

Clause 3.—This Act to be incorporated and read together with "The Masters and Servants Amendment Ordinance, 1868."

Agreed to.

Clause 4.—Short title:

Agreed to.

Bill reported.

THIRD READINGS.

The following Bills were read a third time and passed:—Customs Ordinance, 1860, Amendment Bill; Appropriation Bill (Supplementary), 1882; Tariff Bill.

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

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Monday, 14th August, 1882.

Bonded Warehouse in Perth—Eastern Railway: Platform at West Perth—Dog Bill: first reading—North District: Increased Representation; adjourned debate—Bills of Sale Act Amendment Bill: second reading—Scab Act Amendment and Consolidation Bill: in committee—Hawkers Bill: third reading—Masters and Servants Act Amendment Bill—Adjournment.

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

PRAYERS.

BONDED WAREHOUSE IN PERTH.

IN COMMITTEE.

MR. SHENTON, in accordance with notice, moved, "That an Humble Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor, praying that he will be pleased to place on the Estimates a sum sufficient to defray the cost of the construction of a bonded warehouse in the city of Perth." The hon. member said he had brought forward the resolution principally in the interests of the business men of the metropolis, who at the present time were placed under very great disadvantages, owing

to the bonded store being at Fremantle, thereby causing much unnecessary delay and great inconvenience, owing to the loss of time entailed upon city merchants, and also country traders having business connections with Perth, who, instead of being able to clear their goods in Perth, were obliged to go all the way to Fremantle to do so. These difficulties and drawbacks might be got over if there was a bonded warehouse in the city. Some objection might be raised to this proposal on the ground of the expense; but he had no wish to involve the Government in any great expense, nor did he see any necessity for it, for it appeared to him all the staff that would be required to meet present requirements would be an issuing clerk. It might be said that one issuing clerk would not be enough, to take charge of so important an establishment, and the custody of such a large quantity of merchandise, but the responsibility might be removed from the shoulders of this officer to the Treasury, by declaring it a Customs Office under the Act. In that case entries might be passed at the Treasury, and an order issued from that office to the bonded storeman to deliver goods. The same principle was in operation at Fremantle, where people obtained their orders for delivery from bond at the Customs house. As to the best position for a bonded store in Perth, he had consulted the leading merchants of the city and also of country districts, and all agreed that the most suitable spot would be on the railway reserve, so as to be in direct communication by rail with the "A" store and the jetties at Fremantle; and, when the line is extended to the Eastern Districts, it would be very convenient for forwarding goods cleared, direct to their destination. It might be said that instead of asking the Government to provide a bonded store at Perth, the local merchants might be allowed to have their own stores utilised for that purpose. So far as he was concerned, he would be in favor of such a proposal, but he believed it was not likely to meet with general approval, owing to the expense of supervision. He thought the business people of Perth had a very good right to ask for this concession, for he believed—and he said, it advisedly—that at least one third of the Customs duties

paid at Fremantle were contributed by Perth merchants and storekeepers. Another argument in favor of the motion was the fact that the Customs business at the port was increasing daily, and the premises there available for a bonded store would soon be altogether inadequate to meet the growing requirements of the trade of the two towns.

MR. MARMION moved, as an amendment, "That all the words after the word 'That' be struck out, and the following 'be inserted in lieu thereof:—'In the 'opinion of this Committee it is not 'advisable to divide the supervision of 'the Customs Department over goods 'landed under bond at Fremantle, and 'that the institution of a bonded warehouse at Perth would cause such a 'division of supervision and have the 'effect of creating a new department, 'which would quickly develop itself into 'a most expensive luxury, without 'giving to the general community any 'corresponding advantages.'" The hon. member said the amendment spoke pretty well for itself. The proposition of the hon. member for Newcastle might, at first sight, appear a very simple one, but it would very soon be found that eventually the result would be the creation of a fresh department, with a numerous and costly staff. He thought there was less necessity for having a bonded warehouse at Perth, now that merchants had the facilities of telegraphic and railway communication, than there was when no such means of communication and quick transport was within their reach. Possibly, all the city business people would not get their goods by rail, but by water, and this would necessitate another staff of tide-waiters on the jetty,—in fact there was no saying where the expense would end, and he really failed to see any pressing necessity for it. The staff at Fremantle would have to be kept up at its present strength whether there was a bonded store at Perth or not, and, altogether, he thought the hon. member who had brought forward the subject had not succeeded in showing that there was such an urgent necessity for providing city merchants with this increased accommodation as would justify the Government and the Legislature in incurring the expense which it must undoubtedly involve.

MR. SHENTON said, as to the necessity of having tide-waiters on the river jetty at Perth to check goods, he understood the Customs Ordinance rendered it compulsory for all imported goods to be landed at Fremantle, in the first instance. As to the necessity for any large staff at Perth, he failed to see it at all: there would be no difficulty whatever in having entries passed at the Treasury.

MR. GLYDE said he would like to say a few words in favor of the address. He quite agreed with what had fallen from the hon. member for Toodyay, as to the advantages which would accrue to business people in Perth, and also to country people who were in the habit of importing goods, if they could clear them without going to Fremantle. For years past he had seen the necessity of having a bonded warehouse in the city, and he was very glad indeed that the subject had been brought to the attention of the House and of the Government.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Lord Gifford) said it was not his intention in any way to oppose the address, but the question of whether there should be a bonded warehouse erected at Perth would depend, in some measure, upon whether there would be any funds available for doing so, and also for meeting the expense of maintaining the necessary staff for conducting such an establishment.

Question put—"That the words proposed to be struck out stand part of the Resolution"—whereupon the Committee divided, with the following result:

Ayes	9
Noes	8
Majority for	1

AYES.	NOES.
Lord Gifford	Mr. Brown
The Hon. A. C. Onslow	Mr. Burges
The Hon. M. Fraser	Mr. Grant
Mr. Carey	Mr. Higham
Mr. Crowther	Mr. Randell
Mr. Glyde	Mr. Steere
Mr. S. H. Parker	Mr. Venn
Mr. S. S. Parker	Mr. Marmion (Teller.)
Mr. Shenton (Teller.)	

The original resolution was then put and carried.

EASTERN RAILWAY: PLATFORM AT WEST PERTH.

MR. S. H. PARKER, in accordance with notice, moved the following resolution: "That in the opinion of this

"House a platform in Melbourne Street would not be of that general advantage and convenience to the public as one 'situate near Dyer Street.'" The hon. member said a petition on the subject had been addressed by the residents of the locality in question to the Acting Commissioner of Railways, who appeared to concur with the memorialists as to the suitability of the spot in question for a platform.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Lord Gifford) said no doubt Dyer street offered greater facilities for the market gardeners of the neighborhood than Melbourne street would, but there was an objection to the former site by reason of its being at the bottom of a steep incline.

MR. RANDELL thought the matter might safely be left to the discretion of the Government, who, it appeared, fully recognised the necessity for increased platform accommodation. He would therefore move, as an amendment: "That 'the position of the platforms to be erected on the Eastern Railway, in 'North-west and East Perth, be left to 'the discretion of the Government.'" If this were done, no doubt the interests of all parties, and not market gardeners alone, would be consulted.

MR. BURT concurred as to the expediency of leaving the matter to be dealt with by the Executive Government. At the same time, he would point out that the greater the number of platforms the longer would be the time occupied in travelling between Perth and Fremantle, and the advantages of railway travelling would be reduced to a minimum. It now took nearly as long to go by rail as by road, and, if they were going to multiply these platforms to meet the conveniences of every locality, people who wished to save time would take the road instead of the rail. He thought there ought to be some through trains, running direct, without stopping at intermediate stations, and he would suggest to the Government the desirability of running such trains, at convenient hours.

MR. MARMION said the suggestion was a very valuable one, especially to business people. There might be at least two direct trains daily between Guildford and Fremantle, without stoppage except at Perth.

MR. S. H. PARKER said he could not accept the amendment submitted by Mr. Randell as it virtually negated the proposition that a platform in Melbourne street would not be so advantageous and convenient to the public as the one in Dyer street.

MR. SHENTON suggested that the further consideration of the question be postponed, in order to ascertain the views of the Commissioner of Railways on the subject.

MR. CAREY moved, That the debate be adjourned until Monday, 21st August. This was agreed to.

DOG BILL.

MR. STEERE, in accordance with notice, moved for leave to introduce a Bill to amend the law relating to dogs.

Leave given, and Bill read a first time.

NORTH DISTRICT: INCREASED REPRESENTATION.

ADJOURNED DEBATE.

MR. S. H. PARKER—who had moved the adjournment of the debate on the motion of the hon. member for the North in favor of granting two additional members for that district—said he now rose to move an amendment on the original motion. It was an amendment which he did not think the hon. member for the North would object to, for it granted all he had asked for, and merely sought to extend the same privilege as regards increased representation to other districts, in this part of the Colony. At a consultation held by several hon. members, the conclusion was arrived at that if the House dealt with the Constitution Bill at all it would be better to deal with it in a comprehensive manner, and that not only the wants of the North District as regards additional representation be supplied, but also the wants of other districts, in the Southern portion of the Colony. The conclusion arrived at was that those districts should comprise the Williams (now united with the Murray electorate), on the one hand, and the Victoria Plains District (now forming part of the Toodyay electorate), on the other hand; and the object of the amendment he had to propose was to constitute these two important districts separate electorates, each to return a

member of its own. It would not be denied that the Williams was a very extensive, important, and growing district; and that, merged as it was, as regards a considerable part of it, in the Wellington electorate, with which it had nothing in common, and situated as it was at so great a distance from the place of election, the result was that the district was in a great measure unrepresented. The Victoria Plains District was also a very important and extensive district, and there was a general opinion in favor of giving it a representative of its own. These two additional members would in no way interfere with the claims of the North District to increased representation, and would give that House four additional elected members, which would afford the Governor the right of appointing two more. They would then have a Council of twenty-seven members, or an increase of six over the present number; which increase could not fail to add to the influence and importance of the House as a legislative assembly. He might add that the amendment which he was about to propose had been brought forward by him at the request of the hon. member for the Swan, who, having already spoken in the course of the debate, was unable to address the House again with reference to the original motion, or to submit the amendment himself. With regard to the North District, he might say that in his opinion that district was well deserving of increased representation, as advocated by the hon. member, but not so much on account of its population as of the vast amount of revenue which it yielded to the public exchequer. The amendment he had to submit was as follows:—"That an Humble Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor, praying that he will be pleased to bring in a Bill to increase the number of Members to serve in the Legislative Council, four of whom shall be elected to represent the following districts, viz.: one additional member for the North District; one member for the Gascoyne District; one member for the Victoria Plains District; and one member for the Williams District. The boundaries for the above districts to be as follows:—The North District to be bounded on the North and West

"by the Sea Coast, and on the South by the Ashburton River from its mouth upwards to its source (inclusive of all locations and leased lands on both its banks), and then by a due East line. The Gascoyne District to be bounded on the North by the Southern boundary of the North District; on the West by the sea coast; and on the South by the Northern boundary of the Geraldton District. The Victoria Plains District to be bounded on the North by the 30th degree of south latitude; on the West by the sea coast; on the South by a line from the mouth of the Moore river to the North end of Lake Bamber; thence E.N.E. to Bolgart; and on the East by a line from Bolgart to the Wongan Hills; thence by a due East line. The Williams District to be bounded on the North by the Southern boundary of the York District; on the West by the Hotham River downwards from its head to its junction with the Murray; then along Monger's Brook and the Hillman River to its junction with the Arthur; then down the Arthur River to its junction with the Balgarrup River (inclusive of all locations and leased lands on both banks of the said rivers); then by the East boundary of the Vasse District to the 34th degree of south latitude; and on the South by the 34th degree of south latitude."

SIR T. COCKBURN-CAMPBELL seconded the amendment. In doing so, he wished in the first place to say that he had not the slightest intention—nor did he think had those hon. members who would support the amendment the slightest intention—of endeavoring by this means to neutralise the effect of the larger representation which was proposed to be given to the North. He believed it had entered into the minds of some hon. members that this proposition to give increased representation to the South was put forward with that idea; but, for his own part, it was the last thing he should like to see done, for he thought it was to the interests of the South as well as of the North that the latter should exercise a larger influence in that House. The hon. member for the North, who moved the substantive motion, and (he believed) the hon. member for Geraldton who seconded it,

spoke of the possible separation of the North from the South in the future; and most hon. members were perfectly well aware of what are the intentions of the Home Government, in the event of certain possible future circumstances arising. Some hon. members of the House had had an opportunity of personally hearing from the Secretary of State what were the views entertained by the Imperial Government on this question of separation. But that was a question, at present, of future intention only; and he did not think it would be for the interest of the North itself, for many years to come, to sever its connection with the South, and to become a purely Crown Colony; and, most decidedly, it was not in the interest of the South that the North should separate from it. But hon. members must all be aware that the only possible way of ensuring that such an event shall not take place is by giving the North what is due to her, and seeing that her interests are properly cared for. For that reason, he thought it was extremely desirable to give the district this increased representation. He did not think this was necessary because the present members of that House had not the interests of the North at heart. He considered that, in the past, the North had been neglected, but, at present, he thought hon. members were anxious to do all they could to do justice to that part of the Colony. The revenue we were now receiving from the country North of the Murchison amounted to something like £60,000, and, if they looked at the small number of people who contributed this enormous amount of revenue, it would be seen what immense capabilities that part of the Colony possesses,—capabilities the development of which had only just been commenced. But the reason he supported the amendment was because he thought that, now, while we were about to give the North increased representation, it would be a good opportunity to do what it had been considered advisable should be done for some time past, and that was, to slightly increase the representation of certain districts in the South. The hon. member for Geraldton, when seconding the resolution of the hon. member for the North, spoke of the preponderance of town influence in the

House; but he (the hon. baronet) did not think there was a preponderance of town influence in the way he understood the hon. member to mean. He did not think the interests of the towns received greater consideration in that House than the interests of the country. [Mr. BROWN: I never said they did.] Then he had misunderstood the hon. member. No doubt the voting power of the towns was infinitely greater than the voting power of the country, and it could not be denied that the greater part of the members of the House were, as a matter of fact, elected by the towns; he thought it was highly desirable, therefore, that certain country interests should have a larger direct representation in the House than they had at present. He believed it was three years ago, at the time of the last general election, the advisability was first spoken of, of giving increased representation to a very rising part of the Colony—the Williams—which, as the hon. member for Perth had just said, was, as regards a considerable part of it, included in the Wellington electorate, but virtually cut off from that electorate. The people of the Williams knew nothing of the Wellington District, and the Wellington electors knew nothing of the Williams people, who might virtually be said to be unrepresented. He knew more perhaps about that part of the Colony, from personal observation, than any hon. member in the House, and he had seen that the district was a rising one, and that in course of time it would become a very flourishing part of the Colony. In fact, he thought the Williams and the contiguous country in the direction of Elicup and Kojonup would be one of the best agricultural districts in this part of the Colony. It was now rapidly increasing in prosperity and in the number of its population. The last time he was down there he stopped at one of the inns, where there was very little sign of settlement or cultivation; and, the Dean of Perth happening to arrive on the same day, they sent out word to the residents of the neighborhood that divine service would be held at the inn, and, in a couple of hours, there were something like sixty people assembled at the hotel for the service. They were now building churches and stores, a post office, a telegraph station, and what

not,—were in fact showing every sign of increased prosperity and of growing importance. He thought while they proposed giving a representative to this district, and making a separate electorate of it, it would be advisable to cut off part of the district which he represented and which was contiguous—Eticup and Kojonup—and throw it into the Williams electoral district. The district which he represented was a very large one, reaching almost from the Blackwood to Eucla, and extending northwards a little beyond Kojonup; and he thought it would be well to include the pastoral and agricultural part of that district with the Williams, thus forming a compact agricultural and pastoral electorate, with interests all in common. At the same time, if they gave one additional member to the South, as well as two more for the North, it would be necessary that there should be still another additional member provided, to counterbalance the additional power which this redistribution of electorates would enable the Government to have in the House by the appointment of another nominated member, in addition to the proposed new official member. It was therefore considered advisable that another Southern district should be provided with a representative of its own—the Victoria Plains District. He was not in a position to say much of that district, not being personally acquainted with it; but, so far as the Williams, and Eticup and Kojonup, were concerned, he considered they really had a right to some increased representation, and he thought the majority of hon. members would agree with him on the point. But there was another reason why this increased representation was desirable. He was not in the habit of inflicting long speeches upon the House—some hon. members perhaps were rather given to making long speeches sometimes, which certain other hon. members considered wearisome; but, for his own part, he thought they gave subjects in that House less consideration than they ought to receive, the reason being that there were so few members to keep up a debate, and that the discussion of a subject was over before the House had time to consider it properly. He considered it highly desirable they should have more varied experience and

practical acquaintance with the requirements of country districts brought to bear on legislation than they had at present. The House was constantly passing Bills, which next year they had to amend again, but if they had a greater number of members possessed of more varied experience, especially as regards country matters, this evil would to a great extent be remedied. It was for these reasons that he supported the amendment.

MR. BROWN said it was his intention to support the original motion, which he had formally seconded without any previous arrangement whatever with the mover of it, but simply feeling that the time had arrived when increased representation was due to the North. At the same time, he thought the day had also arrived for providing a still larger number of members in that House; but he did not agree with the proposed redistribution of electoral honors contemplated in the amendment now under consideration; and, in the event of the original motion being set aside in favor of the amendment, it was his intention to move an amendment upon that amendment. There was a time when the district which he represented was regarded as the Northern District of the Colony, but it was now rather a portion of the Southern District, and he wished to see an extra representative provided for part of this important electorate, instead of for that of Yatheroo and Dandaragan. He thought the Champion Bay District was quite as much entitled to additional representation as Victoria Plains at any rate, both as regards population, revenue, and importance. It was the only mineral district in the Colony, so far as had yet been proved. It was an extensive pastoral district, and a large corn-growing district. It had also been very inadequately represented in that House for years past. [SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: “No, no, no,” and laughter.] Hon. members laughed. He assured them he was quite serious about the matter. Time after time it had been pressed upon him by his constituents, and he assured the House it was a question which seriously affected their minds, that they were not adequately represented in the Legislature of the country, and that, in that respect, as well as in others, they had

not had their due. Consequently, if the motion put forward by the hon. member for the North should be lost, he would move an amendment upon that now before the House, but if the amendment were rejected he would be quite prepared to vote for the original motion.

MR. MARMION thought very few members would agree with the hon. and bashful member who had just sat down, that the district which he represented was inadequately represented. He thought all hon. members would rather agree with him that so long as Champion Bay was represented in that House by the hon. member opposite, the district could not be said to be inadequately represented. He had hardly decided in his own mind what course to adopt in this matter, but it appeared to him that the course he ought to adopt would be to vote for the original motion, and increase their number by two members only,—one to represent what had been acknowledged by all who had spoken on the subject as, if not the most important, at least one of the most important districts of the Colony,—that of Nicol Bay. And he thought, whilst giving an extra representative to that district it would be wise at the same time to consider the advisability also of conferring the privilege of direct representation upon another district, which bids fair to outrival even the North District in importance, before many years are over, namely, the Gascoyne District. When he spoke of the Gascoyne District he did not simply mean the country in the immediate vicinity of the Gascoyne river, but also the large extent of territory lying between the Murchison and Ashburton, which was already dotted with settlers, possessed of many thousands of sheep. In a very few years he believed the sheep feeding on these fertile lands would be reckoned by hundreds of thousands, and that the district would be one of the richest and most important comprised in the whole of our vast estate. He considered the district was already entitled to representation, were it only for the fact that it contributes so large a portion of our land revenue, and he was glad to find there appeared to be no divergence of opinion as to the claims of this district to increased representation. With regard to the suggestion that two

additional electorates should be formed in the Southern District of the Colony, namely, the Williams and Victoria Plains, he was happy to hear—it was news to him, and no doubt to other hon. members—that these two districts were in such a flourishing condition, and showed such signs of rapid progress and development—that their population had increased at so great a rate, and that there was every prospect of their becoming ere long districts of primary importance in the Colony. He said it was a cause of hearty congratulation to find that this was the case. He alluded more particularly to the Murray and Williams District. Some eight or ten years back, when he first appeared before the constituency of Fremantle, and had the honor of *not* being returned, this district (Murray and Williams) was at that time a portion of the constituency which he then sought to represent, and he well recollected what pleasure it afforded him to ride, on a canvassing tour, through its lovely rural scenes, seeking the support of the numerous body of electors which the district boasted of. At that time, as he had already stated, the district was part of the electorate of Fremantle; but some years afterwards, it was considered of sufficient importance to detach it from Fremantle, and—the Murray District itself not being considered of sufficient importance to form a separate electorate—to join it to that district, which was now so ably represented by the hon. member who sat on the extreme left. For his own part, he did not think the Williams District of itself possessed a sufficient population, at the present time, nor could it be considered of sufficient importance, to demand at the hands of that House a larger measure of representation than it already possessed. With regard to the Victoria Plains, he knew very little of that district, but what little he did know led him to think that the population of the district was very small, and that the district itself, though a tolerably important one, was already sufficiently represented, by being attached to the Toodyay electorate, which they all knew was very powerfully represented by the hon. member on his right, and never had cause to complain that its interests were in any way overlooked. He should like to refer to a remark

which had been made the other evening, in the early part of the debate upon the motion of the hon. member for the North, to the effect that the towns were represented in that House to a greater extent than the country, or, in other words, that the agricultural and pastoral interests were not adequately represented. On the contrary, in his opinion it was the towns that ought to complain of being inadequately represented rather than the country, for if there was one interest more than another which preponderated in that House it was the agricultural and the pastoral interests. They could not separate those two interests, for they were to a very great extent identical, and it was impossible to deny that they were largely represented in that Council,—which had been designated by the electors of a Southern constituency as a “Council of squatters.” He did not mean to endorse that; but undeniably the pastoral and agricultural interests, or what he might call the bucolic interest, largely preponderated in that House. He would remind hon. members that most of those representatives who lived in Perth, though town residents, were intimately connected with pastoral and agricultural pursuits, or, if not directly connected with those pursuits, were largely interested in them, through business relations; and it could not for a moment, he thought, be fairly said that, with the large number of members interested directly and indirectly in country affairs, those affairs were likely to suffer at the hands of the House as at present constituted. He should give his adherence to the original motion, and his only regret was, that, at this early stage in the development of the Kimberley District, it was not possible to so arrange the distribution of electoral rights that we could give that district a member of its own, as well as one for the Gascoyne and the additional one for the North. But his attention had been drawn to this fact, that it would be almost impossible to carry out an electioneering contest at present within the Kimberley District, in consequence of the non-existence there of a Government staff. He trusted, however, in the event of their introducing a Bill to give effect to the motion before the House, the Government would take care that provision is made that no election of

additional members for that part of the Colony shall take place until the settlers of the Kimberley District have had an opportunity of registering their votes, so that their influence may be thrown into the scale when the election of a member to assist the present worthy representative of the North District shall take place.

MR. SHENTON said he had spoken the other evening in support of the motion, and he had seen no reason since to alter his opinion. He thought all that was required at present was to increase the representation of the North District by subdividing it, and giving it two additional members. Since the motion was originally tabled, some hon. members had raised the question of the necessity of also providing increased representation as regards this part of the Colony; but, if we went on raising these questions, and discussing the relative claims of the various districts of the Colony, he should be inclined to agree with the hon. member for Fremantle, that the towns should assert their claim to a larger share of representation, and especially Perth and Fremantle. He thought, however, the House should at present be content with the increased number of representatives proposed to be given to the North, and therefore he could not support the amendment, but would adhere to the original resolution. He had said the other day that he would have preferred a different distribution of the boundaries of the proposed new electorates, so as to give Kimberley a representative of its own; but, as had been pointed out by the hon. member for Fremantle, there were difficulties in the way, and consequently he should support the proposal to give the Gascoyne a member, and the North an additional representative to its present member.

MR. STEERE intended to support the amendment. He stated to the House the other evening, when this question was last under discussion, that, although he intended to support the motion of the hon. member for the North in favor of additional representation for that part of the Colony, he was also of opinion that, whilst this question was under consideration, it would be desirable to give increased representation also to some of the Southern districts. The hon. members for Perth and for Plantagenet had

argued this part of the question so well, and said almost everything that could be said in favor of the proposition, that it was unnecessary for him to trespass on the indulgence of the House any further, with reference to this matter. He was very glad to hear the hon. member for Plantagenet say he did not support the amendment in any antagonistic spirit to the original motion, and that he did not think those who supported the amendment did so because they considered it necessary to have two more members for the South as a counterpoise to the two additional representatives for the North. In his (Mr. Steere's) opinion, no such counterpoise was required. It was very difficult to determine what causes or considerations should be regarded as entitling a district to increased representation, or to any parliamentary representation at all. One could not say that population alone gave a district a claim to increased representation; neither could one say that revenue, or the value of exports or imports, ought to be their sole guide in determining this question. They must take all these circumstances, combined with other considerations, into calculation. With reference to one district spoken of by the hon. members for Perth and for Plantagenet—the Williams—he believed he was merely stating a fact when he said the number of electors in that district alone would be quite four times what the number of the electors in the North District was, when it first returned a member to that House. Therefore, if they were going to accept the numerical strength of the population as a basis—though he was not arguing that they ought to be guided solely by that consideration—the Williams District was certainly entitled to a member of its own. It might be asked why we should give this district increased representation at all? He would tell them why. He knew something of the district, and of its exact position. The settlers of the district were, he might say, entirely disassociated from the electors of the district in which they were now included: they lived, for the most part, miles away from the principal town in the electorate, and were comparatively speaking utter strangers to their fellow-electors. Yet the district was a very important one.

It included nearly all the lands that were proposed to be absorbed by Mr. Joubert in his railway scheme; and any hon. member who had taken the trouble to read the report of Mr. Forrest with reference to the country in this locality, the quantity of good land available for cultivation, and the revenue to be derived from this land, must come to the conclusion that the district was entitled to some more direct representation than it now possessed. The hon. member for Fremantle, on first rising to address the House just now, said he had not quite made up his mind as to whether he should support the amendment or not; but he (Mr. Steere) could not help thinking the hon. member would very soon have made up his mind if the proposal was to give Fremantle increased representation. For his own part, he thought our own towns were already adequately represented—though he did not go so far as the hon. member for Geraldton, and argue that because so many members of that House resided in the towns, the towns had therefore a large preponderance of representation. He thought it would be clearly demonstrated that evening that such was not the case. The hon. member for Fremantle was one of those who voted for the Bill introduced some years ago to establish a constitution in this Colony;—the Bill to establish Responsible Government, but which did not become law; and he might remind the hon. member that the areas of the electoral districts provided for in that Bill were very much smaller than what is proposed in this amendment. The present electoral district of the Swan, for instance, was cut up into very nearly three electorates, and no such minute subdivision of electorates was contemplated in the proposal now before the House. Under that Bill, too, it was intended that the Colony should be divided into twenty electorates, returning twenty-six elected members, whereas now it was only proposed to increase the number to eighteen; and no one could say that with eighteen elected members in that House the Colony was over-represented. He therefore wished to take advantage of this motion of the hon. member for the North to slightly increase the number of representatives for the Southern portion of the Colony, while they were doing an act of

justice in the same direction for the North. This was no sudden idea on his part. He had long ago entertained the feeling that some of our Southern districts were not sufficiently directly represented in the Legislature, in consequence of their being so far from what might be called the centres of the electoral districts in which they were included; and he thought, as an opportunity was now afforded them for adjusting the representation of the Colony, this would be an opportune time for giving these districts their due. He did not think it was advisable we should be constantly interfering with a question like this, but, that as an opportunity now offered for recognising the claims of our important Northern possessions, we should not be unmindful also of the claims of other portions of the Colony,—not, however, in any feeling of antagonism or jealousy; far from it. Such a feeling, he was sure, did not animate any member of the House in the consideration of this question, and he thought the measures of relief and the progressive works which would receive the cordial approval of that Council during the present Session would afford the people of the North ample proof that their interests were not neglected by the House, or their claims overlooked, out of any feeling of jealousy or of antagonism.

MR. GRANT said it was very pleasing for him to find the claims of the North so generally recognised, as regards increased representation. There was a regular chorus, in which all hon. members joined, that his district was a very fine district. He was also glad to hear from the hon. member for the Swan of the great blessings which were in store for the district, during the present Session. But, however anxious the House might be at last to do some justice to the North, there was no denying the fact that, in the past, the North had been a very fine milch-cow for Perth and its surroundings. He would like to know what this part of the Colony would ever have done had it not been for the North. And what had she done in return for it? Did she discover the country? At whose expense was it discovered? [An HON. MEMBER: At ours.] He begged to differ from the hon. member: it was the Geographical Society at home that found the money.

[Mr. BROWN: Associated with this Colony.] Let them look at Kimberley again. Who was it that found most of the money to discover and explore that district? [An HON. MEMBER: This Colony did.] He begged to differ from the hon. member: private enterprise did quite as much for the district as the Government of the Colony had done. He failed to see what benefits the Government had yet conferred on the district. They had been living up there for years without a Magistracy, without police protection, and without even the convenience of a Custom House. [Mr. S. H. PARKER: That was an advantage, rather than otherwise.] But they took good care to take the revenue from us. The settlers had been left utterly forlorn for years, and very little consideration indeed had been given them, considering that to a great extent the district had been supporting this part of the Colony. And now, when hon. members opened their hearts, and agreed to give them two additional representatives in that House, it was proposed, in the same breath, to give two more to the South as a sort of make-weight. He would not thank them for that. The result would be, they would have no stronger voice in that House than they now had: their claims would be outweighed by other considerations, as they had been in the past. It was a very strange thing that nothing was heard of the claims of the South to increased representation until the North asserted its claims. It was very singular they had never before heard of the great importance of the Williams District. If this district was now so prosperous as to be able to afford such luxuries as new churches and all sorts of improvements, all he had to say was—it had hidden its light under a bushel for a precious long time. It had taken fifty years before it made a start. It was plain to anybody who was actuated by a feeling of fair play that the North was entitled to this proposed additional representation, and he would tell hon. gentlemen he would not consider it any boon at all, unless the North had more power in that House than it had at present; and if it was proposed to increase the representation of the South to the same extent as that of the North,

he failed to see what the North was going to gain by it.

MR. VENN would support the amendment. He could not exactly agree with all that had fallen from his particular friend, the hon. member for Roebourne, though he was quite in accord with him as to the claims of the North District to increased representation. He did not think it could justly be said that the propositions put forward by the hon. member for Perth had been brought forward in any feeling of antagonism towards the North: at any rate he was sure the hon. member for the district would acquit him (Mr. Venn) of being animated by any antagonistic spirit towards the North. And he thought it was unjust to suppose that other hon. members were so actuated. For his own part he was ready to believe that the members of that House were animated by one feeling alone—a desire to promote the interests of the whole Colony at large, and had no wish to pit one part of the Colony against another. As for himself, he would support the amendment because it further increased the influence of the representatives of the people in that House. He had but one desire as regards the future of the Colony, and that was to see it prosper under those free institutions which were dear to every Englishman. He hoped to see the day when the Colony, like its sisters, would be in a position to assume the responsibilities of self-government, and, in view of the advent of that day, he would cordially support any reasonable proposal for increasing the representative influence of the people in that House, and by that means tutor and prepare the public of the Colony for the advent of those freer institutions which, in common with all Englishmen, were their heritage. It was for this reason, and for no other, that he intended to record his vote in support of the amendment.

MR. CAREY thought it would be quite time to give increased representation to these Southern districts when the districts themselves called out for it. So far, they had heard nothing from the electors of these districts with reference to any disabilities or disadvantages they were lying under, as at present represented. Even the hon. member for

Toodyay, who at present represented a large proportion of what was proposed to convert into a separate electorate, declared himself in favor of the original motion rather than the amendment, and he (Mr. Carey) would do the same. He saw no necessity whatever for granting any additional representation to the South. As to one part of an electorate being disassociated from another part, that was the case with other districts in the Colony besides the Williams, and if that was to be accepted as forming a claim to increased representation there was scarcely a country district in the Colony that would not be entitled to an additional member.

MR. CROWTHER would not detain the House many minutes. If they did not mind what they were about, they would soon drift into the same chaos as regards representation as they had already done as regards their land legislation. For years past they had been tinkering with their land regulations, with the result that no one hardly knew what those regulations really meant; and if we did not take care, we should be landed in the same chaotic difficulty with regard to our representative system. He would much prefer seeing the House take the bull by the horns at once. If a change was considered necessary, let it be such a radical change that would meet the requirements of all parties. If Responsible Government was what we were aiming at, let us have it; the sooner the better if we are obliged to have it. If we were going to attempt to put off the fatal day by tinkering with the present constitution, by putting a new patch here and a new patch there, instead of going for a brand new machine at once, he was afraid we would gain nothing by it in the end. Some hon. members said we wanted extra members for the South as a counterpoise against the extra members for the North; and another hon. member spoke of the necessity of providing another counterpoise against the weight of the additional nominee member which the Governor would throw into the scale. But, it appeared to him, unless we were prepared to go the whole animal at once, we ought to content ourselves with giving an additional member or two to those districts which confessedly had no representative voice in that

Council, and which admittedly were entitled to such voice. For his own part he did not know that he should vote either way. As the hon. member for the Vasse had pointed out, if a thing was worth having it was worth asking for; but they had not yet heard a word of complaint from these Southern electorates about their being inadequately represented. At any rate he did not at all see his way clear to vote for the introduction of half a dozen more members into that House. With their present talking power, they kept the machine going for several weeks in the year, and if they had half a dozen more hon. talkers the infliction would become more than he, for one, could bear. He said again, if what hon. members wanted was a change let it be a radical one.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Lord Gifford) said there seemed to be a consensus of opinion in favor of giving the North District increased representation, but there was a considerable divergence of opinion with regard to the other proposal, and, for his own part, he must say, though he had listened with great attention to the debate, he had not heard what might be regarded as a valid argument in support of the amendment. He should have expected to have heard some solid grounds urged in favor of a redistribution of the Southern electorates, and in support of the proposal for increased representation, but in this he had been disappointed. One argument put forward in favor of the claims of the Williams District was that a clergyman went down there and got sixty people to attend divine service. He must confess he could not see much force in that argument, in support of increased political representation. No doubt the electors in some of these districts were disassociated, as it had been said, from the electors at the other end of the district, but in a sparsely populated Colony like this, with its immense extent of territory, this was a state of things which was in no way surprising, and he failed to see why, if the argument was to be considered a valid one as regards increase of representation for the Williams District, the same argument should not apply to other extensive districts, such as York and other districts; and, unless the House had made up its mind to go into

the question of the reorganisation of the whole electoral system of the Colony, he thought they would do well to confine themselves to the original proposal, which undoubtedly had much to recommend it. As to the other districts, he had yet to learn that the electors themselves had manifested any particular desire to have a more direct voice in the legislation of the country, and it appeared to him it would have been the electors who would have stirred in the matter if they felt themselves in any way aggrieved by the existing electoral arrangements. But as for the North, there could hardly be two opinions that this important part of the Colony was inadequately represented. Here was a district which in extent and the value of its resources was second to none in the Colony, and, out of fourteen members returned to that House to represent the whole country, thirteen were returned by districts which had little in common with it, and only one—or one and a-half at the utmost—could be said to represent the immense extent of territory north of the 28th parallel of latitude. Within the past year or two this territory had been extensively selected for the purposes of settlement, and in the course of the next eighteen months it would in all probability show a large increase of population. If Kimberley advanced with the same rapid strides as the neighboring districts had done—and he trusted it would do so—no doubt the time was not far distant when it may become desirable to give it also a direct voice in the deliberations of that House. It was impossible for one single representative to possess a practical knowledge of the wants and requirements of a territory so great in extent as our Northern territory, and he thought it might well put forward its claims to increased representation, as contemplated in the motion of the hon. member who represented a portion of the district. He would support the original motion.

MR. BURT thought it must be very gratifying indeed to the districts more immediately concerned, to notice the testimony which had been borne to the very adequate representation already enjoyed by the electorates represented by himself and the hon. member for Toodyay. But the question of whether

these districts were adequately represented, or otherwise, was not the point the House was now engaged upon. Some stress had been laid on the absence of any agitation on the part of the electors of the districts referred to, in favor of increased representation; but the same argument might be said to apply to the North. The claims of these districts had not been put forward either by the hon. member for Perth (the mover of the amendment) or by the hon. member for Wellington (from whom it emanated), on the ground that the electors were crying out for additional representation, but on the ground that, as they were about to deal with this question as regards the North, this would be an opportune occasion for adjusting the representation of other districts. There could be no doubt in the world, in the minds of anybody who had any practical acquaintance with the Williams District, that it was a rising and promising district; and he had been rather surprised at the noble lord the leader of the Government sneering at the fact of sixty people being got together at an hour or two's notice to attend divine service, in a country place like this, being no argument at all in support of the claims of the district to increased representation. Those who were better acquainted with the condition of the Colony, and of the difficulty of securing the presence of people residing at long distances from each other, on any public occasion, must be much impressed with the fact that no less than sixty persons could be collected together at so short a notice, for such a purpose. For his own part, knowing as he did the habits and customs of the people of the Colony, he should consider this fact alone a pretty strong proof that the district was thickly populated. He was not very much in favor of the proposal to give these districts additional representation on the ground that they are not sufficiently represented at present; he was inclined to go with the amendment more on general grounds. He was inclined to think, as the hon. member for Plantagenet had said, that if we increase the number of representatives of the people in that House, the House itself was likely to carry more weight with the country, as a legislative as-

sembly. At present it was the fashion in some quarters to decry it,—it was, in fact, very greatly decried—and possibly if they were to increase the number of its members and thereby increase its weight as a representative body, it might find more favor in the eyes of the public, while at the same time it would be in a position to bring more varied experience to bear upon the work of legislation. There was another thing to be considered in connection with the proposed increase of representation, namely, the fact that the Government would thereby be able to—and he understood would be prepared to—give a seat in the House to the Commissioner of Works, which it appeared to him (Mr. Burt) was a very desirable thing to do, and this one consideration alone would lead him to vote in favor of increased representation. It had been said by the noble lord opposite that this movement did not emanate from the Southern electors, but from the members of that House; but he would ask the right hon. gentleman whether the movement in favor of increased representation for the North had not also originated in that House. He would ask the noble lord whether the Government had received any requisition on the subject from the electors at the North? [AN HON. MEMBER: There are none.] That was very near the truth. Did the movement not rather originate with the member for the district? Therefore if the noble lord's argument was worth anything, it applied with equal force to the North as to the South. And if it was a proper thing for the hon. member for the North to ask for increased representation for his district, it was an equally proper thing for him (Mr. Burt) to advocate the claims of the Williams District to increased representation, independently of the action of the electors themselves in the matter. At the same time, he could not help thinking that a better judgment might be arrived at upon the whole question, if the debate were further adjourned, and hon. members obtained more time for considering the subject. It was a very important subject, and one with regard to which he believed it would be necessary to obtain the consent of the Secretary of State, and it would be very unwise to hurry the House in

the consideration of an important question of this character.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. A. C. Onslow) said he had been much pleased when he heard the hon. member for Plantagenet express the sentiment that, in supporting the amendment of the hon. member for Perth, he was in no way actuated by a spirit of opposition to the motion of the hon. member for the North, and that he in no way desired to neutralise the effect of that motion, as regards the right of increased representation which it conferred upon the North. The same generous sentiment was also echoed by the hon. member for the Swan, and by other hon. members in the course of the debate; but, he must say, that in following the arguments of those hon. members, he did not see that their arguments at all bore out their professions. Their argument, altogether, so far as he could see, went so far as to neutralise the boon which the hon. member for the North wished to confer upon his district; and he thought the hon. member who had last spoken on this subject had, to use a homely rather than a parliamentary expression, "let the cat out of the bag." The hon. member told them that he did not support the amendment on the ground that there existed any real necessity for giving increased representation to these Southern districts, but because he considered this an opportune time for doing so, as they were going to grant the same boon to the North. [Mr. BURT: Pardon me, I never said anything of the sort.] He had understood the hon. member to say so, and that it was desirable, as they were about to give additional members to the North, they should at the same time give additional members to the South. But what was the argument upon which the hon. member for the North founded his motion? He came there and said plainly that the district was not adequately represented,—he did not say so, with regard to its population in particular, nor in respect to its wealth, but that, in proportion to the rest of the Colony, the North District was inadequately represented in that House. Hon. members seemed to be in accord with him on that point, but what did they say to the proposition for giving it practical force? They said, in effect, "we will give you

your two additional members, but we must also have two more of our own." That was, in reality, the substance of hon. members' arguments. If that was not giving with one hand and taking away with another, he did not know what was. It seemed to him that the only solid ground which the hon. member for the North had to support his motion—and he would give the hon. member credit by saying that it was the only ground he had sought to advance in support of it—was, that his part of the Colony was not at present adequately represented in that House, in proportion to the representation granted to other parts of the Colony. Let hon. members look at the map, and see what an enormous tract of territory was now represented by one member, and compare it with other portions of the Colony, which returned thirteen members to that House. It was all very well to say there were few if any electors in all that vast tract of territory; possibly there might be a larger number than hon. members are aware of, and it would be obviously impossible for the hon. member for the North to patrol the whole district, to address the electors and to excite in the minds of the settlers an interest in politics. But this means of intercommunication, and of interchange of thought, between electors and their representatives, would be afforded by the proposed increase of representation,—at any rate to greater extent than it could possibly take place at present. He saw no force whatever, under the circumstances, in the argument that because we gave two extra members to the North, we ought also to give two extra members to the South. He ventured to say it would be impossible, in any country where a representative system is in force, to find electorates more adequately represented, numerically speaking, than the Southern electorates of this Colony. He took it that as a rule there was one member for every thousand inhabitants, man, woman, and child,—not counting the aboriginal population. [Mr. STEERE: No.] He did not think he was very far off. [Mr. STEERE: Nothing like it.] Supposing they had a member even for every two or three thousand, he thought that was a very adequate representation,—even al-

though some of the electors might be 150 miles from the chief town of the district. That was nothing in a large Colony like this, especially when they came to consider that in other districts—those whose claims were advocated by the hon. member for the North—they were not hundreds but thousands of miles distant from the seat of Government. Under these circumstances, he really failed to see why hon. members should seek to counterbalance the advantages they proposed giving the North by providing increased representation for the South as a counterpoise; and he should most decidedly give his cordial vote for the original motion. Before he sat down, he might add that he did not at all agree with the declaration of opinion which he believed fell from the hon. member for Plantagenet, to the effect that by providing additional members you necessarily induce further and more deliberate consideration, and throw a greater light upon a subject. He had never heard that said before, and he was surprised to hear it said now,—that the larger the number of disputants, the greater the light which will be thrown upon the subject in dispute. That certainly was a novel contention. It was true that they had the authority of a very wise man for saying that in the multitude of councillors there is wisdom, but Solomon could never have meant a multitude of legislative councillors, under a free constitution. Let hon. members look at the House of Commons, where he ventured to say that the quality of legislation was in inverse ratio to the number of representatives. [Mr. BURT: During the last two or three years.] Since the last Reform Bill, the quality of legislation in the Imperial Parliament had been absolutely in inverse ratio to the number of its members. The same hon. member who had advanced the novel proposition that by increasing the number of representatives we were likely to give more attention to subjects that came under discussion, also said that subjects would then receive more mature consideration. Consideration was not talk. The hon. member for Greenough had expressed his fears that, by increasing the number of members the probable result would be a prolongation of the Session; and no doubt the hon. member

was right in that. But he much doubted whether we would also correspondingly improve the quality of our legislation.

MR. BURT: It's bad enough now; it couldn't be worse.

MR. RANDELL thought the hon. member for the Swan had made out a very good claim for an increased number of representatives for the South if not for the North. The hon. member mentioned three grounds which, taken together, he thought ought to be regarded as constituting a claim to representation,—population, wealth of resources, and revenue. He (Mr. Randell) was himself inclined to think that population should be regarded as the most important factor in the consideration of this question. A legislative assembly was not called together to represent territory, but to represent the wants and wishes of the people who inhabit that territory, and he confessed that he had very little sympathy with the hon. member for the North-West when he asked for two additional representatives for that part of the Colony in consideration of the immense extent of territory included in it; for it occurred to his mind that the inhabitants in one portion of the district at least were very few and far between, and the difficulties attending an election would, he thought, be insuperable. In addition to that, the argument relied upon by some hon. members in favor of increased representation for the North went on the assumption that the members of that House were merely delegates for the districts returning them, and not representatives of the people at large. Under Responsible Government, he should certainly have opposed the motion of the hon. member for the North, on the ground he had just referred to—the lack of population in the district for which he claimed increased representation; and, even under our existing form of Government, he failed to see the necessity of it, his theory being this: that the members representing the Government in that House—and who it must be admitted take an intelligent and influential part in its deliberations—sat there, not as the members for any particular district, but as representing the whole Colony, and he knew of nothing likely to arise to give them greater interest in one part of the country

more than another. Possibly, if it did not meet with the approbation of the House that they should have so many as four additional elected members, a compromise might be effected. He thought the Williams, which is certainly an important district, ought to have another representative: he did not know much about Victoria Plains, or of the second electorate which it was proposed to create at the North, but he thought Kimberley might still be associated with the present electorate, which, with one additional member for the Gascoyne, would probably answer all their present requirements. This would give the North one extra member, and the South another, and would enable the Government to appoint another official member. As to the argument that the electors of the South had never asked for increased representation, that argument, as had been pointed out, cut either way, for he was not aware of any agitation at the North in favor of increased representation. Were he inclined to be humorous, at the expense of the North, he would ask the hon. member for whom this increased representation was required? Was it for the sheep or the stock depasturing in the district? Or was it for the native race, of which the hon. member spoke so feelingly the other day? He did not suppose the hon. member intended to bring the native population to the polling place, at any rate. [Mr. S. H. PARKER: When they are vaccinated.] Joking apart, he must say that his sympathies would always be in favor of increased representation, although it might be said it would lead to a greater amount of speaking. He did not consider that a disadvantage at all, —although an hon. member who was not far from him had interposed a remark that the more members we had the more talking we should have, and a correspondingly less amount of business would be done. He thought, however, there was very little force in that argument, so long as the speaking was the result of an intelligent consideration of the subject under discussion.

The amendment submitted by the hon. member for Perth was then put to the House and negatived on the voices, and the original motion agreed to.

BILLS OF SALE ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

MR. S. H. PARKER, in moving the second reading of a Bill to amend "The Bills of Sale Act, 1879," said there was no occasion for him to say but a very few words in explanation of the object of the Bill. If hon. members would look at the 10th clause of the present Act they would find that it provides, *inter alia*, that the execution of every bill of sale shall be attested by a solicitor of the Supreme Court, or, in the event of there being no solicitor residing or practising within five miles of the place of residence of the grantor of a bill of sale, then that it may be attested by a person other than a solicitor. Hon. members would observe that if there should be a solicitor residing, but not necessarily practising, in any country town, the Act required the bill of sale to be attested by such solicitor, and did not admit of its being attested by a person other than a solicitor. Now it might happen that a solicitor may be residing at a place, but not in practice, and he might refuse to attest a bill of sale, yet, under the Act as now worded, the bill could not be attested by any person other than a solicitor, provided a solicitor resided in the town. It was to remove this objection that the present Bill was introduced, and the object in view would be attained by striking out the words "resided or" in the sixth line of the first sub-section of the clause referred to, so that unless there was a solicitor actually practising within five miles of the residence of a grantor any other person might attest a bill of sale.

The motion was agreed to, and the Bill read a second time *sub silentio*.

SCAB ACT AMENDMENT AND CONSOLIDATION BILL.

The House then went into Committee for the consideration of the Scab Act Amendment and Consolidation Bill.

IN COMMITTEE.

Clauses 1 to 8:

Agreed to without discussion.

Clause 9.—Duration of compulsory license: if issued at any time between November 1st and May 1st—four weeks.

MR. S. S. PARKER thought this period (which is the same as in the existing Act) was too short to enable

owners, in some instances, to clean an infected flock, between November and May, and he would move that the period be extended to six weeks.

MR. BROWN concurred. He thought the time might well be extended, as four weeks was too short, especially when flocks were depasturing a long distance from town, and there was no means of obtaining the necessary preparations for dipping, and otherwise treating infected sheep.

MR. CROWTHER thought it might be left to the discretion of the inspector, as to the duration of a compulsory license, so long as there was not culpable negligence on the part of the owner in cleaning his sheep.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. A. C. Onslow) was afraid that unless they fixed the duration of the license, and rendered it compulsory, great pressure would be brought to bear upon an inspector, if a discretionary power were vested in him, as regards extending the duration of a license.

MR. STEERE said he would have no objection to accept the amendment; in fact he was rather in favor of it than otherwise.

The clause, as amended, was then put and carried.

Clauses 10 to 13:

Agreed to *sub silentio*.

Clause 14.—License may be cancelled by inspector at any time during the continuance of a compulsory license:

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. A. C. Onslow) said the clause gave a right of appeal, to any owner whose license is declared void by an inspector, but it did not define the procedure on appeal, and a difficulty had arisen under the present Act with reference to a license, which had been declared void by an inspector. He did not think it was wise to give an inspector the power to cancel a license, without some review of his decision being afforded. He thought this defect would best be remedied by providing that the license shall not be avoided until the case shall have been considered by two Justices, who, if they think fit, shall cancel the license upon the complaint of the inspector. He would therefore move the insertion of the following words, after the penalty incurred:—"To be recovered in a sum-

"many manner before any two or more Justices of the Peace on the complaint of the inspector."

This was agreed to, and some necessary verbal amendments entailed thereby having been inserted, the clause, as amended, was put and passed.

Clauses 15 to 24:

Agreed to without discussion.

Clause 25.—Owner may examine sheep driven on his lands:

MR. STEERE pointed out a defect in this clause. According to the wording of it, and the interpretation clause, if any portion of a flock crossing a man's run were found on examination to be infected, the whole flock would be liable to be destroyed and not those actually infected. He would therefore move the insertion of the words "such sheep on which such scab actually exists," which would make the clause less ambiguous.

The amendment was agreed to, and the clause adopted.

The remaining clauses of the Bill were agreed to without discussion, and Progress was reported in order to enable a new clause to be introduced, next day.

HAWKERS BILL.

Read a third time and passed.

MASTERS AND SERVANTS ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

The Order of the Day for the third reading of this Bill was discharged, and the Bill recommitted.

Clause 2.—In every case of breach of engagement, it shall be lawful for the Justices, upon conviction, either to impose a punishment of imprisonment or a fine:

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. A. C. Onslow) pointed out that as this clause was now worded it would render masters as well as their servants liable to a fine or imprisonment. The object of the Bill of course was to punish servants. The insertion of the word "such" between "every" and "case," in the first line, would remedy the defect, as the clause was governed by the preceding section and the original Act. He would therefore move an amendment to that effect.

The amendment was agreed to, and the Bill reported.

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

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Tuesday, 15th August, 1882.

Superintendent of Roads: Expenses of Supervision—
Railways Act Amendment Bill: first reading—
Loan Bill, 1882: first reading—Coastal Steam Service—
Eastern Railway Extension Bill: first reading—
Card Cheating Bill: first reading—Excess Bill, 1881: referred to Select Committee—Bills of Sale Act Amendment Bill: in committee—Scab Act Amendment and Consolidation Bill: further considered in committee—Message (No. 3): consideration of referred to a Select Committee—Jury Act Amendment Bill: further considered in committee—Imported Labor Registry Bill: further considered in committee—Masters and Servants Act Amendment Bill: third reading—Adjournment.

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

PRAYERS.

SUPERINTENDENT OF ROADS: EXPENSES OF SUPERVISION.

MR. CAREY, in accordance with notice, drew the attention of the House to the returns laid on the Table by the Colonial Secretary relative to the expenditure of the balance of the Road Loan, and the expenses already incurred by the Superintendent of Roads and the Assistant Superintendent for supervision. The hon. member said the resolution which he intended moving with reference to this matter was one which he was sure would meet the approval of most if not all hon. members in that House. His object in drawing attention to the returns was in order to show the House the very heavy cost which the supervision of this Road Loan entailed. It appeared from these returns that we had been paying no less than £2,355 13s. 3d. for superintending the expenditure of £38,000, up to the 30th June last. He found

that in salary alone Mr. Higman had been paid, between January 19th, 1879, and June 30th of the present year, a sum of £1,178 5s., and that his allowances during the same period amounted to £752 7s. 6d. The salary paid to the Superintendent was, according to these returns, £1 per diem and 15s. for personal expenses, and an additional 10s. he believed for horse hire, when he did not travel by coach or steam conveyance, thus making in all the very handsome sum of £2 5s. per day when on duty, away from Perth. He found that in the Vasse District there had been expended during the years 1881-2, under the supervision of the Superintendent, the enormous sum of £191 1s. 5d., for the supervision of which expenditure it appeared we had paid no less than £71 2s. The noble lord had told him that this £71 2s. could not fairly be chargeable to supervision of works at the Vasse alone, but that half-a-day ought to be deducted from each occasion on which the Superintendent travelled to Vasse from Bunbury, and this ought to be charged to the Wellington District. Well, half-a-day occasionally could not amount to a very heavy charge, and, that being the case, hon. members would observe that very nearly half as much money had been expended on supervision as upon the work supervised. The cost of supervision, he might point out, would be a very small matter indeed, if the money had been well expended; but he thought nine-tenths of the people of the Colony would agree with him that the Road Loan money had not been well spent, but that, on the contrary, our roads and bridges were in a worse state now than they were in before one penny of this loan was expended upon them. The Albany road was now in such a state that passengers who wanted to go by the mail coach had to be left behind, the other day. The Toodyay road, too, he was informed was in a worse state at the present day than it was before any of this borrowed money was spent upon it under Government supervision. The same might be said of the other roads of the Colony, and in many cases it might justly be said that the money had been squandered away. In proof of this, he might say that he had a return given to him by the Bunbury Jarrah Timber Co.,