

thought the reflection cast upon the Government quite uncalled for, and indecent in the extreme, with regard to its treatment of the resolutions of the House. He did not think any other hon. member would have made such an accusation. He did not hesitate to say that, in every possible way, the Government had endeavored to meet the wishes of the House.

MR. BROWN: With the leave of the House, I will on another occasion bring forward a list showing the number of resolutions which, during the Robinson régime, have not been treated with the respect they were entitled to.

Question—That the sum of “£3,500” be reduced to “£3,000”—put and passed.

Item “Postage and Telegrams, £400:”

MR. STEERE understood that letters and telegrams connected with the police department went free of cost. It might have been convenient to introduce the item when the Imperial Government paid two-thirds of the cost of the department, but now the whole burden was about to be thrown on the Colony he failed to see the necessity of introducing it into the Estimates.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. A. O’Grady Lefroy) said it was a mere matter of account: it was charged to the department, like any other item.

MR. STEERE moved that it be struck out.

Agreed to.

Item “North District:”

MR. STEERE thought the vote for this district had better remain as it stood until the House had further information as to the requirements of the district.

MR. SHENTON: Although I have supported the reductions which have been proposed this evening, I should like to say that if the Government will bring forward an estimate of what reductions they could make in the number of officers employed on the force, I shall be prepared to go with the Government in giving the reduced staff good pay. I think every hon. member will agree with me that this House is always ready to pay good price for good service. But there is no doubt that the number of officers on the force is too numerous at present; and I hope that, before we meet

again, the question will receive the consideration of the Government, and that a thorough investigation into the working of the department will take place.

MR. RANDELL admitted he would have preferred to see a lump sum struck off the Estimates than the course the House had pursued, leaving the extent and nature of the reduction in the hands of the Government and of the Superintendent of Police. There was a little mystification in the Estimates, rendering it difficult to understand the number, the grade, and the pay of the various officers of the force.

MR. PADBURY: I have already proposed the reduction of a lump sum, and I have no hesitation in saying that the service could be as efficiently carried out for £15,000 as for the sum now expended upon it. But the number of officers would have to be considerably reduced.

Question,—That *Police Department*, Item £20,556 12s. stand part of the Estimates—put and passed.

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

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Monday, 13th August, 1877.

First reading—Elementary Education Act, 1871, Amendment Bill, 1877: second reading; in committee—Arrest of Absconding Debtors Act, Amendment Bill: second reading—Message from His Excellency the Governor—Telegraphic Messages Act, 1874, Amendment Bill, 1877: second reading; in committee—Third readings—Question of Grievance—Estimates: further consideration of, in committee.

THE SPEAKER took the chair at seven o’clock, p.m.

PRAYERS.

FIRST READING.

The Railway Act, 1873, Amendment Bill was read a first time.

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION ACT, 1871,
AMENDMENT BILL, 1877.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. A. O'Grady Lefroy) moved the second reading of this Bill. The hon. gentleman said it was not proposed to interfere with the main principle of the existing Act, which on the whole had worked well. One objectionable feature in the present law was the provision relating to the attendance of 180 days before a teacher could claim a capitation grant in respect of a scholar—a condition which, being altogether beyond the control of the teacher, could not be regarded as altogether satisfactory, and in some instances operated very harshly. It was now proposed to calculate the grant upon the total average daily attendance of all children, above the age of four years and under the age of sixteen. A further amendment proposed was that a continuous attendance for two hours for secular instruction shall count as half a day's attendance for the purpose of calculating the capitation grant. It was also proposed to give extended powers to the Central Board of Education with respect to the payment of salaries, which, in addition to the emoluments derivable from the capitation grant, would be fixed in accordance with a scale which had been prepared by the Inspector of Schools. According to the proposed scale, no male teacher of any school in which a maximum of twelve scholars can be maintained would receive a fixed salary of less than £60 per annum; nor a female teacher of such school receive less than £48 per annum. This was independent of payment by results. The grant to Assisted Schools would be at the same rate as at present—a sum not exceeding £1 15s. per head per annum; but, as in the case of Government Schools, this capitation grant would be calculated upon the aggregate average daily attendance of all children between four and sixteen years of age, and would not be confined as at present to children who had attended 180 days. The revised scheme appeared to him a fair and equitable one—more so than the existing system—and he trusted it would give general satisfaction.

SIR T. COCKBURN-CAMPBELL said all hon. members interested in the question must be gratified to find the Government had brought in a Bill

dealing with the payment of school teachers. A long time had elapsed since the question had been brought under the notice of the Government, and it had been expected that they would have dealt with it at an earlier date. The question, no doubt, was one surrounded with many difficulties, and he believed the Government had experienced considerable difficulty in arriving at a decision with regard to it. At any rate, he thought the House was to be congratulated that those difficulties had at last been surmounted, and that they had a Bill now before them, which, among other of its provisions, removed the anomaly of having a teacher's salary dependent on the acts of the body entrusted with the carrying out of the compulsory clause, rather than upon his own exertions. He was afraid the members of the Central Board were chargeable with having been a little obstructive in this matter, nor did he think they were all in accord with the provisions of the present Bill. No doubt the existing Act had effected much good, but it had long ago been found that it did not operate fairly in many instances, more especially as regarded the teachers of rural schools. The payments received by the masters of large schools in the town swallowed up the emoluments of the smaller schools in the country. The present Bill sought to remedy that defect, and he did not think that the Inspector of Schools could have put forward a scale of payment more simple, and more clear, and more likely to work well than that submitted in connection with the Bill before the House. The teacher of the smallest school was secured enough to live on—and he, (the hon. baronet) did not think a man should get less. In addition to this, the teacher had an opportunity of supplementing his regular income by results attainable through his own exertions and industry. Formerly, or rather at present, some of these schoolmasters' earnings were not equal to the pay of a common constable on the police force, but the Bill now submitted for the consideration of the House, he was pleased to think, dealt more liberally with the country teacher. He would be most happy to agree to the motion for the second reading of the Bill, upon the understanding, of course, that the members of the Central Board

were prepared to carry out the scheme of the Inspector of Schools; but certainly not otherwise. That scheme, as he had already said, appeared to him an extremely good one, so far as he was able to judge, and one that was likely to work well. No doubt there were other amendments required in the existing Act,—as, for instance, with regard to the mode of procedure at school-board elections; but, at this late period of the session, he was prepared to accept the modifications and amendments contemplated in the Bill before the House, on the understanding, as he had already said, that the scheme would meet with the support of the Central Board.

Bill read a second time.

Bill committed and reported.

ARREST OF ABSCONDDING DEBTORS' ACT—AMENDMENT BILL.

MR. BURT moved the second reading of this Bill. He said it would be in the recollection of the House that a measure after the nature of the present Bill had been introduced by the Government, through the Attorney General, last session. That measure was introduced with a view to extend the provisions of the 34th Vic., No. 27, being the Act now in force for facilitating the arrest of absconding debtors. The amendment then proposed to be introduced by the Government was simply to provide for the arrest of persons (arriving here as immigrants at public expense) leaving the Colony before the expiration of the term of their agreement, unless they paid a certain sum by way of penalty. That was the main object of the Bill brought in by the Government. It also extended the remedy of a creditor against an absconding debtor, to a small extent:—it did not require him to name the vessel in port in which he believed his debtor was about to leave the Colony. But the Bill now before the House still further extended the provisions of the existing Act relating to the arrest of absconding debtors. It empowered a professing creditor, by affidavit of himself or any other credible person, to go before a Magistrate and lay an information against a debtor who he had reason to believe was about to quit the Colony, and, without naming the vessel,

or the port of departure, to obtain a warrant for the apprehension of the absconding debtor, provided he satisfied the Magistrate that the person about to leave was indebted to him in any sum not less than £5. Provision was also made, upon the arrest of such person, that he should be forthwith brought before a Justice of the Peace, who would be empowered to hear and inquire into the case. In order to facilitate these proceedings it was proposed that the Magistrate should, upon such enquiry, take and receive evidence upon affidavit, so that it would not be necessary that the creditor and the debtor should appear in person at the port where the inquiry took place. Under the present Act a Magistrate could only hear and determine such cases in the presence of the creditor and the debtor, which, on the one hand might be a source of inconvenience and loss, and on the other entail a great hardship. For instance, a creditor might reside at York, or Newcastle, and the vessel the debtor was about to leave in might be at Fremantle or Albany. It would be no joke to detain a debtor in custody until his creditor at York or Newcastle should arrive at the port of departure, and it might be very inconvenient, to say nothing of expense, for a creditor to travel all that distance in order to prove his claim. The present Bill sought to remedy that, by allowing the magistrate before whom the case was tried to receive evidence upon affidavit, which the new Telegraphic Messages Act—introduced a day or two ago—would render lawful to be transmitted by telegraph. This would obviate any unnecessary delay in hearing and determining a case. He regarded the provision as to naming the particular vessel in which an absconding debtor was about to depart as worse than useless—unless, indeed, the man had actually taken and paid his passage. Such a provision was all very well years ago, when the arrival and departure of a vessel was an event of rare occurrence indeed; but now that we had attained the position of a great maritime nation, such a provision was absurd. It appeared to him that all they could reasonably expect a creditor to do was to satisfy a magistrate that a man who

owed him money was about to leave the Colony without paying him—no matter in what ship, or from what port. It might be urged that the Bill would operate harshly in the case of the debtor; but hon. members would observe that provision was made that all necessary proceedings for the final determination of the claim shall be taken with all reasonable diligence; and the debtor, by giving his bond and finding surety for double the amount claimed, would be immediately released from custody. Unless the creditor adopted immediate steps to prove his claim, the person arrested would be empowered to apply to the Supreme Court for a rule to show cause why he should not be released, and it would be competent for the Chief Justice to discharge him. This, it appeared to him (Mr. Burt) was about as equitable a way as they could get to deal with such cases. The law as it stood at present was a dead letter, and afforded little or no protection to creditors. He would now move that the Bill be read a second time.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. H. H. Hocking) moved, as an amendment, that the Bill be read a second time that day six months. The measure was objectionable on many grounds, apart from the fact that it sought to re-establish the principle of imprisonment for debt. A man owing only £5 might be brought before a magistrate at a distant port, who might or might not be cognisant of the law, and a great deal of hardship might arise. All a creditor had to do was to make out a *prima facie* case, and forthwith the unfortunate debtor would be cast into prison. It was all very well to say he could obtain his release by finding surety for double the amount, but it was not every man who might find himself in that fortunate position, especially if among strangers. The Bill sought to entrust too much power altogether in the hands of a justice of the peace; it would be excessive, even, in the hands of the Chief Justice. It appeared to him a monstrous thing to empower a creditor at York or Beverley to telegraph to a magistrate at Albany, or Fremantle, or Champion Bay, "Please stop So-and-So; he owes me £5"; whereupon the unfortunate man would be taken into custody and cast

into prison, to associate with the vilest criminals.

MR. CROWTHER would support the motion for the second reading. He failed to see how it would inflict any unnecessary hardship. A creditor must satisfy the magistrate that the person about to leave is indebted to him—a mere assertion was not all that was required. The Bill only provided for the public, in regard of recovering their just claims, the same protection as the Government sought for themselves with respect to absconding immigrants indebted to the State.

MR. STEERE: It seems to me that a great deal of the time of the House would be saved if the Government would tell us at once whether they will assent to the Bill or not. It is no use our wasting time in discussing a measure, and in passing it through its various stages, when it is known to the members of the Government all the time that it will not receive His Excellency's assent. The same remark applies to all private bills introduced into the House. I consider the present measure a very necessary one, and for that reason it shall have my support.

MR. MARMION said, although the Attorney General had made out a case of imaginary hardship in connection with the Bill, he (Mr. Marmion) was much tempted to vote for the second reading, if only for the reason that previous attempts had been made by private members to deal with the question, and to remedy an acknowledged evil. The Government were well aware of the existence of that evil, but they had not yet brought forward any effectual remedy. Every hon. member connected with the commercial interests must be alive to the necessity of some such a Bill, and though he did not agree with all its details, he was prepared to support the principle involved. He hoped they might be able to lick it into shape in committee.

MR. SHENTON was somewhat surprised, after the strong feeling expressed by the House last session in favor of such a measure as this, that the Government should persist in opposing it. The Bill might not be exactly what every hon. member would wish, but its details might be amended in committee, and rendered conformable with the general

feeling of the House. The present state of the law inflicted a good deal of hardship upon debtors, and the Bill before the House sought to remedy this evil.

MR. BROWN said the objection to the Bill on the score that it renewed the system of imprisonment for debt had not much weight, inasmuch as the same principle was now in operation. The fourth section of the Fraudulent Debtors' Act provided that under certain circumstances a creditor about to quit the Colony might be arrested—provided he owed £50; so that the principle of that Act was analogous to that of the present Bill, with this difference—that the existing Act only protected the large debtor whereas the Bill before the House sought to extend the same protection to the small debtor.

Bill read a second time.

MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR.

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

"With reference to the Colonial Secretary's reply to Mr. Burt's question of the 30th ultimo, the Governor begs leave to communicate to your Honorable House the reasons which induced him to withhold his assent from the Bill passed towards the close of the last session, entitled "An Act to enforce the Payment of Duty on the Transfer of Land."

Such a measure would yield at present but a very trifling revenue, while it would give a check to the popularity of the Torrens system of Transfer and Registration, by depriving it of one of the attractions which it now possesses over the old system. The Bill was not called for in the interests of the general public. It would be of no benefit to any one save that branch of the legal profession which prefers the old system of conveyancing to the simple and inexpensive system provided by the Torrens Act; and, lastly, the manner of its introduction was opposed to those sound principles of legislation which makes the Government responsible for bringing forward the ways and means.

The Transfer Duty under the old Act amounted last year to only £182 16s. 5d. The Governor considers that it would be better to abolish the duty altogether

than to levy it under the new Act; but that a preferable course would be to leave matters as they are until a tax on real property becomes necessary for purposes of revenue, and then to impose it in a form which would yield some substantial return.

Government House, Perth, 10th August, 1877."

TELEGRAPHIC MESSAGES ACT— AMENDMENT BILL.

MR. BURT moved the second reading of a Bill rendering it lawful to transmit by electric telegraph the contents of any affidavit or statutory declaration.

The Bill was read a second time, and passed through committee without discussion or amendment.

BALLOT BILL.

Read a third time and passed.

QUESTION OF GRIEVANCE.

MR. BROWN—adverting to a promise he had made to bring forward a list of the resolutions passed by the House which had been treated with indifference or neglect by the present administration—proceeded to fulfil his promise. On the 15th December, 1875, a resolution was passed, "That, in the opinion of the House, more stringent regulations should be issued to the police to carry out the provisions of the Act for licensing dogs; and that they be directed to use more exertions for the destruction of unlicensed dogs." It was only a few days ago that the House had again to pass a resolution to the same effect, and to urge upon the Government to carry out the law of the land in respect of the destruction of unlicensed dogs. On the 10th December, 1875, the House adopted the following resolution: "That the question of providing regular steam communication between the various ports of Western Australia, the Straits Settlements, and India, demands the serious consideration of the Government of this Colony." In the speech with which His Excellency open the following session of the Council, this question of establishing steam communication was not even alluded to. It was all very well to say that recently the question had received their consideration. The resolution was

passed nearly two years ago. Another resolution passed by the House on the 28th December, 1875, related to certain land regulations for the North and East districts, having reference to improving the position of the small farmer as regarded the depasturing of his stock. No effect was given to this resolution, which, at the request of some hon. members in their private capacity, had been allowed to remain a dead letter until the following session, when it was again submitted to the House. On the 31st December, 1875, a resolution was passed in which the Council expressed a hope that between that session and the next, the subject of an increase to the judicial staff of the Supreme Court would receive the consideration of the Government. Not the slightest notice had been taken of this resolution. On the same day, another resolution was adopted by the House, requesting the Governor to be pleased to introduce a Bill providing for a fixed guarantee on the amount of capital necessary for the construction of the Fremantle and Guildford railway. His Excellency, in the speech with which he closed the session, expressed himself fully alive to the many advantages to be derived from the proposed undertaking, and it was expected by hon. members that the scheme would form a feature in the next sessional programme of the Government. But they were disappointed, and a resolution was adopted expressive of the regret of the House that no comprehensive scheme of public works had been submitted for its consideration by the Government. This resolution the Government regarded as tantamount to a vote of no confidence, and when the present session opened the Government was not yet in a position to give effect to the wishes of the House. On the 28th August, 1876, another resolution was adopted by the House, praying that at the next session of Council a Bill should be introduced by the Government to amend "The Elementary Education Act," so as to secure a more equitable and satisfactory method of distributing the educational grant. The Government had taken no notice whatever of that resolution. It was true the question was referred to in the speech with which His Excellency opened the present session, but the only

allusion made to it was, in conjunction with the sale of colonial wine, to the effect that questions bearing on these two subjects were under His Excellency's consideration, and would probably be brought under the notice of the House in the course of the session. On the 25th August, 1876, a resolution was passed that in the opinion of the Council it would be an advantage to the members, and also to the public, if previous to the meeting of the Legislature in each year some information were given to the members upon the various measures which the Government proposed to bring forward. So far as he was aware, no notice whatever had been taken of this resolution. In fact, it appeared to him that the Government treated the House with contempt—perhaps not intentionally; but there was very little doubt that they treated its resolutions as matters of form. On the 7th September, 1876, the House passed another resolution to the following effect: "That in the event of Her Majesty's Government sending a steamer for the purpose of the coast survey, His Excellency the Governor be authorised to increase the vote for such purpose by any amount not exceeding £1000 in excess of the present vote." Up to the present moment the House was left in utter darkness as to what steps, if any, had been taken in this matter. The resolution had elicited no response from His Excellency. He (Mr. Brown) had now given the House a short catalogue of the resolutions which the Government had treated with neglect or indifference, and he regretted it had been his duty to have entered into this long explanation, which he certainly would not have done had not the hon. the Colonial Secretary the other day characterised his charge against the Robinson administration,—in the matter of its treatment of the resolutions of the House,—as "disgraceful, uncalled-for, and indecent."

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. A. O'Grady Lefroy) laid on the Table of the House, for the information of hon. members, a schedule of addresses presented by the Council to the Governor, with the dates of His Excellency's replies, and a statement of the action taken in each case. With regard to the words with which the hon.

member charged him with having characterised his accusation against the Government, namely, that it was an indecent and uncalled-for attack; what he alluded to was the allegation of the honorable gentleman that the Governor had treated the resolutions of the House with "outrageous" indifference. From the schedule he had just laid on the table, it would be seen that the number of addresses presented by the House, by resolution, during the existing administration, was 37, and with regard to all of these,—with three solitary exceptions,—it would be seen what action His Excellency had taken in each case. Hon. members would thus see whether the Governor had treated the resolutions of the House with "outrageous indifference." He thought not. He was not prepared to go into the whole question of the sweeping condemnation which the hon. member had thought fit to make against the Government; he confined himself entirely to the rebuttal of the accusation of "outrageous" indifference. He left it to the House to say, whether, in the face of the schedule he was about to lay on the table, the hon. member had substantiated his charge.

The matter then dropped.

ESTIMATES.

IN COMMITTEE.

Gaols, Item £7899 15s. read:

Item "One Assistant Warder, Geraldton, £70:"

MR. STEERE asked why it was proposed to have an extra warder at Geraldton. On reference to the Blue Book for 1876, he observed that the daily average number of prisoners confined in the gaol was only twenty-six, and he failed to see the necessity for three warders, in addition to the gaoler, to exercise supervision over so small a number. He could only imagine such a force necessary in the event of the prisoners being split up into small parties for street repairs; if so, he did not see why the Municipal Council should not undertake some of the supervision. He would move that this item be struck out.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. A. O'Grady Lefroy) said the additional warder was placed on the

Estimates in view of the possible increase in the number of prisoners, consequent upon the increased population caused by the influx of working men into the district. If the Municipality undertook the charge of some of the prisoners, the Government would still have to provide a warder. If the number of prisoners did not require this additional warder, it was not to be supposed he would be appointed simply because provision was made for such a contingency on the Estimates.

MR. PADBURY was understood to comment on the excessive cost of supervision, in connection with prisoners, as compared with South Australia.

Question—That Item "One Assistant Warder, Geraldton, £70," be struck out—put and passed.

Item "Provisions, etc., for Prisoners in charge of Police, £1,800":

MR. MARMION regarded this amount as excessive, and, judging from the expenditure under this head in the past, there was no real necessity for increasing the vote from £1,100 to £1,800. He would therefore move, that the sum "£1,100" be substituted in lieu of "£1,800."

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. A. O'Grady Lefroy) said the item of provisions was one which could not well be limited to any particular sum. Prisoners must be fed—hon. members would not have the wretched men starve. Every sixpence, every farthing, of expenditure under this head was strictly scrutinised in the Audit Department, and, with every desire on the part of the Government to reduce it, they were unable to do so. The House had committed itself to a wrong principle in under-estimating these items, and the inevitable result must be an excess Bill. After all, this was a mere estimate; if the money should not be spent, it would remain in the Treasury Chest.

MR. MARMION said he alluded to provisions for prisoners in charge of the police, and not to those confined in gaols.

Motion for reduction agreed to.

Question—That *Gaols*, Item £7,129 15s. stand part of the Estimates—put and passed.

Rottnest Penal Establishment, Item £2435:

MR. SHENTON asked what was the

meaning of an extra warder being added to the staff of the Establishment?

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. A. O'Grady Lefroy) replied, in consequence of the increased number of prisoners.

MR. PADBURY: I am not going to censure the Government, nor the Superintendent of Rottneest, but I think it is a matter for grave consideration whether it would not be a wise plan to do away with the Establishment altogether. From what I can gather, we are losing about £1700 a year by it. I recollect the time when all the Southern Road was made by native prisoners, and I do not see why they could not be more profitably employed now than they seem to be. It may be said, if they were worked on the roads on the mainland, they would run away: but they did not do so formerly. I see no reason why they should not be employed on some public works, and thus save the funds of municipalities and roads boards. Many settlers would be glad to take some of these men off the hands of the Government.

Item "Medical Officer, Catechist, £100."

MR. STEERE asked why this item should be retained on the Estimates? He understood there was no such an officer employed on the island.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. A. O'Grady Lefroy) said there was a medical officer resident on the mainland who was obliged to visit the island whenever his services was required; and one-half the vote was paid to him.

MR. MARMION asked if any of the native prisoners ever received a remission of their sentences?

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. A. O'Grady Lefroy): They do, for good conduct.

MR. SHENTON inquired if the Government proposed to continue to work the Salt Works on the island?

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. A. O'Grady Lefroy) said the matter was under consideration.

The vote was then agreed to.

Government Printing Department, Item £1287 18s. read:

Agreed to without discussion.

Poor House and Charitable Allowances, Item, £5512 read:

Item "Maintenance of Paupers, &c., £5000."

MR. STEERE asked if the Government had had under consideration whether it would not be advisable to pay the passage of some of these men home, instead of having them an annual burden upon the revenue. We could not oblige them to return home, but he had no doubt many of them would be glad of the chance to go, and he believed it would be much cheaper for the Colony to send them. Their passage would not cost more than about £20 apiece, which did not suffice to maintain them for one year.

MR. PADBURY said the same thing had been mooted years ago in the House, and had the suggestion been then adopted it would have been one of the best things they could have done. Most of these men came here as Imperial prisoners, and the Imperial Government ought to keep them so long as they lived, and bury them when they died. He believed Governor Weld had brought the matter under the consideration of the Home Government, and received a rap over his knuckles for interfering. But that was no reason why the Colony should not get rid of such a burden as some of these men were, and send them home to their own parish. It would be money saved in the long run.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. A. O'Grady Lefroy) said it had occurred to the Government that, possibly, in some cases, it would be better to send some of these men home, rather than maintain them here at public expense. This had been done in one or two instances, but it could not be done in all cases, for many of these poor invalids were either blind, or lame, or otherwise unfit to be removed.

MR. MONGER believed there were many abuses in connection with this charitable vote. He would instance one, which had come to his own knowledge—a woman, whose husband was earning £2 a week, had her passage paid from York to Perth out of public funds in order to enable her to enter the hospital or the poor house, instead of which the woman on reaching Perth went to stay at a friend's house.

MR. MARMION thought it would be better, in framing future Estimates that the item "Maintenance of Paupers"

and the item "Relief of the Destitute" should appear separately, so as to enable the House to form some idea as to the rate of expenditure under each head.

The vote was then passed.

Immigration, Item £7,000 :

This was agreed to, without discussion, beyond Mr. STEERE calling attention to a case in which a nominated immigrant had become a burden upon the person who had nominated her, and the former seemed to have no means of redress.

Pensions, Item £2,327 :

Agreed to.

Inspectors of Sheep, Item £1,000 :

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. A. O'Grady Lefroy) moved an additional sum of £50 to each of the Inspectors, as an extra horse allowance, in accordance with the recommendation of the Select Committee on Scab.

The item was agreed to.

Ecclesiastical Services, Item £3,543 :

MR. CROWTHER proposed that this item be reduced ten per cent., but the motion was not pressed, and the vote was allowed.

Education, Item £9,935 :

MR. CROWTHER—alluding to the grant of £700 for the proposed High School—said it would be in the recollection of the House that last session the Council passed a Bill to establish an advanced school in Perth on the secular principle of education, and that a feeling was expressed that the governors of the proposed school should consist of gentlemen representing the various religious denominations. The House elected its quota of governors, and the nomination of the rest was left in the hands of the Governor, the feeling of the House being that, inasmuch as the school was not established in connection with any particular sect or denomination, it would be well that each denomination should be represented on the governing board. He thought the Government had broken faith with the House in this matter. He believed one gentleman belonging to another denomination than the Church of England had been asked to accept a seat on the governing board but had refused to do so, and no other attempt had been made. If there was only one gentleman in the Colony—apart from the communion of the Church of England—who was fit to be nominated as a

governor of the school, he thought the school could not be wanted. From correspondence which he had read in the local newspapers, it appeared it was now proposed to have the school in one building, and a boarding-house for the scholars in another. This was never intended by the House, and the result would be that the children attending the school would be split up into sections, and would not mix together, on one common ground, as it was desirable they should do. The fact of the matter was, this High School was not wanted, although its promoters might think that it was. The class of education already available for the youth of the Colony was such as well fitted them for their future course of life. Let hon. members look around them, and even cast their eyes away from home. One of the most important positions in Queensland, who filled it? A boy who was educated in this Colony. There were other examples which he could point out, showing that the class of education available for our colonial youth was well adapted to their requirements. The ranks of the various learned professions in the Colony were recruited from amongst boys who received their education within the Colony, to say nothing of hon. gentlemen who occupied seats in that House. As he had said before, the proposed school was not wanted, and he protested against the sum of £700 voted for its support being expended contrary to the intention of the House.

MR. BROWN said the Council having already resolved that such a school should be established, it would appear somewhat inconsistent to strike out the vote.

MR. CROWTHER: I merely wish to enter my protest against it.

MR. SHENTON certainly thought that in a school of this character, the Government should have endeavored to have the governing board appointed in conformity with the regulation affecting the appointment of members of the Central Board of Education, namely, that each denomination should be represented on the board.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. H. H. Hocking) said that as to there having been any breach of faith on the part of His Excellency in nominating the governors of the school, it had never

been intended by the House to interfere with the discretionary power of His Excellency in this matter. As to the setting up of a boarding house in connection with the school, if certain gentlemen were desirous of doing so the governors could not prevent them. They might to some extent deprecate such a step, but they had no power to interfere in the matter, and he thought it would be out of place on their part to do so. Personally, he would rejoice to hear that the Roman Catholics and other denominations intended establishing a boarding house for the children attending the school, in the same way as it was proposed to be done by the Church of England. If other bodies chose thus to supplement the efforts of the House to provide secular education of a higher class than that now available to the boys of the Colony, he did not see why the House, or the governing body of the school, should interfere in the matter, however such a step might lessen the emoluments of the head master, and impair the *esprit de corps* of the boys. He would prefer seeing all the boys under one roof, but the governors had no power to interfere. As one of the governors, he might take this opportunity to state that they had experienced some difficulty in obtaining a suitable building for the school, and they had not yet done so. Still they hoped to be in a position to open the establishment before next year. The governors had sent home for a head master, whose selection had been entrusted to a personal friend of his own, the Rev. Dr. Barker, the principal of a large school in London. It was hoped that the selection would be made, and a duly qualified head master sent out, in time to open the school by the beginning of next year, by which time the governors would no doubt have secured a suitable building for the purposes of the school. He regretted that a question of religious difficulty had arisen in connection with the scheme, but he did not think the governors had done anything to forfeit confidence, nor did he apprehend they were likely to do so.

The vote was then passed.

Works and Buildings, Item £7,650, read :

Item "Quarantine Station at Albany, £600:"

MR. STEERE asked if this sum would be required next year, seeing that a like amount appeared on the Estimates for the current year?

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. A. O'Grady Lefroy) said the vote had not yet been expended. It would not be required twice over.

MR. SHENTON asked if any arrangements had been made, or were about to be made, for improving the accommodation at the Customs House, at Fremantle, which was utterly unfit for the transaction of business.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. A. O'Grady Lefroy) said the Government were aware that the present offices were a disgrace, and unfit for the transaction of business. The Government had contemplated effecting some improvements in the building, but as it was not unlikely that another and a more commodious building would soon be available for the Customs Department it was thought it would be only waste of money to incur any expenditure in connection with the present structure.

Item "Additions to Perth Gaol, £800 :"

MR. STEERE failed to see why the Government proposed to expend £800 in enlarging this building, in the face of the probable transfer of the Convict Department and the removal of all Imperial prisoners to Fremantle.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. A. O'Grady Lefroy) said there was no certainty as to the transfer, and the sum was placed on the Estimates merely in case additions to the prison would be required. Strong representations had been made with reference to the necessity of enlarging the present accommodation, both by the Colonial Surgeon and by the Director of Public Works. The question, however, was in abeyance.

MR. BURT asked if the Steam Dredge was under the supervision of the Director of Public Works.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. A. O'Grady Lefroy): Yes.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. A. O'Grady Lefroy) then moved the addition of the following votes:—opening canal at Perth Bridge, £100; clearing Canning River, £100; sinking wells Eastward of York, £100;

improvement of the river below Fremantle Bridge, £500.

MR. SHENTON directed attention to the necessity for sinking wells between Newcastle and Victoria Plains.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. A. O'Grady Lefroy) thought this might be done by increasing the vote for roads and bridges.

MR. SHENTON said the Toodyay District Roads Board had refused to do anything in the matter, and it appeared to him it was very necessary that something should be done. He hoped the Government would not lose sight of the question.

The various items were then agreed to.

Roads and Bridges, Item £11,000, read:

MR. STEERE expressed his regret at the utter inadequacy of this sum for the intended purposes. The roads of the Colony were getting into a worse condition every year, and he was sorry he could not see how the grant could be increased.

MR. BURT moved, That progress be reported, and leave obtained to sit again another day.

Motion negatived.

Aborigines, Item £1,188, read:

Agreed to, without discussion.

Miscellaneous Services, Item £11,350, read:

Item "Volunteer Corps, £1,000:"

MR. MONGER was surprised to find no provision made for the establishment of a volunteer corps at York. Hon. members would recollect that the House had agreed last session that York had the priority of claim over any other district with reference to the formation of any new companies. A very influential meeting on the subject had been held in the town, and a petition was prepared and forwarded to the Government praying that provision be made for the establishment of a local corps. The reply they received was that a vote would be placed on the Estimates next year for that purpose, but he saw nothing of such vote on the Estimates before him.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. A. O'Grady Lefroy) said the matter was in the hands of the Commandant, and it would depend upon his recommendation whether the corps would

be established or not. He (the speaker) was not aware whether the Commandant considered the formation of a volunteer company at York necessary, or not; but he knew he had the matter under consideration. The hon. member had better see the Commandant in the matter.

Item "Admiralty and Colonial Survey, £1,500 read:

MR. STEERE asked for some information as to the progress of this survey. The House was quite aware that it was in charge of a very efficient and hard-working officer; still when the House voted a sum of money, year after year, for a particular service, he thought they were entitled to some information with reference to the progress made with the work. He thought the work had now arrived at a stage that much more could not be done in connection therewith, without the aid of a steam vessel. It would be in the recollection of the House that a resolution was adopted last session empowering the Governor, in the event of Her Majesty's Government sending a steamer for the purposes of the coast survey, to increase the vote for such purposes by any amount not exceeding £1000. He would like to know if there was any probability of the services of such vessel being obtained, and also the probable time which would expire before the work was completed.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. A. O'Grady Lefroy): Had I known that the hon. member was anxious to obtain this information, I would have procured it for him. Hon. members are pretty well aware of the extent of survey completed, and of what remains to be done; and they are also aware of the activity, energy, and ability of Captain Archdeacon, who is in charge of the work. As to the steamer, I know the Governor has been in communication with Her Majesty's Government on the subject, but nothing definite has been done in the matter yet. If such an arrangement as was contemplated in the resolution of last session can be made, the Local Government will act upon the authority already given it by the House.

The vote for "Miscellaneous Services" was then agreed to.

THE CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES then reported to the House, That the Committee had gone through the Esti-

mates, and had agreed to the same with amendments.

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

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Tuesday, 14th August, 1877.

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

THE SPEAKER took the chair at noon.

PRAYERS.

MESSAGE FROM HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR.

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

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

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

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

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

Motion agreed to.

SPECIAL SURVEYS IN THE NORTH DISTRICT.

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

Motion agreed to.

IN COMMITTEE.

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