

collecting exhibits, and to see that they were forwarded; but I think if we are to be properly represented we shall require something more than this. We shall require a representative on the spot, and I understand the hon. member for Greenough is prepared to represent the Colony as its commissioner, at his own cost and expense.

MR. MARMION and MR. PEARSE supported the vote, which was passed.

The item "Miscellaneous, £4925" was then agreed to.

The Estimates were then ordered to be reported.

THE SPEAKER took the Chair.

THE CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES reported, That the Committee had considered the Estimates, and had agreed to the same, with amendments.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy) moved, That the report of the Committee be adopted.

MR. CAREY moved, That the Estimates be re-committed. His object in doing so was to revert to the vote for the coastal mail service and the subsidy proposed for that service.

MR. MARMION said he would not oppose the hon. member's motion, if he heard anything to justify the necessity of further dealing with that question. The impression was that the service would not cost so much as the sum provided for it; but he trusted that the Government would exercise every economy in making their fresh arrangements, and that steam communication between this part of the Colony and the North-West Settlements would receive the attention of His Excellency and of the Government. He would like to have the Colonial Secretary's assurance on this point.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy): I rise with the greatest satisfaction to reply to the hon. member. In all the arrangements for the public service entrusted to the Governor hitherto, His Excellency has invariably exercised that economy which the House desires, and the same economy will be exercised in dealing with any new arrangements that may be made with reference to the coastal service. Although a certain amount is placed on the Estimates for this purpose, it does not necessarily follow that it will be spent.

The motion to re-commit the Estimates was then put and negatived, and the report of the Committee adopted.

The house adjourned at a quarter past midnight.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Monday, 6th October, 1879.

The Member for Wellington (Mr. Steere)—Message (No. 21) from His Excellency the Governor: Revision of the Tariff—Branch of Privilege—Appropriation Bill: first reading—Concessions to Cultivators of Tropical Productions in North Territory: in committee—Tariff Act, 1878, Amendment Bill: second reading; in committee; third reading—Wines, Beer, and Spirit Sale Act, Amendment Bill: third reading—Adjournment.

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

PRAYERS.

THE MEMBER FOR WELLINGTON.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy) congratulated hon. members upon the re-appearance among them, after a comparatively long period of absence, of the hon. member for Wellington, who he was glad to see in his place again in the House. He was sure that, in offering the congratulations of the official members, he was but echoing the sentiments entertained by the other side of the House towards the hon. member, who had taken so prominent and active a part in parliamentary business for many years past.

MR. BROWN: It would ill become me, as the temporary leader of the elected members during the absence of the hon. member for Wellington, if I were not to supplement the few words of congratulation offered by the leader of the Government upon the hon. member's return to his parliamentary duties. The elected members have already met together and offered him their 'welcome' in all sincerity; and, personally, I may say I regret that the hon. member has declined to resume the position which I have held for him during his absence, and requested that I should continue to hold it until the close of the Session. At a great sacrifice of personal feeling in the matter,

I have consented to do so; still, I feel that he is, *de facto*, the leader of this side of the House.

MR. STEERE: I hope I may be permitted to say a few words expressive of the gratification I feel at the words of welcome made use of by the hon. gentleman who represents the Government, and who, in a parliamentary sense, is the leader of the House, both of the Government and of the elected members. I was taken perfectly by surprise by his kindly mention of me; but I was none the less gratified by what he said, because it is proof to me, that during the long term of years I have taken part in the business of this House, my services have been appreciated by my fellow members. As to what has fallen from the hon. member for Geraldton, I should rather not have returned to my place in the House at all, if I had thought I was going to dispossess him of the position he has so worthily filled during my absence. I know he is making a personal sacrifice to continue to hold that position; but I do not think it would tend to advance the public business, nor would it subserve the public interests, were I at the present time to resume the position which I had the honor of occupying in this House, previous to my departure from the Colony.

MESSAGE (NO. 21) FROM HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR: REVISION OF THE TARIFF.

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

"The Estimate of Expenditure which has just been sanctioned by Your Honorable House, calls on the Government to make provision for an outlay during the year 1880 of £176,256 4s. 8d.

"2. The Revenue which it is probable will be raised from the sources at present available, it is considered cannot be safely fixed at a larger amount than £161,560; and this estimate is incurred in by gentlemen unconnected with the Government, but well acquainted with the financial prospects of the Colony.

"3. There will therefore be a deficit of £14,696 to be dealt with at the close of 1880, in addition to the debt of £30,868 which we now owe.

"4. At this moment, by making use of part of the loan, we are relieved from the necessity of borrowing and paying heavy interest for this debt, as we have hitherto done, but by thus using it we are actually sacrificing some £1,500 a year, which we should obtain by placing it out at interest at 5 per cent. in the Colony, as has been done with other portions of it.

"5. But even if we desired to continue this arrangement, it is clear that we cannot rely on doing so much longer. The rate at which the railway progresses renders it necessary to keep our funds well in hand, and after careful consideration it has been decided to be unsafe to place any of the loan at interest at a longer call than nine months. In fact, it is calculated that by the middle of next year we can expect no further permanent assistance from the loan, and must be prepared to face the deficiency of £7,348 on the half year's Revenue and Expenditure, and the £30,868 debt, or a total of £38,216, which by the end of 1880 will amount to £45,564. If this be not paid off it must be borrowed, and at 8 per cent., the rate of interest hitherto charged us for our overdrafts, this would add £3,645 a year to our expenditure.

"6. If there were any strong reason for expecting that the Colony would in the next two years make such a considerable advance that without additional taxation the revenue would furnish a surplus sufficient to pay off these liabilities, it might be wiser to resort to borrowing as a temporary expedient. But there seems little reason to suppose that the financial condition of the Colony will become so much better in this short time. After a most patient and searching investigation, it has been admitted that the expenditure of the Colony during the ensuing year cannot be estimated at less than £176,000, and there is nothing to lead to the supposition that it will be much less in the following year. The Revenue of 1880 has been estimated at £161,560, which is within £600 of the average amount received in the last four (4) years, and although it is to be hoped that the improvement in our prospects which is now manifesting itself will be continued, it

"would certainly not be safe to assume that this improvement will be equal to an increase of £14,000 per annum on our Revenue, and that in 1881 we may look forward with certainty to the Revenue and Expenditure balancing each other.

"7. The conclusion which these facts establish is, that we now owe over £30,000, by which we are losing £1,500 a year; that in nine months' time this will have been increased to over £38,000, and at the end of 1880 to over £46,000, on which we shall, in addition, be paying upwards of £3,000 a year interest; and further, that if our financial position continues to improve, and the balance of Expenditure over Revenue to diminish, we may expect, at the end of another year, that our whole liability will not probably be more than £55,000, and possibly £2,000 or £3,000 less.

"8. But there is nothing in the financial position of the Colony to warrant our allowing matters to take this course. It is self-evident that the longer we defer paying off our debts the more we shall have to pay before we are clear of them; and the only question really demanding consideration is, how long a time should be allowed for this purpose.

"9. Assuming that from two to three years is fixed as the limit, it will be necessary to increase taxation to the extent of about £20,000 a year. This sum received in 1880 will reduce the debt at the end of that year from £46,000 to £26,000; and at the close of 1881 (allowing for interest on the balance) it should not be more than £6,000, which would be extinguished early in 1882. Such an arrangement it seems quite within the compass of our means to carry out without anything like undue pressure on the community; and if it meet the approval of Your Honorable House, the Governor is prepared to submit a scheme for giving it effect by a re-arrangement of the Tariff, imposing such moderate additions as will press equally and fairly upon all classes of consumers.

"Government House, Perth, 6th October, 1879."

BREACH OF PRIVILEGE.

MR. CAREY—referring to the notice he had given on Friday evening of his intention of drawing the attention of the House to a leading article in the *W. A. Times*, of the 3rd October inst., directly concerning the privileges of the House—said he had altered his mind, and did not intend to take any notice of the matter, after the highly complimentary manner in which he had been spoken of by the Acting Attorney General the other evening. It appeared to him it mattered very little what was said either inside the House or outside it.

The subject then dropped.

APPROPRIATION BILL.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy) moved the first reading of a Bill to appropriate the sum of £176,256 4s. 8d., out of the general revenue of the Colony, for the year 1880.

CONCESSIONS TO CULTIVATORS OF TROPICAL PRODUCTIONS IN NORTH TERRITORY.

IN COMMITTEE.

MR. HARPER said he wished, with the leave of the House, to amend the resolution standing in his name, relative to concessions to cultivators of tropical productions in the North Territory. The resolution as it stood committed the Government to a specific form of complying with the wishes of the House in the matter, and he thought it was desirable that more discretionary power should be placed in their hands. The House had already affirmed the desirability of forming a Government station at Beagle Bay, or at some other part of that territory, and he thought it would be expedient that as soon as possible after the formation of that station the Government should be in a position to offer inducements for the settlement and the cultivation of that portion of the Colony. For this reason the amended resolution he was about to propose was not so specific, and gave them more discretionary power, than that previously standing in his name. It was as follows: "That it is desirable that encouragement should be given which may hasten settlement in the Northern portion of this territory, and that liberal terms should be offered; this Council there-

“fore resolves that it is desirable that the terms for the occupation of the lands by the first pioneer agricultural settlers on our North-West Coast should be on the following basis:—That Crown Grants of sufficient area for plantations be offered at the expiration of a certain number of years, on condition of a certain amount of cultivation, and that a bonus be offered to the first producer of any considerable amount of merchantable produce from such lands.”

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. M. Fraser): Dealing as the resolution does with the matter in the abstract, the Government will offer no opposition to it.

On the motion of Mr. BROWN, Progress was reported, and leave given to sit again on Tuesday, the 7th October.

TARIFF ACT, 1876, AMENDMENT BILL.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy) moved the second reading of a Bill to repeal the existing tariff and to make other provisions in lieu thereof. The hon. gentleman said he regretted exceedingly it had fallen to his lot to have to introduce such a Bill, having for its object to add to the burdens of taxation; but, as was very clearly and succinctly shown in the Message which His Excellency had just addressed to the House, the necessity for such a measure had become imperative, in order to meet the deficit which had been found to exist in the public finances. Other plans had been suggested for meeting that deficit: one was the issuing of short-dated Treasury bonds, but that proposal was soon disposed of by the simple fact that it was not competent for the Government to issue such bonds. Another plan suggested was to borrow the amount necessary to pay off the deficit and thus get rid of it at one stroke; but he thought it could hardly be regarded as politic or statesmanlike on our part to enter the London market just now. It would never do, just as we have been asking the British capitalist to lend us £200,000, to tell him in the same breath that we were constrained to renew a paltry little bill for £30,000. The third plan proposed for meeting the deficit was to increase taxation, within the compass of our means, and avoiding as much as possible anything like undue

pressure on the community. This was the plan which, after careful and mature deliberation, the Government had resolved to adopt, and it was a method of meeting the difficulty which he believed would best meet with the approval of the House. No doubt, any proposal to increase the fiscal burdens of the people would be unpopular: for Englishmen both at home and in the colonies had a great impatience of taxation, and always cried out against any proposal to put additional burdens on their shoulders. At the same time it was clear that—no matter how rigid a system of economy we adopted—if the wants of the country and the requirements of the public service were attended to, the revenue must be increased in order to meet the existing and prospective deficiency. The hon. gentleman then entered into a comparative statement of the exports and imports of the Colony during the past year and the preceding one. In the number of horses exported last year there was an increase of 163 as compared with the number exported during the previous twelve months. He himself believed that were more attention paid to the breeding of horses in this Colony there could be very little doubt that Western Australia ought to be the market for supplying India with what she required in this respect, both for cavalry and artillery purposes. Owing to the depression in the mineral market, he regretted to observe a very considerable falling off in our exports of ore; but, on the other hand, another important industry showed every signs of increased development, namely pearl shells, the quantity exported last year being 202½ tons as compared with 103¼ tons in the previous year. The latter was officially valued at £12,540, and the former at £34,300. Last year, in addition to the above, 340½ tons of Sharks Bay shells were exported. He was also pleased to notice a considerable increase in the item of timber, of which no less a quantity than 11,600 loads was exported in 1878, showing an excess of 4,800 loads on the quantity shipped out of the Colony in the preceding year. This he regarded as a very satisfactory indication of the development of an important industry, and he believed that through the efforts of a gentleman whose name

had been on more than one occasion brought before the House during the Session in connection with this industry (Mr. M. C. Davies) the timber trade would be still further developed during next year. Turning to another staple product, wool, the result of last year's operations as compared with the previous year was not so encouraging. The quantity of wool exported in 1877 was 3,992,487 lbs.; but last year the export of wool was 3,019,501 lbs., showing a falling off of nearly 1,000,000 lbs. On the other hand, there was a grain of consolation in the fact that the wool exported last year realised a higher price in the home market than did the same commodity in the previous year. Turning to another source of revenue, guano, he found that the quantity exported last year, including what was shipped at the Lacedpedes Islands from 1st January to 22nd September, was £13,219 tons, our exports under this head during the preceding year having only been 1,212 tons. He regretted to think that during the present year there was no prospect of our realising any considerable amount of revenue from this source, for the Lacedpedes he might say were worked out, and the outlook at present was not very encouraging. Still, he thought that the exertions of private enterprise, combined with Government assistance, would, if properly directed, result in the discovery of fresh deposits of this valuable fertilising agent. The export of sandalwood during the past year had not increased to any large extent—the excess over the previous year being about 430 tons, the ruling prices being, he believed, somewhat higher than in 1877. Glancing at our imports during the past two years, it appeared that the value of goods imported, with *ad valorem* duty, last year was £7,203 less than the value of goods of the same class imported in the previous year. On the other hand there was an increase in the value of goods with specific duties last year as compared with 1877—an increase of £8,899. Comparing the total value under both heads, there was a slight increase in favor of last year. As to the new tariff, hon. members were aware the Government had afforded them every opportunity of acquainting themselves with the intention of the Executive as

regarded the proposed revision of the tariff, and he believed it would be readily acknowledged that the Government had acted in a most straightforward manner towards the House in this matter, and it was not without careful deliberation that the tariff had been amended as it was proposed to amend it in the Bill now before the House. The alterations which it was intended to make would not, it was believed, press with undue weight upon any class of the community, and the burden of taxation had been so evenly spread that its incidence would hardly be felt at all. By means of this fresh taxation—as would be seen from the return already laid on the Table*—it was expected that in the course of two years the Colony would have got rid of the present deficit and also of next year's prospective deficiency, and then start afresh. If, at the end of that time, it were found necessary to continue the taxation now proposed, in order to complete the Eastern Districts railway, or any other useful and reproductive public work of a national character, he did not think there was a single taxpayer who would begrudge paying it.

* PROPOSED INCREASE OF DUTIES.

Article.	Present Duty.	Proposed Duty.	Increase of Duty.	Expected Amount.
Spirits ...	14 0	15 0	1 0	9,000
Wine ...	4 0	4 0	0 0	1,000
Oil, Mineral ...	4 0	4 0	0 0	1,000
Dried Fruit ...	0 2	0 3	0 1	1,000
Sugar ...	3 0	3 0	0 0	1,700
Tobacco ...	3 0	3 0	0 0	2,000
Butter ...	6	6	0 0	500
Beef ...	Nil.	2 0	2 0	500
Hops ...	10	10	0 0	300
Confectionery ...	0 2	0 4	0 2	250
Meats and Bacon ...	0 2	0 4	0 2	250
Cheese ...	0 2	0 3	0 1	350
Pepper and Spices ...	0 0	0 3	0 3	50
Free list almost wholly ...	0 0	0 0	0 0	0
ashed and duties raised from	10	11 1/2	1 1/2	9,000
				£20,350

Mr. BROWN was sure he would be justified, on the part of the elected members, in acknowledging what they all felt—that in this matter of revising the tariff the Government had treated them in a most open and straightforward manner, as indeed he believed it was always their desire to do. He thought he was also justified in stating that, on the part of the elected members, no opposition would be offered to the second reading of the Bill now before the House. Every member of the House must acknowledge that the principle of the Bill must be recognised as a matter of necessity, brought about by a deficiency in the revenue to meet the public expenditure; but as to the details of the measure he could not of course pledge any member of the House, though he believed he was justified in saying that, on the whole, very little difference of opinion would be found as to the best means for raising the extra taxation which it was found necessary to raise. The elected members having fully considered the subject among themselves, had agreed, and agreed almost unanimously, that the necessity existed for imposing fresh taxation to the extent at least of £20,000 a year, in order to wipe off the deficit that was staring them in the face; and, so far, at any rate, members were in accord with the Government, though there were some minor details with reference to which there was not the same accord. Among the items to which he believed opposition would be offered was that under the head of “sugar, molasses, and treacle,” the duty on which it was proposed by the Bill before the House to increase fifty per cent. As these commodities might be regarded as among the necessaries of life, especially in the case of the poorer classes of the community, it was thought that the increased duty would press with undue severity upon these classes. Some opposition would, he believed, be offered to the proposal of the Government with reference to the amount of duty proposed on unmanufactured tobacco, and one or two other articles. As, however, these reductions would entail the necessity of making some further provision to meet the amount of taxation which it was felt necessary to raise, he believed he was right in saying that a majority

of members were in favor of increasing the *ad valorem* duties from 11½ per cent., as proposed by the Government (and which would involve some very abstruse calculations), to 12½ per cent., which would meet the deficiency that would be caused by reducing the duty on the articles he had already named. It would be observed by the second schedule of the Bill that it was proposed to abolish the free list almost altogether. Some hon. members believed, the majority of members believed, that many of the articles now on the free list which it was proposed to abolish and place on the *ad valorem* list ought not to pay more than ten per cent. These he believed were the only alterations which would be proposed in the Bill, in Committee, and as hon. members had already made up their minds on this subject he saw no reason why the Bill should not become law the very next morning. As to the deficit which had necessitated this increased taxation, and which had formed the subject of so much talk and of so much writing, he regretted that the Government had put the matter forward in the sensational manner in which they did. Every member of that House, and every person outside the House, who had taken the trouble of comparing the returns of revenue and expenditure periodically published by the Government, must have known that there was a deficit of something like £30,000: but, in His Excellency's Speech at the opening of the Session, the deficit was put forward as a matter of surprise and of recent discovery, and reflections were cast as to the manner in which the public accounts had been kept in the past. A false impression altogether was created by the manner in which the subject was placed before the House, as if the existence of a deficit had only just been discovered, whereas it must have been well known to anybody who took the trouble to analyse the official returns published in the Blue Book, and the Auditor General's returns published in the *Gazette*, that the revenue of the Colony for some time past did not cover the public expenditure. The existence of a deficit was actually known some time ago, even in the Secretary of State's Office in London, and published to the world at large.

MR. CAREY said he did not rise to oppose the second reading of the Bill, because he knew that in doing so he would meet with no support. He could not, however, refrain from pointing out the departure which it was now proposed to be made by the Government from the principles of free trade—which had been the guiding principle of previous Administrations for years past—and the proposed adoption, at one step, of the opposite principle, that of protection. Something like £3,000, it was thought, would be raised, under the new tariff, by the duty on flour alone—a sum which might have easily been saved by reducing the vote for public buildings, by postponing the continuation of the new Government Offices round the corner, which might well have been allowed to “slide” for a time. He thought something like £4,500 had been unnecessarily voted for Works and Buildings. A great deal had been said in the course of the Session about retrenchment and economy, but, however much these principles were preached, they were little practised, when it was proposed to expend £200 to erect a tank and a porch at Government House, to protect the ladies’ bonnets. As to what had fallen from the hon. member for Geraldton about the public accounts, no one who had served on the Select Committee on the Over-Expenditure Bill could come to any other conclusion than that they were not kept in a very satisfactory way. He thought it was very undesirable that the House, at the fag end of a Session, should be called upon to deal with such an important subject as a revision of the tariff. Hon. members had been charged in some quarters with having obstructed the business of the House, whereas, in reality, the obstruction and delay had been caused by the Government not being prepared with the returns asked for. If a little more economy had been practised when the Estimates were in Committee, a great many votes might have been struck off, and the necessity for imposing a duty on flour, and tea, and sugar, and tobacco obviated—duties which would press more heavily upon the poor man than upon any other class of the community. He thought pearl shells should bear an increase of duty, rather than these commodities, though for his own part he

saw no necessity for any increase of taxation whatever. Allusion had been made by the Colonial Secretary to the probable increase which the revenue would derive from the operations of Mr. M. C. Davies in the timber trade; but he failed to see how any increase could be anticipated from any extended operations on the part of that gentleman, seeing that he was exempt from the payment of any export duty.

The Bill was then read a second time.

IN COMMITTEE.

Clause 1—repealing the present Tariff—agreed to.

Clause 2—“From and after the passing of this Act, there shall be charged, raised, collected, levied, and paid upon all goods, wares, articles, merchandise, and things not included in the third schedule of this Act (goods free of duty), such duties as are respectively specified in the first and second schedule”:

Agreed to, without discussion.

Clauses 3 and 4—defining the manner of collecting and levying the duties imposed by the Bill—were likewise agreed to.

MR. S. H. PARKER moved the following additional clause: “This Act shall continue, remain, and be in force, for the period of three years from the date of its passing, and for no longer term.” He understood from the statement made in the Governor’s Message that evening, and also from what had fallen from the Colonial Secretary, that, with the increased revenue which this Bill would provide, the deficit to meet which it was brought forward, would be wiped off in the course of two years or so; he, therefore, did not think it was the duty of the House to impose any fresh taxation for a longer period than was necessary to square up the public accounts. It would be quite competent for the Legislature which would then be in existence to continue this Act if they thought it necessary. They all knew it was very easy to put on fresh taxes, but it was a very difficult matter to take them off afterwards. He, therefore, thought it was highly desirable to limit the operation of the present Bill to three years.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy) pointed out that though the deficit might be wiped off

within the period named, yet there were certain public works, and notably the extension of the railway to the Eastern districts, which hon. members and the public had set their hearts upon, and which, if carried out, would necessitate provision being made to pay the interest on the loan which would be required to execute those works. Moreover, if the House limited the operation of the Act to a period of three years from the date of its passing, the Act of course would on that date become inoperative; and unless the Legislature happened to be in Session at the time, the Government would be placed in a very awkward dilemma, for unless another Bill were passed to meet the requirements of the public service, there would be no revenue available for carrying on the government of the country. For his own part he was, however, quite prepared to accept whatever was the wish of the House in the matter, and no opposition would be offered by the Government to the proposed new clause.

MR. SHENTON said he looked at the whole Bill more in sorrow than in anger—sorrow because of the necessity that existed for introducing such a measure, having for its object the placing of additional burdens upon the taxpayers, and that, too, not for the purpose of prosecuting public works, such as extending the railway to the Eastern districts, but to provide for a deficiency in the revenue. From the very first, he had been opposed to any scheme of fresh taxation for such a purpose, and had he thought he would have received any support he would have proposed the adoption of some such scheme as that some time ago resorted to in Tasmania, when a necessity arose there to make up a deficiency in the revenue, namely to authorise the Government to issue Treasury bonds to meet the deficit. Next year, probably, all the necessary information to enable them to pass a Bill to provide for extending the railway to the Eastern districts, would be ready, and the House then would be required to pass a loan Bill to provide for that extension. The money thus raised would not be required at once, and he thought a portion of it might be appropriated to meet this deficit, and thus avoid any necessity for imposing fresh taxation.

The Government and the majority of hon. members, however, thought otherwise, and in agreeing to the present Bill he was bowing to the will of the majority rather than following his own inclinations.

MR. MARMION considered that the only proper course which the House could adopt, under the circumstances, was that which they had adopted. Bearing in mind that the House itself was to a very great extent responsible for the existing deficit, he thought it would have been an act of cowardice on their part were they to endeavour to shrink from the duty of providing for it, or to put it off for another day. He regretted the existence of this deficiency as much as any man, and he would like to meet it, if possible, by some other means than fresh taxation; but he failed to see how it could be done. The increased taxation now proposed was distributed as fairly as possible, so as not to press unduly upon any section of the community. As to the new clause proposed by the hon. member for Perth, he felt disposed to support it, and for this reason—the avowed object of the present Bill was to meet the deficiency in the revenue, and not to provide for the payment of interest upon any loans that might hereafter be raised for public works; and when they made provision to wipe off this deficit he thought the House would be doing all that could reasonably be expected from it, at the present moment. With reference to the difficulty pointed out by the Colonial Secretary, as to the possibility of the Legislature not being in Session when this Bill, so to speak, expired, he thought the Government would find no difficulty in providing for such an emergency, and he had no doubt they would take good care to do so.

MR. BROWN said the new clause would have his support. He regarded it as a very proper precaution, for it was admitted that all the House was asked to do now was to make provision for meeting a certain deficit, and it was pointed out that this object would be accomplished before the period to which it was proposed to limit the operation of the Bill expired. He thought, in view of the approaching dissolution of the present Council, they had no right to commit another Council to the proposed amended tariff. If their successors in

that House were in favor of extending the railway to the Eastern districts, and it was found necessary, as no doubt it would, to make provision for meeting the interest of the money borrowed for that purpose, it would be quite competent for them to do so, either by re-enacting the present Bill, or otherwise.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy) said, that having heard the explanations offered by the hon. members who had spoken in support of the clause, he felt constrained to say that he accepted it with the greatest pleasure.

The new clause was then put and passed.

First Schedule: Table of Duties—
 "Bacon, hams, and tongues, 3d. per lb.;
 "beer, cider, and perry, 1s. per gallon;
 "butter, 2d. per lb.; cheese, 3d. per lb.;
 "cigars and snuff, 5s. per lb.; cocoa and
 "chocolate, 2d. per lb.; coffee or chicory,
 "2d. per lb.; confectionery, 4d. per lb.;
 "fruit, dried, not including dates, 3d. per
 "lb.; ginger, 3d. per lb.; hops, 4d. per lb.;
 "malt, 2s. per bushel; oils, (mineral), 6d.
 "per gallon; onions, 10s. per ton; pepper,
 "3d. per lb.; potatoes, 10s. per ton; rice,
 "1s. per cwt.; sago, 1d. per lb.; salt, 10s.
 "per ton; soda crystal, 20s. per ton;
 "spices, 3d. per lb.; spirits, cordials, or
 "strong waters, not being perfumed or
 "medicinal spirits, to be used as medicine
 "or perfumery only, for each and every
 "Imperial gallon of such spirits, cordials,
 "or strong waters, of any strength not
 "exceeding the strength of proof by Syke's
 "Hydrometer, and so in proportion for
 "any greater strength than the strength
 "of proof, or any quantity greater or less
 "than a gallon, 15s. per gallon; sugar,
 "molasses, and treacle, 4s. 6d. per cwt.;
 "tea, 5d. per lb.; tobacco, (manufactured
 "and unmanufactured) 3s. per lb.; to-
 "bacco, for sheepwash, 3d. per lb.; vine-
 "gar, 6d. per gallon; wine, 4s. per gallon.
 "On all goods, wares, articles, merchan-
 "dise, or things imported into this
 "Colony and not otherwise charged with
 "a specific duty, and not included in the
 "second schedule hereto, a duty of 11½
 "per cent., according to the value of the
 "same, £11 5s. per cent.:"

MR. MARMION moved, as an amend-
 ment, "That the duty on spirits be 14s.
 instead of 15s." The hon. member said,
 a similar proposal was made in 1876, on

the recommendation of the commission
 appointed to report on the Tariff. He
 could not do better than refer to the
 paragraph in which he then expressed
 his dissent from that recommendation.
 The commission in their report said:—
 "With respect to the alterations we
 "have suggested in the specific list, they
 "require little comment. We have
 "recommended a reduction of the duty
 "on butter and tea from 3d. to 2d., and
 "from 4d. to 3d. respectively. The loss
 "to the revenue by this reduction, we
 "propose to make good by raising the
 "duty on spirits to 15s. per gallon.
 "Mr. Marmion, however, is opposed to
 "this proposed measure, as he considers
 "that, though spirits should be heavily
 "taxed, the present duty of 14s. is
 "sufficiently high. This duty, Mr. Mar-
 "mion argues, has been arrived at by a
 "gradual increase from 10s. the gallon,
 "and spirits are now more heavily taxed
 "in this than in any one of the neigh-
 "boring colonies—the duty here being
 "40 per cent. higher than in some of
 "them, and 17 per cent. above that of
 "the remainder—12s. being the highest
 "duty levied in those colonies, though
 "they, unlike Western Australia, are
 "burdened with heavy debts, which
 "oblige them to tax spirits and other
 "imports of a luxurious character to
 "their fullest extent." Were he to
 speak at length on the subject, he could
 not more clearly express his views than
 as they were here represented, and he
 hoped the arguments adduced would
 have some weight with hon. members
 that evening. He believed that in none
 of the other colonies had the duty been
 increased since. If the Government
 intended to impose a prohibitive duty,
 would it not be better to introduce the
 Maine Liquor Law at once? They might
 then argue that they were consistent
 humanitarians, but at present they would
 merely be unduly taxing one particular
 trade, if they increased the duty on
 spirits, as now proposed. At a later
 period of the debate he should be prepared
 to bring forward other items to make
 good the amount of revenue which the
 proposed increase would have brought in.

MR. SHENTON pointed out that at
 the time when the commission referred
 to by the hon. member sat, the tariff was
 not revised in order to swell the revenue;

but now they were called upon to provide increased taxation, and he thought the additional duty on spirits would be a legitimate source of income, especially looking at the fact that it was not proposed to impose any extra duty on beer or wines.

MR. MARMION then formally moved, "That the figures '15' be struck out, and '14' be inserted in lieu thereof."

Question—That the figures proposed to be struck out stand part of the schedule—put, and a division called for, when there appeared

Ayes	...	...	14
Noes	...	...	5
Majority for	...	...	9

AYES.
The Hon. G. W. Leake
The Hon. M. Fraser
Mr. Brown
Mr. Brockman
Mr. Burgess
Mr. Glyde
Mr. Hamersley
Mr. Hardey
Mr. Harper
Sir L. S. Leake
Mr. S. S. Parker
Mr. Shenton
Mr. Steers
The Hon. E. T. Golds-
worth (Teller.)

NOES.
Mr. Carey
Mr. Monger
Mr. S. H. Parker
Mr. Pearse
Mr. Marmion (Teller.)

The amendment was therefore negatived, and the item ordered to stand part of the schedule.

Item "Sugar, Molasses, and Treacle, per cwt. 4s. 6d.:"

MR. MARMION moved, "That '4s. 6d.' be struck out, and '4s.' be inserted in lieu thereof."

MR. BROCKMAN moved, as an amendment to the proposed amendment, "That '4s. 6d.' be struck out, and '3s.' be inserted in lieu thereof."

The amendment to the proposed amendment—put.

Committee divided.

Ayes	...	...	5
Noes	...	...	13
Majority against	...	...	8

AYES.
Mr. Carey
Mr. Hamersley
Mr. Monger
Mr. Shenton
Mr. Brockman (Teller.)

NOES.
The Hon. E. T. Golds-
worth
The Hon. G. W. Leake
Mr. Burgess
Mr. Glyde
Mr. Hardey
Mr. Harper
Sir L. S. Leake
Mr. Marmion
Mr. S. H. Parker
Mr. S. S. Parker
Mr. Pearse
Mr. Steers
Mr. Brown (Teller.)

The amendment to the proposed amendment was therefore negatived.

The question that "4s. 6d." be struck out and "4s." be inserted in lieu thereof, was then put and passed.

Item "Tea, per lb. 5d.:"

MR. S. H. PARKER moved, as an amendment, that "5d." be struck out and "4d." inserted in its place. The hon. member thought they might well leave this article, at any rate, as at present, and not deprive poor families of the cup that cheered but did not inebriate.

The amendment was agreed to without opposition.

Item "Tobacco, manufactured and unmanufactured, per lb. 3s.:"

MR. BROWN moved, that the words "and unmanufactured" be struck out.

Agreed to.

MR. BROWN then moved that the duty on unmanufactured be 1s., instead of 3s. as proposed in the schedule.

MR. MARMION seconded the motion. A duty of 3s. per lb. on unmanufactured tobacco would simply be a prohibitive impost.

The motion was agreed to, as was also the next item "Tobacco for sheepwash, per lb. 3d.:"

"Item—On all goods, wares, articles, "merchandise, or things imported into "this Colony and not otherwise charged "with a specific duty, and not included "in the Second Schedule hereto, a duty "of eleven and a quarter per cent, "according to the value of the same, "£11 5s. per cent.:"

MR. BROWN, without comment, moved, that the figures "11¼" be struck out, and "12½" be inserted in lieu thereof; and that the figures "£11 5s." be struck out, and "£12 10s." be inserted in lieu thereof.

Question—put and passed.

First Schedule, as amended, agreed to.

"Second Schedule—Goods free of duty: "Books, coal, coke and fuel, ice, live "stock, musical instruments (for churches "or chapels only), personal baggage; "plants, seeds, and bulbs; provisions and "stores required for Her Majesty's ser- "vice (military or naval); specie; and "uniforms and appointments.:"

SIR L. S. LEAKE said he hardly knew how to express his astonishment when he came to look at this schedule, and saw that flour was not included in the free list. Surely it must be a mis-

take. It never could be that the House would go and tax the poor man's loaf. He would move, as an amendment, that the very first item on the free list shall be "flour, bran, pollard, meal, corn "and other grain (not including rice)." It must have been an oversight, surely, that these articles were not included in the schedule of goods free of duty.

MR. S. H. PARKER seconded the amendment. He regretted to find the Government departing from the free trade principles enunciated and adopted by the Weld Administration.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. M. Fraser) said he did not regard the question as one of free trade *versus* protection—it was a mere question of revenue. In Governor Weld's time there was no necessity to regard it from that point of view, but merely as an abstract principle. Now, however, the exigencies of our financial condition rendered the question one of absolute necessity, and not one of mere sentiment. He regretted very much that the necessity existed, and he failed to see that there was any inconsistency on the part of the occupants of the Government benches in accepting the present arrangement, which, seeing that the Bill was only to remain operative for three years, could only be regarded as a temporary expedient to tide over a financial difficulty.

MR. MARMION said he felt it incumbent upon him to support the amendment before the Committee. It was all very well to say that the question was not one of free trade and protection; but it could not be gainsaid that the principle involved was that of taxing the many to benefit a few,—in other words, protecting the producer at the expense of the consumer. If the Colony, as alleged by the advocates of a protective duty, was capable of producing sufficient flour for home consumption, why had it not done so? It was not because there was no duty on imported flour, but in consequence of climatic causes, red rust, and other visitations. He did not believe in forcing an industry like agriculture, by means of protective duties; nor did he think this was the time for increasing the price of an article which, to the poor at any rate, was the staff of life. If he thought the imposition of a duty on flour would have

the effect of stimulating cultivation, and, by increasing the production of flour reduce the price, he would be disposed to vote for a protective duty; but he did not consider it would have that effect. At some future day, when, with the aid of improved means of transport and increased facilities for conveying grain to market, production would be stimulated, and our farmers would be in a position to supply all our wants in this respect, he would not then be averse to a protective duty.

MR. HARPER had much pleasure in supporting the amendment, that flour, etc., be placed on the free list. He thought it was quite a mistake to imagine that the imposition of a duty on flour would increase the revenue; he believed it would have quite a contrary effect, and that it would tend to check the introduction of imported flour to a very great extent, the public meanwhile being sufferers. It should be borne in mind that in the districts north of Champion Bay hardly a bushel of wheat was grown, and by placing a duty on imported flour we would be forcing the people of those districts to pay a great deal more for what to them was even more a necessary of life than it was to the residents in this part of the Colony who had other articles of consumption, articles which it might be regarded as among the necessaries of life, within their reach. There were great numbers of the poorer classes upon which this duty would press very heavily, and he would be very sorry to see it imposed.

MR. CAREY said he also would support the amendment. A great deal was said about doing justice to the agricultural community; but, in his opinion, to be just to the agriculturist meant justice to the working man. This duty, if imposed, would affect a large number of working men in the Southern districts, where so many of the laboring class were employed in the timber industry. It was scarcely fair nor consistent to tax the majority for the benefit of the minority.

MR. SHENTON was surprised to find the hon. member for Vasse departing from the principles he had advocated and voted for in 1872. The hon. member was one of those who then voted in favor of a duty on flour.

MR. CAREY said that, in this respect, he was only following in the steps of the official members.

MR. BURGESS considered that the imposition of this duty would prove most beneficial, not only to the farmers but to the community at large. When agriculture prospered, all other interests prospered. Surely it would be worth something, if, by protecting the local corn-grower, we saved some £30,000 or £40,000 a year from going into the pockets of the South Australian farmers.

MR. MONGER said he would oppose the amendment. Imported flour was landed on Fremantle jetty not long ago at £10 15s. per ton; how could they expect our farmers to compete with this, when it cost £3 10s. per ton to bring their produce from York to Fremantle. What difference would a duty of £1 per ton on imported flour make to the poor man? None, he might say. He believed, were such a duty imposed, that for every man now employed in cultivating wheat in the York district there would be ten so employed. If guaranteed 5s. a bushel for his flour, he would himself undertake to cultivate a thousand acres.

MR. MARMION said the question resolved itself into this—because a few hundred farmers in the Eastern districts could not produce enough flour for the requirements of consumers—the residents in the centres of population—these latter were to be taxed for the benefit of the former.

MR. BROWN said one reason why the Colony had not produced enough flour to supply all its requirements was that our producers had had more than their due share of taxation to bear; and, so long as we did not do justice to them, we would have to go elsewhere for our supplies. Another reason was, that our unfortunate farmers were brought down so low, when they were producing enough for the whole Colony, by the ravages of red rust and other visitations, that they had never recovered themselves, and were never likely to do so, unless they were encouraged and stimulated to renewed exertions by protecting them from more favored outsiders. As a simple act of justice to a most worthy class of colonists, he hoped the House would reject the amendment.

MR. MONGER said that some twenty years ago, no less than from 30,000 to 35,000 bushels of wheat a week were brought to their mill at York, and there would have been no difficulty in supplying the wants of the whole Colony. Farmers who, in those days, sent two or three hundred bushels a week to the miller, now only produced enough for their own consumption. And why? Because there was no market for their surplus produce, and the prevailing feeling, under the circumstances was, "we may as well play as work."

MR. PEARSE expressed himself in favor of the amendment.

MR. HAMERSLEY said that, so far as he was personally concerned, he did not care one jot whether a duty was imposed or not, but he did think the present was the right time to take steps to stop the introduction of South Australian flour. From all reports, the crops in Europe had proved a failure, and South Australian producers would there find a profitable market for their surplus flour without coming here. That had not been the case hitherto, when they had pushed their flour into this market even against their own interests.

The amendment was then put, and a division being called for, there appeared

Ayes	...	...	7
Noes	...	...	12
			—
Majority against	...	...	5

AYES.	NOES.
Mr. S. H. Parker	The Hon. G. W. Leake
Mr. Marmion	The Hon. M. Fraser
Mr. Pearse	Mr. Brockman
Mr. Carey	Mr. Burgess
Mr. Harper	Mr. Hamersley
Mr. Glyde	Mr. Hardey
Sir L. S. Leake (Teller.)	Mr. Monger
	Mr. S. S. Parker
	Mr. Shenton
	Mr. Steere
	Mr. Brown
	The Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy (Teller.)

The amendment was therefore negatived.

The Schedule, as amended, was then agreed to.

MR. BROWN moved the following additional Schedule, to stand as Schedule 2.

"On the undermentioned goods, wares, articles, merchandise, or things imported into the Colony, a duty of 10

"per cent., according to the value of the same:—

"Alkali; Anchors; Bags and Sacks; "Blasting Powder and Fuses; Boats; "Brewery and Distillery Plant; Bricks, "Fire; Casks; Chain Cables $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch diameter and over; Copper Ore,— "Smelted, Sheet, Rods, Bolts, and Nails; "Corn and other grain (not including "rice); Disinfectants; Drainage Pipes, "Tiles; Earth Closets, and Patent Water "Closets; Engine Packing; Felt Sheathing; Fire Engines; Flour, Bran, Pol- "lard, and Meal; Forges, Forge Backs, "Blacksmith's Anvils and Bellows; Gas "Pipes; Glass and Stone Bottles; "Hides; Iron, Bar, Bolts, Rod, Pig, "Black Sheet, Boiler Plate, Hurdles, "Hoop, Wire and Netting for Fencing, "Posts for Fencing, Gates, Tanks, Work "for patent Slips and Docks, Work for "Railways and Tramways, for Railway "Bridges; Machinery for Agricultural "purposes; for Boring, Brick, and Tile "making, Planing, Punching, Sawing, "Turning, Quartz crushing, Manufacture "of Boots and Shoes; for Mills and "Looms; for Steam Vessels; Machine "Saws; Machinery for preserving or "boiling down Meat or Fish; for Sugar "Manufacture; for Mining purposes; "for Stone breaking; Manure; Metal "Sheathing (yellow), and Nails for same; "Mill Stones; Oakum; Pictures, Prints, "and Statuary; Pitch and Tar; Ploughs, "Harrows, Hayrakes, Clod Crushers, "Rollers, Horse Hoes, Drills, and Scari- "fiers; Preserved Mutton and Beef; "Printing Machinery; Printing Presses, "Type and Material; Pumps, Metal "Piping, Hose, and other apparatus for "raising or distributing water; Resin; "Rolling Stock for Railways; Salt Beef, "Salt Pork, Rock Salt; Smelting Ma- "terial; Specimens of Natural History; "Staves and Hoops for Casks; Steam "Engines, and parts of Steam Engines; "Steel, unworked; Telegraphic Instru- "ments, Wire, and Insulators; Weigh "Bridges for Carts; Wire Cloth for "Quartz Crushing Machinery; Wool "Bales."

This was agreed to.

Original Schedule 2 to stand as Sched- 3.
ule 3.

Preamble agreed to, and Bill reported.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy) moved the suspension

of the Standing Orders, with a view to now pass the Bill through all its stages.

Agreed to.

Bill read a third time and passed.

WINES, BEER, AND SPIRIT SALE ACT, AMENDMENT BILL.

Read a third time and passed.

The House adjourned at half-past twelve o'clock, a.m.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Tuesday, 7th October, 1879.

High School, Election of Governor—Memorial from Newcastle relative to repairs on that Road—Appropriation Bill: second reading; in committee; third reading—Concessions to Cultivators of Tropical Productions in North Territory—Adjournment.

THE SPEAKER took the Chair at noon.

PRAYERS.

HIGH SCHOOL—ELECTION OF GOVERNOR.

MR. S. H. PARKER said the first section of "The High School Act, Amendment Act, 1878" rendered it lawful for any person appointed or elected a governor of the High School, by writing under his hand, addressed to the Governor, to resign his post as governor of the school. Pursuant to this provision, he had addressed a letter of resignation to His Excellency the Governor, which letter had just been placed on the Table of the House, as required by the Act. The object he had in view in adopting this step was to enable the hon. member for Wellington, who had taken great interest in the establishment of the school, and who was one of its first governors, to resume that position which he occupied prior to his departure from the Colony. He felt that in the hon. member for Wellington the High School