

No doubt the present Act might be improved in some respects, but the improvements contemplated in the Bill before the House did not commend themselves to him. The result of all the members retiring from office every year might be the return of fresh candidates utterly unacquainted with the work to be done. As to the election of chairman, he failed to see why the chairman of a board should not, as at present, be elected by the members of the board, who, in their turn, were elected by the ratepayers; the members themselves were, as a rule, better able to judge of the fitness of one of their number for the office of chairman, than the electors would be likely to be.

Amendment put and passed, on the voices.

### THIRD READING.

The Colonial Passengers Amendment Ordinance, 1868, Explanation Bill, 1878, was read a third time and passed.

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

## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

*Wednesday, 10th July, 1878.*

Railway Bill, 1878: first reading—Northern Districts Special Revenue Act, 1873, Amendment Bill, 1878—Eastern Railway Bill, 1878: first reading—Embossed Telegraph Forms—Mr. Browne's letter to the Secretary of State—Land Titles Office: select committee appointed to inquire into working of—District Roads Boards Audit Act, 1877, Repeal Bill, 1878: third reading—Estimates: in committee—Adjournment.

THE SPEAKER took the Chair at 7 o'clock.

PRAYERS.

RAILWAY BILL, 1878.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. H. H. Hocking) moved the first reading of a Bill to consolidate and amend divers

Acts now in force relating to the Survey, Construction, and Maintenance of Railways.

Motion agreed to.

NORTHERN DISTRICTS SPECIAL REVENUE ACT, 1873, AMENDMENT BILL, 1878.

Read a first time.

EASTERN RAILWAY BILL, 1878.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. H. H. Hocking) moved the first reading of a Bill to authorise the construction of a railway from Fremantle to Guildford.

Motion agreed to, and Bill read a first time.

EMBOSSSED TELEGRAPH FORMS.

SIR T. COCKBURN-CAMPBELL, in accordance with notice, moved, "That this House is of opinion that it would be desirable, and a public convenience, to introduce the system of Embossed Telegraph Forms, such as are in use in the Mother Country; and that the Government be requested to give effect to the wishes of the House in the matter." The hon. baronet said he understood that the Government, having heard the expression of opinion which was elicited on the subject the other evening, had already taken steps to carry out the wishes of hon. members with respect to these forms, and he begged to avail himself of the present opportunity of thanking the Government for the extreme readiness with which they had met the wishes of the House in this matter, as well as in the matter of introducing the postal card system.

Motion agreed to.

MR. BROWNE'S LETTER TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

MR. S. H. PARKER, in accordance with notice, asked the Colonial Secretary, whether a letter addressed by Mr. T. H. J. Browne to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, dated 13th April last, and forwarded to His Excellency the Governor, in triplicate, had yet been sent on to Downing Street, and, if so, when? And the reason for any delay.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy) replied that the correspondence of the Governor with the

Secretary of State did not pass through the Colonial Secretary's Office, but was conducted by His Excellency personally, consequently he was unable to furnish the information asked for by the hon. member respecting the letter referred to.

#### LAND TITLES OFFICE, WORKING OF.

MR. CAREY, with leave, without notice, moved, That the Order appointing a Select Committee to inquire into the working of the Land Titles Office be rescinded, and that this House request that the Government will take such steps to investigate the charges made in this House, as to the working of the department in question, as to it may seem expedient.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy) said he would like to say a few remarks in explanation, before the resolution was put to the House. He had been given to understand, and he believed it was so, that the members on the opposite side of the House had misunderstood what had fallen from the occupants of the Government benches, the other evening, when this question was under discussion. It was never intended to convey the impression that the Legislative Council had no right to cause an inquiry to be instituted into the working of any department of the public service; but that in a matter of this kind the proper course to pursue was to call the attention of the Governor to the matter with a view to the institution of the necessary enquiry into the working of the department. The House of course had a perfect right to appoint a Select Committee to deal with the matter, but he thought hon. members would agree with him that the better course to pursue, in a question of this character, was in the first place to call the attention of the Government to the matter, with a view to a thorough investigation into the working of the department the administration of which had been assailed.

MR. CAREY said he certainly had misunderstood what had fallen from the occupants of the Government benches the other evening, and had the action of those hon. gentlemen on that occasion been different to what it had been, he would not have adopted the course which he had adopted in this matter.

MR. BROWN said he had no intention

of opposing the motion for the discharge of the Select Committee; nevertheless he would have felt bound to have done so had it not been for the explanation offered by the leader of the Government. To have acted otherwise, in the absence of such explanation, would have stultified every hon. member who would have voted for the discharge of the Committee. If he could understand plain English, the House was told the other day it was exceeding its own province, and arrogating to itself functions which belonged to the Executive, in proposing to enquire into the working of any department of the public service. Plain and distinct charges—no vague generalities—were brought forward by the hon. member for Vasse against a certain department, which charges certainly showed a *prima facie* case against the administration of the office in question. The hon. member had in no way put forward those charges offensively; the course he had adopted was, in his (Mr. Brown's) opinion, a proper one, and he carried out his object most ably and at the same time in a most courteous and dignified manner. Throughout the whole of his remarks he was constantly interrupted by the leader of the Government, who endeavored to prevent the hon. member continuing his statement; and, shortly afterwards, the House was told it was exceeding its legitimate province altogether in moving for a Select Committee to inquire into the working of the department attacked. Were it not that he had every confidence that the Government, having heard the charges made against the department in question, would take the necessary step to investigate those charges, he would be loth to support the motion to discharge the Select Committee; but believing, as he did, that the Government would cause a thorough investigation to take place, he would withdraw his opposition to the rescinding of the order for the appointment of a Select Committee, and support the resolution before the House.

MR. CAREY: May I ask the attention of the Government to the wording of the notice of motion relating to the Registrar of Titles, with respect to the payment for advertising applications in the local newspapers?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy): The inquiry will be

of such a nature as contemplated by the hon. member.

The motion for the discharge of the Select Committee was agreed to, and the resolution requesting the Government to take steps to investigate the charges brought against the department, adopted.

### THIRD READING.

District Roads Boards Audit Act, 1877, Repeal Bill, 1878—read a third time and passed.

### ESTIMATES.

The House then went into Committee on the Estimates.

MR. CROWTHER: After the experience we have had in past years with regard to the Estimates, I am inclined to move that we pass them in a lump sum, instead of going through each item seriatim. Last year, after three or four days discussion, and the lopping off of £5 here and £10 there, the aggregate amount of the deductions made was only about £1,400 out of £175,000. It seems to me sheer waste of time to go through these Estimates, page after page, and item by item.

MR. CAREY: I quite agree with the hon. member. I do not think it is of much use our going through the various items at all. There are but very few, if any, reductions likely to be made, and even if there are, the Government will, no doubt, find the means, whether we vote the money or not.

MR. MARMION: I shall oppose the adoption of any such course as that suggested by the hon. members who have spoken. Whatever hon. members themselves may think, there are other persons to be considered—the public. It would look very bad indeed if we who are sent here as the representatives of the public, to watch over their interests, should consent to accept these Estimates in a lump, just as they are placed before us, without submitting them to any scrutiny. On the contrary, I think it is our bounden duty to go through each item carefully, and, if we do not succeed in effecting any reductions or retrenchments, we have at any rate the satisfaction of knowing that we have done our duty. I think it would be a very bad precedent indeed to adopt

the suggestions thrown out—merely as a joke, I presume—by the hon. member for Greenough.

MR. BROWN: It must be very satisfactory to the Government to have listened to the proposal of the hon. member on his left (Mr. Crowther), and to hear it endorsed by the hon. member for Vasse, that the House should accept the Estimates as they stand, without subjecting them to analysis or scrutiny. Such a proposal must show that the hon. members referred to are quite satisfied that the Government have exercised due care and economy in framing these Estimates, and that if the House goes over each item seriatim no reductions are likely to be made. I know that most hon. members have gone very carefully through the Estimates, and I believe the majority of them must feel as I do, that they have been most carefully prepared, and that no matter how long we may spend in discussing them, we cannot,—having regard to the interests of the public service and of the Colony, and considering the state of the revenue—make any material and advantageous alteration. It is not my intention to review the various items in detail, whether showing an increase or a decrease of expenditure, but I do think that in this matter the Government are to be complimented on the manner in which these Estimates have been prepared.

*His Excellency the Governor*, Item £313 16s. 8d. read:

Question—put and passed.

*The Legislature*, Item £670 read:

MR. CAREY suggested that the salary of the Sergeant-at-Arms be increased from £30 to £50.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy) did not think the hon. member would press his motion when he bore in mind that the officer in question held other appointments, and was not dependent upon the emoluments received in his capacity of Sergeant-at-Arms. He begged to move that the item "Cleaning, lighting, etc., £45" be increased to £65.

Question—That the sum "£45" be struck out, and "£65" be inserted in lieu thereof—agreed to.

Question—That "Legislative Council, Item £690" stand part of the Estimates—put and passed.

*Colonial Secretary's Department, Item £1,141 read:*

MR. CAREY asked for an explanation why the clerical staff in this office had been increased and the grant augmented thereby to the extent of £200 more than last year.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy) said the clerical work in the department was much on the increase, and that therefore it had been absolutely necessary to increase the clerical staff. (The hon. gentleman gave a return showing the amount of correspondence now carried on in the office as compared with former years).

MR. CAREY asked if the new item "One second class clerk, £220" had arisen in consequence of the promotion of any officer who had been previously employed as clerk.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy) replied that it was so—the officer in question being Mr. L. S. Eliot, late Secretary to the Central Board of Education, who was now acting chief clerk in the Colonial Secretary's Office.

MR. BROWN called attention to the item "One clerk and registrar, £160." He understood this appointment—which appeared to be a fresh one—had not been given to one of the classified clerks already in the service, but to an outsider. This sort of thing caused a great deal of disappointment in the service.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy) pointed out it was not every clerk who was capable of carrying out an efficient system of registration. The officer holding this appointment had been selected in consequence of his well-known skill and aptitude for such work. The system of registration previously obtaining was not one that commended itself to him (the Colonial Secretary), and a new and more elaborate system had been introduced. He did not think that among the classified clerks, an officer could have been found as efficient for this particular service as the person who had been appointed to the office.

MR. BROWN: Another illustration of the expediency of discontinuing the present classification system altogether. Clerks under that system naturally look forward to promotion, as opportunity

offers, as a matter of right, and such appointments as these must have a very injurious effect.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy): I quite concur in the hon. member's remarks with respect to the classification system.

The vote for the Colonial Secretary's department was then agreed to, as printed.

*Treasury, Item £800 read:*

MR. SHENTON asked how it was that the salary of the chief clerk was put down at £300, in the face of the discussion that took place in the House last Session, when it was clearly stated by the then acting Colonial Secretary that in increasing the salary of the gentleman then occupying the position of chief clerk—but who had since retired—from £250 to £300, the increase was not to be regarded as an increase of pay in connection with the appointment, but as a special grant in recognition of the long services of the officer in question. Yet in the face of this statement, which would be found recorded in *Hansard*, p. 115, he found the same amount placed on the Estimates for next year for another officer.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy) said this had been done with a view to call the attention of the House to the inadequate salary paid to the chief clerk in the Treasury—a salary altogether incommensurate with the responsibility which the position entailed and with the work to be performed. This officer, he would remind hon. members, in addition to his duties as chief clerk, also discharged the duties of accountant, and, under the circumstances, it appeared to the Government that the pay attached to the office was inadequate.

MR. S. H. PARKER thought it strange the Government had not thought of this, years ago, when they had the services of an excellent and most efficient clerk in Mr. Spencer, at £250 a year.

MR. MARMION: Then, I suppose, after what has fallen from the Colonial Secretary, in reply to the remarks of the hon. member for Toodyay, we may regard the classification system as a dead letter. This, at any rate, is a plain departure from the principles of that system.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy): As a first class clerk

the officer in question would receive £250 per annum, but in addition to the duties appertaining to that office he also discharged the functions of an accountant.

MR. S. H. PARKER called attention to the discussion which took place last year on this very item, as reported in *Hansard*. The words of the Acting Colonial Secretary were: "The officer in question (Mr. Spencer) was well known to every hon. member, as was also the efficiency with which he had for many years discharged the duties of Chief Clerk in connection with the Treasury. He had been employed in that office since 1853—nearly twenty-five years' service; and, latterly, not only had he discharged the duties of Chief Clerk but also the responsible duties of accountant. The proposed increase to his salary was not regarded as an increase of pay as a First Class Clerk, but in recognition of his long services and his duties as Accountant."

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy): I was quite aware of that.

MR. MARMION thought it was unwise, until they had a different system of promotion and classification, to make exceptions such as was contemplated in connection with this appointment.

The matter then dropped, and the vote was agreed to as printed.

*Audit Department*, Item £830 read:

Question—put and passed.

*Surveyor General*, Item £8,060 read:

MR. S. H. PARKER said the amount placed on the Estimates for contract surveying, under the head of "contingencies," always appeared to him a very large sum, and he thought it would be much better if all the draftsmen and clerks in this department were classified in the same way as the clerks in the other departments of the public service. Out of the grant of £5,000 voted last year under the head of "contingencies" only £2,400 had been expended in contract surveying; the rest, he supposed, had been divided between the clerks and the draftsmen, who were not classified.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. M. Fraser) said that shortly after his arrival in the Colony, in 1871, he re-organised the department over which he had control, and to that end he brought forward a scheme for the

approval of the House—and the principle was affirmed—that a moderate permanent staff be employed in connection with the department, but that the main part of the work should be done under a system of payment by results. That system was approved of by the House, and it had remained in operation since the re-organisation of the department, and been found to work very satisfactorily on the whole. He had no objection, however, if such was the wish of the House, to increase the permanent staff of the department by putting some of the officers who were now employed under the system of "payment by result," on the permanent list. The main objection to this was the fact that officers so placed would become entitled to the privileges of the "Superannuation Act."

MR. CAREY called attention to the gradual but steady increase which was taking place every year in the vote for this department. In 1872 the total grant for contract surveys and salaries of the permanent staff was only £5,000, whereas they were now asked to vote over £8,000. He could not think that the work of the department had increased at such a rate as to justify this greatly increased expenditure.

MR. BROWN asked if the sum of £150 set down for "forage and travelling allowances" to certain officers of the department covered all the expenses connected with the performance of those officers' duties?

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. M. Fraser): Yes. They have no other claim upon the department in respect of forage and travelling allowances, except in special cases.

MR. CAREY asked if the same remark applied to the forage and travelling allowances of the Surveyor General himself.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. M. Fraser): Yes.

The vote was then agreed to, as read.

*Customs Department*, Item £3,443 read:

MR. SHENTON called attention to the fact that while the chief clerk in the Treasury was in future to receive £300 a year, the chief clerk in the Customs—an equally responsible position—was only receiving £250, though, in addition to his clerical duties, he also acted as gauger. He thought the claims of this

officer, who had been in the public service since the year 1855, should receive the attention of the Government.

MR. BROWN said it would afford him great pleasure to see this officer's claims recognised, and his pay increased to £300. His duties were not less responsible or less arduous than those of the chief clerk in the Treasury.

MR. MARMION was glad to think that justice was likely to be done to this very deserving officer at last. His claims had frequently been brought under the attention of the Government, but heretofore without any favorable result; and he (Mr. Marmion) would be very pleased indeed if the suggestion of the hon. member for Toodyay as to increasing his salary to £300 were acted upon.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy): Any resolution of the House to that effect will be favorably considered by His Excellency.

The vote for the Customs Department was then passed as printed.

*Works Department, Item £5,660 read:*

MR. MARMION asked if the sum £600 for the salary of the Director of Public Works, and the sum of £150 for his "forage and travelling allowances" as Engineer, covered the whole of that officer's salary and emoluments?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy) said the Director of Public Works would in future receive a fixed salary of £600 (instead of £500 as heretofore), but no fixed sum would be allowed him for forage and travelling allowances. He would be merely allowed the actual expenses incurred in that connection. The hon. member would observe that the item "Forage and Travelling Allowances, £150," which appeared in last year's Estimates, did not appear in the Estimates now under consideration.

MR. MARMION called attention to the amounts placed on the Estimates for the various officers coming under the head of "Railways." These amounts, it appeared to him, were far too high, when the extent of the line (the Geraldton and Northampton line) was taken into consideration, and the amount of the traffic. There would hardly be any passenger traffic at all on this railway, and he could not conceive how such a numerous and expensive staff could be necessary to con-

duct the traffic arising from the transport of a few tons of ore. It was simply creating a number of sinecures—a system which the House should set its face against.

MR. CAREY said he certainly fully endorsed what had fallen from the hon. member for Fremantle, and he would propose that the first item on the list "One Railway Accountant, £250" be struck out. He was at a loss to know what on earth they wanted with such an officer in connection with a railway, only thirty-five miles in length, and where there would be no passenger traffic worth speaking of. One or two trains a day would probably be the utmost extent of the traffic on the line for many years to come. The other items in connection with this item were correspondingly out of all proportion with the work likely to be done.

MR. CROWTHER: Are these billets intended for young men belonging to the Colony, or are they to be filled by "competent men from the other side?"

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy): I think it would be rather difficult to find experienced and efficient railway officials in the Colony.

MR. CROWTHER: I allude to the clerks and accountants.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy): I expect these will be found here. The sole object of the Government is to secure the services of competent men, irrespective of which "side" they come from. I would ask hon. members to consider what it would cost the Government in the event of an accident arising through the incompetency or inefficiency of the staff employed on the railway.

MR. MARMION: If the hon. gentleman could show that there is any likelihood of there being sufficient work to employ such a staff as is provided for on the Estimates, I would be prepared to support these items; but, in my opinion, one half of them will be idle during three-fourths of their time. This Colony cannot afford such sinecures, and I shall propose that the item "£250" for the railway accountant be reduced to "£125."

MR. CAREY: I shall move, as an amendment, That the item be struck out altogether, and that £50 be added to the

salary of the second class clerk in the Audit Office, who could do all the work that would devolve upon the railway accountant. That officer has done the work heretofore.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy) pointed out that the railway accountant would not only have charge of the accounts connected with the Northern Railway but also with the railway they were about to start from Fremantle.

SIR L. S. LEAKE: I should be inclined to support this item as well as the other items on the Estimates in connection with the Railway Department. I would do so because the amounts are based upon the recommendations of the responsible head of the department, the Director of Public Works, though I cannot myself see that such a staff is necessary. But I do not suppose that the Government will throw these sums away broadcast, simply because they are placed on the Estimates; on the contrary, I trust they will exercise every economy, consistent with ensuring the safety of passengers and a trustworthy staff of officials, and that, by the exercise of judicious economy and a remunerative scale of charges, the railway will be made a reproductive work.

MR. CAREY then formally moved, That the item "One Railway Accountant, £250," be struck out.

Question—That the item proposed to be struck out stand part of the total—put.

Committee divided, with the following result:

Ayes	...	...	14
Noes	...	...	4
Majority for	...	...	10

AYES.  
The Hon. H. H. Hocking  
The Hon. M. Fraser  
Mr. Brown  
Mr. Brockman  
Mr. Burt  
Mr. Crowther  
Mr. Glyde  
Mr. Hamersley  
Mr. Harper  
Sir L. S. Leake  
Mr. S. H. Parker  
Mr. S. S. Parker  
Mr. Shenton  
The Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy (Teller.)

NOES.  
Mr. Marmion  
Mr. Monger  
Mr. Pearce  
Mr. Carey (Teller.)

Question—That Works Department, Item £5,660, stand part of the Estimates—put and passed.

Postal and Telegraph Department, Item £22,428 read:

MR. S. H. PARKER called attention to the fact that no provision was made on the Estimates for the payment of £25 to the Inspector of Post Offices, as in previous years.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy) said the office in question had been abolished, but he did not suppose the officer who had held it would have to suffer pecuniarily.

MR. CAREY said that as no opportunity would now be afforded him to move his resolution relating to the pay of the officers employed in the postal and telegraph department, he would, with the leave of the Committee, draw attention to the inadequacy of the salaries of the officials employed in country post offices, compared with the business done (as shown in the report of the Postmaster General) and with the salaries paid to officers in other departments of the service. At Bunbury and the Vasse, for instance, where the postmaster worked fifty-four hours a week, the pay was only £90 a year, whereas the clerks to the magistrates in those towns, who only worked twenty hours weekly, received £120—£90 as clerks and £30 as tide-waiters. The number of letters and newspapers received and forwarded at the Bunbury post office during the year 1877 was as follows: Inland letters, received 19,349; do., forwarded, 16,106; foreign letters received, 2,172; do., forwarded, 2,092; money letters received, 368; do., forwarded, 371; registered letters received, 249; do., forwarded, 291; colonial newspapers received, 11,637; do., forwarded, 3,741; foreign newspapers received, 3,263; do., forwarded, 680; packets received and forwarded, 4,042. This would show hon. members the amount of business done at Bunbury post office, where the postmaster's salary was only £90 a year. At the Vasse again, and at other country post offices, the pay of the postmasters was very incommensurate with the work performed and the responsibility it entailed. The same might be said with regard to the telegraph messengers and letter carriers. He thought the subject was one which

The motion was therefore negatived.

might fairly occupy the attention of the Government, and he hoped that it would do so before the House assembled next Session.

MR. S. H. PARKER called attention to the salaries of the three principal clerks employed in the General Post Office, which only averaged £220 each. One of these had sole charge of the Savings Bank, and the other was employed there as an accountant. If the accountant on the Geraldton Railway deserved £250 a year, surely the officer who held that responsible position in the head office of the Savings Bank was entitled to quite that sum. The chief clerks in the Treasury and the Customs department were to receive £300 a year, and he thought the claims of the chief clerk and accountant in the Post Office and the Savings Bank should be placed on the same footing, and that the other two senior clerks were entitled to £250 a year.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy) said the salaries of country postmasters were supposed to be based upon the amount of individual work supposed to devolve upon them, and if the Government were to agree to the proposal of the hon. member for Vasse, to increase the pay of the officials employed in the districts which he was interested in, other members would claim the same privilege for the districts which they represented. At the same time, he was free to confess that the claims put forward on behalf of these officers were entitled to consideration, and he would inform His Excellency the Governor of the feeling and wishes of the House in the matter. No doubt, if funds were available, His Excellency would be inclined to give the claims of country officials connected with the post and telegraph department a favorable consideration, and the result might be an increment of pay throughout the whole of the department.

The vote was then passed as read.

*Land Titles Office*, Item £860 read, and agreed to.

*Registry Department*, £240 read :

MR. S. H. PARKER called attention to the imperfect mode of indexing obtaining in connection with the registration of deeds of land, which was a source of great inconvenience to the Commis-

sioner of Titles, and indeed to everybody else who had occasion for reference at the Registry Office. Under the existing system, very little blame attached to the Commissioner if any errors were committed by him, and he would remind the House that if, in consequence of those errors, an action at law should be brought against the Commissioner, the cost of the proceedings would fall upon the Government, or, in other words, upon the public. He therefore thought it would be wise economy to introduce a more satisfactory system of indexing than that which was now practised. To that end he would be glad to see a sum placed upon the Estimates, in order to ensure a thorough reform.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy) said he was very glad the hon. member had called attention to the subject; it was one which had not been lost sight of by the Government, and the only question that stood in the way was that of expense. If such were the wishes of the House, he would be most happy—and he was sure it would meet with the full concurrence of His Excellency the Governor—to place a sum on the Estimates in order to ensure an efficient system of registration in the future. He did not suppose that any sum less than from £250 to £300 would suffice to carry out such a system.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. H. H. Hocking) said the great difficulty in dealing with the matter, so far as he could make out, was that no proper system of registration had ever been introduced, and therefore it would be necessary to go back for years past and to open fresh books, and commence indexing *de novo*. At present, it was a most painful drudgery people had to go through if they wanted to find out whether there was any encumbrance on land, simply owing to the fact that the Registry Office had never been conducted on what he might call a scientific principle. What was wanted was, to get hold of a proper system of indexing and to go back from the very beginning—a work which, although it would no doubt involve considerable expenditure, would in the long run amply compensate the public for the expense incurred.

The matter then dropped.



The vote for the Registry Department was then agreed to, as printed.

*Medical Department*, Item £7,092 read:

Question—put and passed.

*Harbor and Light Department*, Item £3,761 read:

MR. CROWTHER thought increased provision should be made for the payment of light-house keepers at Champion Bay, so as to ensure the services of skilled and trustworthy men to take charge of the very complex and expensive machinery of the light-house recently erected.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy) thought that an additional £25 might be placed on the Estimates for each of the two principal light keepers.

MR. MARMION would really like to know when the hon. members for the Champion Bay district would be content with their share of the loaves and fishes? There was really no satisfying their cravings. Anything they asked for was received with acclamation by the the Government, who seemed ever ready to comply with any demand made by the hon. members for the North. Why this was the case was beyond his comprehension, unless indeed it was the hon. gentlemen's good looks and generally smart appearance which endeared them to the Government, or that they acted on the old principle of "scratch my back and I'll scratch yours."

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy) said the light-house at Champion Bay was the most important light-house in the Colony, if not in all Australia. It was a most intricate, complex, and expensive light, and he thought it would be very unwise economy to run the risk of having such an apparatus damaged by unskilful or untrustworthy hands.

MR. SHENTON asked if the light-house keepers had quarters provided them.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy) said quarters were then in course of erection.

MR. BROWN pointed out that the Victoria district was the most expensive district to live in of any part of the Colony, and that consequently the rates of wages ruled higher there than in other districts.

MR. MARMION: Notwithstanding what the hon. member says, I shall ask for a division on the proposal to increase the pay of the two light-house keepers from £75 to £100. I do so in order to assert the principle that a line must be drawn somewhere against the claims everlastingly put forward by the members for the North to grants of money for the special benefit of the districts which they represent.

MR. BROCKMAN: As for myself, I am quite prepared, before going any further, to accept the various items on these Estimates as they stand. I so highly approve of them, in fact, that I shall oppose any alteration whatever being made.

MR. CAREY thought the light-house keepers at Bunbury and the Vasse had equal claims to consideration as the light-house keepers at Champion Bay.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy) then moved, That after the words "Champion Bay; two light-keepers at £75 each, £150," be struck out, and that "two light-keepers, one at £100 and one at £75, £175," be inserted in lieu thereof.

Question put, and Committee divided, with the following result:

Ayes	...	...	6
Noes	...	...	12

Majority against ... 6

AYES.	NOES.
The Hon. H. H. Hocking	Mr. Brockman
The Hon. M. Fraser	Mr. Burt
Mr. Brown	Mr. Carey
Mr. Crowther	Mr. Glyde
Mr. S. H. Parker	Mr. Hamersley
The Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy (Teller.)	Mr. Hardey
	Sir L. S. Leake
	Mr. Monger
	Mr. S. S. Parker
	Mr. Pearse
	Mr. Shenton
	Mr. Marmion (Teller.)

The motion was therefore negatived.

MR. CAREY: What about Bunbury and the Vasse?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy): The feeling of the House seems so much in favor of the Estimates as they are framed, that I should not feel justified in making any addition to them.

Question—That Harbor and Light Department, Item £3,761, stand part of the Estimates—put and passed.

Progress reported, and leave given to sit again.

The House adjourned at eleven o'clock, p.m.

## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

*Thursday, 11th July, 1878.*

Busselton Jetty—Health of Flocks in various districts—Small Farmers' Rights—Special Survey, North West Coast—Point of Order—Estimates: further considered in committee—Adjournment.

THE SPEAKER took the Chair at noon.

PRAYERS.

### BUSSELTON JETTY.

MR. CAREY, in accordance with notice, drew the attention of the Colonial Secretary to the necessity for extending the Busselton Jetty, in order that the Mail Steamer and timber ships may be afforded wharfage accommodation; and asked if the Government had any intention of carrying out such extension.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy) replied as follows:—"The Government is desirous of carrying out all necessary works of a public nature, but the extension of the Jetty referred to would cost £1,800 or £2,000, and the Government does not feel justified in placing such a sum on the Estimates for 1879."

### HEALTH OF FLOCKS IN VARIOUS DISTRICTS.

SIR T. COCKBURN-CAMPBELL,—in drawing attention to the returns moved for by him, and laid on the Table on Tuesday, showing the present condition of the sheep in the various districts of the Colony as compared with their state of health at the date of the appointment of the sheep inspectors to the new districts formed a few months ago,—said

the periodical returns at present furnished by the inspectors were not of such a character as to enable the Government to arrive at a valuation of the services of those officials. Hon. members were aware that there had existed for a long time past a very general feeling of dissatisfaction throughout the Colony,—and more especially in those districts which, though free from scab, were called upon to contribute their share of taxation—with regard to the length of time sheep-owners had been called upon to pay towards the eradication of scab. This feeling of dissatisfaction was intensified by reason of the prevailing impression that the non-eradication of the disease was in a great measure attributable to neglect on the part of the sheep inspectors in carrying out the provisions of the Act as they ought to be carried out. The House would be aware that last Session it recommended a re-distribution of the inspectors' districts and a re-arrangement of the then existing boundaries, with a view to enable a more constant supervision of infected sheep. And he found from the returns now before him that since that re-distribution some really good work had been done by the inspectors, and his object in drawing attention to the subject was to point out the desirability of such returns being furnished periodically by the inspectors, instead of the returns they were now called upon to send in, and which, as he had already said, afforded the Government little or no means of judging of the value of the services respectively performed by the various inspectors. From the returns laid on the Table the other day he found that, while the number of sheep in quarantine at the time of the re-distribution of the districts in October last was 30,000, there was very little more than half that number in quarantine now. In view of the desirability of similar returns being furnished periodically, he would ask hon. members to affirm the following resolution: "That the House is of opinion that Inspectors of Sheep should be required to furnish the Government with a half-yearly return showing the number of infected sheep in their respective districts; such return to be published in the *Government Gazette*; this House considering that such a return would afford a valuable indication of the work per-