

inhabitants was a very modest one; and that the House might fairly be asked to vote £100 for this purpose, on condition that nothing should be allowed for travelling expenses.

MR. SHENTON said other districts had quite as much claim to consideration in this respect as the Blackwood,—Dandaragan, for instance, which was more populous, and yet was denied the services of a medical officer and a magistrate.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Lord Gifford) said he was not prepared that evening to place more than £50 on the Estimates for this service, but he would consult with His Excellency the Governor, and see what could be done when the Estimates were recommitted. In the meantime, he would, with leave, withdraw his amendment.

MR. STEERE, referring to the item "Forage to eight Magistrates, at £50 per annum each—£400," moved, That it be reduced by £150. Last Session the House adopted a resolution affirming that in all future appointments to public offices to which forage allowances had been attached, no such allowances should thereafter be made, but that the actual travelling expenses of all such officers should be allowed to them when proceeding on duty. The Departmental Commission had concurred in this resolution, and recommended that all Magistrates appointed after that date should not receive any forage allowance. Three Magistrates had since been appointed,—one at Albany, one at the North, and one at Perth and the Swan—and, notwithstanding the resolution of the House and the recommendation of the Commission, it was proposed to grant them forage allowance. In order to carry out the resolution adopted last Session, he now moved, That this item be reduced from £400 to £250.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Lord Gifford) said, with regard to the recently appointed Magistrate at the North, the Magistrate there was placed in somewhat exceptional circumstances. He had no house to live in, and his salary was small, and the Government felt bound to make him some allowance. He thought £50, under the circumstances, was a very small allowance. With regard to the other two appointments, he believed those

gentlemen were appointed on the understanding—at least one of them was—that the emoluments of the office should remain as heretofore.

On the motion of MR. STEERE, Progress was then reported, and leave given to sit again the next day.

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

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Thursday, 25th August, 1881.

Return re Albany Road—Extension of Tenure of Pastoral Lands—Passenger Fares on the Eastern Railway—Estimates: further considered in committee—Adjournment.

THE SPEAKER took the Chair at noon.

PRAYERS.

RETURN *Re* ALBANY ROAD.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Lord Gifford) laid upon the Table a return (moved for by Mr. Brown), showing the amount of money expended on the Albany Road since 1878, as follows:—1878, £1,900; 1879, £2,930 3s. 11d.; 1880, £4,181 18s. 1d.; 1881 (to June 30th), £1,325 17s. 2d.—Total, £10,337 19s. 2d.

EXTENSION OF TENURE OF PASTORAL LANDS.

MR. BURGESS, in accordance with notice, called the attention of the House to a motion made by him on the 5th of April last, in reference to the pastoral lands of this Colony, and moved the following resolution in respect thereto:—
"That in the opinion of this Council it would largely promote the pastoral interests of Western Australia, increase its revenue, and stimulate the progress of the Colony, if all lands unsuited for

"agriculture included in pastoral leases now, or which shall hereafter be granted, were procurable by their holders under a secure tenure for two consecutive terms of fifteen years each upon some such conditions as the following, viz.:—
 "That the lessee, during the first term of fifteen years, should be bound,—

"1. To fence and sub-divide such portions of his run as are capable of carrying stock, with a good substantial sheep-proof fence.

"2. To take such steps as the nature of the land so held might render expedient to improve its capabilities and powers of carrying stock, by making tanks, dams, or sinking of wells, to increase its water supply, by sowing grass seeds, by ringing, cutting down, burning trees and scrub, by destroying the poison plant, or otherwise, *to an extent equaling in cost at least a moiety of the rent paid for such land.*

"3. To pay 50 per cent. increase upon the rental at which pastoral leases are now granted.

"And as to the second term of fifteen years.—If, at the expiration of the first term, he has fulfilled the foregoing conditions, but not unless, he shall be entitled to a renewal of his lease for a like term on payment of 33 per cent. more on the increased rent of the last term. At the expiration of which second term the land with all its improvements shall revert to the Government. But should the land thereupon, or within a reasonable time thereafter, be open to lease for pastoral purposes, the before-named lessee to have priority of claim to lease the land for such further term and at such a rate as the Land Regulations then in force shall provide.

"The lessee to be prohibited from purchasing any portion of the land during the continuance of his lease.

"The Commissioner of Crown Lands to mark out agricultural areas in the most suitable localities for such purposes, as near to public roads and railways as practicable; and that such areas should be immediately surveyed and marked off into 200-acre blocks, and that the lessee from whose pastoral leases these areas are taken should have

"the right to run his stock upon the unsold portions of such areas till half of the sections have been settled, when the remaining sections can be used as commonages."

MR. BURGESS, in moving the resolutions, said they had appeared in print on the Notice Paper for some days past, and he hoped hon. members had given them their most careful and deliberate consideration, for, in his opinion, the question which they dealt with was one of the most important that had come before the House this Session. The Land Regulations which came into operation in 1872, and which allowed a 40-acre block to be purchased in any pastoral lease, had been in force now for a period of nine years, and, he had no hesitation in saying, had most signally failed to advance the interests of the small farmer, for whose sole benefit they were intended, while, on the other hand, they paralysed the grazier, for they afforded him no encouragement whatever to clear, or fence, or otherwise to improve his land. He hoped no hon. member would for a moment imagine that he wished to injure, and much less to extinguish, the small farmer. On the contrary he was, and had always been, the small farmer's best friend, as the hon. members for Geraldton and Greenough could testify, and he wished to be so still. His grand idea was this—alienate no more land. Let it be an enduring source of revenue to the country, but, at the same time, let the regulations dealing with it be such as to afford every encouragement, both to the grazier and the small farmer, to improve their respective holdings. This, in his opinion, could be most effectually done by adopting the resolutions now before the House. Hon. members would observe that he had not specified what rent should be payable in respect of the small farmer's holdings, under the proposed regulations, but he had no hesitation in affirming that no man should enter into farming operations upon less than 400 acres. It had been proved, by long experience, both in this and all the other Australian colonies, that a farmer could do no good for himself, or anybody else, on less. He would let him have it for the first fifteen years at a rental of £6 a year, and, if at the end of that period he had fenced, subdivided, and

cleared one-half of it, he should then have it, for ever, at a fixed rent of (say) £12 or £14 a year. The advantages which the small farmer would gain by thus taking up his land in agricultural areas, as here proposed, were obvious. He would have neighbors to help and assist him, and he would have some prospect of having a school established for his children, and a church at which he and his family could attend. The small farmer and the grazier would live on more amicable terms than at present, mutually assisting each other, while at the same time promoting their respective interests, which need not necessarily clash. The small farmer would then be able to keep his few sheep, his two or three cows, and his team: he would have two or three nice fields in cultivation, one of which he would be able to leave in fallow, alternatively, each year. He would then be in a position to do some work for the grazier, and, in payment for his labor, he could get some cull ewes, which he could fatten on his stubble, and provide himself and his family with meat throughout the year. In fact, he had no hesitation in saying that if these resolutions were adopted, the result, as regards the small farmer, would be that he would very soon be transformed into a prosperous yeoman, while, on the other hand, the grazier's land would carry twice as much stock as it does under the existing regulations. He was well aware that, in order to give practical effect to the resolutions before the House, it would be necessary to amend our Land Regulations, and that before that could be done the Secretary of State would have to be consulted. But he felt confident that any change which that House unanimously approved of as being calculated to promote the interest of the Colony, and which His Excellency the Governor might recommend for adoption, would be immediately sanctioned by the Secretary of State. With these few remarks, he commended the resolutions to the favorable consideration of the House.

MR. S. S. PARKER, in seconding the motion, said he did so without in any way pledging himself to support the propositions put forward, as embodied in the present resolutions.

MR. CROWTHER was understood to

say that in supporting the motion he did so more for the sake of eliciting an expression of opinion from hon. members on the subject, than in any expectation of much practical good resulting from the resolutions this Session. The subject was altogether too comprehensive to be dealt with at this stage of the Session, and in his opinion the best course to adopt would be to appoint a Commission to consider the whole question during the recess, and to report to the House at its next Session the result of their deliberations. He did not suppose any hon. member, except the mover himself, would be prepared to support in their entirety the proposals submitted by the hon. member Mr. Burges; at the same time there was no doubt that our Land Regulations required amending. He thought, so far as pastoral land was concerned, that we could not get much worse regulations than those now in operation. In many respects he looked upon them as conducing only to one object, namely, to enable men without means to become possessed of any amount of land for mere purposes of speculation and jobbery, rather than for the purposes of settlement and occupation. He therefore thought it would be highly advantageous to the country if the regulations were so amended as to preclude mere adventurers from availing themselves of them for the sole object of speculation. At present, persons possessing little or no capital, and without ever seeing the land, or intending to see it, or to put a head of stock on it, took up their 50,000 acres as a mere venture, in the expectation that hereafter they may dispose of it at a profit to some other person who probably had no more intention of settling upon it than Adventurer No. 1, and, in this way, by the time the land came into the possession of a *bonâ fide* occupier, it would be at a price greatly in advance of that originally paid for it, though nothing whatever had been done to improve it or to utilise it in any way for the purpose of settlement. Properly speaking, the profit made in respect of transactions such as these ought to go into the public chest and not into the empty pockets of outside speculators, who, at the expense of the Colony, had thus been able to profit by our Land Regulations. As an illustra-

tion of how these regulations were worked, he might mention a case in point. Smith owed him five hundred notes, some time ago, and, finding he could not pay him, Smith offered him a small run which he had adjoining Jones's property. The run was of no use to him (Mr. Crowther), but meeting Jones one day he offered it to him for £600, and actually received £500 for it. Now that money ought to belong to the Government. [Mr. BURT: The hon. member will no doubt refund it, as conscience money.] Not he. It was the fault of the Government in framing Land Regulations which allowed speculation of this kind to be carried on. Such speculations as that could never be conducted with any other landlord than the State. With regard to the present resolutions, they did not fall in with his own ideas on the subject, in many respects, though in others he was in accord with the principle advocated. In the first place he would never alienate another acre of Crown land in the Colony: the system of alienation had been the curse of the country. He would let the land on such terms as to be a perpetual source of revenue to the Colony. He would also have the land classified according to its carrying capabilities, and other considerations, and when so classified he would allow it to be leased, in perpetuity, at a comparatively low rate, making the lessee to pay a poll tax of say 75 per cent. upon its carrying capabilities, and thus encourage settlement on the land. They might then hope to derive some benefit from it. Such a regulation enforced in respect of the land taken up in the Kimberley District would yield the Colony some return commensurate with the immense extent of territory which the State would be in a position to let. The present regulations in operation in that district, as he had said on a former occasion, only encouraged speculation and land jobbery. (The hon. gentleman also briefly expressed his views on the question of security of tenure, and as to agricultural areas, but his remarks were, for the most part, inaudible in the press gallery.)

MR. BROWN desired to support the resolution before the House—not that he approved of it in its entirety, but because he was satisfied that the object

in view was a good one, and one which, in the words of the resolution itself, would largely promote the pastoral interests of the country, increase its revenue, and stimulate the progress of the Colony generally. The object which the resolution aimed at was to encourage the occupation and improvement of pastoral lands, but it aimed at that object without in any way interfering, detrimentally, with the agricultural interest. Of course great difficulty would be experienced in such parts of the Colony as the Eastern Districts and Champion Bay, in the selection of agricultural areas such as were contemplated in the resolution, but hon. members should bear in mind that these and the other corn-growing districts of the Colony formed but a very small portion of Western Australia, and that the whole remainder of our vast territory must be looked upon simply as pastoral country. Why should not all of that pastoral country be occupied, under our existing Land Regulations,—or, if those regulations be not the most suitable, under other regulations—simply because there are some small portions in some districts of good agricultural land? There would be no difficulty in the world in at once deciding that some such regulations as are contemplated in the resolution before the House should apply to all portions of the Colony lying between the Murchison River and (say) the DeGrey River, none of which is fitted for the production of cereals. That being the case, why not give the pastoral leaseholders, within that area at any rate, such security of tenure as would induce them to fence and otherwise improve their lands? And that was all that was contemplated in these resolutions—security of tenure, under certain conditions, but not over any lands suitable for agricultural purposes. There was not a squatter in the Colony who wished for security of tenure in respect of agricultural lands; but he failed to see why that security should not be conditionally granted with regard to lands suitable for pastoral purposes, and pastoral purposes alone. Although supporting the resolutions before the House, he did not approve of them in their entirety. For instance the first sub-section provided that the lessee of pastoral lands shall be bound to fence and sub-divide

such portions only of his run as are capable of carrying stock? Who was to decide what portions of a run are capable of carrying stock? He thought a lessee holding the land under the conditions here proposed ought to be compelled to fence in the whole of the land within his lease. He would thus confer some real benefit upon the country. Again, the sub-section referred to went on to say that the land should be fenced "with a good substantial sheep-proof fence." Sheep were not the only things which the Colony could make money out of, and he should like to provide that the land should be fenced with a good substantial fence. Again, he did not quite approve of the condition prohibiting a leaseholder from purchasing any portion of the land during the continuance of his lease. He would prohibit him from purchasing any agricultural land within his lease, but he saw no reason why the same prohibition should extend to pastoral land, so long as the full value of such land—be it 1s. per acre or 50s., whatever was the price fixed upon it by the Government. He thought the principle of allowing people to become the possessors of land in fee was a grand principle, and one which tended perhaps more than any other to the settlement and progress of a country. Holding that view, he need hardly add that he considered it would be most injurious to the best interests of the Colony were the sale of land to be discontinued. As to the last paragraph of the resolution, which provided that the lessee from whose pastoral lease any agricultural areas were taken should have the right to run his stock upon the unsold portion of such areas, he regarded that of such little importance that he would strike it out altogether, as being practically of no value to the pastoral leaseholder. It seemed to him like asking for a very small privilege when they were advocating a very large principle. He hoped other hon. members would express an opinion upon the subject dealt with in these resolutions, as to the desirability of giving a better tenure to the *bonâ fide* pastoral landowner, upon conditions calculated to encourage the development of the pastoral interests of the Colony. How that might be effected would of course remain a matter for after consideration.

MR. S. H. PARKER thought a good deal of time and discussion would be saved if these resolutions were, in the first place, referred to a Select Committee. It was evident that there was no chance of their ever being carried in their present shape, and possibly a Select Committee might, after fully discussing them, be able to submit them for the consideration of the House in such a form as would render them more acceptable to the majority of hon. members, and thus save a great deal of profitless discussion. He would therefore move that the resolutions now before the House be referred to a Select Committee, consisting of the Commissioner of Crown Lands, Mr. Burges, Mr. Brown, Mr. Grant, and the mover.

MR. STEERE said he was not at all sorry that the hon. member Mr. Burges had brought forward these resolutions, as they would afford hon. members an opportunity of expressing their views upon what certainly was a question of the gravest importance to the Colony. He quite admitted that a more important one could not be taken into consideration by that House. That some longer tenure should be granted to pastoral leaseholders, upon terms and conditions to be agreed upon, was no doubt a most desirable object, but it was also a very difficult subject to deal with—though he hoped the difficulty was not insurmountable. He saw insuperable objections, however, to some of the proposals embodied in these resolutions. In the first place, who was to pick out the lands unsuited for agricultural purposes within these pastoral leases? He failed to see how it was to be done without incurring enormous expense. And the same objection, he might say, operated in the way of classification of land in this Colony. The resolutions, as a whole, were not such as he could support in their present form, but there undoubtedly existed a great necessity for giving greater security of tenure to pastoral tenants of the Crown, in order to encourage them to effect improvements on their land, and more especially fencing—which he regarded as the greatest improvement that could be effected on any land, whether a Crown grant or private property. He had frequently been asked by settlers outside, why it was that the Council did not

provide more effectual means for giving a man some greater security than was at present afforded for obtaining reasonable compensation for any fencing improvements which he may have effected. But he (Mr. Steere) had always contended—and he should like to hear the hon. the Commissioner of Crown Lands follow him on this same point—that pastoral lessees, under the existing Land Regulations, had ample security as regards compensation. The 60th clause of these regulations provided that in the event of any lessee not obtaining, on application, a renewal of his lease, he shall be entitled to compensation from the purchaser of the land, or the succeeding lessee, for all improvements which he may have effected, the value of such improvements to be determined by arbitration. The next clause went on to say what the improvements in respect of which he can claim compensation are, such as buildings, sinking of wells, fencing, the eradication of poison, or any beneficial work done on the run to increase its productiveness and powers of carrying stock. He contended that, under these regulations, a lessee effecting any such improvements as these would, in the event of his not being able to obtain a renewal of his license, be able to recover compensation from the succeeding lessee; and, for his own part, he failed to see what more any lessee required. But it might be said—"Supposing the land were to revert to the Crown, and not to a purchaser, what then?" Well, that certainly was very improbable—a very remote contingency indeed. Was it likely that if the land reverted to the Crown, the Crown would not sell it, or let it again? Such a consideration had never prevented him from effecting improvements on his runs, for he considered that, under the regulations he had referred to, he should be able, in the event of his not obtaining a renewal of his lease, at all events to recover from the succeeding lessee the fair value of all the improvements he had effected, in order to increase the capabilities of the land and its stock-carrying powers. He was just reminded by the hon. member for Greenough that, supposing any body purchased a portion of the enclosed land, and took out a tillage lease, what then? Although he did not take advantage of

your fence, he would render it valueless. That was true, and that was a position of affairs which the existing Land Regulations did not deal with, but which ought to be provided for. Probably the Select Committee to whom these resolutions were to be referred might suggest some plan for meeting the difficulty.

The debate was then adjourned until the following day, when it was further postponed until Monday.

PASSENGER FARES ON THE EASTERN RAILWAY.

IN COMMITTEE.

MR. SHENTON moved, "That an Humble Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor, praying that he will be pleased to take into consideration the question of revising the second class fares on the Eastern Railway, as it appears from the return laid on the Table of this House, showing the number of second class tickets issued from March to July 2nd, that by increasing the second class fares 3d. between Perth and Fremantle, and Perth and Guildford, the income of the line would be increased by at least £1,400 per annum, presuming the traffic did not fall off. As fears have been expressed that the increased fares may tend to decrease the number of passengers, the Council humbly suggest that the increased rate of 3d. might be levied for four months; if at the expiration of that time it was found that the number of passengers had decreased, the rates could be restored to the old tariff." The hon. member pointed out that the fares charged on the railway between Fremantle and Guildford were considerably less than the charges made in any of the other colonies, and he did not think the circumstances of this Colony, financially, warranted us in carrying passengers cheaper than our neighbors did. The extra amount which the proposed increase would realise would form a welcome addition to the revenue which we were likely to derive from stamp duties, which duties alone, he was very much afraid, would not suffice to meet the extra requirements caused by increased expenditure on public works.

MR. BURT hoped the Committee would pause before agreeing to the presentation of this Address. He considered that the House, by interfering with these railway rates, would be usurping the functions of the Executive, and be placing itself in a very false position indeed. In the event of the proposed alteration of the tariff leading to any feeling of dissatisfaction on the part of the public, the blame would be cast upon that House; and as the House had had nothing to do with fixing the fares in the first instance, why should they take upon themselves the responsibility of altering them? He thought there was a very strong feeling outside against raising the fares, and that it would be better to let them remain as they are. At any rate, he considered it would be very impolitic on the part of the hon. members of that House to interfere with them. If they required readjusting, that was a matter for the Executive to deal with.

MR. CROWTHER was entirely in accord with the hon. member who had last spoken. So long as the railway paid its working expenses and the interest on the money expended in its construction, he thought they ought to be satisfied, without looking to make any profit out of it. He thought it would be a great mistake to increase the charges in any way.

MR. MARMION moved, as an amendment, That all the words after the word "That," be struck out, and the following words be inserted in lieu thereof: "This Council is of opinion that it is inadvisable, at this early stage of the development of the passenger traffic on the Eastern Railway, to interfere with the existing fares for Second Class Passengers." He thought it would be very unwise on the part of the House to interfere with the passenger rates so soon after the opening of the line, simply because the traffic had exceeded their expectations. It would be time enough to talk about raising the fares when people had been educated in the advantages of railway travelling.

MR. HIGHAM was perfectly in accord with the sentiments expressed by the hon. member for the Williams, and by his hon. colleague (Mr. Marmion), and considered it would be a false step

altogether to increase the rates for second class passengers, many of whom could ill afford to pay more than they were now paying.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. A. C. Onslow) could not altogether agree with the hon. member for Murray and Williams, who seemed to think that this was a subject exclusively for the Executive to deal with; on the contrary, he thought it was a subject of commercial interest, and the fact of the State being the owner of the railway did not make the question less of a commercial one. He thought the principle that should guide them in fixing these fares was this—that they should charge the highest fare that could possibly be charged without interfering with the traffic on the line. That, however, was a subject which it appeared to him could not be dealt with by a Legislative Assembly, but a question of statistics, which ought to be left in the hands of the Executive, who would be guided by the counsels of those who had most to do with the subject, namely, the officers of the Railway Department. Holding that opinion, he should prefer to see the amendment carried, rather than the original motion.

MR. STEERE intended to support the original resolution. He had considered the matter very carefully, and if he had the slightest idea that the proposed increase in the fares would interfere with the future traffic on the line, he should oppose it, but, in his opinion, a slight increase of threepence would not affect the traffic in the least.

MR. BROWN said, if he thought the House was in any way interfering with the functions of the Executive, or trespassing upon their rights, he should not be prepared to support the resolution; but it appeared to him they were simply and respectfully tendering the Executive their advice, and suggesting that, in the exercise of the functions appertaining to the Government, they should take into their consideration the question of the advisability of increasing the passenger fares.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Lord Gifford) said, if the object in view was to direct the attention of the Executive to the question of the expediency of revising the passenger fares, that object had now been attained.

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

Ayes 6

Noes 11

Majority against ... 5

AYES.	NOES.
Lord Gifford	The Hon. A. C. Onslow
Mr. Brown	Mr. Burt
Mr. Burges	Mr. Crowther
Mr. Steere	Mr. Grant
Mr. Venn	Mr. Hamersley
Mr. Shenton (Teller.)	Mr. Higham
	Mr. S. H. Parker
	Mr. S. S. Parker
	Mr. Randall
	Mr. Stone
	Mr. Marmion (Teller.)

The original resolution was therefore negatived, and the amendment adopted.

ESTIMATES.

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

Judicial Department, Item "Forage to "eight Magistrates, at £50 per annum "each, £400," reverted to.

SIR T. COCKBURN-CAMPBELL (before the House went into Committee) said he could speak from personal knowledge with regard to the Government Resident at Albany, that the salary and emoluments attached to that office were in his opinion much less than they ought to be, and forage allowance had come to be looked upon as part of the emoluments. Without private means to supplement their salaries, the gentlemen who were appointed to this office would not be able to meet the calls of hospitality made upon them as the representatives of the Government, and if the salary and allowances which were now attached to the office were further reduced by the withdrawal of forage allowance, he did not know how they were going to do.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Lord Gifford) said the item did not include the Perth Police Magistrate, who had a fixed allowance in respect of the Swan district, and as regards the other recently appointed Magistrates, forage allowance had always been granted to the holders of those offices.

MR. STEERE said he had been considering the matter since last night, and

he thought there were reasons which should lead him to withdraw his amendment, in view of the additional duties which would possibly devolve upon some of the Magistrates referred to, and which might entail greater expense, in respect of travelling allowances, than the amount of a forage allowance (£50) would come to. Under these circumstances, he begged leave to withdraw his amendment (moved the previous day).

Leave given, and amendment withdrawn.

Police Department, Item £19,549 2s. 6d.:

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Lord Gifford) said that, since the Estimates had been framed, various alterations had been made in this item, chiefly as regards a redistribution of the force in order to enable the Government to provide police protection for the settlers at the Gascoyne, the DeGrey, and the Ashburton, which would slightly increase the vote.

MR. BROWN expressed the pleasure which he had felt at the fact that the Government had recognised the necessity of extending police protection to the Northern settlements, which had been so long neglected in this respect. The small force, however, which it was proposed to send up would be altogether inadequate were it not that the police could calculate upon the co-operation and assistance of the settlers. The natives in that district had of late become very troublesome and aggressive, and, in fact, were masters of the situation, stealing and killing the stock of the settlers, who dare not adopt any efficient measures in self-protection. They were either obliged to break the law or lose their property, and, although undoubtedly some of them had broken the law, in self-defence, still, so far as he had been able to ascertain, they had not gone beyond the bounds of humanity or of justice,—though, strictly speaking, they had no doubt rendered themselves amenable to punishment. He did not think, however, any one could blame them for endeavouring to protect their property, situated as they were, at the mercy of these natives; and the sooner they were afforded some protection the better would it be for all concerned. Regard being had to the fact that the revenue received from this district (the Gascoyne) during the first six months of the present year had exceeded £2,000, he

thought the settlers were fairly entitled to receive some protection in return, and he should have been glad if the Government had been able to send a stronger force than it was now proposed to send. It occurred to him that it was well worthy the attention of the Government whether some provision should not be made at these distant settlements for the trial of native and other offenders on the spot. They could hardly expect, at present, a stipendiary Magistrate to be appointed for the district, but there were numbers of settlers there who were perfectly qualified in every sense for the position of honorary justices, and if the Government would appoint one or more of them to the commission of the peace, they would be conferring a great benefit upon the district, and effecting a great saving to the Colony. If the Government would not do this, then he did think the settlers had a right to look to them to provide them with a stipendiary Magistrate, to deal with offences on the spot, and thus save the enormous expense of bringing offenders down this distance. He hoped and believed that the interests of these and other far outlying settlements would, in future, receive greater attention and consideration than they had in the past.

MR. BURT hoped that the native constables to be employed at the North would be men belonging to the district, and not Swan River natives, otherwise they would always be in conflict with the local tribes, between whom and the natives from this part of the Colony there existed a rooted animosity. He therefore thought it would be a very wise and humane provision indeed, that the natives who were to be employed as constables in these Northern districts should be men belonging to the neighborhood.

MR. HIGHAM expressed himself to the same effect. He had been made painfully aware of the deplorable result of sending up Swan River natives to the North-West, and he hoped the Government would not repeat the mistake. He knew very well that no difficulty would be experienced in finding suitable natives on the spot to act as police assistants, and he trusted that none others would be employed.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Lord Gifford) said no doubt the Superintend-

ent of Police would take care that this should be done.

MR. CROWTHER was very glad to find that the Government had at last recognised the necessity of extending police supervision to the Gascoyne and the neighbouring districts. Under the existing state of affairs, one of two things must inevitably take place—either the whites or the blacks would have to give way. There was too much Exeter Hall sentiment abroad with regard to this question altogether; and it was about time that the authorities should look at the matter from a more practical point of view. They invited settlement in these distant parts, and were only too pleased to derive as much revenue as they could from the settlers who risked their lives in opening up the country; he therefore thought it was but right that, as a *quid pro quo*, the Government should afford these settlers some protection, or,—let the settlers protect themselves. While dealing with the police vote, he should like, if not out of order, to refer to a paragraph in the official report of the Superintendent, in which he stated that, out of the 9,718 Imperial convicts who had been sent out to this Colony, from time to time, there were upwards of 1,400 expirees, principally located in the towns, and who were simply a burden to the Colony—"idle loafers, and apparently "busy rogues, who, owing to their drunken and thieving propensities, required "constant police supervision from year's "end to year's end, who while at large "exist by preying upon others, and will "probably end their days in the lunatic "asylum, the prison, or the poor house." He (Mr. Crowther) had no hesitation in saying that this statement was an outrageous libel upon the expirees of Western Australia. No doubt, there were among this class a number of ill-conditioned and irreclaimable men, but, as a body, they conducted themselves as respectably as any class in the community, and it was much to be regretted that an official statement so grossly libellous, and so much at variance with facts, should go forth to the world.

MR. MARMION said the same statement had attracted his notice, and it had struck him that it must have been very hastily worded, and without thinking that it cast a reflection not only upon

the particular class assailed, but upon the colonists generally. Residents on the spot knew very well that such a statement was incorrect, and any officer holding the position which the Superintendent held ought to be more careful before casting such reflections upon a whole community. What would be the effect of such a statement outside the Colony, where people were not acquainted with the real state of affairs? Was it likely to create a favorable impression? Was it calculated to induce a respectable class of immigrants to come and associate with these "idle loafers" and "busy rogues" with their "drunken and thieving propensities?" No doubt there were many bad characters among these men, but it was a great pity that such a sweeping assertion, which was not supported by facts, should have been made under the authority of the Superintendent of Police,—an assertion which, from that very reason, would carry conviction outside the Colony, whatever little weight it might have in the Colony.

MR. BURT: Move that it be expunged.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Lord Gifford) was sorry to hear such strong language applied to the report of the Superintendent of Police, who, he was sure, had no intention of casting any undue reflections upon any class, as a body.

MR. RANDELL could not help thinking that the Superintendent knew what he was writing about, and that he would make no rash statement without good foundation for it.

MR. STEERE concurred. No one who had been in the habit of administering justice at our Police Courts could but be convinced that there was a good deal of truth in what the Superintendent said.

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

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

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Friday, 26th August, 1881.

Erection of Lighthouse at Cape Leeuwin—Message (No. 19): Appropriation of Residue of Road Loan—Message (No. 20): Apportionment of the Ecclesiastical Grant—Message (No. 21): Enclosing communication from Messrs. Lilly & Co. re third steamer—Diseases in Vines Bill: further considered in committee—Perth City Council Indemnity Bill—Increase of Salary to Tidewater at Cossack—Brands Bill, 1881: re-committed—Adjournment.

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

PRAYERS.

ERECTION OF LIGHTHOUSE AT CAPE LEEUWIN.

IN COMMITTEE.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Lord Gifford) moved "That the message received from His Excellency the Governor, forwarding correspondence relating to the proposed erection of a lighthouse on Cape Leeuwin, be taken into consideration." Hon. members were aware that at the late Intercolonial Conference held at Sydney, His Honor the Chief Justice put forward a suggestion which had emanated from His Excellency the Governor, to the effect that a lighthouse should be erected at the Leeuwin at the joint expense of the several colonies. The suggestion appeared to be so well received that, in the opinion of the Chief Justice, it only required to be supported with such evidence as was obtainable, in order to meet with complete success. His Excellency therefore lost no time in communicating with the agents of the leading shipping companies connected with these colonies, also with Lloyd's and with the secretary of the P. & O. Co. in London. The replies received from these gentlemen would be found in the printed correspondence before the Committee, and it would be observed that the evidence thus obtained fully supported the proposition put forward by His Excellency, as to the desirability and the necessity of a light at Cape Leeuwin, though there seemed to be some difference of opinion as to the most suitable site for erecting the lighthouse. The preponderance of opinion, however, appeared to be in favor of Cape Hamelin as the most desirable position. It would