

to do. The City of Perth returned two members—himself and Mr. Carr. He was named by the House Speaker, and Mr. Carr, Chairman of Committees, so in reality Perth could scarcely be considered to be represented at all; hence he would exercise his privilege as often as he deemed necessary. Having said thus much, he would say a few words on the very able speech they had heard that evening from the Hon. the Colonial Secretary. It was an able speech, and one he had expected to hear from the hon. gentleman, and he was very glad indeed to find that there was no intention on his part, or the part of the Government, to hurry the Estimates through the House. He thought that before the House voted any supplementary Estimates they should learn precisely the total amount of expenditure to the end of December, 1870. He would be the last person in the House to embarrass the Government, and if they required a sum for current expenditure, the House was quite in a position to vote it. Under the old form of Government, what annoyed people was that they had no voice in their own affairs, or in spending their own money. Now they had that right; the House was not going to pass the Estimates sheet by sheet, but item by item. (Hear, hear.) He had not the Estimates before him, but when they did come before him he would go into them fully. He thought the Hon. the Colonial Secretary should have read the expenditure for every five years, as well as the increase in revenue every five years. If our revenue has increased, our expenditure has kept pace with it. The latter was in 1859, £54,918; in 1864, £70,715; in 1869, £103,124. Now he was under the impression that a considerable reduction might be made in the above, and help to pay the interest on the proposed loan. The estimated expenditure which appeared on the Estimates for 1870 was £101,000. He found that the expenditure for the first quarter of 1870 was £30,856; second quarter, £30,163; third quarter, £25,740; making a total altogether of £86,759. The sum voted to the Government to expend in 1870, it would be remembered, was £101,000, thus leaving them a balance at the disposal of the Government of about £14,000; the expenditure for the last quarter of 1870, would, he had no doubt, be fully £25,000, thus exceeding the Estimates by £14,000 over and above the amount they were authorized to expend; and yet, in the face of all that, they were asked to vote the Appropriation Act before the end of the current financial year. He contended that such expenditure should never have been allowed, and money so lavishly spent would never have his sanction; and though he had

no doubt the Appropriation Act would be passed, still on that occasion, the House should mark its disapproval of unauthorized expenditure. If the House allowed that Bill to pass without the fullest scrutiny and enquiry as to this unauthorized expenditure on the part of the Executive Council, the House would be as great a farce as the Council of old days. In his opinion, some officer should be appointed who should be responsible to the House, and who should see that not one farthing was paid out of the colonial chest by the Colonial Treasurer, unless he could vouch that the sum was on the Estimates, and if it were done, to be his duty to bring it under the notice of the House. He would merely name a few items of which this unauthorized expenditure of £14,000 is composed. Mr. Forrest's Expedition, £200; Auditor General £50 for his work on the census—a work no doubt well performed; but what he would insist upon was that if members of the Government would be liberal to public servants they would be good enough not to be liberal with the public money, but use their own cheques. He would not detain the House further, but when the House came to consider the Estimates, he trusted they would do so clause by clause.

Progress reported.

The Council adjourned at 11 p.m.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Friday, 9th December, 1870.

Estimates: in committee—Local Boards Bill: select committee—Divorce and Matrimonial Causes Bill: second reading: in committee—Fremantle Carriage Ordinance, 1869: second reading: in committee—Law of Evidence and Practice on Criminal Trials Bill: second reading: in committee—Law of Evidence Bill: second reading: in committee—Larceny and Embezzlement Bill: second reading: in committee—Administration of Estates of Deceased Persons Bill: second reading: in committee—Specialty and Simple Contracts Debts Bill: second reading: in committee—Distressed Colonial Seamen Bill: second reading: in committee—Naturalization Bill: second reading: in committee—Guildford Appropriation Lands Bill: second reading: in committee.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at 4 p.m.

PRAYERS.

ESTIMATES.

Mr. STEERE said that last night in seconding the motion that the Chairman do report progress, he was under the impression that the House would sit again to continue the debate. His friend the Hon. the Colonial Secretary did not hear him when he mentioned that the House would sit again to renew the debate. Under the circumstances,

it was the duty of the Chairman to put the motion to the House. In seconding the motion however, it was, as he had said, under the impression that the debate or discussion on the Hon. the Colonial Secretary's Budget would be resumed. He would therefore propose that the Minutes of the House, so far as related to that motion, be expunged.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. F. P. Barlee) said that what his honorable friend from Wellington said was correct; he did not hear him express a desire that the debate should be resumed. He however cordially agreed with the motion of the honorable member. He was aware that the Chairman was quite in order in putting the motion, and that he (the Colonial Secretary) was out of order, but having admitted the mistake, he would say that he not only had no objection, but, on the contrary, was anxious to hear the opinions of honorable members, because the more discussion there was upon what he had brought before the House last night the more was he convinced that the more strongly would his conclusions be confirmed.

Question put and passed.

In Committee.

Mr. STEERE said that it was his intention last night to say a few words on the statements which had been put forward by the Hon. the Colonial Secretary, but as he saw that the hand of the clock was pointing to the hour of midnight, he concluded it would be more in consonance with the feelings of honorable members to resume the debate on some future opportunity. On the able speech which they had heard from the honorable gentleman last night he was almost sorry he was compelled to make a few observations. He felt himself called upon, however, to comment on the financial statement that had been set before them—on the Estimates that would be placed before the House—because it would set the people thinking, and it would enable them to learn what the proposed line of Government policy would be. In the first place he would take a retrospect of the admirable and able speech that they had heard last night, but it was nothing more than was expected from the honorable gentleman, and was such an exposition of the policy of the Government as was looked for by that House. The Hon. the Colonial Secretary declared that he felt the responsibility of his situation, but he could assure the honorable gentleman that he felt his responsibility equally as he did. Since he became a member of the House he had seen what had been expected from

honorable members, and he could only say that personally he did not possess one half the ability to do what was required. This however he could say: He would do as best he could, and to the very best of his ability and judgment. The Hon. the Colonial Secretary, in sympathetic terms, occupied the time of the House in explaining how much the responsibility of his position weighed upon him. He could say it occupied his mind as much as it did the honorable gentleman's, and in this colony, asking for Representative Government, the Hon. the Colonial Secretary must know that he did not stand alone in trying to discharge the arduous task before them. He had, as well as other honorable members of that House, the responsibility at heart. He was not a financier; he did not profess to understand such questions, but he saw around him many honorable gentlemen thoroughly conversant with that subject, and to them he would leave the discussion of such questions. The Hon. the Colonial Secretary last night gave them a detailed statement of certain monies that had been expended. He would not say that these expenses might not have been absolutely necessary. He would not say that they were not, but he would say, that they ought not to have been made without the consent of the Legislative Council. The Estimates for the year 1870 were approved, and all expenses were provided for—salaries were sanctioned; but if the other items of expenditure were necessary, they should not have need made without first having the sanction of the Legislative Council. It was now their duty to put a stop to such unauthorized expenditure. In his opinion, the Auditor General should be independent of the Government and responsible to the House, and the Government should not be allowed to pay one single item without the sanction of the Council, and the Auditor General should not be allowed to pass any such account, and further should be made responsible to the House. What prospect had the colony of reducing expenditure? He came to the conclusion that there was very little hope of doing so materially as long as a dual system was continued. As long as that system was in vogue the colony need never hope for reductions; one item in the accounts belonged to convict, and another to colonial account, so that it was almost hopeless to separate one from the other, but so long as a good share of the money came from Imperial funds, he was quite aware that the less he said about that matter the better. He was however convinced that if the management of the convicts was placed in our hands the colony would do much better. He had a pro-

posal to make on that point—it was not one that originated with himself, and therefore did not wish to take credit for it,—but it was one in which he entirely concurred. It was that as the convicts in this colony cost the Home Government so much per head, let the Imperial Government give us the same sum per head in addition to what they cost them for control and management, and this colony would gladly relieve them of the charge. As he said it was a proposal deserving of consideration, and although it did not originate with him, it was one in which he entirely concurred. He was aware that an extra clerk here and there might be struck off the Estimates, but that would be a mere trifle; what they wanted was a material reduction in the expenditure of this colony. He would now refer to the subject of railways, upon which the Hon. the Colonial Secretary spoke so much last night. The system of railway of which they had all heard and read so much, and which was known as the Fairlie system, the Hon. the Colonial Secretary denounced as worthless! One can hardly account for such an assertion after reading all that has been said and written on this system, unless one regards these statements as nothing more than mere fables. He could only say that the system in the other colonies must be a different one to what it is in England. The honorable gentlemen also said he was sorry he had not an opportunity of seeing Mr. Doyne. Now he was very glad indeed the honorable gentlemen had not such an opportunity, as if he had, no doubt he would have been prepared to suggest to the House a scheme of railway which would cost the colony some £4,000 or £5,000 per mile, or perhaps suggest some plan quite at variance with what any person ever heard of or saw before. With regard to Thompson's road engines, in which he took a deep interest, and which he believed were so admirably adapted for this colony, the Hon. the Colonial Secretary's unfavorable report, had very much disappointed him. He could not reconcile such an unfavourable report, though he would not impugn the veracity of the Hon. the Colonial Secretary, with the favorable notices one reads in the English newspapers respecting them; and he was afraid that, like the Fairlie system of railway, the truth is not quite apparent; and as the honorable gentleman admits, only one of Thompson's road engines has yet been brought to Australia, all he could say was he could come to no other conclusion than there must have been something wrong about that engine. He had that day cut from the *Times* newspaper an extract in which the capability and performance of a Thompson's road engine was

narrated, and when he read that extract as he purposed doing with the permission of the House, it would not accord with the Hon. the Colonial Secretary's assertion that as far as he could see Thompson's road engines would do very well on plain level roads, but would be utterly useless where there was the slightest impediment to their progress. And he would wish the House to remark that the extract was from a special report of a Mr. Anderson, of Woolwich, a gentleman whom the Hon. the Colonial Secretary had informed him was a good authority.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. F. P. Barlee) said that he was and that he knew him personally.

Mr. STEERE read the extract referred to and continued on to say that so recent a decision concerning the performance of Thompson's road engine is widely different to the statement of the Hon. the Colonial Secretary as to what he saw of its performance in Sydney. He did not impugn the correctness of the honorable gentleman's statements of what he saw, but he must repeat his assertion, there must have been something wrong about the engine the honorable gentleman had had the opportunity of examining. He was always in favour of cheap railways, if they could be constructed; and when he heard of Thompson's road engines he was convinced that they would be exactly suited to this colony, and perform all the work required by colonists for years to come. The Hon. the Colonial Secretary also informed the House that he had had a communication from Mr. Burges on this very subject, and Mr. Burges did not advise getting out Thompson's road engines, as improvements were daily being made on them. This seemed to him strange, as 18 months ago he saw a letter from this very same gentleman who asserted that they were just exactly what the colony required! This wonderful discrepancy certainly called for some explanation. The best thing, therefore, that could possibly be done was to get some one in England competent to report upon Thompson's road engines, when the matter could be set at rest. He would now refer to the Estimates, and touch upon one or two points. His opinion was to do away with the free list altogether. He could not see why everything brought into the colony ought not to bear duty, nor could he see why every one who imported goods into the colony, from the Governor downwards, should not pay duty. The Governor was as well able to pay duty as any one else. (Hear, hear.) He approved of the plan to increase the revenue by indirect taxation, as in this colony there

was no rich class, and therefore indirect taxation was the fairest. He could not agree to any increase in the ecclesiastical grant, and he was certainly opposed to delivering up to any denomination the amount in a lump sum.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. F. P. Barlee): No! No!

Mr. STEERE said that he stood corrected. He was glad that was not intended, or he would move an amendment to the proposition. As regards the educational grant, he found that the Hon. the Colonial Secretary had changed his opinion, among others who had also changed theirs, and he would say that he would give very little for that man who, when he was convinced he had formed a wrong opinion, refused to change that opinion. He would, however, when the time arrived, be prepared to give his views on that grant, more especially as in his speech at Bunbury to his constituents he made certain statements which he was prepared and ready to carry out. The question of education he was aware was a vexed one. It had occupied the attention of the wisest legislators, and as was well known, a Bill on the very same subject had been adopted in England, which, if it would not suit precisely here, could at least form the basis on which a Bill could be framed. He did not approve of the Bible being excluded from the school; and to exclude the Holy Scriptures from the schools altogether he considered to be extremely wrong. Not only had he changed his opinion on education, but his honorable friend had done so likewise. He had also changed his opinion, and the plan that the honorable gentleman had suggested for their acceptance, was simply and purely denominational education, to which he was entirely opposed. However, since he was not the only one who had changed his opinion as regards the present system of education, he was quite ready to give the honorable gentleman full credit for the proposition he had submitted to the House; but, to his mind, it was a step backwards, and not forward. It was his desire to improve and not retrograde; and he could not consent to any system of education paid for by the State, which would exclude any children, of whatever denomination, from participating therein. This could be done by the adoption of a stringent conscience clause. Religious instruction could be imparted at a certain time, and children of a different creed could be allowed to withdraw. In England it was so, but he saw that in this colony there were some difficulties in the way, but he would meet that in this manner:—If the children met at 9 a.m. for ordinary instruction, he would then, say from

that hour to ½-past 9 a.m., have religious instruction, consequently children—whose parents objected to such instruction—could absent themselves, and not meet till ½-past 9 a.m. He was not prepared to bring forward any particular plan, but he would wish to say that he had a kind of plan which he would suggest. He could not see where a certain number of children could be gathered, say 30 or 40, why a separate grant should not be given to that school, provided a conscience clause was accepted. He would suggest that a certain sum be paid to the teacher of that school; that he should receive certain fees; that he should be paid by results; that no books should be used that had not been approved by the General Board of Education, and that such schools should be open to the Government inspector. He considered, however, the construction of the Board of Education defective; he would like to see in it more of the lay element; he would like to see more power given to local boards (Hear, hear, from the Colonial Secretary). Honourable members must remember that local boards have no power, and for the most trifling thing they must refer to the general board in Perth. The honorable gentleman opposite approved of the present system of education for many reasons, and the honorable gentleman during the discussion told them that as the education question had been the cause of much ill-will and bad feeling, therefore it was desirable that this agitation should cease, and that some settlement of the vexed matter should be arrived at; and the honorable gentleman further assured the House that if they accepted the proposal he had made, he had authority in saying that that agitation would cease, and that the Roman Catholics throughout the colony would be satisfied. Now he would assure honorable members that he also had authority for making a direct contradiction to the statement of the honorable gentleman that the Roman Catholics would be satisfied. He could assure honorable members that in his part of the colony the proposal would not be accepted, and if the House agreed to it the agitation would still be continued, and ill-will still be engendered. In his own district, as in others, it was the test of the elections, and consequently several came forward as candidates whose only qualification was their declared intention of voting on this question. He was sorry that nothing had been said by his honorable friend opposite respecting female immigration, as, after a loan, it was the most important subject. In his own district female servants could not be procured. Female immigration was a subject that deserved their serious consideration. There was one

other matter to which he would call the attention of the honorable gentleman opposite, and that was in his calculations of the revenue per head he must have included the prisoners. If the honorable gentleman did so it would alter his figures considerably. The Hon. the Colonial Secretary, in his concluding remarks, said that the "ball" was now at their feet, and that they could kick it which way they pleased. All he could say was that the kick they would give it would be a kick on to prosperity.

Mr. NEWMAN rose and said that after the long, able and careful speech of the Hon. the Colonial Secretary, with which he had favored them the other night, and for which he deserved the fullest credit, he would make a few remarks thereon. He did not agree in what had fallen from an honorable gentleman respecting factious opposition; it seemed to him to anticipate danger, and to manifest a desire to throw one on the troubled waters. He was not actuated by factious spirit, nor did he think he was wrong in saying that an honorable gentleman was so influenced. Having said that much, he would at once proceed to consider the matter before the House. He certainly objected to some portions of the Estimates, and he totally disagreed with the axiom of the Hon. the Colonial Secretary that a Government in difficulties, financial difficulties, was different to a private individual. He contended that when any private person got involved in debt it was his first study to look around him and see how he could reduce his expenditure, and to use a familiar phrase to "cut his coat according to cloth" how best he could, so was it the duty of Government so circumstanced to have reduced their expenditure, and not to expect a falling revenue to meet expenses previously incurred. It was their duty to cut down their expenses within a reasonable limit, and, having done so, then to look around them and see what could be done to improve their financial condition. The statement made by the Hon. the Colonial Secretary of the increase in revenue was exceedingly wrong; but when the Estimates came under their discussion he would have an opportunity of discussing them item by item, and would therefore reserve his remarks until that time. As regards a loan, he considered the Hon. the Colonial Secretary had fallen into a most serious mistake. The first thing to be done was to enquire, does the colony require public works? Are those works of such a magnitude as to warrant a loan? Could those works be undertaken with the present or expected revenues? These are matters that should first be decided. It was their duty to decide what work then they in-

tended to undertake, and having come to a conclusion on these points,—it would be time to declare the amount required, and how that sum could be raised. In the ecclesiastical grant he would object to a single alteration, though he was quite prepared to keep faith with those gentlemen who had hitherto received it. As to granting the sum on the Estimates for education to Roman Catholics, he would be sorry to do anything of the kind. By so doing it would be giving one denomination influence over other denominations, which he would denounce; it would be accepting simply and purely denominational education as adopted in the petition of the Roman Catholic body, to which he dissented entirely. All this contention about education was nothing more nor less than miserable sectarianism. The schools of the colony were open to the children of that body, and if parents did not choose to send them, all he would say "let them stay away." He would not listen or give any attention to anything else. As to taxation, if he studied his own interest, he ought not object if a tax of £5 per ton was put upon flour, and though this colony was an exception to the neighboring colonies, which had a tax on flour, yet he considered that no good results would follow from its imposition. The necessaries of life ought not to be taxed, and as bread was an Englishman's staple food, it should be as free as the air they breathed. Spirits was an exceedingly bad item, and he thought a heavy duty would not bring an increase of revenue; still he would increase the duty 3s. per gallon; beer was another large item; he would raise the duty 2d. per gallon. Wine he would also increase 3s. per gallon, as it might be the means of encouraging the consumption of colonial growth. If the Hon. the Colonial Secretary had taken tea instead of coffee, it would have considerably increased the revenue without the burden being felt. An additional duty of 1d. per lb. on tea would produce £1,200 per annum, while 3d. per lb. on coffee would only bring in £200. With regard to a loan, to which the Hon. the Colonial Secretary has alluded, he entertained what might be termed a singular opinion. He had no data upon which to found it, or that would bear him out. He was of opinion that if a loan of £150,000, for instance, was given, the interest on the amount was certainly not worth considering at all, because the increase of revenue would be so great that it would be sufficient to meet the current interest. This, of course, was merely an opinion of his own. In the face of a decreasing revenue, present scarcity of money, and commercial depression the Hon. the Colonial Secretary

informed the House that as a means of increasing the revenue, and securing prosperity, His Excellency the Governor would, under certain conditions, assent to a loan of £100,000. First, as he had said before, decide upon what works were wanted, and what works it was intended to undertake, learn their cost, and then decide whether the amount should be £29,000, £50,000 or £100,000. The very first work which the Hon. the Colonial Secretary and the Government contemplated was a mistake. It was a line of railway from Perth to Green Mount. Such a line would be worthless, except to bring down a few loads of bluestone for the streets of Perth, and in one trip a railway would bring down more bluestone than all the men in Perth could crack in a week. A railway from Geraldton to the Greenough Flats was a necessary work. In that district a large quantity of the "staff of life" was grown, and the roads in the district were very bad; but he would suggest the line being extended to the Dongarra landing, which would not increase it in length more than five miles; and though the country through which the line would pass was not fit for agriculture, yet it would prove of much service to the residents of Dongarra and the Flats. The Hon. the Colonial Secretary estimated the cost of the railway at £2,000 per mile, but he contemplated a double line and stations, &c. In this colony a single line was all that was necessary for some time to come, and that would not cost, in this colony, more than £1,000. The cost of the line, &c., would be £600 per mile, and later £400. He was convinced that a single line could be constructed for that amount. A good deal had been said in the House about the Fairlie system of railway. Now, the only difference between that system and the old system was that the rails were lighter, the gauge narrower, and the engine constructed on a principle of the maker, Mr. Fairlie. All that could be said of the engines sent to Queensland by Mr. Fairlie was that on being examined, one of the engines was found to be very inferiorly constructed; hence the two others were never unpacked. He quite concurred with his honorable friend from the South, that it was most difficult to believe that all the statements one reads respecting this system could be so erroneous. There was also, too, this curious fact, that the New Zealand Commissioners, Messrs. Bell and Beddington, purposely visited Norway and England for the purpose of witnessing the Fairlie system, and those gentlemen have recommended that it should be adopted in that colony. He was not surprised to learn that Thompson's road engines were not adapted for traversing large tracts

of country; they would suit, no doubt, for Perth and Fremantle, but he did not think they would suit for this colony generally. The other item of the proposed Government work—a new sea jetty at Fremantle—he was in favor of. (Hear, hear, from the Colonial Secretary.) The honorable gentleman thought he was interested in Fremantle, but he had not been in business for 15 years without knowing what a serious drawback to the commerce of the colony the want of such a jetty had been, and £20,000 would be money well spent if vessels could lie alongside that jetty for the purpose of loading and discharging cargo. The papers had lauded Mr. Mason for having put on board the "Dharwar" 16,000 sleepers in 50 days. No doubt, considering the difficulties in the way, it was deserving of notice; but that a vessel of that class should be detained 50 days for 16,000 sleepers was simply monstrous. He would also point out to honorable members that the wharfage of 1s. per ton would more than pay the interest of the money invested; so the Fremantle jetty would be a reproductive work. As to the extension of the jetties at Bunbury and the Vasse, all he would say was that the jetty in the latter town was already so long that it frightened one to look to the end of it; but a further extension to reach deep water might be necessary. The removal of the bar at the mouth of the Murray was a good work, and if it proved successful, £400 could not be better expended. As to lighthouses in Champion Bay and Breaksea Island, &c., there could be no question they were desirable. The next matter—coast survey—was most necessary, but if it was to be done by the colony, it must be by some similar arrangements as those adopted in the neighboring colonies. The steam dredge had been a prolific topic of discussion, and though he certainly did not intend turning it into a gun-boat, and though it was a mistake on the part of a former Governor, yet when a mistake had been made, if a few more pounds would correct that mistake, expend them. He thought the dredge might be utilized, and ought to be so as soon as possible. When the proposed railways were undertaken, it could be made useful in carrying out a work which the inhabitants of the metropolis had so often spoken about—the formation of a recreation ground; it could be used to clear the river, and fill up the space between the two jetties, and reclaim a spot admirably suited for the purpose mentioned. He saw in one of the Perth papers that the Fremantle recreation ground, which, by the way, was made by the inhabitants, was called the "pride of Fremantle and the envy of Perth." If the Perth people were in

earnest, they could now secure for themselves what they so much desired. As to steamers on our coast, he would be glad to see them, but he could not agree altogether with the condition to any steam navigation company as propounded by the Hon. the Colonial Secretary last night. When the Estimates came on for consideration, he would use the privilege he had of going through them, item by item, not for the mere purpose of finding fault, or in a facetious spirit, but in a spirit of fairness and legitimate criticism.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. R. J. Walcott) said that as he had only been in the colony for so short a time, it could not be expected that he was conversant with many of the local topics which had come under discussion that day, but there were other topics, general topics, he might call them, upon which he could offer an opinion. As regards the proposition of the honorable member for Wellington, that the Auditor General should become independent of the Government and responsible to the House, it would simply be impossible. It would be a House divided against itself, and a House divided against itself would fall. No person in the colony could take one single farthing out of the colonial chest without a warrant from the Governor, and how the Auditor General could be made independent of the Governor was not very clear; it was simply the first step towards Responsible Government. If that proposal were carried, the House would possess control of every department; if the Auditor General and the Colonial Treasurer were responsible to the House, so would the Colonial Secretary, and so would the Attorney General become responsible. The result would be that a Ministry would have to be formed, and those gentlemen would have to go out. Now he would ask, is the colony in a position for Responsible Government? Had they the men capable of discharging the duties that now devolve upon those officers? He said, of course, some 12 or so in that House, but could they get 36, 48, or any number that might be agreed upon, to place in those offices? That was a question for them to consider, but he felt certain that whenever they felt themselves capable of carrying on the Government of the country themselves, the Home Government would grant their wishes. He was, on the other hand, quite convinced that no Bill which might be passed by the House, making the Auditor General responsible to the House, and irresponsible to the Governor, would ever receive Her Majesty's consent. Now, on the topic of education, it would appear that the honorable member for Wellington was entirely opposed to secular education.

Mr. STEERE: To denominational education.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. R. J. Walcott) said well then he was entirely in favor of secular education. Religion, he considered, could be taught children better at their mother's knee, than in the schoolroom. To introduce religion into a schoolroom was making a task for children of the duty they owed to their Maker. Hence he would have in public schools purely secular education, but the world was not wise enough yet to see its own true interests. All religious bodies, of whatever denomination, like to impart their own peculiar tenets to their children for their guidance and rule of life, but as this was not practicable in a common school, it would be advisable to put religion out of the school altogether. However, as that plan would not be accepted, and as the present system was not acceptable to one-third of the tax-payers of this colony, he thought the compromise made by the Hon. the Colonial Secretary should meet with the concurrence of the House, more especially as it would be the means of settling a question that had given much trouble and annoyance. He could not see why the members of the Church of Rome should not be allowed in this colony a certain sum to support their own schools, in which they would be at liberty to teach what doctrine they thought necessary for salvation. The honorable member for the South said that he had authority for saying that the Roman Catholics in his part of the colony, would not be satisfied with the proposal made by his honorable friend, but they knew that whatever the heads of that body agreed to, the tails adopted it; they knew the strict discipline which is maintained over their minds, and when the Bishop or other officer states that he is satisfied with the provisions made for them, the members of that communion would acquiesce. It was one of the good things in the system of Rome that it drafted its members in following its head. They were like men fighting under the banner of a chief; that chief was the head of the Roman Catholics in this colony, and his decision the members were bound to adopt. He felt that the question must have been misunderstood, when the honorable member from Wellington asserted that he knew the Roman Catholics would not be satisfied. The members of that body always followed their head. On the question of immigration, he would say a few words. The class of persons required in the colony were men of small capital, who could be induced to settle down and to develop the resources of the country. Consumers were required as well as producers, and unless that class of persons could be

induced to come hither, the colony would never flourish. It was essential that there should be good roads into the interior, and the question of cheap railways was an important one. He could only say that if railways could be constructed for £600 per mile, he was quite certain if the honorable member from Fremantle would only undertake the contract, the Government would soon have railways throughout the whole colony.

Mr. NEWMAN: I would correct the honorable gentleman.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. R. J. Walcott) said he understood the honorable gentleman to say £600.

Mr. NEWMAN: £600 for the cost of rails, &c., and £400 for the construction.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. R. J. Walcott) said that he now understood the honorable gentleman. Cheap sources of transit were certainly necessary; even a tramway with two or three horses would be an acquisition, but he looked upon Thompson's road steamers as purely a matter of private enterprise. If the proposed line of railway—as a beginning—could be constructed for the sum stated by his honorable friend last night, they ought to be undertaken with the other reproductive works named by his honorable friend; he entirely concurred. It was, however, necessary to raise money for these works, and to carry on the Government of the country, to have recourse to taxation. He agreed that indirect taxation was much preferable to direct taxation. No man liked to be compelled to put his hand into his pocket and pay a direct tax. No one, for instance, liked to have his income taxed, but there were many sources from which a revenue might be raised. By imposing a stamp duty upon all documents and deeds in our law courts, and acceptances, bills of exchange, promissory notes, and a dozen other things it would be a means by which money could be got out of the public. He did not believe that an increase on the duty on spirits would lessen the consumption, and he could speak from experience on that point from what occurred in Jamaica. These were all the opinions he would offer to the Council, as having so lately arrived in the colony, he was only able to speak on general topics. As they had all met for the good of the colony, he trusted that all members would address the House fairly and dispassionately, and in good temper and faith.

Mr. DRUMMOND was very much pleased with the very able and interesting statements that had been made to the House by the

Hon. the Colonial Secretary last evening, but he was sorry to find that the colony would be so heavily in debt at the end of the year, and he did not know whether the Government would be able to obtain a few thousand pounds from the National Bank. The Government, it seemed to him, was just as bad as the settlers—they were just as badly off.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. F. P. Barlee): The Government has £6,000 in the chest.

Mr. DRUMMOND was very glad to hear it. It was quite evident that the revenue of 1871 would not be anything near what it was in 1870, and two or three honorable gentlemen there present could, without very much trouble, satisfy the House on that point. It was, therefore, absolutely necessary, in order to save the colony, to raise a loan for the purpose of carrying on public works, and opening up the interior of the country by means of railways, and he was convinced that if there were railways to the Eastern Districts the traffic would increase more than five-fold in three years. (Hear, hear.) There were in the districts of York, Toodyay, and Northam thousands of acres of land fit for cultivation, but which remained untilled because of the utter impossibility of getting the produce to market at a paying price. If it cost the farmer 2s. to get his wheat to Perth, and then he only got 5s. for it, it would not pay and until a railway was formed, South Australia would always undersell them in wheat and flour. The first thing then that should be undertaken was a railway to the Eastern Districts, and not a railway to Green Mount. In a very short time there would be scores of men out of employment, and the Government would be compelled to maintain them, or find them something to do. He did not agree with the plan to increase the tax on *ad valorem* goods, but he did of the increased duty on wine, spirits, &c. As the colony would be able to grow sufficient flour for their own consumption, he would be in favor of imposing an import duty on that article. On the education question he would make a few remarks. He agreed with the plan proposed by the Hon. the Colonial Secretary. In the rural districts, no school should receive any assistance whose attendance was less than 50. He could not understand the objection to the Roman Catholics of this colony receiving a share of the Government grant. Protestants had no objection to sending their children to Roman Catholic schools, and many ladies who were now heads of families have been educated by the Sisters of Mercy. He therefore thought the objection to giving the Roman Catholics a small sum towards their schools unreasonable. In the

rural districts he would have the schools open to the Colonial Chaplain or Resident Minister and the Bible should be read in schools. In some of the districts the attendance of Protestants and Catholics was about equal. He concurred with Mr. Newman in his remarks about the steam dredge, and he would urge upon the Council the necessity of initiating a loan by which public works of magnitude could be undertaken without delay.

Mr. BUSSELL rose for the purpose of making a few remarks on what had fallen from the lips of the Hon. the Colonial Secretary. As to railways, as there was one being constructed in the neighborhood of his house, he would soon learn more about them. As to the education question, the number of schools, and other matters, there was a considerable amount of misconception as to the state of public feeling. He considered they all belonged to one Church—the Church of Christ—and therefore there could not be that amount of ill-feeling existing as was supposed; the children of the Church of England, Non-Conformist, and Catholics, all go to the public schools and learn and read the Scripture lessons and history. He never heard any objection by the Catholic parents, nor on the part of their priests. He should like to see the schools open with prayer and close with prayer—some prayer could be selected to which there could be no objection—the Lord's Prayer for instance. He would not like to see the schools purely secular because it would give the children the impression that they had no religious feeling at all.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. F. P. Barlee) purposed making a few remarks on the proposal to make the Auditor General responsible to the House and independent of the Government, but his friend the Hon. the Attorney General had done so so ably that he had little to say. The proposal was simply impossible under the present system. The Governor alone was responsible for the expenditure of the public funds. There could be no go-between. In his opinion the colony was unfit for Responsible Government, and if that question was pressed it would simply lead to their walking out and some others taking their places. It would be impossible to have an officer of the Government responsible to the House and irresponsible to the Governor. As regards the revenue and expenditure, he was quite aware that the expenditure had been considerably in excess of the Estimates, and he thought he had most fully explained to the House on the previous evening the causes that compelled that expenditure. As to what had been called the

unauthorised expenditure, he would simply ask the honorable gentlemen to whom was the Governor to apply? The Governor had no Council to apply to. The Council was convened in June last for the purpose of taking measures to inaugurate Representative Government, so as there was no Council, it was absolutely necessary that the Governor should take upon himself the responsibility of expending the public funds, and he was quite certain honorable gentlemen would not cavil at the expenditure incurred, when the facts came to be inquired into; he felt assured they could not cavil at expenses that were absolutely necessary. But he would ask, had they confidence in their Government? Was the Government to have no responsibility? If not, then the Council could never be prorogued, and further the Council would have to sit to pass the accounts month after month. Last night he mentioned the items that caused this increase. He would repeat a few of those items: There was the cost of the paupers, or the relief of the distressed; no power could prevent it; the Government could not prevent it—yet the Government could not allow men to starve in the streets. There was the amount expended in Champion Bay in the shape of relief. There was the amount forwarded to the Crown Agent. And, as he had explained last night, there were many unforeseen expenses which the Government could not avoid. It was his duty to frame the Estimates of anticipated expenditure as nearly as possible could be done, and to adhere to those Estimates as closely as circumstances would admit. Regarding what he said last night respecting Thompson's road engines and Fairlie's engine, he said so on the most reliable authorities he could procure in the neighboring colonies, and these opinions or authorities he placed before the Council, and they could give them what value they thought proper, but he concurred with the honorable gentleman from Wellington, that it would be exceedingly unwise to adopt any system until they were in possession of the report of some competent person. As to the steam dredge, if the honorable gentlemen, Messrs. Drummond and Newman, looked at the list of works in contemplation, they would find that the dredge would be utilised. He thought the Government had gone quite far enough with the free list. The Government could not recommend breadstuffs to be taxed in the face of so much depression, and when the poor houses were full. These facts alone would induce him to vote against taxing the necessaries of life. Wheat would not be grown any cheaper in this colony if a tax were put on breadstuff. The result would simply be

this, simply fostering an industry which, it is admitted does not pay. All he could say was, that if corn growing did not pay in this colony, he was very sorry for it. For the same reason duty on tea was not increased, and coffee selected in its place. On wine, spirits, and other articles of luxury, it was proposed to impose an additional tax. With regard to the ecclesiastical grant, there was a great misunderstanding. As he stated before, the Church of England in this colony was heretofore looked upon as a State Church and whatever amount was granted to that church, the other denominations got their share in proportion. On the education question he would briefly say that religious instruction was given at some particular hour of the day in the public schools, from which children who did not want that instruction might absent themselves. Where was the good, he would ask, of continuing this source of ill-feeling, and discussion on difference of religion? To his mind a conscience clause was not necessary in this colony. He advisedly omitted all reference to the question of immigration because the Government was endeavoring to learn the wants and requirements of the settlers, and for that purpose had forwarded circulars to the districts to learn their opinions. As to female immigration, though it was advisable the House must remember that the Government was peculiarly placed in this matter with the Home Government. Honorable members have stated that female immigrants, as soon as they improve their conditions here, go to a better place. He, therefore, could not see how the Home Government could be urged to send female immigrants, when almost as soon as they have been introduced, they go on to the other colonies. He did not see that such immigration would do much good for the colony. In the calculation of taxation, he did include the convicts as consumers, but as there were only 1,200 prisoners, they would not alter the figure £106. He disagreed with the honorable member for Fremantle, that in times of depression the Government ought to reduce its expenditure. He thought otherwise, but he was careful to draw a distinction between a private person and a Government. It was the duty of a private person to reduce his expenses as much as he could, and to spend nothing on his family that could be avoided, but it was also his duty, if he could see his way clear, to raise money and repay his debts. It was undoubtedly the duty of the Government to take such steps as it thought prudent to relieve public distress, and by means of a loan acquire prosperity. He would say that in bringing forward the statement of works which the Government was prepared

to undertake, and the conditions upon which the Government would accede to a loan, it was simply suggested and could be amended as the House thought proper. He was, however, much surprised to find the honorable member for Toodyay objecting to a railway to Green Mount, though he was in favor of a line to the Eastern Districts. He could only say that as soon as a railway got that far, it would not stop there. It would also seem that he was misunderstood last night, in explaining the overdraft, and he thought he was very clear. He would then say that at present the colony was not in debt, and that there was a balance in hand. It was fortunate indeed there was—and the wisdom of saving in times of prosperity, so as to be prepared for a "rainy day" was fully shown in the unfortunate circumstances that have overtaken this colony. When the revenue of the colony was not sufficient to meet current expenses, additional taxation to meet that deficiency, especially in times of depression, was a course that could not be recommended.

Sitting suspended until 8 p.m.

Resumed debate.

Mr. GULL rose and said that as it was desirable every member should express his opinion on the important topics that had been brought before the House he purposed giving his views thereon. He was glad to learn from the Hon. the Colonial Secretary that there would be no difficulty in floating a loan in the other colonies but as he was aware a number of residents in this colony would take part in it a certain amount of the debentures should be reserved. He was one with the honorable member for Toodyay in saying that public works were absolutely necessary, particularly at a period when such depression exists. He however, concurred in the views expressed by the honorable member for Fremantle that it should first be decided the works it was intended to carry out—learn their cost—that it was possible to get a loan, and then apportion that loan to those most pressing and necessary public works. He was of opinion that a loan was most desirable. There was no doubt the Government had been compelled to incur a large outlay for the relief of the distress among a certain class, yet the full consideration of the Estimates was a question of the greatest magnitude. He would go so far as to admit that when they came to consider the Estimates they might arrive at the conclusion that the expenditure was no more than was called for, but the expenditure was unauthorized. He totally dissented from the Hon. the Colonial

Secretary in having a railway from Perth to Green Mount. The town of Guildford was admirably suited for the termini of railways, and as the colony was favoured with an excellent river from that town to Perth and Fremantle, and as water carriage was the cheapest and the best, Guildford was naturally the place for a railway to begin and terminate. The slight impediments in the river if the dredge could be got under the bridge could easily be removed, and when the question of the railway comes on for consideration he trusted these facts would not be lost sight of. He quite agreed that all articles imported or consumed by officials should be subject to duty. The officials were as well able to pay as other parties. On the article of tea, a further duty could very well have been placed. As the honorable member for Fremantle stated even an addition of 1d. per lb. would increase the revenue £1,200 per annum. He was in favor of immigration, by all means, but the Government requiring colonists to give a distinct pledge, for their employment on arrival, would be an obstruction. He was in favour of the proposal to take over the convicts from the Imperial Government. He was quite certain that they could employ them to better advantage, though they were employed in metalling the streets of Perth at the Imperial cost.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. F. P. Barlee): At Colonial expense.

Mr. GULL was glad to learn at whose cost. He said he would not detain the Council with any further observations.

Mr. BROWN said it was not his intention to discuss the Budget put forward by the Hon. the Colonial Secretary last evening, because he deemed that prolonged discussion would tend to draw off the interest of honorable members from the deep consideration which it would be their duty to bring to bear upon the various questions referred to in it, at the time when they would come on to be finally dealt with: He had desired to defer discussion until it would have had more point. He was however now led to take up the subject. First, owing to the manner in which that Budget had been treated and next in deference to the wish expressed by the honorable member for Wellington who said he hoped honorable members would all give their views upon the questions before them by way of preparation against the time when the Estimates are actually brought forward for settlement. Were I an elected member, the course that I feel bound to take this evening would be far more pleasing for me, because I am confident that these honorable members here whose natures will lead them to think that I am

influenced by my position as one of the nominee members, and hence what I do say will have less weight, but though a nominee member, I am equally with the elected members, a part and parcel of this Council, and my career here shall force honorable members to feel that I act as independently as they can. (Hear, hear, from the Colonial Secretary.) So far I have merely listened, except in the case of the honorable member for the Swan, and another too strong, but uncalled for attack upon the Government, made in a spirit of fault-finding, led off by our worthy Speaker, declaring their conduct to have been such as to make it a matter of question whether this House should not refuse to ratify that portion of the Estimates coming under the head of "unauthorized expenditure." Great stress has been laid upon the patent fact, that the expenditure was "unauthorized!" The honorable member for Wellington, even went so far, as to refer to the possibility, that it would be his duty shortly to move the House, to make the Auditor General irresponsible to the Governor, but responsible to the House for any sums drawn from the Treasury, above the amount authorized, from year to year. Our Speaker said while referring to the items in dispute generally admitted that the work they represented was necessary, and ably performed, and only barely required, that he had no objection to the Government or any one else doing such things, but unless authorized they should pay for such work from their private pockets.

The SPEAKER said he did not say that at all—or lead in any way to the inference that the Government ought to pay the amount of the unauthorized expenditure, out of their own pockets. What he did say was that if the Executive Council thought fit to reward public servants, they ought not to do so with their money.

Mr. BROWN said that when the Speaker made the remarks he (Mr. Brown) had referred to, he was alluding to an unauthorized payment of £50 for the Auditor General for compiling the census returns—

The SPEAKER: I had already admitted that.

Mr. BROWN continued—as illustrating the remainder of the unauthorized expenditure. He admitted that the work was ably performed and necessary; they all know that it was work that could not fairly be put on the Auditor General without payment, and yet, because not authorized, it had led to the Speaker's strong remarks. Honorable members are very ready to blame the Governor for the responsibility taken in the questions under debate, but they seem to

forget that they have accorded him every credit for having adopted the same principle in inducing timber companies to start in this colony, when the responsibility he assumed was far greater, an action for which the colony has great reason to be thankful. The really important matter for our consideration seemed to him, not, was the expenditure unauthorized but did the exigencies of the Public Service require it? Was it strictly necessary? And was it economically spent? All honorable members state that they are not prepared to take exception to it on these grounds; it was simply unauthorized and therefore the grave step of putting a keeper over the Governor must be taken; and he must reimburse the Treasury from his private pocket; the Colonial Secretary has pointed out that there has been no Council for seven months or more to grant authority, therefore had the Governor not taken the responsibility necessary, matters must have been left in abeyance. It was different now; there was in the Council a responsible body to which the Government could apply for authority in future, and he concurred with honorable members in the desirability of placing a limit upon the expenditure of the Government. If the interest of the colony was really at stake he would be the first to join in any such strong measures as has been referred to, but it was not so, those who objected were merely cavilling at a myth; to do so under present circumstances would in his opinion have no other effect than to assist in slighting an able Governor who deserved better treatment at our hands; the fact that that Council was then sitting was mainly due to Governor Weld, who as he (Mr. Brown) had before had occasion to remark had in a manly spirit relied on the colonists to co-operate with him in a similar spirit in the government of the colony, and he (Mr. Brown) did not think honorable members were meeting the Governor in that spirit. To continue he had said paltry objections had been made, and as a rule he did not desire to make broad assertions without stating his grounds for doing so. The honorable member for Greenough, a district in which he himself was much interested had found fault with the fact that the Government had not alluded to the subject of a loan.

Mr. SHENTON: Pardon me, I have not spoken today.

Mr. BROWN: I am aware of that gentleman's remarks made with respect to the Governor's Speech. Mr. Newman—

Mr. STEERE: The honorable gentleman is out of order in referring to a previous debate.

Mr. BROWN: I don't wish to press the point; if out of order I'll retract.

The CHAIRMAN: You are out of order.

Mr. BROWN apologised feeling sure the House would forgive his inexperience in points of order. He would then go on to the remarks of the honorable member for Fremantle, Mr. Newman, who found fault with the Colonial Secretary's Budget, because a loan was referred to. His own view was that the question of a loan, and of public works, could only be considered together, and so far it seemed to him that the subject was beyond the grasp of honorable members, he acknowledged he could not see his way clear. But in listening to the various views expressed, several things had been suggested to his mind, first—the honorable member for Fremantle talks of a jetty to cost £20,000! If such a jetty was necessary why was it so? He presumed because it was expected that the colony will advance, if not why construct the jetty, the present harbor accommodation is sufficient for the purpose! If the colony does advance there will be a large quantity of produce for exportation that must go to Fremantle; and if that will be the case; why start a railway from Guildford as suggested by the honorable member for the Swan and Eastern Districts? If so started any produce brought from the eastward for exportation would have to be unloaded at Guildford, loaded again here, and then unloaded and loaded again at Fremantle, at very great expense and labor. Then again as to starting the dredge, and clearing the River Swan. If a railway is ever to be tied in with a jetty at Fremantle, why go to the expense of improving the river, when it would be scarcely used! Honorable members and the colonists were agreed that "reproductive works" should be undertaken, their difficulty would be to decide what works fairly promised to be reproductive, that once done way and means would doubtless be found to undertake shore works. No others should be attempted, once shore works were decided upon we should be in a position to state what sums of money would be necessary, and to endeavor to negotiate a loan but not before. Upon the question of education he had formed no decided view, but trusted he would be able to assist in its decision hereafter. He argued with honorable members who stated female immigrants were much required and could be absorbed, and he went further still, good workmen were much needed, in his own district (Victoria); double wages were being paid to men, to get in the harvest, and for months past, he had had difficulty in procuring laborers at fair rates.

Mr. MARMION rose and said he fully endorsed the statements that had been made by his honorable friend on the right. The leader of the elected members had made the best of his opportunity and he could only say that his expectations were far from realized. He would premise by saying that he stood there in the same position as any of the honorable gentlemen and though he was a nominee of His Excellency the Governor yet he was as independent as any or all of the elected members present. He had an interest and a great one too, in this colony, and his conduct in that House would prove that in stating he was independent, he was quite correct. (Hear, hear.) He agreed with the Budget brought forward by the Hon. the Colonial Secretary, a loan was required and public works necessary for the advancement and progress of Western Australia. With regard to the statement that the Estimates of expenditure should be well considered, and a definite amount arrived at, he concurred with, but still the Hon. the Colonial Secretary nor the Government could not guarantee that that amount would not be exceeded. As to the works which had been suggested by the Hon. the Colonial Secretary to be undertaken, he concurred with many of them. He considered that a jetty at Fremantle was most necessary and a glance at the imports and exports of the colony would be sufficient to convince any one of its necessity. As to improving the river they had the authority of a gentleman, Mr. Doyne, a competent authority, who informed them that they could do nothing with it, but he agreed with honorable members that if the river could be improved by the dredge it would be well employed. He also considered that if a railway could be made from Guildford to Fremantle for £1,000 per mile, it would do away with much of the river traffic and would more than repay the interest on the money in making it, (Hear, hear.) As to the work of removing the bar at the mouth of the Murray River and which the residents considered most desirable if it could be effectually done it would be a most satisfactory work. As to surveys on our coasts there could be but one opinion, they were most necessary, and if any arrangement could be entered into as suggested by the Government, for its being surveyed, it was most desirable. The other topics had been so well and so fully discussed that he would not refer to them on that occasion. There was one subject however to which he would recall the attention of the House and that was the subject of education. During the discussion, he had more than once heard the words Roman Catholic body, and as he was the

only member of that persuasion present in the House he felt called upon to make a few observations. The honorable member for Wellington said that some change in the present system was desirable, and he thought too that some change was necessary. He would feel thankful if the Government proposal was carried by the House and though it had been stated by the honorable member for Wellington that the Roman Catholic body would not be satisfied with it yet he looked upon the concession as an evidence on the part of the Government to deal fairly and impartially with that body. He disagreed thoroughly with the sentiments of the honorable member for Fremantle in his remarks on education. The Roman Catholics had no desire to interfere or injure the existing public schools and he did not look upon the proposal of the Government as a salve in any way, but as a desire on the part of the Government to act fairly and justly to the Roman Catholics. He was entirely opposed to introducing anything sectarian in the Council, but he was sorry to see that there was a strong sectarian spirit manifested by the honorable member for Fremantle. (Hear, hear.) The honorable gentleman said he would not listen to anything, but if he had formed decided opinions he should at the same time be willing to give others equal credit for the strong opinions they entertained as well as himself. The honorable gentleman could not object to the proposal of the Government on the ground of injustice. It was pure and simple justice. The Roman Catholics formed some 28 per cent. of the whole population and for the past 15 or 16 years had to pay their quota of taxation to a system of education in which they could not participate. On the grounds of economy too, the grant of £500 could be defended, and he thought it was a wise and politic step on the part of the Government to grant that sum, and it would be extremely bad policy on the part of the House to reject the proposal. He looked upon the proposal as he had said on the part of the Government as an act of simple justice. As to the ecclesiastical grant there could be no doubt after the explanation of the Hon. the Colonial Secretary that the Roman Catholic body were not receiving their due and to keep it from them any longer after the precedent they had for years he could not believe would be the determination of the House.

Mr. SHENTON said he could not but remark on the very ingenious manner in which the Hon. the Colonial Secretary had explained the increase of the Colonial expenditure. In 1860 the expenditure was

£46,920, and in 1870, £53,866 being an increase of £6,946. He was fully persuaded that the staff employed in 1860 was quite competent to manage the affairs of the colony, and the cost at present was excessive. If the large amount of money—something like £20,000—expended without the authority of the Council, was allowed to pass what use was there in framing Estimates at all? The Government might just as well expend the money the best way they pleased. He was glad to concur in the proposal to take over the convicts from the Imperial Government. He could not reconcile the Hon. the Colonial Secretary's unfavorable report of the Fairlie system of railway with what was published in the *Times* and other newspapers respecting it. The line of railway from the Greenough Flats to Champion Bay, which with stations at each end would cost £40,000 would be a reproductive work. Take the tonnage at 1,000 tons which at 5s. per ton would yield £2,500, and 50 passengers a day at 1s. would yield another £1,000 which would considerably more than pay the amount of the interest on the debt incurred. As to the railway to Green Mount from Perth he could not agree with, he could not see its utility. The jetty at Fremantle would also be a reproductive work, and would more than cover the cost of its erection, say £24,000 at 10 per cent. interest. With reference to the jetties at Bunbury and the Vasse they were required as well as the light houses at Champion Bay and Albany. As to the ecclesiastical grant he was not in favor of any increase—all denominations at present get a share in it, and he would rather see it done away with altogether than agree to increase it. He was opposed to the present system of allowing some persons to have their goods duty free. No one not even the Governor, should be allowed that privilege. He was generally speaking in favor of the proposed increase in taxation as if they could raise say £6,000 through the customs it would enable them to pay the interest on the proposed loan. He would like to see steamers on our coast, and he would be willing to guarantee to a certain amount any company that submitted tangible offers. The steam dredge he knew was never looked upon with favor by the Hon. the Colonial Secretary. It was sent for by Governor Hampton who intended clearing a passage on the flats.—The dredge cost according to Mr. Manning, for putting together, not less than £698, and the working expenses were put down at £700. He thought that item could be reduced because as the dredge would not go to sea, she did not require a captain. The dredge in his opinion might and could be usefully employed in the

river. With reference to the road boards he would suggest that the boards have the right to charge for commonage in the several districts. The amount would not be large but it would be sufficient to pay the salary of the officer of the board. He would also suggest an alteration in the Land Regulation, at the present time rents had to be paid on the 1st of January, consequently many poor men in order to raise cash, were compelled to reap a small patch of wheat and often-times dispose of it at a loss for that purpose; now if the time of payment was deferred until April all harvest operations would be complete, and the poor man placed in a much better position. As he could not concur in the views of the Hon. the Colonial Secretary, he would move an amendment to the honorable gentlemen's motion to the effect, that the words "with a view to passing the Appropriation Act, before the ending of the financial year," be struck out.

Mr. NEWMAN: I beg to second the amendment.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. F. P. Barlee): It is not necessary.

Mr. STEERE said he was very glad to hear the Hon. the Attorney General take part in the debate, but he must record his opinion at the observations of the hon. gentlemen that the action of the House would drive it into Responsible Government were tantamount to a threat.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. R. J. Walcott) said his remarks would not bear that construction. He said it was the first step towards Responsible Government.

Mr. STEERE contended that the honorable gentleman said that the proposal of the House would drive it into Responsible Government.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. R. J. Walcott) said that if the Auditor General was to have the sole charge of money in the public chest it would be Responsible Government.

Mr. STEERE did not think that making inquiries into the expenditure of public money and questioning its unauthorized expenditure would force the country into Responsible Government. At all events they would not be forced into it, until they felt they were fit for it.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. R. J. Walcott) said he did not intend that nor did he say anything that would convey that meaning. What he did say was for the House to appoint an officer who would be responsible to the House and irresponsible to the Governor would be an *imperium in imperio*. The Governor would be dethroned

and his seat occupied by the Auditor General.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. F. P. Barlee) said that before the amendment was put he would make a few remarks. He felt that when the honorable gentleman moved the resolution he thought it was simply to give members an opportunity of expressing their opinions on the statement he had made to the Council and not to evoke a spirit of opposition. It was a pity that one resolution on the books should have to be altered and he was sorry that honorable members changed their opinions so often. It was however quite immaterial to him which passed—the resolution now before the House or the amendment.

Mr. STEERE considered the words of the Hon. the Colonial Secretary uncalled for.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. F. P. Barlee): The members had agreed.

Mr. STEELE said it was the honorable gentleman's own fault. He was to blame and no-one else.

Mr. BROWN said it was quite the same to the Hon. the Colonial Secretary which was carried.

Amendment put and passed.

Resolution, as amended, put and passed.

LOCAL BOARDS BILL.

Select Committee.

Mr. STEERE, in accordance with notice, moved that Mr. Drummond be discharged from the orders to attend on a select committee on the formation of Road Boards and that Mr. Brown's name be added instead thereof.

Question put and passed.

DIVORCE AND MATRIMONIAL CAUSES BILL.

Second Reading and Committee.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. F. P. Barlee) moved that the Bill be now read a second time.

The Bill was read a second time, and passed through Committee, without discussion.

FREMANTLE CARRIAGE ORDINANCE, 1868.

Second Reading and Committee.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. F. P. Barlee) moved that the Bill be now read a second time.

The Bill was read a second time, and passed through Committee, without discussion.

LAW OF EVIDENCE AND PRACTICE ON CRIMINAL TRIALS BILL.

Second Reading.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. F. P. Barlee) moved that the Bill be now read a second time.

The Bill was read a second time.

In Committee.

At the suggestion of the Attorney General (Hon. R. J. Walcott) the word "subscribing" was substituted for the word "attesting" in line 3, clause 7, because he considered it was tautological.

Bill reported.

LAW OF EVIDENCE BILL.

Second Reading and Committee.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. F. P. Barlee) moved that the Bill be now read a second time.

The Bill was read a second time, and passed through Committee, without discussion.

LARCENY AND EMBEZZLEMENT BILL.

Second Reading and Committee.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. F. P. Barlee) moved that the Bill be now read a second time.

The Bill was read a second time, and passed through Committee, without discussion.

ADMINISTRATION OF ESTATES OF DECEASED PERSONS BILL.

Second Reading and Committee.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. F. P. Barlee) moved that the Bill be now read a second time.

The Bill was read a second time, and passed through Committee, without discussion.

SPECIALTY AND SIMPLE CONTRACTS DEBTS BILL.

Second Reading and Committee.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. F. P. Barlee) moved that the Bill be now read a second time.

The Bill was read a second time, and passed through Committee, without discussion.

DISTRESSED COLONIAL SEAMEN BILL.

Second Reading and Committee.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. F. P. Barlee) moved that the Bill be now read a second time.

The Bill was read a second time, and passed through Committee, without discussion.

NATURALIZATION BILL.

Second Reading and Committee.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. F. P. Barlee) moved that the Bill be now read a second time.

The Bill was read a second time, and passed through Committee, without discussion.

GUILDFORD APPROPRIATION LANDS BILL.

Second Reading and Committee.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. F. P. Barlee), in moving that the Bill be now read a second time, informed the House that the Bill was introduced with the consent of the people of Guildford.

The Bill was read a second time, and passed through Committee, without discussion.

The Council adjourned at 10.15 p.m.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Wednesday, 14th December, 1870.

Swearing in of Member—Steam Dredge Returns—14th Victoria, No. 6 Amendment Bill: first reading—Pauper Returns—Trespass by Herds of Wild Horses and Cattle: select committee report—Municipalities Bill: second reading: in committee—Survey Department Returns—Representation of the People Bill: second reading—Aboriginal Natives Pearl Shell Fishery Bill: second reading: in committee—Superannuation Bill: second reading.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at 4 p.m.

SWEARING IN OF MEMBER.

The SPEAKER administered the Oath of Allegiance to Mr. Logue, member for Geraldton, who thereupon took his seat.

STEAM DREDGE RETURNS.

Mr. GULL, in accordance with notice, moved that a return of the first cost of the steam dredge, as well as the charge for freight upon the same, and the entire expense of putting it together be laid upon the Table of this House, and to ask the Hon. the Colonial Secretary whether it is the intention of the Government to take any, and what measures, for the improvement of the navigation of the River Swan.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. F. P. Barlee) placed on the Table of the House the following return called for by the honorable member for Swan:—

Return of the cost, freight, insurance, and all other expenses on account of the Steam Dredge to the present, exclusive of Convict labor:—

Purchase in England	£2890	0	0
Freights and Insurance	559	10	6
Expenses of Erection	307	4	2
Patent Slip	100	0	0
Removal	2	10	0
Advance of pay, passage and expenses of Mr. Christian, appointed as Overseer.	104	16	0
Half pay of do. in the colony to 21st. June, 1870	193	12	0
Lodging allowance of do.	26	0	0
Return passage and expenses	81	19	4
Balance of pay and expenses in England	20	7	4
Half pay to Mrs. Christian in England	208	0	0
26 months at £8 per month	61	19	0
Pay of Watchman	6455	18	4
Total			

W. KNIGHT,
Auditor General.

Perth, Dec. 12, 1870.

14th VICTORIA, No. 6, AMENDMENT BILL.

First Reading.

Mr. DRUMMOND, in accordance with notice, moved for leave to bring in a Bill to amend the 14th of Victoria, No. 6. He said he was induced to bring in the Bill to prevent magistrates doing acts of injustice. He considered no ticket of leave man should have his ticket revoked without having been tried by a magistrate.

Mr. STEELE agreed with the honorable member. It was a summary power, he said, that ought not to be exercised by anyone, not even by the Governor.

The Bill was read a first time.

PAUPER RETURNS.

Mr. DRUMMOND, in accordance with notice, moved that a return be laid on the table, of all paupers receiving aid from Colonial funds, distinguishing those who were originally convicts.

Question put and passed.

TRESPASS BY HERDS OF WILD HORSES AND CATTLE.

Select Committee Report.

Mr. PHILLIPS, as chairman of the select committee, brought up a progress report and moved that the same be received and printed, and that the consideration of the report be made an order of the day for Monday, 19th inst.

Question put and passed.