

VOLUNTEER FOREIGN SERVICE BILL.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. A. P. Hensman), in moving the second reading of this bill, said it would not be necessary he should make many remarks. The House would have observed that the bringing in of the bill had been made desirable by reason of the recent gallant assistance which New South Wales had rendered to the mother country when at war in the Soudan. That offer of military assistance was received by the mother country, and, he thought, in all parts of the civilised world, as a proof of the bonds of sympathy which prevailed between the parent country and her colonies, and probably no act had done so much to win the sympathy of the English people towards these Australian colonies as the act of the New South Wales Government in connection with this matter. When the offer was made, it was found by the local military authorities in England that there were certain difficulties in the way of enlisting these colonial Volunteers—he did not mean any practical difficulty, but that there was a certain conflict of law with regard to the government and control of the Imperial forces and the government and control of the Volunteer forces. It was found that in most of these colonies the Volunteer Acts had not been framed in contemplation of the colonial forces serving abroad, and that unless an Act were passed making provision for foreign service, colonial Volunteers serving abroad would be under no obligation to military law. It had therefore been pointed out by the Secretary of State that the military authorities were anxious, in case any such contingency might arise in the future—they all hoped it might not arise—that all troops serving with the Imperial troops shall do so subject to the same disciplinary law as the Imperial troops themselves. Our own Act made no provision for foreign service, which was the object of the present bill. He was not aware whether a similar measure had been passed by the other colonies yet, but no doubt it would be, and it might be our privilege in this case to take the initiative. He did not think any Volunteer would object to be placed under the same discipline as that which prevailed in Her Majesty's Army. The second clause enacted that all the pro-

visions of our present Act as to pensions and gratuities shall apply to Volunteers serving out of the colony, in the same way as they applied to those serving in the colony. He hoped he had said sufficient to introduce the bill to the favorable notice of the House.

MR. S. H. PARKER said they had only that moment had the bill placed before them, and the question struck him whether they had power to pass a law regulating the conduct of our Volunteers outside the colony. We were not a Sovereign State but a mere dependency; and he would ask the hon. and learned gentleman in charge of the bill to allow the debate to be adjourned.

Agreed to.

Debate adjourned.

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

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Friday, 21st August, 1885.

Land Grant Railway proposals—(Message No. 20): Report of Native Commission and other papers connected with Native Affairs—(Message No. 21): Acknowledging gift of £1,000 voted by the House—Ostrich Farming (Message No. 6)—Lady Barlee's Annuity Bill: first reading—Municipal Institutions Act Amendment Bill: first reading—Municipal Councils Titles Bill: first reading—Contribution towards cost of administration of New Guinea (Message No. 12): adjourned debate—Supplementary Estimates, 1885: further consideration of—Destruction of Rabbits Bill: in committee—High School Scholarships and Exhibition (Message No. 13): Adjourned debate—Adjournment.

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

PRAYERS.

LAND GRANT RAILWAY PROPOSALS.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) laid on the table a proposal from Mr. Anthony Hordern to construct a railway on the land grant system between Bunbury and Elicup; also another proposal, from a syndicate of Lon-

don capitalists represented by Messrs. Stone and Burt, to construct a railway on the same system between the same places.

MESSAGE (No. 20): REPORT OF NATIVE COMMISSION.

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

"Referring to paragraph 22 of the Speech with which he opened the Session, the Governor has the honor to bring under the consideration of the Honorable the Legislative Council the Report of the Commission appointed in 1883 to consider questions connected with the treatment and condition of the Aboriginal Natives of the Colony.

"2. This Report was received by the Governor in September last, and was presented to Your Honorable House, by a Minute in which the Governor stated that it would be considered during the recess, and would be transmitted to the Secretary of State.

"3. The Governor now lays before the Council the despatch, No. 194 of the 28th of October last, by which the Report was transmitted to Her Majesty's Government, together with the Earl of Derby's despatch in reply, No. 16 of the 3rd of February last.

"4. A Minute dated the 23rd of October last, giving orders on points connected with the management of Rottneest Prison, forms an enclosure to the Governor's despatch above mentioned. The Report of the Superintendent of Rottneest, laid recently before the Council, should be read in connection with this Minute.

"5. The Governor will be obliged if Your Honorable House will give these documents, and the whole subject, that careful consideration which the Legislature of this Colony is ever ready to bestow on matters brought before it, and if the Council will favor him with suggestions as to the further action which should be taken on the Report of the Commission.

"Government House, Perth, 21st August, 1885."

The consideration of this message was made an order of the day for August 24.

MESSAGE (No. 21): ACKNOWLEDGING GIFT OF £1000 VOTED BY THE HOUSE.

MR. SPEAKER also notified the receipt of the following Message from His Excellency the Governor:

"The Governor has the honor to acknowledge the receipt of Address No. 16 of the Honorable the Legislative Council, dated the 14th instant, requesting that, as a mark of appreciation of his services to the Colony, a sum of one thousand pounds may be placed upon the Supplementary Estimates, to cover the expenses of his recent visit to England.

"2. The Governor has given directions in accordance with the wish of the Council; but whether he should accept the large sum of public money offered in a manner so complimentary and gratifying to himself, is a question which, without expressing any opinion or desire whatever, he must leave Her Majesty's Government to decide.

"3. It would be affectation to ignore the material aspect of the liberal gift intended by the Council, but the Governor places still higher value upon the state of feeling and the circumstances of which this very exceptional mark of confidence is the indication, and on the terms in which it is conveyed.

"4. The Address of Your Honorable House will ever be preserved by the Governor with that pride and satisfaction with which a public officer must always receive a vote of thanks from a Legislative Assembly.

"Government House, Perth, 21st August, 1885."

OSTRICH FARMING (MESSAGE No. 6).

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. J. Forrest) moved the adoption by the House of the recommendations of the select committee appointed to report on Mr. Lempriere's application for a grant of land, as an inducement to establish an ostrich farm in this colony. The committee recommended, as suggested by His Excellency in his message, that Mr. Lempriere be offered a free grant of 5,000 acres of Crown land, in one block, to be selected in a suitable locality (to be approved by the Government), subject to the follow-

ing conditions,—that the land be not absolutely conveyed to him until there shall be on his farm or farms not less than 250 pairs of full-grown ostriches, and that the concession be void and of no effect if no ostriches shall have been introduced within three years, or if less than fifty pairs be introduced within five years, and if the stipulated number (250 pairs) be not reached within ten years. He thought all hon. members would admit that every new industry established in the colony was an advance in the right direction. This industry of ostrich farming had not had much of a trial in these colonies yet, though one or two efforts had been made to establish it. He had visited an ostrich farm in Gawler, South Australia, some time ago, and he was there informed that the birds thrived well, and that there was every prospect of the concern turning out a remunerative one. He believed, however, the industry was a somewhat precarious one, and that there was no certainty of its proving a profitable investment. In South Africa, he believed, large fortunes were made by it, but all who embarked in it did not meet with the same amount of success. He was informed that a full grown ostrich was worth £60 or £70; but, even putting it at a low figure, say £40, it would be seen that Mr. Lempriere would within ten years have to put on his land £20,000 worth of ostriches, representing the capital value of 250 pairs. In return for this outlay it was proposed to give him 5,000 acres of land, which at the present upset price was not worth more than £2,500. He did not think that would be considered too large a bonus to offer for the investment of that much capital in the establishment of a new industry; and he hoped the House would be of the same opinion.

MR. BROWN moved that the paragraphs of the report be considered *seriatim*.

Agreed to.

Paragraph 1.—“That Mr. Lempriere “be offered a free grant of 5,000 acres of “Crown Land, in one block, in the form “prescribed by the existing Land Regulations, to be selected in a suitable “locality to be approved by the Government, subject to the condition that “the land be not absolutely conveyed to

“him until there shall be on his farm or “farms two hundred and fifty pairs of “full grown ostriches.”

MR. VENN hoped hon. members would consider for a few moments before they locked up 5,000 acres of land for three years to enable this gentleman to find out whether he could establish an ostrich farm. He should have liked to have heard something more about the South Australian experiment, where this industry had been carried on to some extent. He understood that the quantity of land used there was very small indeed for these ostrich farms—a few hundred acres; and he understood they were doing well on that. It appeared to him that 5,000 acres for an industry like this was a very large bonus indeed. When he asked for a bonus, last year, for establishing a much more important industry, the sugar industry, he received no encouragement at all. There was no knowing where this gentleman might select his 5,000 acres; it might be some of our best sugar land, in the northern territory. At any rate he thought the bonus offered was a very large one, and he should also like to see the term of three years allowed for selection reduced to one year.

MR. SHENTON expressed himself in favor of the recommendations of the committee. He thought every encouragement ought to be offered for the establishment of new industries. It might be considered that 5,000 acres of land was a large quantity, but, from all he had heard, it was a very difficult thing indeed to rear young ostriches. He knew that at Gawler the greatest difficulties were experienced and an enormous expense had to be incurred, before the industry was established on a firm footing. Moreover, this grant of land was very guardedly hedged round by the select committee. It was well known that the best class of land was not required for ostrich farms,—only third class land; and he did not think 5,000 acres of scrubby land, unsuited for agriculture, would be a very large concession to make in view of the outlay which would have to be incurred.

MR. GRANT said there was no knowing whether scrubby land would be selected or not, or whether this gentleman would select the most valuable land in the colony. In fact we did not know

what we were giving away, and possibly giving it away for what after all might turn out to be a myth. He did not think we ought to give our land away merely to enable other people to experiment with it, for their own benefit. There had already, in his opinion, been too much altogether of this bartering away of the lands of the colony for nothing. People outside the colony were getting hold of the idea that land in Western Australia might be had by asking for it, and he was afraid this must have a tendency to depreciate the value of our lands in the eyes of the world.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said that some few years ago a gentleman visited this colony from South Australia in order to ascertain the capabilities of the country and the adaptability of our climate for ostrich farming, and he had several interviews with that gentleman on the subject; and, from what he could learn, he had very little doubt that, were ostriches introduced here, they would thrive very well. They knew this was the country of the emu, which very much resembled the ostrich, and that where one would thrive the other would. He should have been agreeable to offer even a larger concession than that recommended by the committee, if we could thereby succeed in getting this industry established. At the same time he was alive to what the hon. member for Wellington had said, that it was just possible the land selected might be some of our most favored lands at the North, and perhaps it would have been as well if the select committee in their report had mentioned the area within which the land must be selected. He could not conceive, however, that the promoters of this industry were likely to go to our tropical northern territory to select their land. The habitat of the ostrich was not in the tropics. He understood the birds would not do well except on land having a limestone formation, and that water was absolutely necessary. The only parts of the colony where they would be likely to get land, in sufficient area, combining these essential conditions, would be on the coast line; and probably the land selected would be somewhere on the coast between Fremantle and the Irwin. If we could get this valuable industry successfully

acclimatised in our midst, he did not think 5,000 acres would be an extravagant concession at all.

MR. BROWN thought it would be an excellent thing for the colony if it were proved that it was adapted for ostrich farming on a large scale. He believed, himself, that ostriches would thrive splendidly in the Carnarvon district, where he might say were the largest emus he had ever seen. Unfortunately the majority of our settlers were not possessed of sufficient capital to enable them to embark in such enterprises, as an experiment; but there was no doubt it would be a grand thing for the colony if the fact were once established that it was adapted for successful ostrich rearing. He should have liked, however, to have had some further information from the committee as to why they had recommended that three years should be allowed the promoter of this scheme before commencing operations.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. A. P. Hensman) said it had been asked whether such a large quantity of land as 5,000 acres would be necessary for establishing this ostrich farm. So far as he understood it, this land was not asked for simply for the prosecution of the industry, but also that the promoters shall have some remuneration for the capital invested in establishing the industry. He must say, without any special knowledge of ostrich farming, or of the value of land in different parts of the colony—he must say it seemed to him, as an outsider, if he might so call himself, that we had everything to gain and nothing to lose in this matter. This land, after all, was only to be selected “in a suitable locality, to be approved by the Government.” It appeared to him that the terms recommended by the select committee were very reasonable terms.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. J. Forrest), replying to Mr. Brown, said the only reason he could give why the committee recommended three years was that it must take some time for the promoter of the scheme to bring his ostriches here, and there might be other preliminaries to settle. He did not know whether Mr. Lempriere proposed to invest only his own capital in this venture, or whether he might not, like others who had come to us for con-

cessions, have to get things together before being ready for action. It seemed to the Government—and it would be observed that the terms recommended by the select committee were almost identical with the terms suggested by His Excellency in his message—that three years was not at all an unreasonable time to allow for commencing operations. He failed to see that the colony was in the meantime likely to sustain sixpence worth of injury.

MR. BROWN thought two years at the outside would be ample time to allow a man to prove his *bona fides*, or even one year.

MR. HARPER did not think some hon. members who had opposed the recommendations of the committee had very carefully considered the matter. It would be necessary in the first place to cultivate some of this land to provide the ostriches with artificial food before they were placed upon it. It would also be necessary to form enclosures, in order to keep the birds separately in small paddocks; and if, as had been stated, the most desirable land for the purpose was on the coast, north of Fremantle, it would take some considerable time to get the timber on the land, for fencing. Considering also the possibility of the loss on the first shipment of ostriches, he did not think, under the circumstances, that three years was an extreme time to give. In South Australia the amount of land held for this purpose was the same as was here proposed, 5,000 acres—he believed that was the extent of the grant from the Government. The present farm at Gawler only covered 1,700 acres, but there were two other farms upon which no ostriches had yet been placed. There was another point to be considered, and that was this,—if the applicant for this concession failed in his enterprise, the loss would be his own and not the colony's.

MR. BROWN said the information which had been just given was exactly the information he wanted, and which he thought the House had a right to expect, when it entrusted the consideration of the subject to this select committee, who, he thought, had contented themselves with a somewhat meagre report. He had heard it said that a speech had never yet convinced anyone; but he must say that the speech of the hon. member

for York in this instance had convinced him thus far at all events, that he should not feel justified in offering any further opposition to this term of three years.

MR. BURGESS said he approved of the committee's report. He saw no reason why they should restrict the applicant to select his land in some particular part of the colony. He could not see that land at the South was any more valuable than land at the North, seeing that the highest upset price was 10s. an acre. They knew nothing about this matter yet, as to what part of the colony was most suitable for ostrich farming. Possibly the country about Kimberley, or Roebourne, or the Gascoyne might be the most suitable, and he thought the applicant ought to be allowed to have his land in that part of the colony which he himself considered most likely to suit his purpose, and to make his venture a success.

MR. VENN said he did not think people who came here asking for concessions of land were entitled to any great consideration simply because they had to incur considerable expense in their preparation. Had they not all to incur large expense in their preparations for carrying out any colonial industry? Did those who introduced stud sheep, for instance, ask for any concessions? Did horse breeders ask for any concessions? After all, what great benefit was the colony likely to derive from this ostrich-farming industry? Was there to be a heavy export duty on the feathers? Nobody seemed to know much about this gentleman, and it was just possible that this concession, if granted, would be hawked about for the next couple of years, before any operations were commenced at all towards establishing this ostrich farm.

MR. CROWTHER said if there ever should be an export duty placed on ostrich feathers he trusted it would be the same as on wool. If there was a prospect of the industry being successfully established—and it was this gentleman's own look-out whether it was successful or not; if he failed, it would be himself who would suffer and not us—he thought we might as well give him this land as keep it lying idle. The land he required was land which had been offered for sale for the last 50 or 60 years, and no one

had thought it worth while to look at it.

Paragraph 1 of the select committee's report was then put and passed.

Paragraph 2.—“That the concession be void and of no effect if no ostriches shall have been introduced within three years, or if the stipulated number be not reached within ten years, or if, at any time after five years, the number of ostriches be less than fifty pairs.”

MR. MARMION said he noticed that no particular number of ostriches was specified to be introduced within the first three years. The applicant might only introduce one pair within three years after obtaining this concession, and, if he did that, he would be able to hold the land for seven years more. He thought they ought to stipulate that a certain number of ostriches shall be introduced by the end of three years—say twenty pairs.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. J. Forrest) said if this gentleman embarked upon this enterprise at all, of course he would do so with the intention of securing this land; and he could hardly understand any man entering upon an enterprise by which he eventually hoped to secure 5,000 acres of land, coming here with one pair of ostriches. He would be a long way from getting his fee simple; and if he remained for two or three years with only that solitary pair of birds he would not be advancing his own interests very much.

MR. GRANT said he was sorry to hear the tone of depreciation in which some hon. members spoke of the land of the colony. Some hon. members were quite prepared to give half the colony away for the asking. Why should we be for everlasting giving away our land to any outsider who chose to apply for it. This industry of ostrich farming had already proved a success in some of the other colonies, and no doubt it would do the same here. Why then should we go out of our way to give 5,000 acres of land to any enterprising gentleman who chose to go into the business, in the expectation of making a large profit by it? If he did not expect to make a large profit out of it, we might depend he would not embark upon it at all, simply in order to benefit the colony. It appeared to have got into people's heads in the other colonies and in England that we were prepared to give our land away

for nothing—which was a very bad impression to create. He thought we had shown ourselves too ready altogether to give away the land of the colony to speculators, and this he believed had tended to depreciate the value of our land in the eyes of outsiders.

MR. BURGESS said the hon. member for the North told them that they placed no value on the colony's land, and that they were too anxious to give it away. For his own part he would be very glad indeed to see a considerable portion of our waste lands given away, provided we made sure they would be put to some advantage, and turned to some profitable account, instead of lying idle, and worthless to the colony and everybody else.

MR. LOTON said the whole question resolved itself into this—was it, or was it not, desirable to offer inducements to a person who offered to embark upon an entirely new enterprise, which, if successful, would result in the establishment of a new industry in our midst? The conditions imposed were no light conditions. Within the course of five years, the applicant for this concession would have to introduce stock (in the shape of ostriches) on his land to the value of £5,000 (estimating an ostrich to be worth £50), in addition to which he would have to do certain improvements in the shape of cultivation and fencing; and, before he could claim this land, he would have to put stock upon it to the value of £25,000. Although not in favor of giving away our land, unless for purposes of improvement, he thought that House would do very well indeed if it could part with all the land which the colony possessed on condition that it was improved in value to this extent. If every person who took up 5,000 acres of land—worth £2,500 at the upset price—capitalised that land within ten years to the extent of £25,000, besides improving it, we should not see Western Australia dragging its slow and weary steps along as it had done for the last fifty years.

Paragraph 2 was then put and passed; and

THE CHAIRMAN reported that the committee had considered the report of the select committee, and agreed to the recommendations embodied therein.

The report was adopted.

LADY BARLEE'S ANNUITY BILL.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) moved the first reading of a bill to secure an annuity of £150 to Dame Jane Barlee, for life.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

MUNICIPAL INSTITUTIONS ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

MR. RANDELL introduced and moved the first reading of a bill to amend "The Municipal Institutions Act, 1876."

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

MUNICIPAL COUNCILS TITLES BILL.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. A. P. Hensman) moved the first reading of a bill to make provision for changing the style of the Municipal Councils of Geraldton and of other towns in the colony.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

ADMINISTRATION OF NEW GUINEA: EXPENSE OF (MESSAGE No. 12.)

On the order of the day for the further consideration of this Message, discussion was resumed upon the following resolution submitted by the Colonial Secretary: "That this Council will be willing, if necessary, in order to bring this colony into accord with any arrangement respecting New Guinea agreed to by the other Australian Colonies, to increase the contribution of £161 16s. 9d. per annum now made towards the expense of administering British territory in New Guinea, to an amount not exceeding £——."

MR. SHENTON moved, as an amendment, that the word "all" be inserted between the words "by" and "the" in the fifth line, so as to make the passage read as follows: "agreed to by all the other Australian colonies." When this subject was before the House the other day he opposed the resolution, because he noticed that some of the other colonies had refused to increase their contribution, and others had declined to do so until it was ascertained what the Imperial Gov-

ernment would contribute. He saw no reason why this colony should take the lead in the matter. He remembered very well that when we were asked to contribute our quota of the cable subsidy, it was said that the other colonies would also contribute their share; but we found out afterwards that some of those colonies quietly withdrew from the agreement, with the result that we had to increase our contribution. He thought it should be distinctly understood that we only agreed to increase our share of the expense of governing New Guinea on the condition that all the other colonies did the same; otherwise we might hereafter be called upon to pay a great deal more than our fair share.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said all he asked was a further sum of about £80, which was all that we could possibly be called upon to contribute, upon the basis of our present contribution. Since the discussion upon this subject took place the other day, he had laid on the table a copy of a telegram showing what the Imperial Government was prepared to do in the matter. The Imperial Government offered, in consideration of these colonies contributing £15,000, or such additional sum as might be necessary for the administration of the island, to supply and equip a man of war, to enable the High Commissioner to cruise about the island, when necessary. This offer of the Imperial Government had somewhat altered the position of affairs; at the same time he thought this colony would do well to adopt the proposal which he had put before the House, limiting our contribution to a certain amount, to the extent of which we would be willing to meet the other colonies. The resolution he had submitted left the amount of our contribution blank: but he thought if we agreed to increase it from £161 16s. 9d. to £250 we should be doing all that could be expected from us. He was very doubtful himself whether all the other colonies would agree to increase their contribution; if so, of course our contribution would not be increased. But having already committed ourselves to bear a certain proportion of the expense of administering the annexed territory, he thought it would be politic on our part to show our readiness to go to this ex-

tent, if the other colonies also agreed to increase their contribution.

MR. BROWN said his views were entirely in accord with those of the Colonial Secretary. He thought we ought to join in this federal movement—for it was nothing else but a federal movement, and one in which we had already joined. He should prefer the words “all the colonies concerned.” Some colony might, from a feeling of jealousy, refuse to join this movement; but why should we go back from our agreement for that reason, when perhaps the majority of our sister colonies were prepared to increase their contribution. The annexation of the island was due entirely to the action of three of the Australian Colonies, and so long as the majority agreed to the present proposal he thought this colony ought not to hold back, having already cast its lot with the federating colonies. He thought England had behaved well and liberally—not too liberally, but justly and properly so—in this matter, and his own desire was that Western Australia should reciprocate that feeling. His only objection to the proposal was that it limited our contribution to such a very small amount. He thought £300 even would look better; but, as the Colonial Secretary was probably acting under instructions, perhaps the amount which he proposed had better be accepted. For his own part, he should always be prepared, if necessary, to increase the amount.

MR. STEERE did not see why they should vote £300 when what they were asked to contribute was according to our population. He did not agree with the hon. member that England had behaved so well and so liberally in this matter; he thought she had behaved very badly. She was asked to annex the whole of the island, but she put it off so long that another Power, a foreign Power, stepped in and annexed a large portion of this territory, and she now came forward at the last moment and offered to supply a man-of-war for the use of the High Commissioner. If the other colonies were prepared to increase their contribution he would not wish our own colony to hold back, providing our contribution and the other colonies' contributions were calculated *pro rata*, according to population, which was the principle originally agreed

upon. He thought we should only make ourselves ridiculous if we said we would not go beyond £250.

MR. S. H. PARKER would be perfectly willing to be bound by any arrangement agreed upon by the other colonies. All that they had agreed upon as yet was a contribution of £15,000 a year, and no more. Nor did this resolution commit us to any more at present. It would be absolutely impossible for the Government to come to any other arrangement, under this resolution, unless the whole of the other Australian colonies agreed to do the same. He thought we might safely trust ourselves in the hands of the other colonies in this matter.

MR. STEERE asked whether any application had been made to the Government of this colony by the Governments of the other colonies to increase our contribution?

MR. BURT said it was Sir Peter Scratchley who asked for more, and not the Governments of the other colonies. It appeared that Victoria, who was red hot for federation, was the only colony that had agreed to increase its contribution. The other colonies, he observed, were very much annoyed with the Imperial Government at the manner she had treated these colonies in the matter of annexing this island. Queensland was evidently very much hurt: she would contribute what she had promised and not another sixpence; and, if he might be allowed to say so, he quite approved of her conduct. He regretted, by-the-bye, to find from the papers connected with this federal movement, that this colony had given its assent to the 31st clause of the Enabling Bill, which enabled any colony to back out of the union, when it pleased. He thought that clause would prove suicidal to the success of the federal movement. As to the resolution before the committee, he did not think it would be any harm if we declined to pass it until the other colonies did the same. It would be time enough to do so when the other colonies passed a similar resolution, or agreed to increase their contributions. He objected to the proposal that we should limit our contribution to £250, or any other fixed amount. It would be much better to say that we would be prepared to pay *pro rata*, ac-

according to the basis of population. He thought it would be a mistake to show what a small population we had, by mentioning the amount of our present contribution,—£161 out of £15,000. It would be better to leave that out altogether.

MR. RANDELL thought the discussion that had taken place on this subject was not very creditable to the House, this haggling over the word "all;" it looked as if we suspected our neighbors in this matter. Surely, having consented to contribute our share towards the expense of administering this territory, which the British Government had annexed, if not at our request at any rate with our approval, it would look rather shabby on our part if we were to seek to get out of the arrangement because all the other colonies might not unite in doing what was asked of them.

MR. SHENTON, with leave, withdrew his amendment to add the word "all" to the resolution.

MR. BURT then moved, as an amendment, that all the words after the word "increase" in the 6th line, be struck out, and the following inserted in lieu thereof: "on the basis of population, the contribution now made towards the expenses of administering British territory in New Guinea."

MR. RANDELL said he believed in the principle of limited liability in this as in other matters. The other colonies might agree to contribute a very large amount indeed, which would not be felt by them, but which might become a heavy burden for ourselves.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said if we agreed to go to the extent of £300 that would be nearly doubling our present contribution, and would make the total contribution from all the colonies about £30,000 a year. He did not think there was much likelihood of the colonies agreeing to go beyond that.

MR. MARMION said that what we had agreed to do, he was prepared to adhere to,—contribute according to our population, so long as there was unanimity on the part of the other colonies to do likewise. He thought we ought to put our intentions in plain English, so that there may be no mistake about it.

The amendment submitted by Mr. BURT was then put and agreed to, and the resolution, as amended, put and passed.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES, 1885.

The House went into committee for the further consideration of the Supplementary Estimates, 1885, and the vote for "Pensions" was reverted to.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said a question was raised the other day with regard to the basis upon which the pension proposed to be given to Mr. Jackson, late Superintendent of Rottneest, had been computed. He understood that the extract from the minutes of the Executive Council on the subject of this pension, which he had laid on the table some days ago, had not been seen by hon. members and could not be found. He would therefore inform hon. members what the purport of that minute was, which would show upon what basis the retiring allowance had been calculated. It had been calculated upon the salary drawn by the officer in question during the last three years (£300), and emoluments in the shape of a house, valued at £50,—or £350 in all. The length of service was 29 years and, according to the Superannuation Act, the officer was entitled to a pension amounting to 29-60ths of £350,—equal to £169 3s. 4d. In addition to the ordinary pension, the Executive Council advised the granting to Mr. Jackson of an additional £33 16s. 8d. on account of special services as pilot, making a total pension of £200 a year. It was now his duty, in pursuance of the Act, to ask the Legislature to confirm this extra allowance, and to agree to a sum of £83 5s. 8d., being added to the Supplementary Estimates, which would provide for this officer's pension from 1st August instant to the end of this year. He might add that Mrs. Pyke's pension had been computed on the same basis,—her full salary and emoluments at the time of her retirement and her length of service. The Executive Council, he might say, most carefully reviewed these applications for retiring allowances, and, so far as he was aware, the greatest vigilance was exercised in all cases. In most instances the Act had been very

rigidly followed indeed, and it was only on such occasions as these, when it was considered that an officer's services entitled him to special consideration, that the ordinary regulations were in any way relaxed, and recourse had to the special provision of the Act.

MR. STEERE said that a resolution was passed by the House some years ago, that in computing the pensions of retiring officers no house nor horse allowance should be taken into consideration; and he was surprised to find that in this instance the Government, notwithstanding that resolution, had taken this officer's house allowance as a factor in the computation of his pension. He did not think it ought to be allowed.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said he was perfectly aware of the resolution referred to, which was passed in 1880, but at the same time it did not alter the Act. It was merely an expression of the opinion of the majority of the members of the House at that time—for he believed there was a division on the subject, and that a majority of three or four agreed to the resolution. But of course no mere abstract resolution could over-ride the statute. The Act clearly provided that, in the computation of retiring allowances, the emoluments of a man's office shall be taken into consideration with his salary, and when an officer had a house in lieu of an allowance, the rental value of the house was to be the basis of the calculation. Under the imperial statute the value of the house was estimated at one-sixth of the officer's salary, and that was exactly what had been done in this case.

MR. STEERE said that he was quite aware that a resolution could not over-ride the law, but he had still to learn that under our Superannuation Act the emoluments of office included house allowance. He did not think it was ever intended that it should be so. What was contemplated by emoluments was the fees of office, such as local court fees which magistrates formerly were entitled to. He was sure it was never intended that emoluments should embrace either house or horse allowance.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. A. P. Hensman) said he did not know the exact relation between a house and a horse, except that most of the letters

in the two words were the same. He should say there was a great distinction between the right to ride a horse and the right to reside in a house. It seemed to him the two things were not at all alike. However, they sounded very much alike, and of course the hon. member had a perfect right to mention them together. But when the hon. member said that a house was not an emolument within the meaning of the Act, he should like to ask what was more of an emolument attached to a man's office than the right to live in a house or quarters? It was quite certain that the word salary did not embrace everything, otherwise the word emoluments would not have been added. He thought the words "salary and emoluments" meant salary and all those things which went to make an office more valuable, whether in the shape of fees, or in the shape of a house to live in. At all events, whatever the technical meaning might be, it was the practice in the Imperial service—and he was told it was the same in most of Her Majesty's colonies, in different parts of the world, if not in all—for house-rent always to be taken into consideration as part of a man's emoluments, when computing his pension; and it certainly seemed to him that, as a matter of fairness, it ought to be.

MR. BROWN said that when he moved the adjournment of the debate the other day, he had been unable to find the extract from the Executive Council minute referred to by the Colonial Secretary; and other hon. members, he believed, had also looked for it in vain. The explanation now afforded by the hon. gentleman seemed to him a most satisfactory one. He observed that in what the Government had done in this instance they were justified, at any rate by the law—at least according to his view of the law. He always had held the view, for the reason given by the Attorney General, that the third clause of the Superannuation Act referred to officers who were entitled to claim, as part of the emoluments of their office, the annual rental value of the house they lived in; and he was glad to find that the Government now also considered that such was the law, and further, that when an officer had rendered special services to the country, they could make him an

allowance over and above that which he was entitled to under the first section of the Act. He said he was glad, because, as he said the other day, when the House expressed a strong desire, a few years ago, that an old and valued servant of the colony, whose salary for years before he retired amounted to £500, apart from his emoluments, should receive a larger pension on his retirement than £175—when the House expressed a desire that this officer should receive an allowance adequate to the services he had rendered and to the circumstances under which the colony was deprived of these services, the Government at that time assured the House that £175 was the utmost which the law allowed them to give. It was stated that, even if the Government were desirous of adding to that amount, which they said they were, the utmost which the law permitted them to do, or permitted that House to do, had been done in that gentleman's case. The House most reluctantly accepted the decision of the Government in that matter, and did what hon. members at the time conceived to be an injustice to that officer. He was glad to find that the Government now saw its way clear to do justice to a public officer who had claims upon them for special services; and that they were alive now to the powers which they had—and which they had all along—under the Act. He trusted they would therefore retrieve the wrong they had done in the past, and see if they could not do the same justice—perhaps it was even more due in that instance than in this, but he would say do the same justice to that officer as they now appeared to be ready to do in the case of the officer whose claim was now under consideration. He was perfectly satisfied if the Government were ready to renew the consideration of the claims of the officer whom he referred to, and who, he repeated, was most unjustly treated, he was certain they would find nine-tenths of the members of that House only too ready to join with them in doing justice to that officer; and he trusted this would be done.

The vote was then agreed to.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said he had to move to add two items under the head of *Miscellaneous*,—£500 to meet the expenses that would

probably have to be incurred in connection with the payment of fees for the destruction of native dogs, this year; and £1,000 in pursuance of the resolution of the House, for the expenses of His Excellency's visit to England.

The amounts were agreed to, without opposition.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) then moved that the Estimates be reported.

THE CHAIRMAN said it was contrary to Parliamentary practice to report the Estimates to the House on the same day as they were passed.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser): It is very urgent that the amounts granted should be available for expenditure.

THE CHAIRMAN said he would do it on this occasion, if the hon. gentleman wished it particularly, as a matter of urgency; but it was quite contrary to Parliamentary practice, and there were many reasons why such a course was inconvenient.

MR. SHENTON: We have done it this way before.

THE CHAIRMAN: We have done it this way before, but it was perfectly out of order. As a matter of fact, there are no resolutions to report. I ought to report to Mr. Speaker, on the House resuming, that the committee had adopted certain resolutions agreeing to the expenditure of certain sums of money; but I am unable to do so now, as the amounts have not been totted up.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) then moved that the Chairman do report the resolutions of the committee to the House at its next sitting.

Agreed to.

DESTRUCTION OF RABBITS AMENDMENT BILL.

IN COMMITTEE.

The various clauses of this bill, as printed, were agreed to without discussion, and

MR. STEERE moved a new clause, authorising the use of poison for the destruction of rabbits. He believed the only place where rabbits were to be found was on some islands, Carnac and others, where no live stock would be found, so

that there would be no danger in resorting to poison.

MR. MARMION: The intention, I presume, is to spread poison all over these islands?

MR. STEERE: Yes.

MR. MARMION: I am very sorry to hear it.

The clause was agreed to, and the bill reported.

HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS AND EXHIBITION (MESSAGE No. 13).

ADJOURNED DEBATE.

MR. S. H. PARKER moved the following amendment, in lieu of that submitted by Mr. SHENTON (*Vide* p. 165 *ante*): "The Legislative Council having taken His Excellency the Governor's Message No. 13 into consideration, begs respectfully to inform His Excellency that it concurs with His Excellency in thinking it inadvisable to make any alteration in the conditions on which the High School Scholarships were established. With respect, however, to the Exhibition, the Council is of opinion that it would be advisable to throw open this Exhibition for competition to any boy, wherever or however educated in the colony, and to make it tenable at any British or Australian University." The hon. member said that since the report of the debate on this question the other evening had appeared in the newspapers, he had received a communication from the Rev. Mr. Watkins, of Fremantle, which he thought in fairness to that gentleman he ought to read. [The letter, which was read by the hon. member, refuted the idea that in suggesting an alteration in the conditions attaching to these scholarships and the exhibition, Mr. Watkins had in any way been animated by the possibility of the Fremantle Grammar School benefiting thereby. On the contrary, the rev. gentleman pointed out that the throwing open of the scholarships to all the educational establishments of the colony would have placed the Grammar School at a disadvantage rather than otherwise, as the more liberal curriculum of that school would have handicapped the boys attending it, when competing in elementary subjects with boys attending elementary schools; while as to the exhibition, the training provided at the Grammar School

was not intended so much to prepare boys for a University career, as for commercial and other pursuits suitable to the requirements of the colony.]

The amendment submitted by Mr. Parker was agreed to without opposition.

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

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Monday, 24th August, 1885.

Death of Sir Harry St. George Ord—Adjournment.

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

PRAYERS.

DEATH OF GOVERNOR ORD.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser): Hon. members have been made aware, from a telegram in this evening's paper, of the death of our late Governor, Sir Harry Ord. I am sure that, speaking for myself, I have heard the melancholy news with sincere regret, and I feel much moved by the suddenness of the announcement. I am certain that many hon. members will feel in the same way, and I understand that, such being the feeling of hon. members, there is a general desire that we should not proceed with any business to-night, but that as a token of respect and to mark our feeling on the occasion, we should adjourn. I therefore beg to move the adjournment of the House. Hon. members, I am sure, will remember with what energy the late Sir Harry Ord conducted the Government of this colony. Hon. members are aware that the first section of our Eastern Railway was undertaken and carried out through the energy of Governor Ord; and we owe Sir Harry Ord perhaps a great deal more than many people are aware, considering the