

assisting one particular company, but he thought it would be more likely to meet with approval if, instead of doing this, a bonus were offered to any company who first discovered water in the district. He would suggest that a bonus of £2,000 out of the general revenue be offered to the company or person who should first prove to the satisfaction of the Government that water existed in the district, within an area to be defined by the Government.

MR. HARPER said there might be some points of advantage in what the hon. member (Mr. Loton) suggested, but he would draw attention to the fact that the bonus must necessarily be confined to one company, inasmuch as it was not likely that any company would attempt to find water on anybody else's land, and if the Government selected any particular spot for conducting the operation, it must be on some particular lease.

MR. MARMON said there was another question to be considered and that was this—if the plant were jointly purchased by the Government and the company, who would it belong to when the experiment ended, whether it was successful or not.

MR. BROWN said they must leave all that to be settled by the Government. He assumed that, if this resolution passed, the Government would place a sum on the Estimates to meet the proposed expenditure, and would also sketch out a plan of the proposed arrangement and submit it to the House, which, if approved, the money would be available for expenditure; and, if the Government could then enter into satisfactory arrangements with the company, the money would be expended.

MR. VENN said he was rather inclined to support the suggestion thrown out by Mr. Loton. He saw great difficulty in assisting individual companies, and a great deal of time might be lost. Any arrangement entered into would have to be very carefully drawn, and possibly a year might elapse before the details were settled and operations commenced. On the other hand, if they were to offer a bonus to all-comers, anybody might come in at once and commence operations; and he thought if the Government did that it would do all that could reasonably be expected.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. J. Forrest) said the objection to that was that they would be asking these people to take all the risk of failure upon themselves. Of course if they were certain to find water they would not mind the expenditure; but there was no certainty about it. He thought we ought to risk something ourselves in endeavoring to open up this territory.

MR. GRANT did not think it would be such a costly process as some hon. members seemed to think. No doubt the experiment would be conducted under the old process of blasting; and not by means of diamond drills. He should like to see the company first showing their *bona fides* by expending a few thousand pounds of their own.

MR. WITTENOOM expressed himself entirely in accord with the hon. member Mr. Loton, which he thought would be the fairest way of dealing with the matter. As to the risk, he thought it would be well worth any company, holding millions of acres of land in the district, to run some little risk in discovering water, and he thought a bonus of £2,000 would prove a great stimulus to any company.

The amended resolution submitted by Mr. BROWN was then put and passed.

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

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Wednesday, 19th August, 1885.

Message (No. 16) : Report from Sir John Cooda re Weir across river Swan—Message (No. 19) : Attorney General's opinion re Bills of Exchange and the Stamp Act—Inquiry into working of the Scab Act—Amended Immigration Regulations : further consideration of—Supplementary Estimates, 1885 : further consideration of—Destruction of Rabbits Amendment Bill : second reading—Law and Parliamentary Library Amendment Bill : second reading—High School Scholarships and Exhibition (Message No. 13)—Dog Act Amendment Bill : further consideration of, in committee—Volunteer Foreign Service Bill : second reading—Adjournment.

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

PRAYERS.

WEIR ACROSS RIVER SWAN (MESSAGE No. 18).

MR. SPEAKER notified that he had received the following Message from His Excellency the Governor:

"In reply to the Address of the Honorable the Legislative Council No. 8, of the 7th instant, respecting the construction of a weir across the River Swan, at a suitable spot above Perth Bridge, the Governor has the honor to transmit herewith, for the information of the Council, a Report on the subject, dated the 15th instant, which he has received from Sir John Cooke.

"2. The step recommended, namely, that of ascertaining, in the dry season, the proportion of sea water which the proposed weir would exclude from the river, will be taken in due course.

"Government House, Perth, 19th August, 1885."

BILLS OF EXCHANGE AND THE STAMP ACT (MESSAGE No. 19).

MR. SPEAKER also announced the receipt of the following Message:

"In reply to the Address of the Honorable the Legislative Council No. 10, dated the 7th instant, proposing an amendment of the Stamp Act of 1882, the Governor has the honor to transmit herewith, for the consideration of the Council, a Report on the subject, dated the 14th instant, which he has received from the Honorable the Attorney General.

"Government House, Perth, 19th August, 1885."

INQUIRY INTO THE WORKING OF THE SCAB ACT.

MR. BURT, in accordance with notice, moved, "That with a view to the more speedy eradication of scab in sheep and the prevention of the spread of this disease in the Northern Districts, it is in the opinion of this House desirable that the working of the Scab Act, 1882, be inquired into by a select committee; and that such committee should report to the House what, if any, amendments in such Act they would suggest." The hon. member said this question was one of very great importance to the colony, and he was sure it needed no apology from him in introducing it to the House. It

was now something like twenty years, he believed, since legislation was first introduced here for the eradication of scab in sheep, and, at that time, considering the number of sheep in the colony, it was anticipated that it would take but a short time to stamp out the disease. Instead of that, he thought it was found many years after the introduction of legislation on the subject, that the disease had rather spread than otherwise. He was aware that since the establishment of the Board of Advice matters had gone on a little more smoothly, and the disease seemed to be kept more down than it used to. But he did not think we had much to congratulate ourselves upon. When we looked at the fact that we had been twenty years endeavoring to stamp out this disease, and had not yet succeeded in doing so, he thought all must admit that there must be something wanting in the machinery, and that with our comparatively small number of sheep something more ought to have been done. In fact, he would go so far as to say that there ought not to be any scab in Western Australia at this period of her history. The other colonies, with the exception he believed of New Zealand, were free or comparatively free from this scourge; but it still existed amongst ourselves, and he looked upon it as almost a disgrace to the colony that it should exist. For some time past he had paid some attention to the subject; it was one that interested him considerably. It interested him particularly when he found that what he might call the Northern districts of the colony, north of Champion Bay, had also become infected; and he learnt with great regret a short time ago that it had broken out in the Kimberley District. It was very little use, it appeared to him, to endeavor to settle these new districts, and especially a district like Kimberley, if we immediately imported into it this terrible disease. Situated, as it was, so remotely from other portions of the colony, with no means of promptly coping with the disease, once it got established there it must make headway. He had heard it said for years past that we were putting down the disease, and, in proof of it, it was pointed out that it only existed here and there—sometimes it would be at Champion Bay, at other times at the Williams perhaps; but, a

very short time afterwards, they would see it notified that scab had broken out at the Gascoyne, or down south, or on the Swan. It seemed to break out periodically all over the colony, and he ventured to say it would continue to do so, and to spread, unless the hands of the Government were strengthened, so as to enable them to deal with the subject in a more thorough manner than they were at present able to do. It was with the view more particularly of protecting the Northern portion of the colony that he had drawn the attention of the House to the subject at the present time. The restrictions now enforced were very few indeed, and, such as did exist, were comparatively worthless against the possibility of scab being imported into these Northern districts. He had known a case recently of sheep travelling from a squat near Albany right away he believed north of Roebourne, the person in charge buying other sheep as he went along, and thus recruiting his flock on the route. It was impossible to protect districts at the North if such a course as that was allowed, because a person passing through (say) the Williams district, picking up sheep unsuspectingly as he went along, had no guarantee at all that the sheep so picked up were free from disease. They might be bought as clean sheep, and were supposed to be clean sheep—supposed to be clean sheep simply because they had been dipped within a certain time—and possibly they were clean at the time they were bought; but, as they travelled along, disease broke out amongst them, and in this way the disease was introduced into our Northern districts. There was nothing in fact to prevent it, so long as you had a clean certificate—and a clean certificate simply meant this—that the sheep when last inspected were reported to have been dipped. No supervision whatever was exercised—no supervision whatever was required under the Scab Act—with respect to this dipping; and it appeared to him, unless they insisted upon the dipping being supervised by an inspector, it was impossible for an inspector to say whether the dipping had been performed or not, and under conditions that were likely to make the dipping effectual or not. He proposed in the amendments which he now contemplated to sug-

gest to the select committee that, in order that scab may be reduced to a minimum, and, if not stamped out altogether, be possibly brought down to one or two districts—he proposed in the first place that all dipping shall be performed under the eye of an inspector, who shall be responsible for its being properly carried out, and that this inspector shall be able, under the instructions he shall have received from the Board, not only to supervise the dipping but also to determine the description of liquid to be used in dipping, whether tobacco and sulphur, lime and sulphur, or some of the patent compounds which were now gaining favor in the other colonies. At present we left the dipping altogether to the flockowner, who dipped as he liked, and used what liquid he liked, with the result that we got no further towards the attainment of the object which we all had in view. He failed to see why this portion of the colony, which had been afflicted with scab so long, ought to be allowed to contaminate the Northern districts, simply through neglect, supineness, or the want of ordinary care in preventing the spread of the disease. He should be disinclined to allow any sheep whatever to travel north of the Champion Bay district unless they were dipped at the time they were leaving that district, no matter what part of the colony they came from, and whether they had been dipped and inspected within the previous few months or not. He would also insist upon sheep coming by sea—and he believed scab was introduced into Kimberley in that way—being dipped in the presence of an inspector before leaving Fremantle or other southern port for these northern districts; or, if they came to those districts by sea from anywhere else, he would have them dipped upon landing, if there was any ground whatever for suspecting that scab might break out amongst them. All this might be a source of great inconvenience and expense to flockowners, but he thought there were few flockowners who would not submit to some inconvenience if they were assured that in this way their flocks would in future be free from this disease. Another frequent cause of scab was the uncleanness of the land upon which sheep had been depasturing, and he would

insist that not only should flocks suspected to be unclean be quarantined, but also that all land suspected to be unclean should be quarantined, until the inspector satisfied himself that there were no more sheep on that land to his own certain knowledge. He did not profess to have any very great knowledge of this subject himself, and perhaps some hon. members might consider it rather presumptuous on his part to attempt to deal with it. But whatever his knowledge might be—and he admitted he had no practical knowledge—it had struck him long ago that this scab was a very serious evil indeed for the colony, and that by reason of it thousands of pounds were lost to our flockowners. Under the existing regulations a flockowner who might be exceedingly cautious himself was simply at the mercy of his neighbor, or even of a stranger, and the expense thus entailed upon sheepowners, year by year, was so much dead loss to the colony, and by this time it ought to have worn out the patience of everyone. Our sheep were increasing in number as the colony became developed, and the further we put off the adoption of some heroic measure to stamp out the scourge the greater the difficulty would be of dealing with it. It was easier to cope with the evil now, with our comparatively small number of sheep, than to attempt to adopt remedial measures like these perhaps ten years hence. It only now remained for him to move the resolution standing in his name.

The motion was agreed to without further comment, and

Mr. BURT moved that the select committee should consist of Mr. Steere, Mr. Harper, Mr. McRae, Mr. Grant, Mr. Brown, and the mover.

Agreed to.

AMENDED IMMIGRATION REGULATIONS.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser), in view of the result of the division which took place the previous day, on the subject of adopting the new regulations proposed by the Board of Immigration, again submitted his resolution affirming the Board's proposals, provided that the funds necessary to carry them out were obtainable. It would be in the recollection of the House that the

proposals of the Board were generally approved, the only exception taken being as regards the forwarding of nominated immigrants to their destination, after their arrival in the colony. An amendment embodying that principle was adopted by the House, but, upon the resolution as amended being put, it was, owing to a misunderstanding, negatived, and the matter was left *in statu quo*. Consequently he had now to move his resolution again.

Mr. WITTENOOM moved, as an amendment, that the following words be added to the resolution: "and also that the advantages of a Home on arrival, and free passages or passes to their destination as soon as possible, be extended to nominated immigrants." This question, he said, had already been fully discussed when the matter was before them on the previous day, and it was unnecessary to go over the same ground again. The amendment, however, contained one new feature. He proposed that in addition to free passages, or free passes, both classes of immigrants should be entitled to the same advantages as regards accommodation upon their landing. The Board proposed that all selected immigrants, as distinguished from nominated immigrants, should be temporarily received on landing into an Immigrant's Home, and maintained there until they found suitable employment. With regard to nominated immigrants, the Board proposed that this Home should also be available for that class of new-comers upon certain terms, whereas selected immigrants were to be admitted and maintained free of expense. He failed to appreciate the justice of this distinction. He thought all classes of immigrants should be treated alike.

The question was then put, to add these words to the original resolution; and, a division being called for, there appeared—

Ayes	8
Noes	11

Majority against	...	3
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Ayes	Noes
Mr. Burges	Hon. J. Forrest
Mr. Crowther	Hon. J. A. Wright
Mr. Grant	Mr. Brockman
Mr. McRae	Mr. Brown
Mr. Parker	Mr. Harper
Mr. Steere	Mr. Layman
Mr. Venn	Mr. Lecon
Mr. Wittenoom (Teller)	Mr. Marmion
	Mr. Randell
	Mr. Shenton
	Hon. M. Fraser (Teller)

The amendment was therefore negatived, and the original motion put and passed.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES, 1885.

The House went into committee for the further consideration of these Estimates.

Police Department, £2,140 18s. 9d. :

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said hon. members would observe that there was a slight reduction in the strength of the water police. The force at present consisted of one coxswain and twelve constables, distributed as follows: 1 coxswain and 6 constables at Fremantle; 2 constables each at Geraldton, Bunbury, and the Vasse. The Superintendent of Police considered it would be quite impossible to reduce the water police at the outports, but at Fremantle, he thought, now that the water police were relieved of the charge of the jetties and of the duty of berthing vessels, a boat's crew consisting of one coxswain and three constables would be sufficient. This force, the Superintendent thought, should be confined to discharging purely police duties in the harbor, and on shore in the neighborhood of the jetties—duties, in short, analogous to those of the land police.

MR. SHENTON could hardly see how the reduction could be made at Fremantle, unless some arrangement were made with the Harbor Master's department to assist the water police.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said the steam launch which it was proposed to procure for use at Fremantle would materially relieve the labors of the Harbor Master's crew.

MR. MARMION said it might be some considerable time before that steam launch was available, and he certainly thought that one coxswain and three constables would not be sufficient to perform the duties of the water police at Fremantle.

MR. SHENTON thought there was one duty of which the police might be relieved, and that was the searching of all vessels leaving the colony, which was only a relic of Imperial convictionism.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said he had already informed the House of the views of the Superin-

tendent of Police on the subject; and that officer, since he wrote his report, had again been consulted on the subject, and he said he saw no reason to alter his opinion that the reduced staff at Fremantle would be amply sufficient under the circumstances.

MR. MARMION said that did not alter his own opinion in any way. He thought it would be practically impossible for this reduced staff to perform the duties until the steam launch was obtained.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said it was proposed to amalgamate the two forces—the water police and the land police—and he presumed there would be no difficulty in obtaining the assistance of the land police to perform some of the duties devolving upon the water police in cases of emergency.

MR. STEERE said that, in all probability, if this colony had not consented to receive Imperial prisoners, it would never have had to organise or maintain a water police force at all; and, as the necessity for such a force had now ceased, he had hoped that the force would have been disbanded altogether. But he supposed it would come to the same thing in the end. They would either have to increase the number of the land police to act as watchmen in the vicinity of the jetties, or continue to employ the water police.

MR. SHENTON called attention to the 30th paragraph of the report of the Superintendent of Police, who said: "A practice has existed for years past in the different towns of the colony of ringing a bell shortly before 10 p.m. each day. I think that as the object for which this has been done now to all intents and purposes no longer exists, the practice might be discontinued: it is but a relic of the days when Swan River was a penal settlement." Was it the intention of the Government to carry out this suggestion?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said he believed it was. There had been no order given to that effect as yet, but he believed it was not the intention to keep up the obsolete practice referred to.

The vote was then put and passed.

Pensions, £18:

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) moved to add a small sum, bringing up the pension of Mrs. Pyke, late matron of the Lunatic Asylum, to about £15 a year, which was agreed to. The hon. gentleman also moved that provision be made for the payment of a pension of £200 a year to Mr. W. D. Jackson, late Superintendent of Rottnest island. He said that the actual amount of pension which Mr. Jackson was entitled to, based upon the salary he had been receiving, was a little over £170, but that there was a provision in the Superannuation Act under which, when the services of an officer were such as to require special recognition, power was given to the Governor-in-Council to do so, provided the matter was laid before the Legislative Council. Mr. Jackson's salary and emoluments when he retired amounted to about £350 a year.

MR. BROWN moved that progress be reported. This was a most extraordinary proposal coming from the Government. Two or three years ago that Council all but unanimously did its best to induce the Government to recognise the special services rendered by an old and valuable officer—services the value of which was acknowledged by the Government—by increasing the pension it was proposed to give him, which was only £175 per annum, although at the time of his retirement he was drawing about £500 a year salary, to say nothing about his emoluments. The Government then distinctly informed the House—though they would have been glad enough to have granted this officer a larger pension, in recognition of his special services, if the law allowed it—that they were unable to do so, and it was stated to the House by the Attorney General at that time that the Government and the Legislature together could not, in the face of the law on the subject, increase the vote one iota beyond that £175. He was aware that the Governor had power which he could exercise independently of the Legislature in regard to pensions; but when it was desired to recognise the special services of an officer in the way the Colonial Secretary now desired to increase this pension, it was necessary for the Government to come forward and ask specifically for power from the Legislature to grant such increase. But in this in-

stance, this officer's claim was put forward as a matter of course.

Progress was then reported, leave being given the committee to sit again.

RABBITS ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

MR. STEERE, in moving the second reading of this bill, explained that its object was to extend the provisions of the existing Act, as to the destruction of rabbits, to islands adjacent to the coast, as well as the mainland, also to provide that annual reports shall be sent in by the inspectors appointed under the Act. It would be in the recollection of those hon. members who were in the House when the present Act was passed that the islands on the coast were excluded from its operation, though several members were of opinion at the time that it was an unwise provision to make; and he believed many other hon. members, who were in favor at that time of allowing rabbits on these islands, had since altered their opinions, and considered now that it would be desirable that the provisions of the Act should apply to islands adjacent to the coast as well as to the mainland. He thought there was very great danger of the introduction of rabbits to the mainland from these islands, unless power was given to destroy them on the islands. He believed that since the Act had been passed some rabbits had been brought ashore, and he had been told that there was an island in the vicinity of Albany from which it would be quite possible for rabbits, at low water, to visit the mainland. Hon. members were aware of the enormous expense incurred by the Governments of the other colonies and private individuals in endeavoring to exterminate rabbits. He believed that no less than £100,000 had been spent in this way in South Australia last year, and he understood that the Queensland Government proposed placing £100,000 on next year's Estimates for the same purpose. Equally large, and he believed even larger sums had been expended in the other colonies. In fact this rabbit pest was becoming the greatest scourge in the neighboring colonies, and he did not think we could make any provisions that would be too strict to prevent the introduction and spreading of the scourge here. He was

not in the House when the present Act was passed, which, he thought, contained another provision that ought to be altered. The 7th clause provided that the inspectors appointed under the Act might take such steps as they thought necessary for destroying rabbits, provided they did not use poison. In the other colonies, if the use of poison were prohibited, they would never be able to cope with these pests at all. It might be said that if the use of poison were permitted, sheep and dogs would be destroyed; but he would point out that the only places where rabbits at present existed here were on islands where neither sheep nor other stock were kept; therefore, there was no danger to be apprehended. He also thought it was very desirable that the House should be made aware, each session, of what steps had been taken by the inspectors to attempt to destroy rabbits. The hon. member for the North had put a question on this point to the Colonial Secretary, and the answer he received was that no reports at all had been received from the inspectors since the Act was passed. He thought it was very necessary that these inspectors should be called upon to make periodical reports, whether any rabbits existed or not, and that these reports should be presented to the Legislature. The present bill provided for this, and he hoped hon. members would agree to its second reading.

The motion was agreed to, *sub silentio*.

LAW AND PARLIAMENTARY LIBRARY AMENDMENT BILL.

Mr. STEERE, in moving the second reading, said it would be in the recollection of hon. members that shortly after they met, this session, they were asked to elect a fresh member of the Law and Parliamentary Committee, in consequence of there being no provision in the present Act to enable a member to continue in office in the event of a dissolution of the Council. He thought it was very necessary indeed that this Library Committee should always have upon it one member of that House or more, and that the committee should never fall below the required number. The bill now before the House provided that any member elected by that House to serve on the committee

shall, in the event of a dissolution, continue in office until a fresh Council is elected. It also provided that the number of the committee shall be increased. He thought there was a general feeling in favor of increasing the number of members, and that the unofficial side of the House should be more largely represented on the committee than it was at present. The present bill provided that two members of the committee shall be appointed by the Governor, and three unofficial members appointed by that House.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. J. Forrest) said the hon. member, in moving the second reading of this bill, had omitted to notice one particular alteration of the present Act which this bill contemplated; and he thought the hon. member might have referred to it, if only to give his reasons for proposing the alteration. The first Act passed in 1873 provided that the Chief Justice and the Attorney General for the time being, and one member of the Legislative Council should form the Law and Parliamentary Library Committee; but there was some difficulty, he believed, in carrying out the provisions of the Act, the then Chief Justice (Mr. Wrensfordsley) not wishing to act on the committee, and the law was amended in 1881. The new Act provided that the Chief Justice and the Attorney General for the time being, or any two other officials whom the Governor might choose to appoint, were to be the official members of the committee. But in the present bill he noticed that it was proposed to leave out any mention of the Chief Justice and the Attorney General, and that the official representatives shall be any two Government officers whom the Governor may wish to appoint. He did not suppose that practically there was any great objection to that, for he had no doubt that the Governor would always appoint the two principal law officers of the colony to act upon this committee. At the same time he thought it looked somewhat strange and invidious that all mention of these two officers should be omitted in the present bill, when they were specially mentioned in the previous Acts. He believed that the Law and Parliamentary Library Committee had worked well in

the past, with the Chief Justice and the Attorney General as the official members, and he knew from his own experience that the present Chief Justice took a very great interest in the library, and that he had prepared with his own hands an index of every book in the library. He had never heard that there was anything particularly wrong in the management of the library, and he knew that both the Chief Justice and the Attorney General had taken an active interest in it. Therefore it did seem to him that to pass an Act purposely leaving them out was not quite correct. He knew—and he stated it with some authority—that so far as the Chief Justice was concerned, he would look upon this omission as a direct censure upon him for the part he had taken in the management of this library. He thought if there was any intention to pass any censure, direct or indirect, upon the Chief Justice, the hon. members of that House would be sorry to incorporate it in any Act passed by the House. He thought if there was any man in the colony qualified, by education, culture, and refinement of taste, to serve on such a committee as this, it was the present Chief Justice. Although, as he had already said, if the names of the Chief Justice and of the Attorney General were left out, no doubt any Governor would appoint these two officers, by virtue of their position, to be members of the Library Committee, still it appeared to him—he was speaking without any official authority in this matter and simply as a member of the House—but it appeared to him if they were to leave out their names, as the present bill proposed to do, it would be a very marked omission, and such as he did not think hon. members generally would like to be a party to.

MR. STEERE said he could not imagine at first what the hon. gentleman was alluding to when he said there was one alteration in the bill which he had not referred to. So far as he was concerned, he had no intention whatever in asking the House to pass this bill to cast any censure upon the Chief Justice nor upon the Attorney General, whom he thought most probably would generally be the two official members appointed by the Governor upon this committee; but

he thought that by wording the bill in this way it would leave it optional with the Governor to appoint whom he liked, which he thought would be more respectful to the Governor than to dictate certain names to him. He should be very sorry indeed if the Chief Justice looked upon it in the light of a censure upon him, for he might say it was never so intended by him in framing the bill.

The motion for the second reading was then put and passed.

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

On the order of the day for the consideration of His Excellency's message (No. 13), on the subject of the High School scholarships and University exhibition,

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said hon. members were aware that the object which His Excellency had in view in submitting this matter for the consideration of the House was to elicit from hon. members an expression of opinion as to whether they thought it was desirable, as suggested by the Rev. Mr. Watkins in his letter, and by Mr. Saw in his petition, that these scholarships should be thrown open to every boy in the colony, and that the exhibition should be tenable at any English University. His Excellency himself, as stated in his message, still held the same view on the subject as he did last year, when the present scheme was approved by the House, limiting the scholarships to pupils attending Government and Assisted schools, and the exhibition to some Australian University. He thought the majority of hon. members would still be of opinion that these conditions ought to be adhered to. Mr. Watkins' views were no doubt sound in themselves, and from his point of view; but he thought His Excellency had put the matter very clearly in his message, and he could not held thinking that most hon. members would be inclined to endorse what the Governor said. His Excellency, however, it would be seen, was willing to make any changes which the House might deem advisable, considering, as he did, that it was of much greater importance that the conditions attached to these educational prizes should be accept-

able to the community than that they should be devised by himself. He should be glad to hear what hon. members had to say on the subject, and, in order to elicit discussion, he would formally move, That in the opinion of the House it was desirable that the existing arrangements be continued.

Mr. SHENTON said that last session the hon. member for Fremantle and himself were the only two hon. members who were of opinion that these scholarships should be thrown open not only to Government and Assisted schools, but also to any private or other educational establishments. On looking at the papers which accompanied His Excellency's message, he thought a very strong case had been made out by Mr. Watkins on behalf of the new Grammar School established at Fremantle. Considering that the funds for supporting these scholarships came out of the general revenue of the colony, he certainly did think that every boy in the colony ought to be allowed to compete for them. With reference to the memorial sent in by Mr. Saw, asking that he may be allowed to enter at one of the English Universities instead of an Australian University, he thought the Council would not be inclined to confine this exhibition to colonial universities. He therefore begged to move, as an amendment, "That the scholarships at the High School be thrown open to all boys educated in the colony; and that the University Exhibition be tenable at any University in the United Kingdom or in the Australasian Colonies by any boy educated in the colony."

Mr. STEERE said he must confess that he had altered his opinion on this subject since last session, and he agreed with the hon. member for Newcastle that boys should be admitted these scholarships from other schools than State-aided schools. One great reason why he had arrived at this conclusion was that the head master of the High School himself advised that this should be done. Mr. Beuttler, it appeared, had become aware, as they were all aware, that a great deal of dissatisfaction had been expressed at these scholarships being confined to Government and Assisted schools; and there was, he thought, a great deal to be said in favor of their being thrown open

to other boys. With regard to the University exhibition, he should think there could be no objection to this exhibition being tenable at Oxford or Cambridge, if a boy's parents wished to incur the extra expense of sending him to England, instead of to an Australian University. He thought it would be a great pity to throw any obstacles in the way of a boy proceeding to an English University, where he might obtain a training that would probably be more advantageous to him in after-life.

Mr. RANDELL said he had not altered his opinions on the subject since last session of Council, nor did he think that any strong case had been made out by Mr. Watkins. The hon. member for Toodyay said he thought these scholarships ought to be available to a boy attending any educational establishment, which of course would include other schools than the Fremantle Grammar School, and apply to boys receiving private tuition. This, it appeared to him, was among the strongest points against throwing open these scholarships as proposed. It would simply open the door for any individual in the colony to pick out one particularly sharp boy and devote his whole attention to that boy, thereby giving him greater advantages than any boy educated at a public school could hope to obtain. He thought that was neither the intention of the Government nor of the Legislature when these scholarships were established. As we had built up a national system of education, recognised by the State, and as we had, so to speak, placed this High School as the apex of our educational structure, he thought it was incumbent upon the Legislature to do all it could in furtherance of the interests of that institution. The head master, it was true, said he thought no injury would accrue to the High School if these scholarships were thrown open to all the schools in the colony—and he also seemed to include the exhibition; but, from a conversation he had with Mr. Beuttler, he gathered quite a different impression, quite opposite indeed, and that he (Mr. Beuttler) thought it would be very injurious to the High School if the University exhibition were thrown open to any school in the colony. He may have gathered a wrong impression,

but this was what he understood the head master to mean. As to his having no objection to the scholarships being thrown open to any school in the colony, one could quite understand that. He noticed that His Excellency said that these scholarships were intended as a means of improving the system of education conducted at the public expense, and that, in the same manner, the exhibition from the High School to an Australian university was intended to benefit and enhance the value of the education given at the principal centre of learning in the colony. "Precedents for this," His Excellency added, "exist in every civilised country," and he presumed the Governor made that statement on good foundation. As to the claims of the Grammar School at Fremantle, the High School was established before that institution, and it had always occurred to him that the Grammar School was established in opposition to it. This Grammar School, he would point out, was a purely denominational school, and he understood that the teaching of the tenets of the Church of England was a part of the curriculum. On the other hand the High School was what he might call a national school open to boys of every denomination of Christians, and no particular religious bias was given to the scholars attending it, as there was professedly at the Fremantle school. For that reason, and many more which had been referred to when these scholarships were first established, he was opposed to their being thrown open to any denominational school. The country had decided to take the education of the youth of the colony into its own hands—and, he thought, wisely so—thereby distributing the advantages of education wider than they would otherwise be distributed; and, in order to put the coping stone upon this educational structure, the High School was established, as a part of our public educational system. There was no school at that time in the colony to which parents could send their children for a higher education, and it had answered its purpose admirably, considering the circumstances of the colony and its sparse population, and he thought it deserved well at the hands of the Legislature. These scholarships were one means of furthering the interests of the schools, and he hoped nothing would

be done to detract from their value as such. He hoped the House would not adopt the suggestion put forward by the hon. member for Toodyay, or by the Rev. Mr. Watkins, but would show its determination to adhere to the original conditions attached to these scholarships. With regard to Mr. Saw's application to be allowed to enter at an English University instead of at an Australian University, he thought that was a matter of perfect indifference to that House. In Mr. Saw's own particular case he might find it even cheaper, as well as more advantageous in other respects, to proceed to England where he had friends; but he thought that in the case of any lad gaining this exhibition he should be allowed to select his own University, so long as it was a British University.

Mr. MARMION failed to see why the exhibition should not be tenable at any English University, so long as the value of the exhibition was not increased. Nor did he see why it should not be thrown open to other schools than the High School. With regard to the scholarships he agreed in a great measure with the statements expressed by Mr. Watkins, and that the area of selection should be extended. There was now at least one other school in the colony which aimed, and successfully aimed, at imparting that higher education which it was desirable should be available for our colonial boys, and he could not see why that institution, or any other scholastic establishment, should not have a chance of securing these educational prizes. He thought this would only be in harmony with outside public feeling on the subject. As pointed out by Mr. Watkins, the result, so far as the High School itself was concerned, would be that it might receive more promising recruits than by limiting these scholarships to Government and Assisted establishments, and that the credit of the school would thus be enhanced. Mr. Beuttler, in his letter, said although he believed these Government scholarships would work well eventually, he was bound to admit that the two scholars admitted this year were "not a particularly bright lot." Perhaps they would be a brighter lot if the scholarships were thrown open to every boy in the colony. He should think the object in view and the desire of the Legislature

was, that these prizes should fall to the most promising and most deserving lads which the colony produced; and if the scholarships were thrown open to other schools they would operate as a stimulus and incentive to all the children attending such schools. Mr. Beuttler himself anticipated no harm to his school if the present conditions were liberalised, feeling confident, as he said, that in the result the prizes would fall to his school, while at the same time all feeling of irritation would be removed.

Mr. PARKER said he always felt that these scholarships were restricted to boys attending Government and Assisted schools in order to assist the boys of parents who without such assistance could not afford to give their children the advantages of a higher education. It was perfectly well known that the boys attending these public schools were, as a rule, boys whose parents could not afford to send them to the High School; and the object which the Legislature had in view was to enable boys of intellectual promise, but of limited means, to obtain a superior scholastic training. He had no doubt in his own mind that if these scholarships were thrown open as suggested, the Government and Assisted schools would never have a show, and the object of the Government and of the Legislature would be defeated. As to the exhibition, he looked upon that in quite a different light, and would be glad to see it thrown open to any school in the colony, or to any boy in the colony, no matter how he was being educated, whether privately or otherwise. He thought that in this way we were likely to give a stimulus to clever boys, and possibly with the result that a greater lustre may be thrown upon the colony by the achievements of some Western Australian boys. He did not care whether this exhibition was tenable at an English or an Australian University; but, while prepared to support the amendment to that extent, he certainly must oppose the proposition that the scholarships be thrown open to other than the national schools of the colony. The hon. member expressed his intention of moving an amendment to that effect.

The debate was then adjourned.

DOG ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

The House went into committee for the further consideration of this bill.

Preamble and title agreed to.

Bill reported.

On the motion for the adoption of the report,

MR. WITTENOOM moved that the bill be recommitted for the purpose of making certain amendments.

This was agreed to.

Clause 4 reverted to:

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) again moved the following new clause, as an amendment upon Mr. Wittenoom's clause: "It shall be lawful for any aboriginal native to keep one unregistered dog; provided always that whenever the number of dogs found in the possession of one or more natives shall be in excess of the number of the party of such natives, including men, women, and children, such dog or dogs in excess shall be liable to be destroyed." He said the clause had already been discussed, and it would be in the recollection of hon. members that a division took place upon it, the result being an equal number of votes for and against it. The Chairman of Committees, following the usual constitutional practice, gave his casting vote in such a way as would enable the matter to be again considered, and he now submitted it for further consideration of the committee. He believed that upon reconsideration, hon. members would agree to the amendment. It gave the natives equal rights with Europeans as regards keeping registered dogs, and it also gave them in the Central District a concession which he thought would be fair towards the natives and towards the settlers. He would ask the committee to give it a trial, and should it be found desirable hereafter to have collars provided at public expense for the dogs of natives, the matter might be again considered. He believed himself there would be no difficulty in recognising dogs that were kept by natives in contravention of the Act, as the Act only applied to the Central District, where these natives were pretty well known.

MR. BROWN said there was no authority in the existing Act for destroying dogs in excess of the authorised number, nor was there any provision

made here for it,—they were simply liable to be destroyed. The Government would never issue instructions to the police to destroy these dogs, and if the clause passed as at present worded it would not be worth that,—(a snap of the finger.)

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said if it would be any satisfaction to hon. members to hear it he might say that, if this clause became law, stringent instructions would be given to the police for the destruction of these dogs, and, if considered desirable, those instructions would be published. The police would have their orders, and care would be taken that they were strictly adhered to, and, if it was deemed necessary, returns showing exactly what had been done, and the number of dogs destroyed, might be furnished. There was no intention whatever to evade the regulation that, except the one dog allowed for each native, all other dogs shall be destroyed, unless duly registered.

MR. BROWN: Will the hon. gentleman consent to add the words, "and all constables are hereby authorised and required to destroy every such dog so found."

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said that was the intention of the clause, and, at present, he saw no objection to adding these words.

MR. WITTENOOM said he thought either of the two proposals would work very well—his own or that submitted by the leader of the Government; and, as there was at last a prospect of having this vexed question settled, he thought they ought to meet the Government in the same spirit of concession as the Government had met the House.

MR. RANDELL said he felt inclined to support the original clause, because it gave authority to the police to destroy these dogs; but he admitted there was a difficulty about the collars, and, in order that they might have some improvement of the present law, he thought perhaps it would be desirable they should accept the amendment, so long as they had the assurance of the Government that instructions would be issued to the police to destroy all dogs found in excess of the authorised number.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. J. Forrest) said he thought for his own part that they were making

too much of this question. From his own experience, he thought the settlers were pretty well able to protect themselves as against the natives and their dogs: at any rate, he had not himself heard any great complaints. The natives themselves had almost disappeared from the Central districts of the colony.

MR. MARMION said he must again point out the hardship which this clause would work in some cases. A party of a dozen natives, entitled to keep a dozen dogs, might split out, and one of the party might go away from the camp accompanied by three or four of the dozen dogs which the twelve natives were entitled to keep; yet if the native who happened to have the three or four dogs with him were to meet a constable a short way from the camp those dogs would be destroyed, except one.

MR. BURT said that in order to arrive at some possible compromise in the matter he would move that the following words be added: "and all constables are hereby authorised to destroy the same."

MR. BROWN: What about the registered dogs?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said the clause only applied to unregistered dogs. It was not intended to interfere with any registered dogs which a native might possess. The instructions that would be issued to the police would be very plain and concise, and the constables would be required to respect all registered dogs, whether they belonged to whites or blacks.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. A. P. Hensman) said that so long as the dogs were "liable" to be destroyed they could be destroyed without any special authority; in the same way as when a man was "liable" to be imprisoned or "liable" to be fined for any offence. That did not mean that he was liable to imprisonment or to a fine if he did not commit a breach of the law; and, in the same way, these dogs would only be liable to be destroyed when kept in contravention of the law.

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

Bill reported.

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-