

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. A. O'Grady Lefroy): Because of promotion, as I have already explained.

MR. HAMERSLEY moved "That the sum "£150" be struck out, and the sum "£140" be inserted in lieu thereof."

Agreed to.

Item: "Contingencies (for Revenue and Police Vessel, on the N. W. Coast), £426":

MR. MARMION considered this item excessively high, and thought it might be reduced by about £10 a month. He would therefore move that the sum "£300" be substituted for the sum of "£426." The former amount would be quite ample to cover the necessary expense connected with such a small vessel, and such a small crew.

MR. RANDELL asked if there was any real necessity to maintain this vessel on the N. W. Coast at all?

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. A. O'Grady Lefroy) said the cutter on N. W. Coast was the only protection which the Government could now offer to the officers placed on the Lacedpede Islands, who were very badly off for water at times. The vessel was about to visit the islands to make a survey and an examination of the coast, with a view of ascertaining, whether there were any more islands having deposits of guano. With regard to the sum placed on the Estimates under the head of "Contingencies,"—as he had said before—if the whole amount should not be wanted it would not be expended. Did the House propose to maintain the schooner, and not provide the officers and crew with the necessary means of subsistence? If hon. members chose to reduce the amount, of course it was quite competent for them to do so; but, so far as past experience went, the sum placed on the Estimates would not be more than what was required.

MR. MARMION then withdrew his amendment, but at the same time said he still entertained the opinion that the amount was excessive.

The vote for the Customs Department was then agreed to.

Postal and Telegraph Department, Item £21151 10s. read:

Item "Forage for Inspector of Telegraphs, £50."

MR. RANDELL moved, That the word "Inspector" be struck out, and that the word "Superintendent" be inserted in lieu thereof.

Agreed to.

Question—That Postal and Telegraph, Item £21151 10s., stand part of the Estimates—put and passed.

Progress reported.

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

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Friday, 10th August, 1877.

Dongarra Jetty and Coal Seam on the Upper Irwin: communication from the Governor in reply to addresses relative thereto—First reading—Vesting Certain Powers in Officers of Customs Bill: second reading: in committee—Ballot Bill: in committee—Estimates: further considered in committee.

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

PRAYERS.

DONGARRA JETTY AND COAL SEAM ON THE UPPER IRWIN.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. A. O'Grady Lefroy) notified that he was directed by the Governor to inform the House (in reply to addresses relative thereto), that His Excellency had not sufficient information to enable him at present to fix a sum sufficient in either case, but that the matter would be taken into consideration, and the works undertaken if found advisable; and that such sums would be expended as might be found necessary for the same.

FIRST READING.

MR. BURT obtained leave to introduce a Bill to amend and extend "The Telegraphic Messages Act, 1874."

VESTING CERTAIN POWERS IN OFFICERS OF CUSTOMS BILL.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. H. H. Hocking), in moving the second reading of this Bill, said the object of

the Bill was fully explained in the preamble. By the seventh section of "The Merchant Shipping Act, 1871," it was provided that the costs of any survey made in pursuance of the provisions of that section shall be paid in the first instance by the Board of Trade out of the Mercantile Marine Fund, to be repaid to the Board as provided in the section referred to. This provision not being applicable to the case of surveys made in pursuance of the same section in this Colony, the Bill provided that the costs of survey which in the United Kingdom were, in the first instance, paid by the Board of Trade, should within this Colony be paid by the principal officer of Customs at the port within which, or nearest to which, the survey was held. The Bill further provided that the Customs officer who had paid such costs shall be entitled to have the same repaid to him by the person or persons upon whose demand, or in consequence of whose allegation, the survey was made: or by the master or owner of the ship, as the case might be.

Motion for second reading agreed to.

IN COMMITTEE.

Clause 1—"Principal officer of Customs to pay cost of surveys, and to be repaid the same."

MR. SHENTON asked how the necessary surveyors' fees were to be paid, and who was to pay them?

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. H. H. Hocking): That would be decided by reference to the provisions of the section of the Act which makes it applicable to this Colony. If the magistrates decide in favor of the men, then the principal officer of Customs would be entitled to recover from the master of the ship. I may say that the decision of the magistrate in these cases is, so far I know, final.

MR. BURT: It is true there is no appeal on the facts, but possibly the proceedings may be illegal from beginning to end, and I think it is worthy of consideration whether we should not allow an appeal on the facts. Otherwise shipowners will be entirely at the mercy of the magistrate, and these cases may sometimes involve a large amount of money.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. H. H. Hocking): Our local Act must be in conformity with the Imperial Act.

MR. SHENTON said it might happen that these cases had to be tried before a magistrate who was not at all conversant with mercantile and shipping matters, as was the case at Fremantle, and he agreed with the hon. member Mr. Burt that the House should make some provision for an appeal in such cases.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. H. H. Hocking) regretted the hon. member for Toodyay had not had an opportunity of expressing his opinion in the House of Commons when the Imperial Act was under consideration. The Bill before the House was nothing new: it was a mere copy of an Imperial enactment, which, in adopting, they were bound to follow, as far as local circumstances admitted. And he doubted whether it was competent or wise for that House to rashly revise an Act of the Imperial Parliament, and adopt in lieu thereof the admirable suggestions of the hon. member for Toodyay.

Clause agreed to.

Preamble and title agreed to.

Bill reported.

BALLOT BILL, 1877.

IN COMMITTEE.

This Bill was further considered in Committee, and several verbal amendments were made in various sections. [*Vide* "Votes and Proceedings," p. 78.] The Bill was then reported to the House, and the third reading fixed for the 13th August.

THIRD READING.

The Scab-in-Sheep Ordinance, 1866, Amendment Bill, 1877, was read a third time and passed.

ESTIMATES.

IN COMMITTEE.

Administration of Justice, Item £9910 read:

Item "Attorney General, £100."

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. A. O'Grady Lefroy) alluding to this item (being an increase in the salary of the Attorney General) said it must be well known to hon. members

that that gentleman did not stand in the same position in which most other heads of departments were placed. He required professional skill, which was only attainable by years of training, and at a considerable amount of expense. It would be in the recollection of the House that at a previous session it had been proposed to increase the salary of this officer, who had then but recently arrived in the Colony, and the House did not feel itself prepared to grant the increase. Hon. members were now more conversant with the professional abilities of the gentleman in question, and had, no doubt, ere this, come to the conclusion that he was well deserving of the increase it was now proposed to give him. In former times, when the office of Attorney General was held by a gentleman who had long since left them, he was allowed to practise as a solicitor, and made much money by it, in addition to his official salary. But now the Attorney General was not allowed to act as a solicitor, but was confined to the small practice to be found at the bar, which did not enable him to add much to his salary—certainly nothing like what would be the case were he allowed to practise as a solicitor. He commended the vote to the favorable consideration of the House.

The item was agreed to.

Item; "Sheriff £300."

MR. STEERE asked what steps the Government had taken to fill the office of Sheriff. A strong opinion had been expressed in the House last session to the effect that the office was one that ought not to be held by any officer in connection with the police, yet it was still temporarily filled by the Superintendent of that department. No doubt the Government had had the matter under consideration, and before the House voted the item perhaps the Colonial Secretary would afford hon. members some information on the point.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. A. O'Grady Lefroy) said it was the intention of the Government to fill the appointment as soon as possible. He believed the duties of the office had been discharged by its present temporary occupant with every satisfaction to the public, and at half the ordinary expense.

MR. STEERE did not think that

anything had been effected on the score of economy, for the present Acting-Sheriff had employed two clerks in his office, in the place of one, as formerly. The late Sheriff (Mr. Knight) used to do all the clerical work himself.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. A. O'Grady Lefroy) said he was not aware of any additional charge in connection with the clerical work of the office.

MR. STEERE: Nevertheless, it is a fact that an officer who acts in the police department acts also as the Sheriff's Clerk.

Stipendiary Magistracy, Item "Perth and Swan, £360."

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. A. O'Grady Lefroy) moved, That after the word "Perth" the sum "£360" be inserted, and that after the word "Swan" the sum "£50" be inserted; and that the sum "£360" be struck out, and the sum "£410" be inserted in lieu thereof.

Agreed to.

Item "Champion Bay, 1 Clerk at £125, 1 at £100, &c., £415."

MR. STEERE moved, That the sum "£100" be struck out, and that the sum "£75" be inserted in lieu thereof. He saw no necessity for the two clerks, especially at the salaries here proposed. He failed to see why the junior clerk should receive more than the clerks in other districts.

MR. STEERE subsequently amended his motion by inserting "£90" in lieu of £75.

Agreed to.

Question—That the sum "£415" be struck out, and the sum of "£405" be inserted in lieu thereof—put and passed.

MR. SHENTON thought the clerk at Guildford should receive £100 instead of £90: he was left entirely on his own responsibility in the absence of the Police Magistrate, who only periodically visited the district.

MR. PADBURY considered these clerks were by no means overpaid at £100 a year, especially if they had a wife and family to keep. Their wives and families were as precious to these men as were the wives and families of those who received £1000 a year.

Item: "Six Clerks at £75."

MR. CROWTHER proposed that

this item should be increased to "£90." His object in doing so was not only to keep these clerks from starving but also to keep them honest.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. A. O'Grady Lefroy) said he heartily accepted the proposition of the hon. member.

Motion agreed to.

Item "Travelling Expenses of Supreme Court and Chairman of Quarter Sessions, £100:"

MR. MARMION failed to see the necessity for this vote, and moved it be struck out. Where there was a possibility of reducing the Estimates, without inflicting any hardship upon any one, he thought it should be done.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. A. O'Grady Lefroy) thought it was a wrong principle not to provide for an expenditure that might become necessary at any time, and if the amount here placed on the Estimates were struck out, it would not be the fault of the Government.

Question—That the item be struck out—put and passed.

Item "Payment of Witnesses and Jurors, £2000:"

MR. STEERE failed to see why the vote under this head should be increasing as it did year after year. In 1875 the sum voted was £1,000; in 1876 it was £1,100; and in 1877 it had risen to £1,500—there were very heavy trials during that year, and he could understand this increase. It was now proposed to make it £2,000, and he could not understand for what reason.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. A. O'Grady Lefroy) said the expenses under this head were annually increasing, and the Government could not help it. He thought it would be better to provide a sufficient sum now than to come to the House next year with an excess Bill.

MR. STEERE: Heads of departments should be held responsible if they exceed the sums voted by this Council.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. A. O'Grady Lefroy): May I ask how is it possible you are to hold any one responsible for the expenditure incurred in the administration of the law, such as the payment of witnesses and jurors?

MR. STEERE quite agreed that in some departments this was impossible, but the principle of exceeding the votes of the House was a bad one.

Question—That the sum "£2,000" be struck out and "£1,500" inserted in lieu thereof—put and passed.

Question—That *Administration of Justice*, Item £9,390, stand part of the Estimates—put and passed.

Medical Establishment, Item £5,888 15s. read:

Agreed to.

Harbor and Light Department, Item £3,686 read:

MR. STEERE asked who was the officer appointed to carry out the provisions of the Passengers' Act at Fremantle?

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. A. O'Grady Lefroy) replied that the duties were discharged by the Collector of Customs, and by the officer in charge of the water police boat—the coxswain.

Item "Repair and purchase of boats, £500:"

MR. MARMION thought this amount was excessive, and only encouraged the officers to spend it.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. A. O'Grady Lefroy): It must be remembered that this vote is not confined to Fremantle, but for every harbor in the Colony. I think the House ought to hesitate before impairing the efficiency of this important service. I repudiate the idea that because the sum is voted it must necessarily be expended.

MR. MARMION moved, That the sum "£500" be struck out and the sum "£300" be inserted in lieu thereof.

Agreed to.

The vote for the Harbor and Light Department as reduced, was then put and passed.

Police Department, Item £23,162 18s.:

MR. PADBURY thought this item should be reduced to £15,000. We were spending an outrageous sum on our police. In South Australia, with a population of 230,000, the police expenditure for the year to come (1878) was estimated at £58,000, being at the rate of about 4s. 7d. per head of the population; whereas in this Colony, with about 26,000 inhabitants, the vote for the same year amounted to £23,162, being at the

rate of about 17s. per head of the population. He did not think the inhabitants of this Colony were, generally speaking, any worse than those of South Australia, and he certainly failed to see the necessity for this enormous expenditure in connection with our police force. He believed there were no less than twenty horses stabled that night at the police station in Perth—twice too many. He also questioned the utility of the detective office.

MR. STEERE, though not prepared to go as far as the hon. member for Swan—to reduce the vote to £15,000—was fully alive to the necessity for reduction in connection with the police department. In 1865, when we had the largest number of convicts we ever had, the police expenditure only amounted to £16,000, whereas now, when we have comparatively few of the bond class amongst us, the vote had swelled up to £23,000. This was another case in which he thought the head of the department ought to be held responsible that the vote granted for its maintenance should not be exceeded. He had been informed that day, on excellent authority, that a considerable increase would be wanted in connection with this department next year on account of forage, and he fully anticipated the House would be asked for an increased amount under that head. The police vote was really becoming a very serious matter, and he thought the time had arrived for curtailing the expenditure. Hon. members must be surprised to find an item on the Estimates which had been struck out last session—an extra sub-inspector. He believed that, notwithstanding the decision then arrived at by the Council with respect to this item, and in direct opposition to the expressed wish of the House, this extra sub-inspector had been employed, and of course paid. He would like to know where the money came from to pay him, seeing that the Council had struck off the item. He thought it was too outrageous altogether that when the House deliberately decided to remove or discontinue an item of expenditure, the Government should, in direct opposition to the wishes of hon. members, continue that expenditure, and meet it, in some way or other, out of public funds. He would move that the item “four sub-

inspectors at £170 each” be struck off, and “three” inserted in lieu thereof. He regarded this reduction as the forerunner of a great many more in connection with this department, for there was no doubt the police expenditure was excessive, and far beyond what the Colony could afford.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. A. O’Grady Lefroy) said the extra sub-inspector was merely nominal; the officer in question in reality discharged the duties of divisional sergeant and was paid as such.

MR. STEERE: It seems that after all the hon. gentleman’s intention has been carried out. Notwithstanding the expressed wish of the House last session, the Government have not heeded it.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. A. O’Grady Lefroy): The amount voted for salaries has not been exceeded.

Question—That “Four Sub-Inspectors at 170 each” be struck out, and “Three Sub-Inspectors at £170 each,” inserted in lieu thereof.

Agreed to.

MR. RANDELL drew the attention of the House to the increase in the total vote for this department. He was almost inclined to support the views of the hon. member for Swan, with regard to reducing the vote; and had no doubt the Government would at another session have to do so. The proposal of the hon. member to reduce it to £15,000 was not an unreasonable one, and it was one in which he would be upheld by the country at large. It was an indisputable fact that the police cost altogether too much—four times in proportion to the police expenditure in South Australia. Our police force was altogether in excess of the requirements of the Colony, and he thought the time had come when a reduction should take place. There were more grounds, he thought, for retrenchment in this department of the public service than in any other. It was reported—and reports were not always without foundation—that there were fewer constables employed many absurd cases which were sent to the Supreme Court would not be heard of, and there would be a consequent reduction in the vote for the payment of witnesses and jurors.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY

TARY (Hon. A. O'Grady Lefroy) said the Council should bear in mind the immense territory which required police protection in this Colony. As population increased, the rate per head on account of police expenditure would become less than at present. The strength of the police force could not be considered excessive, taking into consideration the extensive area to be protected, and our widely-scattered population.

MR. SHENTON said one of the great complaints against this department was the number of officers concentrated at Perth and Fremantle. As stated by the hon. member for Swan there were, in all probability, no less than twenty horses in the Perth police stable that very night, and surely there could be no necessity for such a number. If many of these were drafted to the country districts it would afford the settlers more protection. Another large expenditure in Perth in connection with this department was the Detective Service. Ten years ago, when owing to the large number of convicts in the Colony, crime was much more rife than at present, and when the police department did not cost more than £15,000 or £16,000, there was no necessity for the detective department to discover crime, and to bring criminals to justice. The expenditure in connection with this department would be considerably reduced if the detective branch were abolished, and the reduction might be made without crippling the police service in any way. The great secret of the success of a detective department was the unknown identity of those employed in it; but here every thief in the Colony knew every detective employed, whether in plain clothes or or not. In fact, it was a perfectly useless branch of the service, and the sooner it were done away with the better.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. A. O'Grady Lefroy) referring to the number of horses in the police stable at Perth, said although there might be twenty there to-day it did not necessarily follow that they would be there to-morrow. District police coming into town swelled up the number in the metropolitan stables. As to the detective force, if the officers of the department were known as such, hon. members should remember that to

render the department effective there must also be organisation, and these officers employed subordinates who were not known to the public.

MR. PADBURY said there were too many "hangers on" among the police, and those who received the best pay did the least work. He did not object to paying a really useful man a good salary, but he thought the supernumeraries should be done away with.

MR. STEERE thought the Government would see, from the tone of the debate, that the House was determined to effect a reduction in this department. He had another amendment to propose, namely, that the number of native constables employed be reduced. These blackfellows were more in the service of the white constables than of the Government, and in many instances were altogether unnecessary. In 1865 there were only twenty-five of these black constables employed, when their services were actually required; but now escapes from prison were of rare occurrence indeed. He would move, That the number of native constables be reduced from "36" to "20," and that the sum "£1080" be struck out, and the sum "£600" be inserted in lieu thereof.

Agreed to.

Item "Ten per cent. on £9963-£996 6s."

MR. STEERE said he would move that this item be struck out. At the time this increase was made, the reason assigned for it was the difficulty of obtaining men to join the service, when the Geraldton and Northampton Railway was commenced, owing to the high rates of wages paid to workmen on the line. That reason did not now exist.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. A. O'Grady Lefroy) thought it was an error to think that it was merely because of the increase of wages in the Geraldton district that this ten per cent. was allowed to the police throughout the Colony. It was rather the increase in the price of provisions and of living, and he thought he was right in saying that the cost of the necessaries of life now was quite as high as it was then—indeed, higher, if anything, and he thought it would be an act of injustice to the police to withdraw this allowance. He knew, for a fact, it

was with the greatest difficulty that good men could be got to join the force at the present rate of pay, and the result of the proposed reduction would be to render the difficulty greater of obtaining the service of good men whom you could depend upon.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. H. H. Hocking): Looking at the fact that the cause which operated when this increase was made to the pay of the police still exists—that wages generally are as high and the cost of provisions as great as then—I rise to protest at what I conceive the indecency of such a reduction. It has been said that a little worm will turn, and I think it is time the Government, at last, in the name of decency and common sense, should take up a stand against these sweeping and unjust reductions.

Question put, "That the item proposed to be struck out stand part of the total," upon which a division was called for, with the following result:

Ayes	7
Noes	11

Majority against	...	4
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AYES.	NOES.
The Hon. H. H. Hocking	Sir L. S. Leake
The Hon. M. Fraser	Mr. Randall
Mr. Glyde	Mr. Crowther
Mr. Parker	Mr. Shenton
Mr. Brown	Mr. Padbury
Mr. Hamersley	Mr. Monger
The Hon. A. O'G. Lefroy	Mr. Gale
(Teller.)	Mr. Burgess
	Mr. Marmion
	Mr. Pearse
	Mr. Steere (Teller.)

The motion was therefore carried, and the item struck out.

Item "Lodging for 1 Inspector, 1 Deputy Inspector, and 4 Sub-Inspectors at £30 each, £180."

MR. SHENTON moved, That the figure "4" be struck out, and the figure "3" be inserted in lieu thereof, and that the sum "£180" be struck out, and the sum "£150" be inserted in lieu thereof.

Amendments—put and passed.

Item "Medicines, £50."

MR. MARMION moved, That the sum "£50" be struck out, and the sum "£20" be inserted in lieu thereof.

Agreed to.

Item "Forage, £3,500."

MR. STEERE: Having reduced the number of native constables, there must

necessarily be a corresponding reduction in the number of horses required. I shall therefore move that this item be reduced from £3,500 to £3,000.

MR. BROWN said he would vote for the proposed reduction, but he was not at all satisfied with the manner in which these Estimates were treated. He thought a commission ought to have been appointed, for it seemed to him that the House was going somewhat blindly to work, and they would, doubtless, make a smaller amount of reduction in the aggregate than if a commission of enquiry had been appointed. He perfectly agreed that the expenditure in connection with the police force was much greater than it ought to be. The Home Government had had the lead with reference to this expenditure for years past; in fact, they had had the entire control of it, represented as they were by the Governor of the Colony. The House now knew exactly what the Home Government proposed doing with regard to this vote in the future, and he thought it the duty of the Council, as the whole cost of the police force would soon fall upon ourselves, not to spend a shilling more than necessary upon this department. At the same time he thought it was quite impossible for the members of that House, in their ignorance of the real requirements of the service, to make intelligent and judicious reductions so as not to mar the efficiency of the force. Although they might pass these items for 1878, he thought the Government ought not to consider themselves bound to expend the various sums included in the vote. It was the strict duty of the Government, in justice to the country, to at once cast about them to see where they could make reductions. It was plain that reductions were necessary, and it was their province, as it was their duty, to bring them about. For the last two years very little, if any, attention had been paid to the resolutions of the House by the Government, and he did not anticipate much good would accrue from a resolution on this point. Still, he thought it was the duty of the House to pass some such resolution, so as to absolve the Council from the responsibility that would rest upon them.

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

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.