

cellency the Governor, under our present Constitution, has the power to confer with this Council and to ask it to reconsider its decisions, I may inform the House that, in conjunction with Mr. Speaker, I went to His Honor the Chief Justice and obtained his opinion upon this point. We did not feel perfectly sure on the question, the Speaker's ruling not agreeing with mine, and we thought it best to consult His Honor, who, we knew, is better acquainted with parliamentary procedure than ourselves. His Honor informed us that he also considered the question a constitutional one, and that, under our existing constitution, His Excellency is empowered to confer with this Council in the same way as the Upper House has the power to confer with the Lower House, and to send back the decisions of the Lower House for amendment. Entertaining this view of the question, His Honor conceived that His Excellency had full power to send back the resolutions of this Council for re-consideration, and to ask us to amend them. At the same time, the question was—whether His Excellency's previous message (No. 8) did invite us to reconsider this matter. The Chief Justice and the Speaker did not think that it did; on the other hand, I, for my part, as hon. members are aware, held that the message did invite us to reconsider our decision, and that it could have no other meaning. I am perfectly aware that the wording of the message was not altogether clear; but the message now before the House expressly states that in addressing the previous message to the Council it was His Excellency's desire to invite our reconsideration of the resolutions arrived at on the former occasion when the subject was under discussion. And I think I am right in informing the House that the Speaker is now in accord with me, that after this distinct expression of a desire on the part of His Excellency that the House should review its former decision, we are bound to do so, or at any rate that it is competent for His Excellency to make such a request, and competent for the House to comply with it.

The resolution of the hon. member for York was then put, and declared by the Chairman to be carried on the voices; whereupon Mr. S. H. PARKER

called for a division, which resulted as follows:

Ayes	10
Noes	6
Majority for			4

AYES.	NOES.
The Hon. E. T. Goldsworthy	Mr. Brown
The Hon. G. W. Leake	Mr. Brockman
The Hon. M. Fraser	Mr. Carey
Mr. Burgess	Mr. Hardey
Mr. Glyde	Mr. Harper
Mr. Hammersley	Mr. S. H. Parker (Teller.)
Mr. Marmion	
Mr. S. H. Parker	
Mr. Pease	
Mr. Monger (Teller.)	

The Resolution was therefore carried.

The House adjourned at 10 o'clock, p.m.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Tuesday, 30th September, 1879.

Exception to words used in Debate—Government Station at Beagle Bay—Financial Statement—North-West Pearl Shell Fishery—Adjournment.

THE SPEAKER took the Chair at noon.

PRAYERS.

EXCEPTION TO WORDS USED IN DEBATE.

MR. CAREY drew the attention of His Honor the Speaker to the following words made use of by the hon. the Commissioner of Crown Lands in this House, on Friday, 26th inst.:—"If he "thought the hon. member for Vasse," &c., "was actuated by a right and proper "feeling," &c., "but knowing, as he did, "that on the contrary the hon. member's "feelings were biassed,"—"I merely "maintain he had a bias,"—"I do not "care whether it is attributing a motive "or not; them's my sentiments;" "I "will go no further." "If I thought

"the hon. member was bringing forward this matter in the interests of the public, or of his own constituents, I would have given him all credit for his conduct." [*Vide* p. 214, *ante*]. The hon. member was about to move that the hon. the Commissioner of Crown Lands be requested to withdraw those words, when

MR. SPEAKER interposed, and said the hon. member was entirely out of order. Whenever any words of an objectionable nature were used in the course of debate, notice should immediately, there and then, be taken of the words objected to. It had been decided in the House of Commons "that when any member had spoken between, no words which had passed before could be taken notice of, so as to be written down in order to a censure." The hon. member should have desired that the words referred to in his motion should have been taken down *instantly*, immediately after they were spoken; he was out of order in drawing attention to them now.

The matter then dropped.

GOVERNMENT STATION ON THE NORTH-WEST COAST. IN COMMITTEE.

MR. HARPER, in accordance with notice, moved the following resolution: "That in the opinion of this House it will be desirable at an early period to form a Government Station at Beagle Bay or elsewhere, on the North-West Coast, for the purpose of granting facilities for the extension of the Pearl Shell Fishery, beyond the limit of grounds at present utilised, as well as to form a port and base of operations for intending pastoral and agricultural settlers, on the rich country lately reported upon by Mr. A. Forrest; and that an humble address be presented to His Excellency the Governor, praying that he will take such steps as may seem to him necessary for carrying out the wishes of the House in this matter." In moving the resolution, the hon. member said he would like to explain to the Council the reasons which had actuated him in bringing it under the notice of the House. The Colony possessed an extent of about fourteen hundred miles of pearl-shell fishing coast between Exmouth Gulf and our extreme

Eastern boundary; of this, only about four hundred miles were at present utilised, and consequently there was every reason to believe that immense quantities of shells were lying decayed and decaying on our coast, simply for the want of facilities to collect them and to prosecute the fishing industry. It was also known that there was a great number of aboriginal natives along this coast, who in time would probably be employed in this industry, for it was only in consequence of the absence of facilities for extending shell fishing operations that they were not already so employed. He need hardly point out to the House that one of the greatest difficulties which the pearlers had to contend against when working at a distance from a port or a settlement, was the circumstance that, owing to the size and tonnage of the vessels suitable for employment in the prosecution of the industry, it was necessary that they should always be within easy distance of obtaining a regular supply of provisions. It was also necessary that they should have frequent and constant opportunities for disposing of the shells. To this end it was necessary that there should be a settled station within easy distance of the scene of their operations. At present, as hon. members were aware, the pearl shell fishing industry was confined to Cossack and its vicinity, where those employed in the trade concentrated their operations. It was therefore obvious that by establishing a Government station further to the North-East of Cossack, where other beds were known to exist, the present fisheries would be relieved from the exhaustive drain now made upon them; and this, he need hardly point out would, by enhancing the productiveness of the fisheries, prove advantageous both to the pearlers themselves as well as to the fisheries, or in other words to the Colony. He would also remind the House that the season at present available for pearling only lasted seven months in the year, the remaining five months being too cold for the divers to work, in the locality to which pearl shell fishing was now confined; and the consequence was that for nearly half the year the pearlers were obliged to remain in enforced idleness. In the fisheries on the Northern Queensland coast, he

believed, fishing was carried on all the year round, and to the greatest advantage in the winter months, which were generally the calmest. The same conditions would apply to our North-Eastern coast, where the industry could be prosecuted uninterruptedly throughout the year. He need hardly point out to the House that if the pearl-ers were able to carry on their operations for twelve months in the year instead of seven, the result would be a material addition to the revenue. The establishment of a station such as that contemplated in the resolution would, it might be reasonably assumed, in addition to its beneficent effect upon the pearl shell fishing industry, also cause a considerable impetus to the pastoral interest, and open the gate to a large field of enterprise in the valuable country lately reported upon by Mr. Alexander Forrest. Another great advantage likely to result from the establishment of a station in the proposed locality was this—in the present settled district at the North-West, the cultivation of fruits and vegetables, as hon. members were aware, was surrounded with such difficulties as to render the culture of those products almost impracticable; but, from the knowledge which they possessed of the soil and of the climate of the country in the vicinity of Beagle Bay, there was every reason for supposing that both fruit and vegetables might be cultivated there to a large extent, which would be a great boon, not to the pearl-ers alone but to the settled districts farther south. With regard to the spot best adapted as a site for the proposed station, looking merely at the chart one would say that the mouth of the Fitzroy River at the head of King's Sound would be the most suitable locality, as affording the greatest facilities for inland communication. But looking at the difficulties of navigation at King's Sound, which was obstructed by many reefs and islands, through which a very rapid tide was constantly ebbing or flowing, this locality presented many drawbacks to the establishment of a settlement. In addition to this, it was considerably out of the track of vessels trading North and South along our coast, and would not be so ready or accessible a port of call as other localities on the coast. There was another

very important consideration which should not be lost sight of in selecting the site for a station, namely the salubrity of the locality. King's Sound was almost entirely surrounded by land, and consequently was deprived of the refreshing influences of the cooling sea breezes, so essential to health and comfort in a tropical climate. Further to the North was Collier Bay, which no doubt possessed many advantages to recommend it as a desirable locality for a station; but its great distance from any of the present settlements, and the very stony character of the neighborhood, and the difficulty of access to it from inland, combined to detract very considerably from any advantages which it might otherwise offer as a suitable locality for a station. Taking all things into consideration, he was inclined to think that Beagle Bay was as convenient and desirable a spot as could be chosen for the purpose. The only disadvantage offered by Beagle Bay was that it was situated a considerable distance from the Fitzroy River, in the neighborhood of which, it appeared from Mr. Forrest's telegram, the greatest part of the best pastoral country he had recently discovered was situated. Otherwise it was in an excellent position, easy of access, free from any obstruction to the passage of vessels, affording a safe anchorage ground, and, from the elevated character of the country on the northern part of the Bay, affording a most suitable place for a residence. Of the soil in this neighborhood, Captain Walcott reported portions of it as very rich swampy land, which in his opinion was admirably suited for the cultivation of tropical products. Another advantage possessed by this locality was that excellent bush timber was to be had there, which might be utilised for building purposes. Moreover, it was well known that there were valuable pearl shell beds in the vicinity, which would afford ample scope for the operations of those engaged in the fishing industry. Another point in its favor was its proximity to the Lacepede Islands, where a supply of guano and other fertilising agencies so necessary for renovating the soil would be easily procurable. He hoped hon. members would not regard this question as one of local interest or importance only, but would

look upon it from a broader point of view, as a public undertaking of a reproductive character, which, by affording greater facilities for the prosecution and the extension of an important industry, it undoubtedly would be. Already the Colony derived a very considerable proportion of its revenue from the North-West District; he believed he was quite within the mark when he stated that within the last two years the revenue received was not much short of £40,000, and there was every reason to suppose that, if the proposed facilities for extending the operations of the pearlers and others were afforded, the result would be equally satisfactory. With regard to the cost of establishing this station, he thought that probably it would be far less than any establishment of the kind ever cost before. Hon. members were aware that we would have before long an Admiralty vessel on our coast, and His Excellency might probably be in a position to utilise it for the purpose of surveying and exploring the locality, and for conveying the necessary staff there. For these and other reasons, which would possibly present themselves in the course of the debate which he trusted the resolution would evoke, he hoped the House would see its way clear to support the motion.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. M. Fraser): I think all hon. members will be in accord with this resolution, which I take it is simply moved in order to elicit an expression of opinion on the part of the House on the abstract question of the desirability of establishing a Government station on our North-West Coast, for the purpose set forth in the resolution, which I suppose cannot be regarded as effective until it is supported by a vote of the House, for making the necessary provision for establishing such a station as is here contemplated. I take it that the hon. member's object is to bring the subject under the notice of the House and of the Government, with the view that, at another Session, the latter, after giving the matter due consideration, may be in a position to submit some definite proposition for the approval of the House. I think the hon. member has taken a most desirable step in doing this. The resolution appears to me to be unobjec-

tionable, and I fail to see how any one can say nay to it.

MR. BROWN did not know what was the intention of the hon. member for the North in bringing forward his resolution—whether he intended that the Government should form an establishment of the character contemplated as soon as possible, and take active steps in the matter upon the strength of the resolution now before the House; or whether it was proposed that the Government should merely take steps to enquire into the matter and be prepared to submit some definite scheme to the House next Session. But he thought the wording of the resolution might fairly be interpreted as signifying the intention that the Government should immediately take steps to establish the proposed station, in accordance with the wishes of the House. It appeared to him that if the Council affirmed the resolution, and the Government conceived it desirable to carry it out, it should be done without waiting for another Session to come round, for possibly the Council might not meet for another year, and if, as reported, there is a large area of good land in the new country recently explored, and Mr. Forrest's estimate of the capabilities of the country is a correct one, we could not too soon establish a Government station in the locality indicated in the resolution, or elsewhere in that direction. It was very certain very few people would think of settling there unless they were sure of being afforded some protection. As to the cost of establishing a station of this kind, he could not altogether agree with the hon. member for the North that it would be so very inexpensive. He did not think it would cost less than £3000 a year—possibly more; and he thought it would be money well expended too.

MR. HARPER said the hon. member for Geraldton had interpreted the resolution as he (the mover) had intended it to be understood, namely that the Government should avail themselves of the earliest opportunity of establishing the station. He would point out why. In forming a station in a locality like this, it should be borne in mind that it could not, for climatic reasons, be formed at any time of the year, and that the most desirable season for the purpose was the winter, so as to enable people to house

themselves before the fierce heat of summer came on. When referring just now to the advantages possessed by the locality of Beagle Bay as the site for the establishment of a station, he omitted to mention one most important requisite necessary for settlement which presented itself in that neighborhood, namely a good supply of fresh water, available for the residents as well as for the vessels visiting the bay.

MR. BROWN said that in supporting the resolution he did not do so on the distinct understanding that the station should be at Beagle Bay, but that the Government, after carefully weighing the relative advantages offered by various localities on the coast, should determine which was the most suitable for the object in view. He had stated that in his opinion the establishment and the maintenance of the proposed station would not cost less than £3000 a year; but it would not be £3000 thrown away. Probably it would require a staff of fourteen or fifteen laborers, who might, while available for the protection of the station in the event of an attack from hostile natives, be also profitably employed in the erection of buildings and the cultivation of the surrounding land. A surveyor would also in all probability accompany the staff, and he might improve the shining hours by exploring and surveying the neighboring country, and laying it out. Probably another member of the staff, and possibly the head of the whole establishment, would be a medical officer, who in his own person might, with his professional duties, combine the judicial functions of a magistrate. He thought it would be a very objectionable step to send only a mere handful of persons to establish a station like this. Let the establishment, both as regards number and the qualifications of those constituting the staff, be such as to be of some real use; or else have no station at all.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy) said he was inclined himself to accept the interpretation put upon the resolution by the hon. member for Geraldton rather than that of the Commissioner of Lands,—that the object in view was to empower the Government to take immediate steps for the formation of this station, without at the same time

pledging them to select any particular locality for the purpose, or tying His Excellency's hands down for another year. He was quite sure of this—His Excellency would not do anything in the matter which would not be approved of at the next Session of the Council. Therefore, he thought, with the hon. member for Geraldton, it would be unwise to confine His Excellency to any particular line of action, and better to leave him unfettered in the matter.

MR. CAREY said, so far as the desirability of establishing such a station as that contemplated was concerned, there could be no question; but it appeared to him a grave subject for consideration whether in the present state of the finances the Colony could afford to spend £3,000 upon such an establishment. It would not cost less than that sum, that was pretty certain.

THE ACTING ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. G. W. Leake) thought the few hon. members who had spoken on the subject merely went to this extent—they recognised the great fact that civilization and settlement were advancing along a coast where a few scattered communities, of Anglo-Saxon origin, had already fastened. This fringe of territory we had taken as an inheritance, and we were naturally anxious to learn what can be done with it. To that end, and in the interests of civilization and humanity, it was considered desirable that a Government station should be established somewhere in the neighborhood of Beagle Bay, but that the precise locality should be left, as it doubtless ought to be left, to be decided by the Executive Government of the Colony. As to the cost of such an establishment, a sum of £3,000 had been cursorily mentioned, and the suggested amount was forthwith accepted as a certain fact, and they were then asked, can the Colony afford it? The House should bear in mind that along this Coast from Nicol Bay as far as our dominion extended, was a rich and fertile country, teeming with streams and rivers, and admirably adapted for the growth of stock, while its seas were rich with pearls and pearl-shells, inviting the industry of man to gather them and to utilize them. Possessed of these varied resources, with vast tracts of land available for settlement and colonisation, and with a rich

harvest of pearl shells awaiting to be turned to account, the Colony was simply asked to recognize its duty and its responsibility in affording some protection to those who were prepared to encounter the rough perils and to endure the hardships and privations attendant upon the first settlement of a country but recently trodden for the first time by the foot of civilised man. And the question was asked, could we afford it? Some hon. members might remember how, some years ago, Mr. Gregory sailed away in the *Dolphin* to Nicol Bay—then a *terra incognita*,—and he (Mr. Leake) happened to still have in his possession the very first gem imported from that locality. Did the Colony then—did the Government of that day—for a single moment place the sordid question of the expenditure of a few pounds involved in fitting the *Dolphin*, in the scale against the results to civilization which were likely to accrue from the labours of the expedition? The Government of a country, and especially of a new country like this, could not be conducted on the same commercial principle as a mercantile establishment—on the principle of double entry and profit and loss. Some hon. members, when commenting upon the expenses of Government, were apt to illustrate the subject by comparing public undertakings of this character with private enterprise, their idea being that, as no community of merchants or traders would be likely to embark in a speculation which was not likely to pay, so no Government should undertake any work which was not likely to yield a profitable return. This was all very well to a certain extent, and he fully endorsed the principle that in all operations, public or private, value should be received, at least equal to value given. But when that value was determined to be a money value, and the return an immediate return, he must decline accepting the principle to this extent, and more especially if it was applied to the operations of Government. The functions of a Government were not exercised for the sake of personal aggrandisement, but in the interests of civilization. Already the Colony had, in the fulfilment of its duties and its responsibilities towards that portion of the continent which it had taken as its inheritance, planted its

advance pickets of civilization along the coast where, farther North, it was proposed to establish this station, and the result regarded even from a financial point of view, had been highly satisfactory. They all knew what riches had been extracted from the soil and from the seas of that part of the country, and added to the general revenue. Recently, as hon. members were aware, valuable fresh discoveries had been made in the same direction. Mr. Alexander Forrest, following in the steps of the Gregorys, had already shed a lustre upon the Colony, added new provinces to its dominion, and opened to our knowledge vast tracts of land which but for the efforts of the explorer would be still untrodden by the foot of the white man. Was no further effort to be made to colonise this country, and to afford protection to those who were prepared to test its fitness for habitation? Clearly it was the duty of the Government to extend to these pioneer settlers that protection and assistance which the establishment of a station such as that contemplated in the resolution before the Committee would afford, and thus to further throw its advance guard for the purposes of colonization. The resolution had his most cordial assent.

The resolution was then put, and carried unanimously.

THE ESTIMATES FOR 1880—FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy) in moving that the House should resolve into a Committee of Supply, for the consideration of the estimates for the ensuing year, said it was customary on these occasions to deliver a more or less exhaustive financial statement, showing the present condition of the Colony and our prospects and expectations for the coming year. He regretted exceedingly that upon this occasion he had been unable to lay upon the Table of the House, before inviting it to the consideration of the Estimate of expenditure, the usual Estimate of revenue; but when he informed hon. members that he had been unable altogether to balance the two, he thought no blame would attach to him for not adopting the usual course on the present occasion. The Estimates of revenue

could not be fairly framed until some decision had been arrived at as to what the excess of the expenditure over the revenue was likely to be, and this was a matter that rested with that House. He begged to inform the Council that the revenue for the ensuing year, as nearly as he could estimate it, from the existing ordinary sources of income, would be £161,500, whilst the estimated expenditure, as hon. members would observe from the returns placed before them, was £176,906. This estimate he need hardly assure the House had been framed after the most careful deliberation, and with a due regard to the strictest economy on the one hand and the efficiency and interests of the public service on the other. He himself could not see how one penny of the proposed expenditure could be curtailed without the interests of the Colony suffering thereby. As he had already said, he had no intention on the present occasion of reviewing the whole financial condition of the Colony, past, present, and prospective; the more proper time for doing that would be when the House came to consider the question of further taxation, and to decide how the present deficiency is to be met. Although the deficit already existing amounted as hon. members were aware to £30,000, which for this Colony was a not inconsiderable amount, and although, in addition to this deficit, provision would further have to be made to meet the estimated deficiency between the revenue and the expenditure next year (about £15,000), making £45,000 in all; although the Colony had to face this deficiency he did not think, regard being had to the present prospects of returning prosperity, there was any cause for despondency. The prospects of the season were, so far, such as possibly no hon. member had ever witnessed before. The agricultural outlook was simply grand, and the prospects of the pastoral interests were equally encouraging. The one dark spot in the prospect was the depression in the mining industry, which he trusted would ere long be restored to increased prosperity. Perhaps it would be better, before moving the first item on the Estimates, that he should briefly refer to those in which a departure had been made from the Estimates of the previous year, and to

glance at the various departments generally, without entering into detail, which might be given when the House went into Committee. The first item to which he would refer was that of "Loans for Public Works; interest and sinking fund, £29,620." He need hardly remind the Committee that the last Loan for £200,000 had been floated under very favorable conditions to the Colony; but, however favorable those conditions might be, the money so raised entailed the necessity for a further provision being made for the payment of interest and for a sinking fund. The amount required for this purpose for the ensuing year (in addition to the sums already to be provided) was £9,000. This sum, however, only provided for the interest; in future, a further sum would have to be added for the sinking fund. Glancing at the various establishments and departments of the public service, hon. members would observe that there were several increments to the salaries of clerks and others, which subject had already been considered by the House, resulting in a reorganisation of the service, and he might take this opportunity of saying that, in his opinion, the abolition of the classification system would result in better work and more satisfaction to the public servants, and the interests of the Colony would benefit thereby. He begged to thank the House for affirming the resolution to bring about this change. The first department he need refer to was the Survey Department, and after the very eloquent manner in which the Attorney General had just spoken of Mr. Forrest's expedition, he felt that he would be treading very unworthily in his hon. friend's footsteps were he to dilate upon that topic. He would, however, remind the House that as the outcome of that expedition, twenty millions of acres of pastoral land had been added to this territory, besides several millions more suitable for the cultivation of tropical products. The hon. member for the North had already brought before the House a resolution relating to the settlement of some portion of this territory. In that resolution, he might say, the Government entirely concurred, and, no doubt, before very long a settlement would be formed there. Under the head of the Survey Depart-

ment, hon. members would observe that no sum had been placed on the Estimates for next year in connection with the establishment at the Lacepede Islands, for the simple reason that the islands had been worked out, and consequently the staff would be withdrawn. The Customs Department remained very much as it was, with the exception of the grant for revenue services on the North-West Coast, which had been considerably reduced. It had been found that, owing to the great distance from head quarters of the vessel employed in this service, very little control could be exercised over the expenditure in connection with it, and which had been a great deal too profuse. With this exception, the officer in charge of the service had discharged his duties well, and it was contemplated in the future to place him under certain restrictions as regarded expenditure, so as to limit it to a fixed amount, which, if exceeded, would be at the risk of the officer himself, who would proceed to the pearling grounds for about six months in the year, after which his services would be available to move about in the capacity of an itinerary magistrate, visiting the outlying settlers in the neighborhood of the Gascoyne, Ashburton, and DeGrey Rivers—a step which he believed would be regarded by hon. members generally as “a move in the right direction.” Coming to the Works and Railway Department, he regretted much that, owing to the suspension of operations of the mines in the North, there was no prospect that the expenditure in connection with the Railway Department would be covered by the receipts—indeed, he doubted very much whether even the interest on the money spent in constructing the line would be provided for. They could only hope that better times would soon come for the mineral industry, and, as one personally interested, he certainly hoped so. The estimate of expenditure in connection with this department was somewhat less for next year than for the present year. Next in order came the Postal and Telegraph Department, which had already engaged the attention of hon. members. It would be observed that provision was made for an additional clerk, as he had been informed by the Postmaster General that the establishment of bi-monthly

communication would necessitate the employment of another officer. The Postmaster General had also informed him that a considerable increase to the revenue might be anticipated from this bi-monthly service; but, at present, he (the Colonial Secretary) did not think they would be justified in regarding that as a certainty. They might, however, fairly assume that the salary of this additional clerk would at any rate be covered. In the Land Titles Department an increase of £50 was contemplated, consequent upon the amalgamation of the offices of Registrar of Titles and Registrar of Deeds. Hon. members would remember the debate which took place on this subject the other evening, and what was stated by the hon. member for Perth: of course it could not be expected that any officer would discharge the duties of the two offices without receiving some increase of salary. The Registration Department was now attached as a sub-department to that of the Colonial Secretary. In the Judicial Department there were various increments to the salaries of magistrates and their clerks, simply owing to the abolition of fees. The Police Department remained pretty much the same as last year, but there was an increase in the Printing Department consequent upon the introduction of improved appliances already sanctioned by the House. The next item he need refer to was the Special Coast Survey, where hon. members would observe that there was an increase of £500 over the grant for the present year. This increase was decided upon by His Excellency the Governor when the House was not in Session, after certain correspondence with the Imperial Government on the subject; in doing so, he need hardly say His Excellency had acted entirely in the interests of the Colony,—a statement which he believed would meet with general concurrence. The item “Works and Buildings” explained itself, and the reduction in the grant for “Roads and Bridges” had already occupied the attention of the House. There was also a reduction in the vote for Immigration. Hon. members were aware that a number of Chinese coolies had recently been introduced into the Colony, purely as a tentative measure in the first instance,

but he believed this class of labor would be found a great acquisition to the country. A number of nominated immigrants were on their way out from England—32 men, 37 women, and 32 children, who were being introduced at the rate of £18 10s. per statute adult. The remaining items on the Estimates did not call for any special comment at present; when the House went into Committee he would be ready to afford every possible information with regard to any vote which hon. members desired to have explained. He then formally moved the first item on the Estimates—“Establishment of His Excellency the Governor: Aide-de-camp, £125 1s.”

MR. CAREY, thought it would be well to adopt the same course this year with regard to the Estimates as had been adopted for the past three years, namely, to report Progress, so as to afford an opportunity for hon. members to glance at the items. He would therefore move that Progress be reported, and leave asked to sit again, say next day.

MR. SHENTON seconded the motion. The Estimates had only that moment been placed in the hands of hon. members, and they could not be expected to grapple with them at once.

MR. BROWN: I shall not oppose the motion, but I must say that it appears to me exceedingly strange that the House should not be prepared to proceed with the Estimates without delay. A great many of the items have already been discussed, and every hon. member has made up his mind as to how he shall vote. I understand that one of the reasons for moving to report Progress is the absence of the hon. member for Perth (Mr. Parker): but surely the absence of one member is not sufficient reason why the work of the Session should be delayed.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy): I think myself it is unwise to move that Progress be reported, and thus obstruct the business of the House. Many hon. members have already seen the Estimates, and those now before the House differ but very slightly from those already placed before them. I may also say that the Estimates, as they stand at present, have been framed with the sanction of the House.

MR. CAREY: I think it would be very unwise on our part to proceed to voting these sums, in the face of an acknowledged deficit, until we have some idea how that deficit is to be met. The financial statement has been rushed through the House in ten minutes, and many Departments were not even referred to, but that is no reason why these Estimates should also be rushed through. Some hon. members have reserved to themselves the right to criticise or to challenge any item on the Estimates, although such item may already have formed the subject of discussion in the House.

MR. BROWN: If we go to a division, I shall vote that Progress be reported, simply in deference to the wishes of those hon. members who wish that course pursued. But as to our duty to be careful in voting away sums of money before we find out how the deficit is to be met, I should like to know why the hon. member did not think of that, and view the matter in the same light, when bringing forward motions for the expenditure of large sums of money in his own district, before he knew anything about our ways and means.

MR. CAREY said the money he had asked for was for a reproductive public work, which would recoup the revenue in the course of the very first year.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy): After what has fallen from the hon. member for Geraldton I shall offer no opposition to the motion for reporting Progress. All I can say is, if we are to be obstructed in this way, we shall be launched into next week before we are out of the Estimates.

On the motion of MR. CAREY, Progress was then reported, and leave obtained for the Committee to sit again on Wednesday night, for the further consideration of the Estimates.

NORTH-WEST PEARL SHELL FISHERY.

The Order of the Day for the resumption of the debate upon the resolution of the hon. member for Albany relating to the Pearl Shell Fishery being read,

THE SPEAKER left the Chair.

IN COMMITTEE.

The question—“That for the purpose of preserving the Pearl Shell Fishing

“Grounds of the North-West from injury and depreciation in value, it might perhaps be practicable to frame regulations which could be more usefully applied than those at present in force; and that an Humble Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor, praying that he will appoint a Commission to investigate the subject, and to enquire whether, by farming the fishing grounds or by other means, some better protection may not be afforded to the beds, and arrangements carried out for conducting the fisheries, which would be more advantageous both to the pearlery and to the Colony”—was put, and agreed to, without further discussion.

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

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Wednesday, 1st October, 1879.

Timber Concessions to Mr. M. C. Davies—Message (No. 18) from His Excellency the Governor: Acknowledging Addresses—Message (No. 19): Melbourne Exhibition—Message (No. 20): Assent to Bills—Royalty on Guano—Wines, Beer, and Spirit Sale Act, 1872, Amendment Bill, 1879: first reading—Estimates—Point of Order—Adjournment.

THE SPEAKER took the Chair at 7 o'clock, p.m.

PRAYERS.

TIMBER CONCESSIONS TO MR. M. C. DAVIES.

IN COMMITTEE.

MR. CAREY, in accordance with notice, moved the following resolution: “That whilst the Council fully recognizes the right of the Governor and Executive to deal with the Crown Lands of the Colony, it is of opinion that it is inadvisable, objectionable in principle, and has a tendency to interfere with the rights and privileges of the Legis-

lature, that any arrangement or engagement should be entered into by the Government, pledging the Colony to the remission of any duties (export or otherwise) that may be hereafter imposed by the Legislature; and respectfully submits that before any such remission or exemption shall be made, the nature of such remission or exemption shall have been considered by this Council, and recommended by a resolution of the House, or an address to His Excellency the Governor.” The hon. member said that in bringing forward the resolution he was actuated more with reference to the future than what had been done in the past, and he hoped the House would clearly understand that it was not his intention in any way to reflect upon what had been done by Mr. Weld’s administration, or even by Governor Ord’s, with reference to the remission of duties; his sole object being to prevent these remissions or exemptions being made in the future without reference to that House. The hon. member then read the terms of the concessions made to Mr. Simpson, of the W. A. Timber Company, in 1871, and said although these concessions were nothing like those made to Mr. Davies in regard to their liberality, still a great outcry was made at the time, although it was acknowledged that the timber trade, which was in a very depressed state, did require some stimulus. Mr. Simpson received no concessions whatever until after he had constructed a railway and a jetty, erected saw mills, and the works were in full operation. A commission had been appointed some years ago to visit these timber stations, and to report upon the timber trade, but whether the commission reported in favor of an export duty, or otherwise, had never transpired, so far as he was aware. When His Excellency the Governor visited the district last year, his attention was called to the subject, and he (Mr. Carey) understood that a proposal was made that if the Company waived their right to the exemption from paying export duties and to have licenses, the fees would be considerably reduced. In the face of this fact, he must say he was surprised at the nature of the concessions made to Mr. Davies. The document granting these concessions was signed,