation Act, which empowered the Governor to remove any person from the public service, in consequence of the abolition of his office, or for the purpose of facilitating improvements in the organisation of the department to which such person belonged. An officer so removed would, under the provisions of the clause alluded to, be entitled to a reasonable and just compensation for his loss of office. He (Mr. Shenton) thought this was a case in which His Excellency should exercise the power thus vested in him, with a view to the reorganisation of the Registry department, so as to secure greater efficiency and economy. He noticed by the next item on the Estimates, that £100 was provided for a Registrar General, and £120 for a third-class clerk to assist him.

MR. BURT understood that the Registrar of Titles had been appointed to that office by the Secretary of State, and that the appointment had been confirmed here by His Excellency. He was sent out here to perform certain duties connected with the Transfer of Land Act, which duties were defined in the Act; and he (Mr. Burt) failed to see what right the House had to impose any additional duties upon him that did not appertain to his office. He thought it would be an act of injustice to do so, or to reduce the salary upon which he agreed to come out here.

MR. SHENTON said he had no desire whatever to deal unjustly with the officer in question, but to give him a reasonable and just compensation for the loss of his office, in the event of its being abolished with a view to facilitate improvements in

the organisation of the registry department.

MR. PADBURY considered it very hard indeed that the Secretary of State should appoint a man to come here at £250 a year, to do nothing. He had no wish to deal harshly with the officer in question; all he wanted was that he should do something for his money.

MR. HAMERSLEY thought it would be a gross breach of faith to abolish the office to which this gentleman was appointed by the Secretary of State, and for no fault of his own. If blame belonged to anyone in the matter, it was attached to his lordship. He did not blame the officer in question for refusing to discharge duties which did not legitimately appertain to his office, and which he never undertook to discharge.

MR. STEERE did not think it would be any hardship whatever towards this gentleman if his office were abolished, and he received a fair compensation. He (Mr. Steere) was informed that he had little or nothing to do, and that the duties devolving upon him might be efficiently discharged by a third-class clerk. Under the circumstances, he (Mr. Steere) thought he was to be blamed for refusing to discharge some slight additional duties in connection with other branches of registration, simply because it was not "in the bond." He did not think he had acted in a way deserving of much consideration at the hands of the House. Still, he would be no party to a breach of faith in his case, or that of any other public servant; let him be reasonably and justly compensated, as the Act provided.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY said the officer in question was appointed at home in the first instance, and the appointment was ratified here by the Governor-in-Council. When he arrived in the Colony, in 1875, it was pointed out to him, that according to the provisions made in the Estimates the duties that would devolve upon him would be those of registrar of land titles, deeds, brands, births, deaths, and marriages. These duties he accepted, and discharged for some time upon the salary voted him by that House (£250). Subsequently, he said he found the duties too arduous, and he declined to discharge any other than those appertaining to the

Land Titles Office, and the Government had to fall back upon the officer who had previously discharged the duties of Registrar General.

MR. RANDELL would like to know how, if he had entered into an agreement to perform the additional duties, he had been allowed to refuse to discharge them.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY replied that no specific agreement had been entered into as to the minutiae of his duties.

MR. HAMERSLEY said there could be no doubt that he was originally appointed to discharge the duties of Registrar of Lands Titles, and nothing else; and, as it had not even been hinted that he had failed in discharging those duties, he saw no cause for complaint.

MR. SHENTON did not think that the argument as to the appointment having been made by the Secretary of State met the case. He did not see why, because the Secretary of State had made a mistake in England, we should perpetuate it. He would move, as an amendment, that the item be struck out, pending arrangements being made for remodelling the office.

MR. PADBURY seconded the amendment.

MR. BURT said it was not the fault of the officer occupying the position of Registrar of Titles that there was nothing for him to do in the Lands Titles Department. The House had ratified his appointment, had approved of the salary fixed, and the duties appertaining to the office were defined under the Act. He had got that to do which the House must have considered worth £250, or else it would not have voted that sum for the salary attached to the office.

SIR L. S. LEAKE would vote that the item remain on the Estimates. It had been distinctly impressed upon the House by Mr. Barlee that the officer appointed to the office of Registrar of Titles should also perform the duties of Registrar General. The Council had made no mistake in the matter in any way; but a mistake had been made somewhere. No one could consider that the young gentleman himself was responsible.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY said he did not wish to say one word disparagingly against the officer in question. His appointment was duly

notified in the *Government Gazette* of the 18th September, 1875, under the hand of the Governor. When he arrived, he (the Acting Colonial Secretary) brought under his notice that, according to the provision made in the Estimates for 1876 his duties would embrace the registration of births, deaths, and marriages, and of brands, as well as the registration of land titles. This he accepted; and he discharged those duties upon the salary provided by the Council, for some time after his arrival in the Colony. Since then, however, he had declined to discharge them, alleging that they were too arduous, and that it could not be expected that he should perform any duties other than those connected with the Land Titles Office. The Governor then fell back upon the officer who had previously discharged the duties of the Registrar General's department, who, however, was promised no increase of salary. He was asked, on behalf of the public and in order to relieve the Government from an embarrassment, to discharge the duties, and he consented to do so. The Government now had placed £100 on the Estimates as the salary attached to the office, and he did not think any hon. member would object to the vote, seeing the very generous manner in which the officer in question had come forward to relieve the Government from the horns of a dilemma.

MR. STEERE: Is there no record in the Colonial Secretary's office of the agreement entered into between the Secretary of State and the Registrar of Land Titles as to the duties which the latter would have to perform?

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY: There is no specific agreement entered into with Government officers as to the details of their duties.

MR. HAMERSLEY: My impression is that he was appointed to discharge the duties of Registrar of Lands Titles, and nothing else.

MR. BURT: I can produce the appointment, showing that he was appointed Registrar of Lands Titles only, and not registrar of brands, or of births, deaths, and marriages (with deceased wives' sisters or otherwise). When Lord Carnarvon told him that his salary would be £250 a year, his lordship must have been informed by the Government here what was the amount of salary which had been

fixed for him by the Council. Subsequently it was discovered that Lord Carnarvon had no right to make the appointment; but the appointment having been made, of course His Excellency the Governor could hardly do otherwise than confirm it.

The vote was then agreed to.

Item: Registry Office — Registrar General, £100; one third-class clerk, £120.

MR. MARMION moved, That the first item be reduced to £50. He thought that with the assistance of a third-class clerk, upon whom a great amount of the work would fall, the Registrar would be well remunerated with £50. He would only have the responsibility.

Motion negatived, and the original vote passed.

Item: Customs Department, £3,381.

MR. PADBURY called attention to the proposed increase of salary to the clerk and landing waiter at Albany, and also to the comparatively large salary paid to the tide-waiters in the Victoria and the North districts.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY said that the increase of salary at Albany had been caused by a reorganisation of the customs department at that port. It had been discovered that, owing to the landing-waiter—who had other duties to attend to—not being able to devote his undivided attention to the customs, breaches of the Customs Act were of frequent occurrence. The same officer formerly discharged the duties of postmaster at £100, as well as those of landing waiter at the same salary; it was now proposed that the two offices should be separated and that the landing-waiter should devote his whole time to the duties connected with the customs department, at a salary of £200, with an assistant at £50 a year. This had been done, on the representations of the collector of customs at Albany, who had pointed out the absolute necessity for remodelling the department there; and this was considered the best arrangement that could be made, with a view to maintaining the efficiency of the department and of protecting the revenue. With regard to the other items referred to, the increases had been made at the suggestion of the collectors of customs, and had been necessitated by the increase of

trade and the requirements of the public service.

The vote was agreed to.

Item: Postal and Telegraph Department, £21,324.

MR. STEERE asked for some information with respect to the item "Subsidy for mail steamer, £4,000." The House was in utter ignorance as to the intention of the Government with regard to providing for this service after the present contract terminated; and he thought it was due to the Council that some information should be given to hon. members before they agreed to vote so large a sum of money as £4,000.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY said the Government had called for tenders for the performance of the service, but that none had yet come to hand. It was for the House to determine whether the vote should remain as it is, or be reduced; hon. members might rest assured that, in dealing with the contractors, the Government would make the most economical terms they could, consistent with the efficiency of the service.

MR. STEERE thought the Government had been extremely remiss in not calling for tenders long before they did. Tenders were first invited only a month ago, and the present contract expired in the course of another few weeks, so that, in all probability, the Colony would have no coastal mail service at all, unless the Government agreed to accept any terms the present contractors might choose to make. Tenders for such a service as this should have been invited six months ago; and he thought the House should have been placed in possession of the terms of the proposed contract before it was asked to vote the subsidy. The terms of the present contract with the owners of the *Georgette* did not meet with the approval of the House or the public. Everyone was convinced that the steamer had no business to convey the mails at all; and, in any future contract entered into, this drawback should be avoided. A coasting steamer was required more for the convenience of the public, in facilitating coastal intercourse, than for the conveyance of mails. Under the present arrangement, the public derived very little advantage from the steamer—especially the inhabitants of the southern districts. He regretted that, owing to

the delay in calling for tenders, the Council was not likely to have an opportunity of expressing an opinion upon the terms of the next contract, shortly to be entered upon.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY said there were grave considerations which prevented the Government taking earlier steps in the matter; but with respect to the inexpediency of combining the mail service with the coastal service the Government was altogether in accord with the honorable member. It was believed it would be far better if, instead of being hampered as at present with the mails, the steamer were free to devote itself to the coastal trade, and that other arrangements be made for the conveyance of the mails. In any future contract, the Government would endeavour to make such terms as may prove most advantageous to the Colony.

MR. MARMION would be sorry to see the present regular steam communication between here and Albany terminated, for in doing so we should be cutting away the only connecting link between this and the neighbouring colonies.

MR. RANDELL was of opinion that it would be much better that the mails should be sent overland rather than by sea, so as to give the steamer greater freedom of action, so to speak, for keeping up regular coastal communication. If another contract were entered into, he thought it should be distinctly understood that we should have a vessel more suitable to the coasting trade than the present steamer, whose rate of speed was not more than five or six knots an hour. He thought it would be advisable to obtain a steamer capable of making eight or nine knots, and he did not think there would be much difficulty in obtaining such a vessel just now.

MR. MARMION said, when the subsidy of £4,000 was first voted, the House was led to believe that a sum of £1,600 a year would be saved in connection with the conveyance of the mails. Should it be determined to discontinue forwarding the mails by the steamer, he supposed the subsidy would be increased by that amount; and the question was—could we get a steamer to perform the service upon a lesser subsidy than that granted at present?

The matter then dropped.

MR. MARMION asked for some explanation as to the increase of £1,000 in the vote for the postal and telegraph department, independent of the Eucla Telegraph line.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY replied that there was an increase of about £400 for the conveyance of mails, and some additional expenditure created by the introduction of the Money Order system which was now in operation throughout the majority of the districts of the Colony, and which had necessitated an increase of salary—individually slight, but in the aggregate amounting to a considerable sum. A trifling increase had also been made in the salaries of telegraph operators, chiefly in country districts, where, in accordance with a generally expressed wish, the operators had also discharged the duties of letter-carriers.

MR. PADBURY called attention to the item "Contingencies: Albany, and Eucla Telegraph Line." The sums set down for the purchase of horses, and carts, and harness, were double what they should cost.

MR. RANDELL was of the same opinion. They were indeed most extraordinary sums, and absurdly extravagant.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY said the Estimates had been prepared by the Postmaster General, who, no doubt, had made enquiries as to the probable cost. But, although various sums were set down in the Estimates for this or that service, these sums were not necessarily expended. The items were merely approximate. These carts and harness, &c., would be purchased by tender, on the same principle as other Government supplies. The Postmaster General had been in communication on the subject with Mr. Todd, C.M.G., the Superintendent of Telegraphs for the South Australian Government, who had very kindly furnished much useful information with respect to the efficient working of the Eucla line, and promised to select suitable officers for station masters, if we desired it.

MR. MARMION said he would be sorry that these appointments should be filled out of the Colony. He thought there were plenty of young men here quite capable of discharging the duties.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY

pointed out the absolute necessity of having thoroughly competent officers on this line, in order to maintain the efficiency of the service, and to render the line a trustworthy means of communication. The operators engaged on it would be thrown almost entirely on their own resources, and it was a matter of the utmost importance that they should be duly qualified and thoroughly efficient operators. If such men could be had in the Colony they would have priority over a stranger; but the efficiency of the line must be maintained, if it was to prove of any benefit.

MR. HAMERSLEY thought it would be very hard indeed if colonists did not have the preference to strangers, and he only trusted that those who applied for the appointments would not be ignored in favor of outsiders.

MR. PADBURY—referring to the question of a duplicate cable—expressed a hope that the Government of this Colony was alive to the importance of making every effort to get the cable to start from some part of our coast. If it should be considered that it would be better that it should start from the North-west coast, he did not think the House would be averse to sanctioning the extension of our inland telegraph as far as Roebourne. The Government should not be hampered in this matter, if it were found that such an extension of the line would be likely to induce the promoters of the duplicate cable to make any point on our coast a starting point.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY was glad to hear such an expression of opinion on the part of the hon. member. The Government were fully alive to the incalculable importance of this Colony being selected as the starting point for a second cable to secure telegraphic communication with Europe.

MR. CROWTHER expressed a hope that it was the intention of the Government to have the Colony represented at the proposed Conference on the subject.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY replied that His Excellency had already intimated to the Governments of the neighboring colonies, that, subject to the approval of this House, he would be prepared to send a delegate to represent the Colony at the proposed European Telegraph Conference.

The vote under consideration was then agreed to.

Item: Administration of Justice, £9,210:

MR. STEERE, alluding to the item "Sheriff, £300," under this head, said, unless he received some satisfactory information on the subject, he would move that the item be struck out. There was a rumour current that His Excellency was under the impression that there was no one in the Colony to fill this office, and that therefore another opportunity would be afforded the Secretary of State to make another appointment.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY said such was not the case. The office of Sheriff had been vacant for some time past, it was true, and a temporary arrangement had been made whereby the Superintendent of Police discharged the duties of the office, on half pay; but this was merely a temporary arrangement, to afford His Excellency an opportunity to look around so as to enable him to make a suitable appointment. Possibly, it might be found advantageous to combine the duties of Sheriff with other duties, but at any rate there was no intention that the appointment should be made in England. There was no desire on the part of the Government to overlook the claims of public officers who had served the Colony faithfully and well for a long term of years, either as regarded this or any other appointment.

MR. STEERE thought it very extraordinary it should take His Excellency four months to look out for a proper officer to perform the duties, and he could hardly believe that this was the real reason why the appointment had not been made.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY assured the hon. member that such was the case.

MR. SHENTON said the office of Sheriff was a very important one, and he thought the sooner the better some steps were taken to fill up the vacant appointment. There had been ample time for doing so, before now.

MR. RANDELL hoped that the Sheriff's office would not be amalgamated with any other. The Sheriff ought to be an officer altogether free from Government influence, and holding a thoroughly independent position. No doubt the

office could be filled in the Colony, and filled efficiently too; and he hoped no further delay would take place in making the appointment.

MR. CROWTHER drew attention to the fact that at the last session of the Council a resolution had been brought forward expressive of the opinion that the time had arrived for the appointment of an Assistant Judge of the Supreme Court. An animated discussion had taken place on the resolution, and an amendment was proposed and affirmed in which the House expressed a hope that the subject would receive the consideration of the Government. His Excellency in the speech with which he prorogued the Council intimated that the subject would receive his careful consideration. That being the case, he (Mr. Crowther) was free to confess that he was somewhat disappointed that nothing had resulted from that "careful consideration." No allusion had been made to the matter during this session, and no provision made for carrying into effect the expressed wish of the House. He was sure that there existed a general feeling, not only amongst hon. members but amongst the public at large, in favor of increasing our present judicial staff by the appointment of Assistant or Puisne Judges; and he felt much disappointed that no steps had been taken by the Government in the matter.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY said the subject had not escaped the attention of the Government, and His Excellency had still under consideration the question of whether there really exists any necessity for saddling the Colony with the expense of supporting an additional judicial staff.

MR. MARMION asked why the magistrate's clerk at Albany should receive £150 a year, while the clerks at Perth and Fremantle, the largest towns in the Colony, only received £100 each. He thought this sort of thing was invidious and unfair, and went to show that in the public service, as elsewhere, "kissing goes by favor."

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY said the officer who held the appointment of clerk to the Magistrates at Albany had been a long time in the public service, and, last year, representations were made to the Government in

his behalf for an increase of salary, based upon his long service, and the distance of Albany from head-quarters, which rendered his responsibilities greater than they would otherwise be. If hon. members did not consider him entitled to this increase of salary, of course it was competent for them to move that the amount be reduced.

MR. SHENTON pointed out that another clerk (Mr. Taunton), at Champion Bay was down for £150; this officer, at any rate, had no claim to an increase on account of lengthened service, and he would move that the sum be reduced to £100.

MR. STEERE supported the motion.

MR. BURT maintained that the salary was fixed in consideration of the nature and extent of the duties attached to the office, and not of the claims of this or that officer who discharged those duties. It should be borne in mind that both at Champion Bay and at Albany, courts of quarter sessions were held, which was not the case in any other district. He altogether disapproved of the principle of paying one man more, or less, than another in connection with an office where the duties were defined, and when those duties were efficiently discharged.

MR. PADBURY was of opinion that the public service could be carried on with half the present number of officers, but he would have the public servants whose services were really necessary well paid, so long as they worked well. Magistrates' clerks were, as a rule, underpaid; but there were others in the Government service who were much too highly paid.

The item "Administration of Justice" was then passed.

Item: Medical Establishment, £5,882.

Agreed to.

Item: Harbor and Light Department, £4,675.

MR. STEERE considered that the sum of £1,500 set down for the repair and purchase of boats for this department was three times too much for the class of boats required for the service.

MR. SHENTON concurred, and thought if any new boats were required at all, £500 would be ample to provide them. They could get two suitable deal luggers from England for that sum.

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TARY said it had been represented to the Government by the Harbor Master that a steam launch would be very serviceable to the department in many respects, and that a launch suitable for the purpose might be purchased in England at a cost of about £1,000. Such a vessel, in addition to the service she might render to the Harbor Master's department, might be employed in transporting produce from Rottnest to Fremantle, and in conveying stores and supplies from the main to Rottnest. It would also be of considerable service as a tug, and be extremely useful as a buoy boat; and it had been represented to the Government that a considerable saving might be effected if they had such a vessel. Apart from this, the boats now in use by the Harbor Master's department were worn out, and required replacing.

MR. SHENTON laughed at the idea of a miniature steam launch being of service as a tug. As to new boats, he thought £500 would be ample to cover the cost of two suitable luggers, and he certainly could not agree to the vote as it now stood on the Estimates.

MR. PADBURY moved, That the item be reduced to £500.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY said he held a tender in his hands for the construction of a buoy-boat, which, irrespective of a pilot boat, would absorb the sum of £500.

MR. STEERE: The amount is double what it ought to be.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY: If hon. members choose to cripple the service, let them do so, and accept the responsibility.

MR. MARMION: I think, as to the buoys, it would be better to continue to have that service performed by contract, as at present.

MR. RANDELL said he was of the same opinion. A boat suitable for a buoy-boat, for service at Fremantle, could not be had under £500.

Question—"That the vote be reduced from £1500 to £500—put and passed.

Item: Police Department, £22,650 ls.

MR. STEERE said he was surprised to notice a new appointment under this head, which he considered an outrageous thing in the present condition of the Colony. A few years ago, a promise was

made that in the event of a sub-inspectorship becoming vacant, it should not be filled up again. That promise had not been kept, as would be seen on reference to the Estimates under discussion. Probably at an early date—perhaps within another year,—a large portion of the expense now borne by the Home Government in connection with the police department would have to be borne by this Colony, and it behoved them to see that this vote was kept down as much as possible. The new appointment he alluded to was that of Deputy Inspector—an appointment which was totally unnecessary. He would therefore move that the item be struck out.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY said one would have thought, from the manner in which the hon. member for Wellington had spoken, that the vote alluded to was a new item on the Estimates; but it was not so. There had been no new office created. The only change proposed was that, instead of there being five Sub-Inspectors at £170 a year, one of them should rank as Deputy-Inspector; he was a very old, zealous, and faithful public servant. He entered the service as a clerk, and had he remained in that capacity he would now be drawing the salary of a second-class clerk at least, for he had been over twenty years in the service, and he had been promised, when he gave up the appointment to enter the police, that it would not be detrimental to his claim to an increase of salary, any more than if he had remained as a classified clerk. In the absence of the Superintendent of Police the officer in question discharged the Superintendent's duties, and he had always given the highest satisfaction to his superior officers. In asking the House to grant him a slight increase of salary, he was only asking hon. members to do a simple act of justice: the increase proposed was only £30 a year.

MR. PADBURY thought that, in the event of the withdrawal of the Imperial grant, we should have to cut down the vote for the "police" to one-half the present amount, at least; and he thought the House would do well to bear that fact in mind when dealing with this vote. We now paid the heaviest police tax of any country he knew: the proportion per head of the population in South Australia

was about 5s.; in England it was only 2s. 7d., and in the United States it was still less. Here it was about £1 per head of the population.

MR. STEERE intimated that, for the present, he would withdraw his motion relating to striking out the item "Deputy Inspector, £200," and would move, instead, that the item "Four Sub-Inspectors, at £170 each, £680," be struck out, and "Three Sub-Inspectors at £170 each, £510," be inserted in lieu thereof. The additional inspector was altogether unnecessary; in fact, these sub-inspectors rather interfered with the proper performance of the sergeants' duties than otherwise.

MR. SHENTON hoped it would be distinctly understood that the appointment of a Deputy-Inspector was an exceptional case, and one which must not be accepted as a precedent.

MR. BURT did not believe that sub-inspectors inspected anything or anybody; the very name stank in his nostrils. As to the amount of our police-rate, it should be borne in mind that our police force protected a country twice the area of England, and that a considerable proportion of the population were of a peculiar class, requiring pretty close supervision. Moreover, more than two-thirds of our police expenses were borne by the Imperial Government.

MR. SHENTON said he would support the amendment of the hon. member for Wellington for this reason:—when a resolution had been affirmed by that House, it should be adhered to. At a previous session, it had been resolved that as a vacancy occurred among the sub-inspectors, it should not be filled up again, and that resolution should be adhered to.

The amendment was then put.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY: This will alter the position and grade of nearly all the superior officers of the service, and I think, until I can refer to the head of the department, the further consideration of this item had better be postponed until to-morrow.

Agreed to.

Item: Gaols, £5,602 10s:

MR. RANDELL asked for an explanation as to the item "Expenses of Religious Ministrations, £100," which now appeared for the first time in the Estimates. Who

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: Rottneest 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 Rottneest.

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