

mates, and had agreed to the same with amendments.

The House adjourned at a quarter to twelve o'clock p.m.

## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

*Tuesday, 14th August, 1877.*

Message from His Excellency the Governor—Special Surveys in the North District—Mail between Geraldton and Sandford River—Mechanics' Institute, Busselton—Resident Magistrate, Roebourne: allowance for quarters—Salary of Inspector of Sheep, Perth District—Wreck of s.s. *Georgette*: grant to A. P. Bussell, Esquire—Library Committee: excess of Expenditure—Estimates: re-committed—Question of Grievance.

THE SPEAKER took the chair at noon.

PRAYERS.

### MESSAGE FROM HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR.

THE SPEAKER announced the receipt of the following Message from His Excellency the Governor:

"The Governor forwards to the honorable the Legislative Council communications which have been received from Messrs. James Lilly & Co., with reference to placing a second steamer on the coast, with a view to establishing through monthly communication between Champion Bay and Melbourne. Messrs. Lilly & Co. are not yet in a position to put forward a definite proposal. They anticipate, however, that a subsidy of £6000 would enable them to undertake the service, and will communicate in that sense with their partners in Melbourne on learning that the Government would be inclined to subsidize such a service for a term of three years. The Governor is in favor of the scheme, which, by dispensing with the overland mail, would cost only £1000 a year more than existing arrangements; and if your honorable House should be prepared to

provide the larger subsidy as from the 1st January next, he will endeavor to push forward the negotiations with Messrs. Lilly & Co., and to complete them as far as possible before he leaves.

Government House, Perth, 14th August, 1877."

MR. STEERE moved, That the Message be taken into the consideration of the House next day.

Motion agreed to.

### SPECIAL SURVEYS IN THE NORTH DISTRICT.

MR. BURGESS, with leave, without notice, moved, That the Council do now resolve itself into a committee of the whole, to take into consideration a question of expenditure relative to surveys in the North District.

Motion agreed to.

### IN COMMITTEE.

MR. BURGESS moved, That an humble address be presented to His Excellency the Governor, praying that he will be pleased to expend the sum of £1000 for special surveys in the North District during the year 1878. The hon. member said the House must be aware of the large extent of country available for settlement in the North District, and also that a very considerable quantity had already been taken up for pastoral purposes. It was clear that unless some steps were taken to define the boundaries of the various runs, a great many disputes must arise among the settlers. He had been given to understand that in some instances the present charts were no less than forty miles astray, which must necessarily lead to a great deal of confusion. It was therefore very requisite that proper surveys of the locality should be made, so as to enable the settlers to arrive at some idea as to the boundaries of their stations. He felt sure that the sum placed on the Estimates for survey purposes would fall far short of the general requirements of the Colony, to say nothing of the districts in the neighborhood of the Murchison, the Gascoyne, and the Ashburton—districts which gave every promise of becoming the most important pastoral settlements in the Colony. Hon. members should bear in mind that in expending money for survey purposes in these localities,

they would be facilitating the increase of settlement, which, in time, would tend to increase the revenue.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. M. Fraser), referring to the statement that the charts were erroneous, said the only charts at present in the Survey Office were mere sketch diagrams, compiled from reports furnished by explorers and by the settlers themselves. A large extent of country had already been taken up in the North District, and the various blocks had been defined to the best of their knowledge, with the scant information at their disposal. He was aware they were erroneous, and they could not be rectified until a proper trigonometrical survey of the country had been carried out. There were a great many applications now on hand for land in these districts, but, with the present imperfect information possessed of the country by the Survey Department, it would be futile to attempt to deal with them. Nor could this be done effectually, as he had already said, until the necessary surveys had been effected, which certainly could not be done without a further vote for that purpose. He could readily make the necessary arrangements for carrying out the work if the necessary funds were provided, and he hoped the committee would give the matter their serious consideration before they refused to sanction the increased vote which the hon. member for the North was desirous of obtaining for carrying out so necessary a work.

MR. PADBURY said, if it was for the benefit of the public generally that it was proposed to have these surveys made, well and good; there could be no great objection to the work being done. But if it was merely with a view to mark the boundaries of stations, and for the advantage of individuals, he would oppose the vote. He had had to pay for having the boundaries of his stations defined. What was wanted, if possible, was to have the country surveyed before purchase or selection. The longer this work was delayed, the more difficult it would be to overtake it. Every week, every day, would bring more complications into the Survey Department, until that system were adopted; and by-and-bye they would be in a pretty mess about these boundaries.

MR. STEERE regretted he could not support the vote. He had been rather surprised the other evening to hear the hon. gentleman intimate his intention of proposing an increase in the vote for survey purposes. He considered that the Survey Department already absorbed a good deal of the public funds—he did not mean to say it was more than was required, but it was as much as the Colony could afford. It appeared to him, from what he could gather from the hon. member's speech, that the object in view was principally to define the boundaries of settlers' runs in the district which he represented, which was hardly a work to be performed at the public expense. No doubt the Surveyor General would be glad if the House would increase the vote available for his disposal—he did not suppose the hon. gentleman would object if it were doubled; but the House was not there to consider the wishes of the Surveyor General, nor the individual wants of landowners, but to distribute the public funds to the best advantage of the Colony at large. However desirable was the extension of settlement—and it was highly desirable; and however necessary was the work of survey, and he acknowledged the necessity, still he thought that with the funds available for distribution the sum already placed on the Estimates for survey purposes was as much as the Colony could afford.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. M. Fraser) would like the House to understand that if the vote asked for by the hon. member for the North were not granted the work could not be undertaken, and the blame would not rest with him or his office. The cost of a proper survey of the district would not be far short of £1,500 or £2,000; but if the sum mentioned in the resolution before the House were sanctioned, the work might, with the sum already voted, be carried out, much to the satisfaction of the settlers and to the advantage of the public.

MR. BROWN said, although £1,000 was a very serious sum for this Colony, he thought the money would be well and judiciously expended. He considered the North district to be the very finest portion of the Colony, and the want of proper surveys must be

a great loss to the country, as well as a source of great inconvenience to the settlers. There was more land being occupied now than was being paid for, owing to there being no fixed boundaries. It was plain that this work would have to be undertaken very soon, if not next year; and his idea was, the sooner they commenced it the less they would have to pay for it.

MR. MARMION would support the motion before the committee. It was immaterial to him in which district the money voted for survey purposes was spent, but he believed if there was one district in which it could be advantageously expended more than another, it was the district represented by the hon. member who had submitted the resolution to the House. He thought it was very essential that the Survey Department should have something definite to work upon, so as to be in a position to afford necessary information, of a reliable character, to intending settlers. It placed the Survey Department in a very awkward position to have to confess its inability to furnish this information, when asked for, and it was a state of affairs that ought not to exist in a Colony which had been established over forty years. Although £1,000 appeared a somewhat small sum to accomplish the object in view, still the House had the assurance of the Surveyor General that, with the sum already voted for general survey purposes, he might be able to carry out the work.

MR. BURGESS said he had been somewhat surprised to hear the hon. member for Swan questioning whether the vote was required merely for the purpose of defining the boundaries of the settlers' runs—or, in other words, for private surveys. It was nothing of the kind. He had also been surprised to hear the hon. member for Wellington express an opinion adverse to the vote. The proposed survey was an acknowledged want, and when completed would add to the revenue of the Colony, as had been the case in the Tallering and other districts.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. M. Fraser) informed the House that arrangements had been made with the Survey Department in Melbourne to allow one of the officers

connected with the Survey Office here to be initiated into the process of photolithography, which would enable them to produce and supply maps at a much cheaper rate and with more expedition than at present.

SIR L. S. LEAKE said he rose with regret to oppose the vote under discussion. He said with regret, because he fully acknowledged that the work proposed to be undertaken was in every way a desirable work; but he opposed the vote on the simple ground that they had not the means to pay it. If these extra sums of money, for this and that district, were to be granted, then the only course open was to have recourse to increased taxation, and he did not see where that was to come from, unless it were from an extra duty on wool. It was a very simple thing indeed to move these addresses for grants of money, but it would not be such an easy matter next year to provide the funds. Already the House had voted a sum of £7550 for the Survey Department, which was a very large amount in one year for a small Colony like this—small in the number of its population—small in the extent of its revenue—but so vast in extent of territory. He believed it would take all the revenue of the next five years to do the work properly.

MR. PADBURY: If the vote is absolutely necessary, I shall not oppose it, but in my opinion surveys should be commenced nearer at home. I have had a piece of land in my possession over twenty years, and it is not surveyed yet. And there are thousands of acres in my neighborhood of which I may say the same.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. M. Fraser) said he regarded surveys at the present time of so much importance to the Colony that he really thought it was worthy the consideration of the House and of the Government whether it would not be wise and judicious to borrow money to carry out a systematic trigonometrical survey of the Colony. At present they had no good charts in the Survey Department, simply because they had been prepared without the requisite information and data, of the inadequacy of which he had bitterly complained. As he had always said, so impressed was

he with the importance of the work that if the necessary funds were not available out of the current revenue it was a matter deserving serious consideration whether it would not be advisable to carry out the work by means of a loan, which he thought would be recouped—not only the interest, but also the sinking fund and the principal—in the course of a few years. The rents accruing from lands in the Colony were now nearly double what they were a short time ago—a fact which he attributed in a great measure to the extension of surveys.

Motion agreed to.

#### MAIL BETWEEN GERALDTON AND SANDFORD RIVER.

MR. BROWN moved, with leave without notice, That an humble address be presented to His Excellency the Governor, praying that he will be pleased to expend the sum of £150 for mail service between Geraldton and the settlements in the neighborhood of the Sandford River.

Motion agreed to.

#### MECHANICS' INSTITUTE, BUSSELTON.

MR. GALE moved, in committee of the whole House, That an humble address be presented to His Excellency the Governor, praying that he will be pleased to expend the sum of £50 on the Mechanics' Institute, at Busselton. The money was required for the purpose of erecting quarters for the librarian, and for increasing the library.

SIR L. S. LEAKE asked if the institution in question received its share of the annual grant for Mechanics' Institutes?

MR. GALE: Yes.

SIR L. S. LEAKE: Then I think the adoption of the resolution before the House would be unfair towards other institutions of the same class.

MR. GALE: Many other institutions have had the same assistance extended to them.

MR. STEERE: I shall not oppose the present vote, but I should certainly object to its being made an annual grant, there being already an excellent Working Men's Association in the district. I think it would be unwise to encourage

such grants, especially where there are already other institutions of the same class in a town.

The House divided on the motion, with the following result:—

|              |     |     |    |
|--------------|-----|-----|----|
| Ayes         | ... | ... | 11 |
| Noes         | ... | ... | 6  |
| Majority for |     |     | 5  |

AYES.  
The Hon. M. Fraser  
Mr. Shenton  
Mr. Pearce  
Mr. Gale  
Mr. Steere  
Sir L. S. Leake  
Mr. Burges  
Mr. Parker  
Mr. Hardey  
Mr. Crowther  
The Hon. A. O'G. Lefroy  
(Teller.)

NOES.  
The Hon. H. H. Hocking  
Mr. Burt  
Mr. Padbury  
Mr. Hamersley  
Mr. Monger  
Mr. Brown (Teller.)

The motion was therefore adopted.

#### RESIDENT MAGISTRATE, ROEBOURNE: ALLOWANCE FOR QUARTERS.

##### IN COMMITTEE.

MR. BURGESS moved, That an humble address be presented to His Excellency the Governor, praying that he will expend a sum necessary as house allowance to the Resident Magistrate at Roebourne, not exceeding £50, and until quarters are erected in the district. As it was not yet decided whether the seat of Government would be at Roebourne or Port Robinson, and as, in the name of common decency, something in the meantime should be done to provide decent accommodation for the Resident, he hoped the House would agree to the motion.

MR. STEERE considered the motion a most unreasonable one. The House decided the other evening that no sum should be expended for this purpose until it was decided whether Roebourne or Port Robinson should be the future seat of Government in the North District, and now the hon. member sought to initiate quite a new system of house allowance. He (Mr. Steere) thought the House should set its face against such an innovation. The magistrate in question was paid a very good salary—higher than any other magistrate, and if he could not get better accommodation than was now available for him, how was he to secure it if they voted him this extra £50. The officer in question would probably soon be retiring from the ser-

vice, and the House would then be asked to compute his pension upon the amount of his salary, *plus* this house allowance—according to the interpretation put upon the Superannuation Act by the present Government.

MR. BURGESS said he had no wish to establish a precedent, as the hon. member for Wellington seemed to think. This was an exceptional case, and, under the circumstances he had already related, he thought the House might reasonably make some allowance.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. M. Fraser) did not think the hon. member was putting his case in as strong a light as he might do. It would be within the recollection of hon. members that the Resident Magistrate referred to, owing to his quarters being demolished a few years ago by a hurricane which swept over Roebourne, had been obliged to send his family to Perth, where they had remained ever since, no steps having been taken to re-build the Residency, or to provide decent accommodation in its place.

MR. CROWTHER thought the Government had done all that could be reasonably expected from them in this matter: they had promised that, as soon as it was determined whether Port Robinson or Roebourne should be the future seat of Government, suitable quarters should be erected for the Resident Magistrate. They had heard more about the discomfort of the Residency at Roebourne during the past few months (the term of office of the Acting Resident Magistrate), than they had during the whole period it was occupied by Mr. Sholl. He would oppose the motion on principle.

MR. PADBURY thought this was a question which might very safely be left in the hands of the Government. It was just a question whether an exchange might not be temporarily made.

MR. STEERE thought it somewhat strange that no complaints had been heard from the permanent Resident Magistrate of the inadequacy or unfitness of the quarters, but no sooner did his *locum tenens* arrive than the House was appealed to for improved accommodation. If that gentleman was really so uncomfortably situated as he was represented to be, it was somewhat strange

that he should invite a friend to stay with him and share his discomforts.

The motion was negatived.

#### SALARY OF INSPECTOR OF SHEEP, PERTH DISTRICT.

MR. HAMERSLEY, with leave, without notice, moved, That the Council do now resolve itself into a committee of the whole, to take into consideration the question of an increase to the salary of the Inspector of Sheep at Perth. Hon. members were aware that the boundaries of the inspector's district had been altered this session, and he found, on reference, they had been extended very much in one direction, thereby giving the Inspector a larger area of country to supervise. All the sheep of the Colony, when going to market, had to pass through his district. The duties of this Inspector were no doubt more onerous, and his travelling expenses necessarily greater, than those of any other officer of his class. Moreover, he was the oldest Inspector on the list, yet he only received the same salary as a young man newly appointed, which it appeared to him (Mr. Hamersley) was not fair. [Mr. BURT: Give him a pension.] He thought these Inspectors, like other public servants, ought to commence at a lower salary, which might be increased according to length of service.

MR. BROWN seconded and supported the motion. He thought very good reasons had been given why the Inspector's salary should be raised in this instance.

MR. STEERE was surprised to find so experienced a member of the House as the hon. member for Geraldton support such a motion. The select committee appointed by the House to consider the question of Scab, had submitted a report which had received the approval of every member of the committee, but it did not embody any proposition to increase this gentleman's salary. It appeared to him it would be very unwise and invidious to make any difference between the salaries of the various Inspectors. As to the assertion with regard to the Perth Inspector having so much more to do than the others, he (Mr. Steere) denied it. There was very little scab in his district, and he (Mr. Steere) failed to see upon what

ground he was entitled to any higher pay than any other officer\* of the same class. The House had already agreed to give each of the Inspectors an extra £50 for horse allowance.

The motion for going into committee was negatived.

**WRECK OF s.s. "GEORGETTE:" GRANT  
TO A. P. BUSSELL, ESQ.**

**IN COMMITTEE.**

MR. CROWTHER moved, That an humble address be presented to His Excellency the Governor, praying that he will be pleased to grant the sum of £100, in recognition of the services of A. P. Bussell, Esquire, and partially to reimburse the expenses incurred by him in rescuing and supporting the survivors of the wreck of the s.s. *Georgette*. The hon. member said the resolution was one that must commend itself to the favor of the House. Hon. members were aware of the services which Mr. Bussell and his family had rendered to these unfortunate people, and of the heroism which had been displayed by his daughter in the saving of life, and he did not think there would be a dissentient voice raised against the motion before the House. He would suggest that the Government should not wait for the Estimates now under consideration to come into force, before remitting the grant to Mr. Bussell, but place it at his disposal at once.

MR. STEERE had much pleasure in seconding the resolution, and in testifying to the valuable services rendered on the occasion referred to by Mr. Bussell and the members of his family. At the time of the unfortunate catastrophe they were in the midst of their extensive dairy operations, and, in order to render every possible assistance within their power to the poor people who had been cast ashore, they abandoned those operations, and turned their cows into the bush, entailing an actual loss of £60 or £70. They forwarded the survivors of the wreck into Busselton in their own team, and refused to receive a farthing remuneration. He was sure the House would be of united opinion that such conduct richly deserved public recognition.

MR. GALE said it afforded him a great deal of satisfaction to support the motion, for the object in view was undoubtedly a most deserving one.

MR. BURGESS did not rise to oppose the resolution, but it did appear somewhat singular to him that the House should one minute refuse to recognise the claims of a public servant who had sustained severe and irreparable losses by a visitation of nature, and yet in the next breath proceed to vote £100 in recognition of services rendered in the cause of humanity.

MR. BROWN did not think the sum mentioned in the resolution would actually cover Mr. Bussell's losses, and he (Mr. Brown) would rather see it increased, if possible.

MR. STEERE thought Mr. Bussell would be quite content with the sum named. He had told him (Mr. Steere) he would have been perfectly satisfied, (as regarded his pecuniary loss), if the Government had remitted him a year's rent, which certainly would have been a more graceful recognition.

**THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS** (Hon. M. Fraser): But illegal. I most cordially support the resolution.

Question put, and carried *nem. con.*

**LIBRARY COMMITTEE: EXCESS OF  
EXPENDITURE.**

MR. STEERE, in committee of the whole House, moved, That an humble address be presented to His Excellency the Governor, requesting him to authorise the expenditure of £141 8s. 5d., being the amount expended by the Library Committee in excess of the amount at their disposal. He believed His Excellency was quite prepared to sanction this over-expenditure—which, he might say, was almost unavoidable, as the cost of the books which had been added to the Library was not known at the time they were ordered—but His Excellency was desirous of obtaining the approval of the House before authorising the payment of the excess.

Motion agreed to.

**ESTIMATES.**

**THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY** (Hon. A. O'Grady Lefroy) moved, That the Report of the Committee be now adopted.

MR. STEERE, as an amendment, moved, That the Estimates be now re-committed, with a view, amongst other amendments, to ascertain the amount which the committee deem it expedient to deduct from the total of the police expenditure, instead of dealing with the several items of such expenditure as at present proposed by the committee.

The amendment was agreed to.

#### IN COMMITTEE.

*Colonial Secretary*, Item £951 reverted to:

Item "Two Third Class Clerks, £260:"

MR. STEERE moved, That the sum "£260" be struck out, and the sum "£250" be inserted in lieu thereof.

Agreed to.

Question—That *Colonial Secretary*, Item £941, stand part of the Estimates—put and passed.

*Colonial Treasurer*, Item £580 reverted to:

Item "Two Third Class Clerks, £280:"

MR. STEERE moved, That the sum "£280" be struck out, and the sum of "£270" be inserted in its place.

Motion agreed to.

Question—That *Treasury*, Item £570, stand part of the Estimates—put and passed.

*Police Department*, Item £23,162 18s. reverted to:

MR. STEERE said that in dealing with this item he thought it would be better to deal with the department as a whole, rather than with the various items of expenditure, as the Committee had done when the vote was under discussion the other evening. This would give more scope for the Head of the Department in carrying out the work of re-organisation, while at the same time he would be limited to a certain fixed amount. Possibly, if the House interfered with this and that particular item, as was done the other night, the efficiency of the Department might be impaired, and the House would be to blame. He therefore thought it would be altogether more advisable to leave the question of reduction and re-organisation to the Superintendent of Police, provided he kept within the amount voted by the House, which of course he would

have to do. To that end, he would now move the following resolution: "That the number of Sub-Inspectors be not increased beyond the present number of three (which was voted by the Legislature for 1877), and that the total amount to be expended on the Police Force during 1878 shall not exceed the sum of £20,000." When he mentioned that sum he did not mean that, if practicable, the cost of the department should not be less than £20,000, but that it must be confined within that amount. The House had already pretty clearly indicated in what direction they thought reductions should be made.

MR. SHENTON, in seconding the resolution, expressed a hope that the Superintendent of Police would be able so to economise and reorganise the department as to bring the whole expenditure in connection therewith within the limit of the sum mentioned, without at the same time impairing the efficiency of the department. He hoped attention would be paid to the Detective Branch, with a view to curtailing the expenditure in connection therewith, for it was a section of the service which the public generally regarded as useless.

MR. PADBURY was very glad the House had been asked to limit the sum to £20,000, though he would prefer seeing it reduced to £15,000, for he was perfectly certain the service could be carried on efficiently for the latter sum.

MR. BROWN would support the resolution on the distinct understanding that the Government were bound by that resolution, and not by any previous action of the Council in connection with this vote.

MR. BURGESS was in favor of the proposed reduction, being fully satisfied that it would in no way impair the efficiency and usefulness of the service. He hoped the Superintendent of Police would be able to carry out the expressed wish of the House, and keep within the limit of the vote; if he did not, he (Mr. Burgess), for one, would oppose any excess vote next session in connection with the department.

The resolution was then put and carried.

THE CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES reported to the House, that the Com-

mittee had re-considered the Estimates, and had agreed to the same, with further amendments.

#### QUESTION OF GRIEVANCE.

MR. BROWN rose to address the House on a question of grievance. He said: Last night the hon. the Acting Colonial Secretary laid on the Table what he styled a schedule, showing, as alleged, the whole of the resolutions which have been adopted by this House since Governor Robinson assumed the administration of the Government. The hon. gentleman stated we should find from that list that only three out of thirty-seven resolutions had not received the attention of the Government. At the conclusion of his speech the hon. gentleman, flinging the schedule on the Table, said, in effect, "if the hon. member did not believe his words, let him look at that." I have looked at it. I do not rise to tax the Government with having intentionally falsified it, but I say this—we have a false statement placed before us. I challenge the hon. gentleman to show me where the majority of the resolutions I alluded to last night are to be found in the schedule. Had it been a correct return, it would have been some answer to my accusation against the Government, but I find it is anything but a correct schedule. Where, for instance, is the resolution of the 10th December, 1875, with reference to the establishment of steam communication with the Straits Settlements and with India? Where also is the resolution of the same date relative to the necessity for more stringent regulations with reference to carrying out the provisions of the Act for licensing dogs? Where is the resolution of the 28th December, 1875, relating to certain land regulations for the North and East districts, and having reference to improving the position of the small farmer as regards the depasturing of his stock? Where, again, is the resolution of the 31st December, in the same year, relating to the subject of an increase to the judicial staff of the Supreme Court? Where the resolution of the 25th August, 1876, expressive of the advantage it would be to the members of Council, and also to the public, if

previous to the meeting of the Legislature in each year some information were given to the members upon the various measures which the Government propose to bring forward?

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. H. H. Hocking): It is there.

MR. BROWN: That having reference to the most convenient time for the Council to assemble is here, but I do not see the resolution I refer to. And even if it were here it does not disprove my statement that this is a false schedule—I know not intentionally false, but at the same time false. Where, again, is the resolution relating to increasing the vote for the purposes of coast survey by means of a steamer? I do not find it here, and the House is entirely ignorant as to what steps have been taken in the matter. Here, then, are six resolutions, at any rate, which are not included in the schedule submitted to the House in refutation of my accusation against the Robinson administration. I only referred last night to nine resolutions, and the schedule in no way affects my remarks with regard to the other three. [Having referred to the schedule, the hon. member corrected himself, and said that five out of the nine resolutions referred to were not embodied in the return.] Such a return (he continued) is incomplete, and is an improper one to be laid on the Table of this House for the information of members. The schedule certainly reflects very little credit upon the abilities of the gentleman who compiled it. It is even wrong as to dates, and is altogether such a paper as I am astonished to see placed on the Table of the House. I do trust it is not a specimen of the manner in which the public business is transacted by the Executive. Again, I object to having a word coined upon me by the Colonial Secretary. No doubt the hon. gentleman was somewhat hazy on the point, but I deny that I ever used the word "outrageous" when referring to the indifference of the Government to the resolutions of this House, and I was perfectly surprised to find myself charged with having made use of such an expression, which the hon. gentleman characterised as "disgraceful, uncalled-for, and indecent." Even had I made use of the language attributed to me by



the hon. gentleman, I do not think it would have been either "disgraceful," or "uncalled-for," nor yet "indecent." I think it would be well that the hon. gentleman should listen more attentively to the debates. I have no personal feeling in this matter, and I hope no other hon. member will entertain such a feeling. My own desire is to work amicably with the Government, against which I have no feeling of partisanship whatever; and I should be sorry to think that I had exceeded my duty in bringing this matter before the House. In conclusion, I can only express a hope that what I have said will lead to a better understanding between the Government and the House, which cannot fail to prove of benefit to the country at large.

**THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY** (Hon. A. O'Grady Lefroy): I can only say in reply that the schedule referred to by the hon. member was placed on the Table of the House, in the honest belief that it was a truthful representation of facts. The return is not intended to refer to every resolution passed by the House, but is confined to such resolutions only as were accompanied by an address to the Governor. [Mr. Brown: Question.] The hon. member himself has admitted that he does not believe the schedule was knowingly falsified, and I am glad to hear him make that admission. The hon. member knows me well enough, I hope, not to suppose I would lay on the Table of this House a false return calculated to mislead hon. members. It has been my desire, during the period I have occupied the position which I have lately held in this House, to discharge my duties honestly and conscientiously, and whatever my shortcomings may be I cannot be charged with not having acted with honesty of purpose, and with a desire to promote the interests of the public. There are certain omissions, I believe, in the schedule—I have not had an opportunity, myself, of examining it, and comparing it with the minutes of the House. As to the number of resolutions alleged by the hon. member as being omitted, namely, five, out of thirty-seven, that would, even then, leave a large majority which had received the attention of the Government. With

regard to the expression which the hon. member resents, far be it from me to attribute to him, or any other hon. member, any words which were not uttered by him. But I took this particular word down at the time. Of course I may have misunderstood him, and as he says he did not make use of the expression I readily accept his statement. I regret that any cause should have given rise to this discussion, but I think I have clearly shown to the House that there was no ground for the imputation that the Government had treated its resolutions with indifference.

**THE ATTORNEY GENERAL** (Hon. H. H. Hocking): The hon. member for Geraldton has been charged with "indecentcy." As the ladies' gallery is now empty we may enter into a discussion of the subject with more propriety than we could have done last night. I do not myself know whether the hon. gentleman used the word "outrageous" or simply "indifference," when referring to the manner in which the resolutions of the House have been treated by the Government; nor do I much care, for I do not think there is fair ground for any such imputation. A distinction must be made between a simple resolution of the House, and a resolution followed up by an address to the Governor. As to the former class of resolutions, I think all the House can reasonably expect of the Governor is that he should give them his careful consideration, but not necessarily take any action with regard to them. With regard to resolutions accompanied by an address, requesting the Governor to give effect to them, the case is different. Of this class of resolutions, I find that thirty-seven have been adopted by the House during Governor Robinson's administration, and those are embodied in the schedule laid on the Table. The return does not purport to be anything more. It does not purport to be a schedule of every resolution passed by the House, whether followed up by an address or not. With regard to the resolution relating to the issuing of more stringent instructions with regard to the licensing and destruction of dogs, perhaps His Excellency did not take formal notice at the time of this resolution; and, perhaps, it may be said he has not done so up to the present

time. But the complaint of the hon. member is that His Excellency has taken no notice whatever of these resolutions. Now, I think, looking at the number of messages sent down by the Governor to the House on this dog question, I think the House must be in a position to know what His Excellency's views in the matter really are. With reference to the resolution relating to steam communication with the Straits Settlements—and that resolution was not followed up by an address—the hon. member seems to be unaware that action was taken with regard to it by the Government: a notice was inserted in the *Government Gazette* inviting tenders for that very service. During last session the subject was brought forward again, and fresh action has been taken upon it. The Government have been in communication with one or two parties in the matter, and it was part of the Commissioner of Crown Lands' instructions when proceeding to Melbourne to see if he could get a steamer to perform the service referred to. So the matter has not been lost sight of, and the Governor cannot fairly be accused of having taken no notice of the resolution, although he has not thought it necessary to send any direct communication to the House, the resolution not having been accompanied by an address. As to the resolution relating to certain land regulations—adopted by a majority of one only, and, I think, without due consideration—representations were made to His Excellency showing the desirability of postponing the settlement of the question, and, in deference to those representations, he did so. And, in doing so, I think he acted in accordance with what he conceived to be the wish of the House, and in a way which I think would commend itself to every hon. member. As to the resolution relating to the railway to Guildford—that man in the moon scheme, as I have always regarded it—the resolution did not call for a direct answer; but I think it cannot be said that His Excellency has overlooked the matter. Hon. members are aware that certain requisite information relative to the proposed work has been forwarded to the Secretary of State, and, pending the reply, it was impossible that His Excellency should have brought forward any

definite schemes. As soon as he received a reply, he lost no time in communicating it to the House, and since then matters have been progressing in the way which hon. members are aware. The other day, His Excellency was asked to introduce a Bill at once dealing with this railway question, but he did not see his way clear to do so, and he explained his reasons to the House. Surely His Excellency must be allowed to have some views of his own, on public questions. He is in the awkward position of having to please two masters, or two sets of people, at any rate, and I do not think any blame is attached to him in this matter of a railway. With regard to the resolution referring to the desirability of increasing the judicial staff of the Supreme Court, that was not followed up by an address: it merely commended the subject to the consideration of the Government, and called for no formal reply. The hon. member is not entitled to say that this is a matter which has escaped the attention of the Governor or of the Government, without some further material to work upon than he now possesses. As to the resolution referring to the subject of amending the Education Act, that subject was not lost sight of by the Government. It was referred to in the speech with which His Excellency opened the present session, and I know the subject has been for some time under the consideration of the Executive, and of the Central Board,—so much so, in fact, that, for my own part, I am perfectly sick of it. It will thus be seen that the accusations levelled against the Government are without foundation, for, so far from the resolutions of the House having been treated with indifference, it appears that action has been taken with regard to almost every one of them.

MR. BROWN: One word in explanation. The schedule referred to includes—and very properly includes—resolutions of the same class as I complain of as having been treated with indifference—resolutions not followed up by an address from the House.

The matter then dropped.

The House adjourned at four o'clock p.m.