

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Tuesday, 5th September, 1882.

Kimberley Land Regulations: Stocking Clause—Field Allowance to Staff Surveyors—Privileges of Cutting Timber on Crown Lands—Papers and Correspondence relative to the Native Question—Estimates: further considered in Committee—Dog Bill: re-committed—Adjournment.

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

PRAYERS.

KIMBERLEY LAND REGULATIONS:
RETURNS OF STOCK.

MR. CAREY, in accordance with notice, asked the Colonial Secretary, "What steps, if any, had been taken by the Government to carry out the 13th section of the Kimberley Land Regulations (stocking clause); also, for a copy of the yearly returns, if any, of stock depastured on pastoral lands in that district." The other day, he gave notice of his intention to move a resolution on the subject of these Kimberley lands, but, finding he was not likely to meet with much support, he allowed the notice to lapse. At the same time, he thought it was very desirable the House and the country should know what was being done with regard to the Land Regulations, and especially the stocking clause. He might be alone in the belief—but his own idea was that there is a great deal of land jobbing in connection with the district in question.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Lord Gifford), in reply, said, "No steps had yet been taken by the Government to carry out the stocking clause, for the simple reason that it was not obligatory on present lessees to stock their runs prior to the 31st December, 1881, and after. The date, it must be observed, had been extended, in pursuance of a resolution passed by that House. As to returns of stock, no return had yet been sent in."

FIELD ALLOWANCE TO STAFF
SURVEYORS.

IN COMMITTEE.

MR. BROWN, in accordance with notice, moved the following resolution: "That in the opinion of this Council it

"is desirable that Staff Surveyors, when employed in any part of Western Australia outside the Central District, and south of the Kimberley District, should receive a field allowance, not exceeding 10s. per day, in addition to their ordinary salary and allowances; and, when employed in the Kimberley District, a field allowance, not exceeding 15s. per day, over and above their ordinary salary and allowances." He believed, after what had fallen from hon. members the other evening, when the salary of the Deputy Surveyor General was under discussion, in Committee of Supply, that there was a general feeling in favor of granting staff surveyors some extra remuneration when employed on special surveys, and also that, under other exceptional circumstances, they should receive something in addition to their ordinary pay. It would be observed that the resolution did not provide that 10s. or 15s. per diem should in all cases be allowed, but that the maximum allowance shall not exceed those amounts. No doubt some surveyors would get more than others, according to the nature of the work they were engaged in.

MR. STEERE was afraid if the amount was going to be left an open question like this, and no fixed scale allowed, the result would be that the surveyors would be allowed the maximum amount in every instance. He should like to ask the Surveyor General, whether it was not a fact that the officers now employed in the Gascoyne District did not get their horses and forage for their horses supplied to them, in addition to their ordinary forage allowance?

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. M. Fraser) said that it was so, in the present case. It was found it would be impracticable for the surveyors to take their horses with them, from Perth, and consequently arrangements had to be made for providing them with horses, and also forage, at the cost of the Government. In the other colonies, when surveyors were sent to new districts, where they had to put up with exceptional discomforts and hardships, they were also granted a liberal allowance for such special services, and he thought the principle thus carried out was a fair one. For his own part, he preferred the fixed allowance system

rather than the bonus system, and, as regards the present resolution, he was quite in accord with the hon. member for Geraldton as to the allowances which he proposed should be granted. Of course, if the Committee adopted this resolution, it must be on the understanding that these allowances were special allowances for the work now before us, and that the staff surveyors must not look upon these allowances as being fixed for any indefinite period. When the Kimberley District becomes more settled, and the work of surveying will not be attended by the hardships and drawbacks which attend field work in a new territory, the allowance for staff surveyors employed there would not be higher than the allowance granted in the other settled districts. But, in view of existing circumstances, he hoped the Committee would agree to the proposition of the hon. member for Geraldton, and he trusted the hon. member for the Swan would view it as he (the Commissioner) viewed it—a special allowance for special services.

MR. CAREY said he had purposely refrained from taking any part in the debate which took place on this subject the other evening, as possibly he might have had motives attributed to him, as other members had. But he was not going to refrain to-night from making a few observations, which, as an old surveyor himself, he thought he had some right to make. As to the hardships to which it was alleged our present surveyors were subjected to, those hardships were not to be compared with what Gregory and Austin had to endure in the early days of the Colony, when the special allowance was eighteen pence a day. Coming to a later period, it would be in the recollection of hon. members that the gentleman who conducted the Eucla survey party (Mr. Price)—than whom there were not many better officers in the service—was only allowed an extra allowance of 5s. per diem, and they all knew what hardships that party had to put up with.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. M. Fraser): He had a bonus of £200 as well.

MR. CAREY: When the work was done. I have no doubt this House would not begrudge a bonus to the

Kimberley survey party when the work is done, provided it is so well done as the Eucla survey was, and upon the same allowance. If, however, the bonus system is to be abandoned in favor of a fixed allowance, I quite agree that something extra ought to be allowed for field work in a district like Kimberley, but not in the Southern Eucla District. It was mentioned the other evening that the subordinate officers employed on the special survey in the North District were actually receiving a proportionately higher rate than the Deputy Surveyor himself, who was in charge of the party; but it should be borne in mind that these subordinate officers were not paid at the same rate when they returned to Perth, whereas the Deputy Surveyor General's salary continued the same.

MR. SHENTON thought the resolution ought to go a little further, and provide that these special allowances shall only be granted while the surveyors are actually employed in the field. He would therefore move that the following words be added to the resolution: "Such allowance only to be made during the actual time the Staff Surveyors are in the field, and employed on special survey, and not to include the number of days that may be occupied in proceeding to or returning from the field of their operations."

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. M. Fraser): I am quite prepared to accept that amendment.

MR. STEERE said that, under these conditions, he would not offer any further opposition to the resolution; but he thought with the hon. member for the Vasse that the special extra allowance ought not to apply to surveys in the Eucla District, for he could not conceive that surveyors in that district would hereafter be subjected to any great hardships.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. M. Fraser) said he was not aware that they were likely to undertake any surveys in that district; if they did, he was not aware that the conditions of the country had in any way changed since Mr. Price and his party were employed there.

The resolution, as amended by Mr. SHENTON, was then put and carried, and reported to the House.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. M. Fraser) moved, That the report of the Committee be adopted.

MR. CAREY moved, as an amendment, That the report be recommitted for reconsideration.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Lord Gifford) said he could not but think that the Committee had already arrived at a wise decision in the matter. The resolution, as amended, appeared to meet all the objections he had heard, and he hoped the hon. member for the Vasse would withdraw his amendment. One thing was certain,—without the services of these surveyors settlement must come to a standstill, and he thought it was only fair that work performed, under exceptional circumstances, ought to be recognised, in order that those engaged in it may be stimulated to do their work thoroughly.

MR. CAREY thought 10s. a day was ample allowance for any special survey. It must be borne in mind that these surveyors were not only drawing forage allowance, but also that their horses and fodder for their horses were provided, so that their ordinary forage allowance actually went into their pockets. Moreover, they themselves were even fed, and not only fed, but also allowed tobacco. He certainly had no intention of withdrawing his amendment to have the report of the Committee reconsidered, as it was his intention to move a further amendment when the House went into Committee again.

The question that the report of the Committee be recommitted for reconsideration was then put, and the Council divided, with the following result:

Ayes	10
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Noes	8
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Majority for	...	2
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AYES.

Mr. Burges
Mr. Grant
Mr. Higham
Mr. S. H. Parker
Mr. S. S. Parker
Mr. Randell
Mr. Shenton
Mr. Steere
Mr. Venn
Mr. Carey (Teller.)

NOES.

Lord Gifford
The Hon. M. Fraser
Mr. Brown
Mr. Burt
Sir T. C. Campbell
Mr. Hamersley
Mr. Marmion
The Hon. A. C. Onslow
(Teller.)

The amendment being agreed to, the House again went into Committee.

IN COMMITTEE.

MR. CAREY moved the following amendment upon the resolution previously adopted: "That in the opinion of this Council, it is desirable that Staff Surveyors, when employed in any part of Western Australia, outside the Central District, should receive a field allowance not exceeding 10s. per day, in addition to their ordinary salary and allowances."

MR. BROWN said it was admitted on all hands that surveys conducted in a district like that of Kimberley were attended with greater risk and hardship than surveys carried out in other portions of the Colony, outside the Central District; and if 10s. was to be regarded as a fair maximum allowance for staff surveyors when engaged in the Kimberley District, the allowance must be regarded as unnecessarily liberal in connection with surveys conducted under more advantageous circumstances; or, on the other hand, if 10s. a day was not to be considered too liberal an allowance for field work undertaken in any part of the Colony outside the Central District, it could not be regarded as liberal enough for surveys undertaken in a new district like that of Kimberley, with all its attendant dangers and discomforts. The hon. member for Vasse had referred to Gregory and Austin, and the paltry allowance which those excellent surveyors were granted in the early days of the Colony; but he would remind the hon. member that the Colony had lost the services of those men, and, unless that House was prepared to recognise the services of those who had succeeded them, he was very much afraid one should be losing them as well.

The amended resolution submitted by MR. CAREY was then put and agreed to, and

The CHAIRMAN of COMMITTEES reported that the Committee had reconsidered the resolution, and agreed to it with amendments.

On the motion of MR. CAREY, the report was adopted.

PRIVILEGE OF CUTTING TIMBER ON CROWN LANDS.

MR. CAREY, in accordance with notice, moved, "That an Humble Address be

"presented to His Excellency the Governor, praying that he will be pleased to obtain the sanction of the Secretary of State to such an amendment in the present Land Regulations as will provide that the freeholder of fee simple land, the extent of whose holdings do not exceed in the aggregate two hundred acres, shall have the same privileges as are now extended to Pastoral Lease and S.O.L. holders as regards the cutting of timber on Crown Lands for fencing and other improvements."

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. M. Fraser) said he was in accord with the motion, and that the object in view was a commendable one. The privilege granted to pastoral leaseholders in respect of cutting timber on the lands of the Crown was granted because it was considered politic to afford every encouragement to pastoral tenants to improve their leases, and the same privilege was extended to special occupation license-holders because of the obligation they were under to fence their land. But no such privilege had heretofore been granted to the holder of fee simple land. The contract with him was to sell him the land at a fixed price, and, when he paid for it, the land became his own, and, so far as the Government was concerned, there was an end of the contract. But he saw no objection to extend the same privilege to these people as to the other classes of landholders, as regards cutting timber for improvements, which doubtless would be a great boon to many small settlers. It would be a slight loss to the revenue no doubt, inasmuch as these people now, if they require to go outside their own holdings to cut timber for fencing or other purposes, have to provide themselves with a timber cutting license, and if the object which the hon. member for Vasse had in view were carried out, there would be no longer any necessity for the owners of fee simple land to procure these licenses. Consequently it would be a slight loss to the revenue; but, apart from that, he thought the privilege would prove a great boon and one that would be duly appreciated by the class whom it was intended to benefit.

The motion was then put and adopted.

PAPERS AND CORRESPONDENCE RELATIVE TO THE NATIVE QUESTION.

MR. BROWN, in accordance with notice, moved, "That an Humble Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor, praying that he will be pleased to cause to be laid on the Table of the House the following information relative to 'The Native Question':—*a.* Copies of all reports received by the Government of acts of violence committed or attempted by natives upon settlers and their servants, of whatever race, between the 'Murchison' and 'Ashburton' Rivers, from the date of the murder of Clarkson to the present time. *b.* Copies of all correspondence between the Government and the Police, and every other department, respecting the said murder, and a statement showing what steps have been taken to bring the murderers to justice. *(c.)* A copy of every report or written communication from any police officer or constable to his superior officer relating to the said murder. *(d.)* A copy of every report of depredations committed or attempted by natives on the Upper Murchison and between the Murchison and Ashburton Rivers during the last six years, including the destruction and wounding of stock, great and small. *(e.)* Whether the Government issued a circular order to Justices of the Peace not at any time to put in operation within the North district of Western Australia the provisions of the law relating to the swearing in and employment of special constables. If so, a statement of the grounds and legal authority for such order; Whether that order has been rescinded, and if not, why not; And a copy of such order. *(f.)* Whether the Government at any time directed Magistrates to discontinue the practice of issuing warrants for the arrest of native offenders and in lieu thereof to issue summonses. If so, whether such directions have been cancelled, and a copy of such directions. *(g.)* A copy of the charge contained in every warrant issued for the arrest of native offenders, on the Upper Murchison, and between the Murchison and Ashburton Rivers, during the last six years, giving the date of each warrant, and, if executed, the date of execution. *(h.)* A state-

"ment of every request made to the Government during the last six years to grant protection to the lives and property of the settlers between the Murchison and Ashburton Rivers. (i.) A statement of what constituted the "exaggeration referred to in paragraph fifteen of His Excellency the Governor's Speech to the Legislative Council of "26th July last." The hon. member said a great deal of dissatisfaction had been expressed for years past by the settlers in the outlying districts of the Colony, owing (so they alleged) to the Government not affording them protection for their lives and property, and time after time letters had appeared from them in the local newspapers setting forth what they had been pleased to term their difficulties. Lately, he might say, the subject had become the burning question of the hour, and there was a great conflict of opinion with reference to it. They found one section of the press supporting the cause of the settlers, and another section maintaining that the settlers had little if anything to complain of—merely some trifling depredations committed by the natives, which was but natural, and that, in a great measure, the settlers' difficulties, if any, had been brought about by their own acts or through their own default. To a certain extent there was ground for supposing that the Government sympathised with this latter view of the matter, and he thought the question had now assumed such an aspect that it was extremely desirable that all available authentic information with reference to it should be put forward. It was for that reason that he had moved for the production of these papers. With regard to (a), he was not aware whether or not the Government had received any reports from the settlers with reference to acts of violence committed or attempted by natives in the districts referred to; but, although he was not aware of it, he presumed that they had, and he had good reason for so presuming; therefore he thought it was desirable that the House should be placed in possession of these reports. With regard to (b) and (c), the reason why he referred to this unfortunate murder of poor Clarkson, and sought for this information, was this: it was, to his own certain knowledge, believed by the

majority of the settlers in the districts which were now known as the "disturbed districts" that there would be no difficulty whatever in capturing these murderers. This had been stated, month after month, ever since the outrage was committed. It was also stated by some of these settlers that the police who were sent up, or who were alleged to have been sent up, to arrest the murderers were under instructions not to arrest them, and that, on their return, they reported that they had come across the natives concerned in the murder, and that they could have captured them and brought them in, but that they were precluded from doing so by their instructions. He knew what little reliance was to be placed upon reports of this nature—in fact, upon the reports which were generally circulated in this Colony; but he also knew that the fact of the rumours in the present instance being believed by the settlers themselves had led to a great deal of dissatisfaction and discontent with regard to the Government, and he thought it was only fair towards the Government itself that he should state that he knew these reports had been circulated. He was quite sure the settlers, one and all, would hail with satisfaction any satisfactory proof that these reports were unfounded; on the other hand, if they were not unfounded, he thought there was good ground for dissatisfaction on the part of the settlers, at the action of the Government in the matter. With regard to (d), hon. members were aware from the reports recently received with reference to these alleged depredations by natives, that it was attempted to be proved that the depredations committed had been merely nothing, and that the reports to the contrary were greatly exaggerated. For his own part, he should like to know whether such was the case or not, and whether the Government had any reliable information on the subject. With regard to (e), this matter came under his notice some eighteen months ago, when at the Gascoyne. Being a Justice of the Peace himself he informed the settlers that he should be very happy indeed to do all he could in his magisterial capacity to serve them, during his short stay in the district. They at once met him with the statement that he could not be of any use to them,—that

he could do nothing, for the simple reason that there were no police constables in the district whose services would be available, and that he had no power whatever to swear in special constables, because of a circular order which, they said, had been issued by the Government, instructing Justices of the Peace not to put in operation within the North District the provisions of the law relating to the swearing in and employment of such constables. He had reason to believe that this statement was a correct one, and that the Government had issued such an order. It was unnecessary for him to say that he would not have taken much notice of such an order himself, still he should like to know whether it had ever been issued, and whether there was any legal authority for issuing it. With reference to (f) and (g), relating to granting warrants for the arrest of native offenders, his reason for seeking the information was this,—his impression was an incorrect one if the result did not show that very many warrants issued for natives who had committed depredations had not been executed for a long period of time afterwards; indeed, he should not be surprised to find that numbers of these warrants had never been executed at all, and that the natives in respect of whom they had been issued still remained at large, notwithstanding the fact that charges of a more or less serious character had been laid against them months ago. Perhaps this return, which asked for a copy of the charge contained in every warrant issued for the arrest of native offenders during the last six years, in the districts referred to, might cause a great deal of trouble to furnish,—in fact, it might be impossible to comply with the strict letter of the request made; but, it would be observed, he did not ask for a copy of each warrant, but merely of the charge in respect of which such warrant had been issued. He was under the impression that a copy of these warrants was kept, and, if so, he imagined it would not be very difficult to furnish this information, up to a month or two ago. Of course he only sought for such information as the Government could supply. With regard to (h), asking for a statement of every request made to the Government during the last six years to grant protection to

the lives and properties of the settlers in the so-called "disturbed districts," it was the duty of the settlers plainly, he thought—if the state of things in those districts was as it had been represented—to have informed the Government of the position of affairs, and to have made known their requirements, and request assistance; and he should be surprised if they had not done so on more than one occasion. With regard to (i)—a statement of what constituted the exaggeration referred to in a paragraph of the speech with which His Excellency the Governor opened the Session, relating to the difficulties of this native question,—he thought it was very desirable that the House should be furnished with this information, for it was scarcely possible, he thought, on reading that paragraph, to ascertain whether His Excellency meant that the depredations alleged to have been committed by the natives, and the reports as to their hostile and aggressive attitude, had been "exaggerated," or whether the exaggeration had merely been as to the difficulty of preventing these depredations; and, personally, he should like to know what His Excellency the Governor meant when communicating that paragraph to the Council. He had nothing further to say on the subject at present, and he trusted the House would assent to this address being presented.

MR. GRANT, in seconding the motion, said he did so with much satisfaction. A great many contradictory reports were in circulation with reference to this native question, while the remarks made with regard to it in the columns of the public journals were very conflicting; and he thought the time had arrived when the House and the country should ascertain what is the true position of affairs, and that the whole matter should be thoroughly sifted.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Lord Gifford) said it was not his desire in any way to oppose the adoption of this Address, but he thought it was hardly the duty of that House to take cognizance of every conflicting report which appeared in the public press, and, so far as the Government were concerned, he resented the insinuation that they had manifested any sympathy with the attitude taken up as regards this question by any particular

section of the press. So far as the action of the Government was concerned, he was there to answer for it. The Government had done all they could in the matter, irrespective of the views put forward by any portion of the press.

The motion was then agreed to.

ESTIMATES.

The House then went into Committee for the further consideration of the Estimates.

Survey Department, Item £14,063 (reverted to):

MR. CAREY advocated the claims of five of the draftsmen now provisionally employed to be placed on the fixed staff of the department. These officers had been in the service for a great many years, and were entitled to every consideration.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Lord Gifford) said their claims had not escaped his notice, and he hoped to be able shortly to place some of them at any rate on the permanent staff.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. M. Fraser) rose to make an explanation with reference to the special surveys for which provision was made on the Estimates. He thought the House would give him credit for being always anxious to furnish it with every information within his power with reference to the working of the department under his control, and, as he wished hon. members to thoroughly understand what was contemplated to be done with regard to these special surveys and other votes, he would avail himself of this opportunity to offer some explanation with reference to what was proposed to be carried out. It would be seen that a sum of £1,100 only was set down for special surveys of the country between the Murchison and Ashburton Rivers. This was the balance remaining between the amount voted last year and the sum which he had originally estimated would be required for this survey. He regretted that circumstances had combined to prevent the work being carried out in accordance with the original intention. A change of front had to be adopted, or rather a change of scheme, in order to meet the condition in which the district was found, which had rendered it quite

impracticable this season to touch the country between the Kennedy Range and the sea coast. Before proceeding any further, he might read a portion of the progress report which he had recently received from the officer in charge of the survey party now engaged on this work, Mr. Forrest, dated 9th August. (Letter read, showing the progress made with the survey, and that it was the intention of the party to be ready to return about the 1st of October.) As regards the horses that were taken up there by the survey parties now in the field, it was proposed to leave them up there, so as to be available for service again when the work is resumed next year. [AN HON. MEMBER: It's to be hoped the natives won't eat them.] They were endeavoring to overtake as much of the work as they could, with the money at their command, but he wished the Committee to understand that the vote was for field work alone; no provision had been made for plotting and charting, and, unless they encroached upon the vote for next year, it would probably be necessary he should have to ask for a small supplementary vote to meet this expense. The same remark applied to the Kimberley District surveys, for which a sum of £5,500 was asked for next year,—the estimate was for field work only. With regard to surveys south of the Murchison, for which only £1,000 had been placed on the Estimates for the ensuing year, he could only express his regret that the exigencies of the Colony did not admit of a larger sum being placed at his disposal for these surveys. [THE COLONIAL SECRETARY thought he could see his way clear to increase the vote to £1,500.] Even then he was sorry that they should be limited to that comparatively small sum, for carrying out this most desirable work. He had meditated a survey which, if the money could have been found to undertake it, would have proved immediately reproductive, in the survey of land which the Eastern Railway extension would open up for settlement; but he confessed, unless hon. members were prepared at the next Session of Council to agree to a supplementary estimate, he was afraid they would have to let some of the work stand over. The House, however, might rest assured that he would do the best

he could, with the limited means at his disposal. Hon. members were aware that he was not in the habit of exceeding the vote granted to him; and he thought he might, without being deemed egotistical or invidious, state that his reports furnished to that House were singular in this respect — that they showed in detail how every penny of the vote had been appropriated. With regard to the item "Meteorological Observations," hon. members would observe that it was proposed to increase the vote for this service from £200 to £300. He hoped the day was not far distant when we may have the means of so improving and extending our meteorological observations that this branch of the Survey Department may compare favorably with the meteorological departments of the sister colonies. There are now eight stations, at which daily observations were taken, and it was proposed to establish four more, one at Kimberley, one at the Gascogne, one at the Vasse, and another at Israelite Bay. It had also been suggested to him that it would be desirable to establish a station at the Williams, or rather in the country on the plateau on the other side of the Darling Range. He was quite willing to consider that suggestion, and possibly it might be managed out of the vote now asked for. The Committee would observe that there was a new item on the Estimates — engraving maps, £200. With reference to this he might state that he had an officer engaged now for over a year in compiling a map of the Colony, south of the Murchison River, on a scale of ten miles to an inch, which, when finished, would be a very valuable map. The triangulation of this part of our territory was now in such a forward state that he thought he was warranted in having this map engraved, and he found that the most economical plan would be to have the work done in London, in sheets. The only other item to which he need refer in connection with the Survey Department was the vote of £1000 asked for a geological survey, in connection with the proposed topographical survey of our Northern territory. He thought all hon. members were in accord as to the desirability of obtaining further information than we now possess as to the geological character of this immense territory. The

intention was that a competent geologist should in the first instance accompany the Kimberley survey party, whose special duty it would be to satisfy himself as to the mineral resources and capabilities of the country traversed.

MR. CAREY hoped that, before they passed this vote of £1000 for a geological survey, they would have some further information on the subject. He did not think, as the hon. member for the North said when he moved the Address in Reply, we wanted any more competent or incompetent men from "the other side."

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Lord Gifford) said he had an amendment to move in the item: "Surveys South of the Murchison, £1000" — that it be increased by £500. Hon. members were aware from what had already been said that more than £1000 would be required for these surveys, and he believed it was the general wish of the House that some additional field work should be undertaken in the more settled districts of the Colony, as well as in the more recently discovered Northern territory.

MR. SHENTON was glad to find the Government were prepared to expend a little more money on surveys in this part of the Colony. As for the £1,000 proposed for a geological survey, he thought, judging by the result of their past experience in this direction, the money would be far better expended in surveying the numerous blocks of land which in all probability would be required when the Eastern Railway came to be extended to York.

The motion to increase the vote for surveys South of the Murchison from £1,000 to £1,500 was then agreed to.

MR. STEERE said, with regard to the vote for Geological Survey he certainly hoped some further information would be furnished to the House before this vote was agreed to. Was it intended solely to defray the cost of sending a competent geologist to accompany the Kimberley party, or was some of it to be devoted to rewarding private parties engaged in geological researches? Or was any portion of it required for the upkeep of the geological museum which they were told was about to be established at Fremantle, but which nobody seemed to know anything about?

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. M. Fraser) said the intention of the Government was to secure the services of a really good man to accompany the Kimberley survey party, to report upon the geological formation of the country and the character of the soil. Not a mail passed but what the Government received inquiries with reference to the character of the country, but, at present, they were not in a position to furnish any reliable information on the subject, which, the Committee would agree with him, was a great draw back, in connection with a new territory like this.

MR. GRANT said he had been very observant of the result of geological surveys for many years past, and he was by no means inclined to accept the deductions of professional geologists as gospel. Something like thirty years ago they had a geological surveyor engaged in Victoria at the rate of about £2,000 a year, who travelled about the country in order to furnish a report as to its mineral character, and the conclusion which that competent man came to was that there was no prospect of gold being ever found in Victoria, especially in granite country, and he wrote a very elaborate report on the subject showing clearly, as he supposed, that his deductions were correct, and that his dictum was to be relied on. Well, they all knew now how valuable the labors of that competent man had been to the colony, and how correct his conclusions were. Soon after the publication of his report, the best of the Victorian gold-fields were discovered, and discovered in the very midst of granite country—hemmed in on all sides with granite. So much then for paying professional geologists to travel about and report upon a country. In Queensland, again, the same result had taken place,—the deductions of scientific men had proved erroneous, and the same in South Australia. Geologists never discovered anything which proved of much practical advantage to a new country: the most practical results were those which were the outcome of fossicking done by men who had some experience in mining; and, in the face of the lessons taught us in this respect by the other colonies, why should we go to the expense of sending a competent man, in the shape of a scientific geologist, to accompany this

survey party to Kimberley? What ground had we for anticipating any practical results from such an expenditure? Were it proposed to spend the vote in equipping and despatching three or four really practical diggers, to test the character of the country where there were any indications of metal, he should have supported the vote with all his might; but, as it is, he really thought it would be only money thrown away.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Lord Gifford) pointed out how the Colony was suffering through not knowing anything about the geological formation of this new territory. Hardly a mail came in but brought inquiries from intending investors on this point; but at present the Government could offer them no information on the subject—a most unsatisfactory thing for the Colony. The hon. member for the North might rest satisfied there was no intention on the part of the present Administration to throw any money away, and, if this vote were placed at the disposal of the Government, hon. members might rely that it would be expended in the way most advantageous to the Colony, by having a competent person connected with the survey party, engaged at a reasonable salary, to examine and report upon the mineral resources of the country.

MR. CROWTHER suggested that the vote should form the nucleus of a subsidy to provide regular steam communication with the district in question, which, in his opinion, would yield more satisfactory returns than any discoveries which a professional geologist was likely to make.

MR. MARMION supported the vote, on the ground of the desirability of obtaining information as to the mineral resources of the district, and in view of the fact that, as a survey party was already going up there, this would be a good opportunity for despatching a geologist to examine the district. At the same time he should be glad if the House could see its way clear to do something in the direction indicated by the hon. member for Greenough.

MR. BURT said the Government must not complain if the House tested the probable value of the services which would be obtained from this vote, by the services obtained from a similar vote in the past, and the experience then

gained. The result of that experience, he believed, was confined to a geological map prepared by a gentleman who was best known as Mr. Geology Brown,—a map which he would defy any man in the world, unless a born or trained geologist, to understand. The Commissioner of Crown Lands said people wanted to know from the Governor what sort of country this Kimberley country was. Of course they did. Let the Government establish some means of regular communication with the district, as suggested by the hon. member for Greenough, and people would very soon ascertain for themselves what sort of a country it is. People did not want to know whether it was of a primary, secondary, or tertiary formation, whether it was eocene, miocene, pliocene, or any technical rubbish like that. What intending settlers wanted to know was whether it was good grazing country, or good sugar-growing country. This "competent geologist" would only run about the Kimberley District like Mr. Geology Brown did about this part of the Colony, in a trap or on horseback, and eat bacon and eggs.

MR. STEERE asked when it was proposed to send the party up to the Kimberley District?

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. M. Fraser) did not think it would be judicious to send the party before the next autumnal equinox. The Gascoyne party might be despatched as early as January or February, and that for the Kimberley probably about the end of March or the beginning of April.

MR. CAREY, in order to test the feeling of the Committee, moved that the item "Geological Survey, £1,000" be struck out; but the motion was negative, the numbers being—

Ayes	6
Noes	13

Majority against	...	7
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AYES.
Mr. Burt
Mr. Grant
Mr. Higham
Mr. Shenton
Mr. Venn
Mr. Carey (Teller.)

NOES.
Lord Gifford
The Hon. M. Fraser
Mr. Brown
Mr. Burges
Mr. Crowther
Mr. Glyde
Mr. Hamersley
Mr. Marmion
Mr. S. H. Parker
Mr. S. S. Parker
Mr. Randell
Mr. Steere
The Hon. A. C. Onslow (Teller.)

MR. CAREY expressed a hope that the Government would understand and bear in mind that the feeling of the House with regard to this vote was that the money shall be expended in the Kimberley District, and that it shall not be wasted in the employment of incompetent men.

Question—"That a sum of £14,521 be granted for the Survey Department," put and passed.

Customs Department, Item £2,760:

MR. MARMION considered that, in view of the increasing importance of the work connected with the Customs at Fremantle, the officers there employed were entitled to increased remuneration. The business of the department had expanded very much of late years, with the advancement and prosperity of the Colony, but the expenses attendant upon working the department had increased but very little. Next to the Colonial Secretary's Department, he considered the Customs one of the most important departments in the public service, and one in which the duties were of a most responsible nature. He was sure that if the Customs House were at Perth, under the immediate eye of the Executive, there would be no necessity for him to advocate the claims of these officers; he was sure they would have received an increase of pay long ago. He noticed, for instance, that the clerk at Fremantle, who had very onerous duties to perform, was only to receive £175. In other departments, there was scarcely one officer occupying a similar position of responsibility who did not receive £200 or £250—in some instances £275. Then, again, he noticed that the Storekeeper, "A" store, was only receiving £112. The least this officer ought to get was £120. He had been a long time in the service, and was a very hardworking public officer. It should be borne in mind that the rates of wages had increased very much of late years. Even a man driving a cart got his 6s. a day, and many laborers received 7s. or 8s.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Lord Gifford) said he would have been glad to fall in with the views of the hon. member for Fremantle, as regards the Custom House clerk referred to, if he could have done so in justice to other clerks. This officer would receive an

increase in greater proportion than the regular rate, for it was proposed to give him £175 next year instead of £160. The Government were aware he was a good officer, and a hard worked officer; and it was proposed to lighten his labors by giving him the assistance of a probation clerk. As to the Storekeeper, "A" store, if it was the general wish of the Committee that this officer's salary should be raised, as suggested, from £112 to £120, the noble lord would have no objection in doing so.

MR. STEERE and MR. SHENTON expressed themselves in favor of the proposed increase, and, on the motion of the COLONIAL SECRETARY, the amount was increased from £112 to £120. One or two other trivial alterations were made in the vote, and, eventually, a sum of £2,768 was granted for the Customs Department.

Progress was then reported, and leave given to sit again another day.

DOG BILL.

On the motion of MR. STEERE, this Bill was recommitted, and some verbal amendments introduced, and agreed to *sub silentio*, the third reading being made an Order of the Day for September 6th.

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

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Wednesday, 6th September, 1882.

Bonus for Gold Discovery—Free Railway Passes to Members of Council—Competitive Examination for Civil Service Appointments—Salary of Assistant Colonial Secretary—Loan Bill, 1882: second reading—Legislative Council Act Amendment Bill: third reading—Excess Bill, 1881: third reading—Eastern Railway Extension Bill: third reading—Dog Bill: third reading—Trespass, Fencing, and Impounding Bill: in committee—Immigration: Report of Select Committee; further consideration of—Consideration of Message No. 7: Refund of Duty to Messrs. Joubert and Twopeny—Stamp Duties Bill: second reading—Brands Act Amendment Bill: further consideration of; in committee—Adjournment.

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

PRAYERS.

BONUS FOR GOLD DISCOVERY.

MR. MARMION, in accordance with notice, asked the Colonial Secretary, "Whether the offer of a reward of £5,000 for the discovery of Gold in this Colony is still in existence, and, if so, what are the conditions attached? Also, whether it is the intention of the Government to introduce a Mining Act during this Session of Council, and, if not, to inform the House under what regulations mining for gold would be prosecuted until such an Act is in force?" The hon. member said he had been requested by several persons who were concerned in gold prospecting just now to bring this matter under the notice of the Government. Many of these persons entertained very sanguine anticipations that we are on the eve of very important discoveries, and they were naturally desirous of knowing whether the offer of a bonus of £5,000 made by the Government some years ago was still in force. He thought it would be as well that, if so, the fact should be publicly announced, as no doubt it would tend to give a great stimulus to parties who were devoting a considerable amount of time, labor, and expense, with a view of testing the auriferous character of the country.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Lord Gifford) replied:—"The offer of a reward of £5,000 for the discovery of gold is still in existence, and the conditions are those advertised in the *Gazette* of September 3rd, 1872:

"WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

"Colonial Secretary's Office,
Perth, 2nd September, 1872.

"WHEREAS Gold in small quantities has been found in various parts of Western Australia, it is hereby notified, for general information, that the Local Government of Western Australia offer as a reward for the discovery of a workable Gold-field, within a radius of three hundred miles from any declared Port in the Colony, the sum of £5,000, upon the following conditions:—

"1. That such reward be not payable until Ten thousand ounces of Gold, either alluvial or crushed from quartz, and obtained from such Gold-field, be entered and cleared at a Customs House at some Port in Western Australia, and actually shipped to Great Britain within a period of two years from the date of the registration in