

ROEBOURNE-COSSACK TRAMWAY
BILL.

This Bill passed through committee without discussion.

EASTERN RAILWAY: SPENCER'S
BROOK-NORTHAM BRANCH BILL.

This Bill was committed, and a verbal alteration made in the schedule.

Preamble and title agreed to.

Bill reported.

MESSAGE (No. 3): DRAFT LAND
REGULATIONS.

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

"In the 7th paragraph of the Speech with which he opened the Session, the Governor referred, as follows, to the proposals which had been made for the amendment of the Land Regulations of the Colony:—

"I have carefully considered the draft 'Land Regulations which were before Your Honourable House last Session, and I shall suggest to you some modifications of the proposals of your Committee, chiefly in the direction of a less rigid restriction from sale of the lands in the outer districts of the Colony. Other alterations of importance have occurred to me, and should you consider, after mature deliberation, that a comprehensive change in the system of dealing with Crown Lands is required, I shall be prepared to act with you in the direction indicated, in representing the matter to Her Majesty's Government.'

"2. In accordance with the statement thus contained in his Speech, and in accordance also with the request made by Your Honourable House in Address No. 43 of last Session, the Governor herewith transmits a draft code of Land Regulations, for the consideration of the Council.

"3. The draft Regulations, while expressing their purpose with sufficient clearness, would require some further settlement by the law officers before being promulgated, nor could they be brought into force until assented to by Her Majesty's Government. The

"Schedules to the Regulations have not yet been drafted.

"Government House, Perth, 1st July, 1886."

The consideration of the message was made an order of the day for Monday, July 5th.

MESSAGE (No. 4): PROHIBITION OF
STOCK IMPORTATION FROM THE
STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

THE SPEAKER notified the receipt of the following message from His Excellency the Governor:

"In reply to Address No. 3 of the Honourable the Legislative Council, dated the 29th ultimo, the Governor has the honour to inform the Council that, in accordance with their wish, a Proclamation has been issued prohibiting the importation of horned stock into this Colony from the Straits Settlements and the Dutch East India Islands.

"Government House, Perth, 1st July, 1886."

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

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Friday, 2nd July, 1886.

Salary of Inspector of Mineral Lands—Numerical Return of Electors in each district—Re-opening of certain PEARLING BANKS—Message (No. 5): Forwarding correspondence with Mr. Carr-Boyd with regard to the discovery of Kimberley Goldfield—Opium Duty Bill: in committee—Legislative Council Act Amendment (Increase of Members) Bill: second reading—Third Readings—Licensed Surveyors Bill: in committee—Adjournment.

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

PRAYERS.

SALARY, INSPECTOR OF MINERAL
LANDS.

MR. WITTENOOM, in accordance with notice, asked the Honorable the Commis-

sioner of Crown Lands, whether any steps had been taken by the Government towards paying the Inspector of Mineral Lands an annual salary, instead of his being paid by fees of applicants for land within Mineral Areas. The hon. member said he asked the question because he had been under the impression that some arrangements had been made to pay this officer an annual salary. He had called attention to the subject last session. He failed to see why the applicants for land in this district should be handicapped by having to pay the inspector a fee.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. J. Forrest): No steps of the nature indicated have been taken by the Government, but it may possibly be necessary to place this appointment on the footing of remuneration by an annual salary, instead of payment by fees. This matter is receiving due attention.

NUMERICAL RETURNS OF ELECTORS IN EACH DISTRICT.

MR. PARKER having moved for a return showing the number of electors in each of the electoral districts of the colony,

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. S. Smith) laid the return on the table, as follows:—

Perth ...	914	Plantagenet ...	208
Fremantle ...	518	Vasse ...	207
York ...	433	Murray & Williams	180
Toodyay ...	404	Greenough ...	142
Wellington ...	358	North ...	118
Swan ...	248	Gascoyne ...	65
Geraldton ...	235		

RE-OPENING OF CERTAIN PEARLING GROUNDS.

MR. McRAE, in accordance with notice, moved, "That an humble address be presented to His Excellency the Governor, praying that he will be pleased to proclaim certain pearling banks on the North-West coast open to dive upon, namely:—All that part of the coast between a north and south line running through Point Poissonier to the east, and a north and south line running through Cape Lambert to the west." The hon. member said it would be in the recollection of the House that, last session, they recommended that certain pearling banks that had become

exhausted should be closed for a number of years so that they might become replenished. The part of the coast named in the present motion was included in that recommendation, and had consequently been closed since the 1st of June, this year. Formerly, diving on the coast had been carried on by native divers, in whose case diving was confined to seven-fathom water, but latterly, a good deal of diving had been carried on by means of apparatus, and with remarkable success, in deep water, but, owing to the banks being closed for native diving, the divers in deep water had to cease their operations. A meeting was held at Cossack the other day by a number of people interested in diving, and they had telegraphed to him asking him to try and get these banks opened again, so that diving in deep water might be resumed. He thought it had been proved beyond doubt that the mere fact of closing these pearling banks did not have the effect of replenishing them, as had been expected. He might instance one bank which, having become exhausted some few years ago, was closed for five years, and, when it was thrown open again a few months ago, it was found that there were no more shells on it than there were when it was first closed, five years previously. This view of the case was confirmed by Captain Mayne, the inspector of pearl shell fisheries, who, in his report dated May last, said: "At the commencement of the season the rush of boats was to the Condon banks, from off which they all had expectations, on account of their having been closed for five years: but, after a good month's trial, they proved to be a failure, as the boats did as well on them five years ago as they did this season." He thought that showed that the closing of these banks did not have the good result which they had anticipated; and, as a great many diving dresses were now being introduced, enabling diving to be conducted in deep water, and thus employing a considerable amount of labor in connection with the industry—up to the end of April last, there were 34 vessels so employed using the pump and dress for diving—he thought they ought to give them every encouragement to prosecute their operations in deep water. But if these banks were kept closed the deep-water divers

would have no opportunity of carrying on the work, and the revenue would suffer accordingly.

MR. GRANT, in seconding the motion, thought it would be very advantageous to the country to have these deep grounds worked, and he hoped the Government would lose no time in adopting the suggestion made by Mr. McRae.

MR. SHOLL said if the principle of closing these pearling banks was a good one—which he rather doubted—the proposal to open them again after they had only been closed for twelve months was one that could hardly be regarded as a wise one. The case mentioned by the hon. member for the North, he thought, simply went to show that it took a considerable number of years before the shells, if left alone, arrived at maturity. But, just outside these Condon banks, the shell ground consisted of sand, upon which the spat would not thrive, and therefore those banks could not very well be replenished from the shells in deeper water. Other banks, however, were replenished from the deep water grounds, and he thought it would be unwise at present to throw open these banks. If this motion were carried they would be throwing open a hundred miles of sea coast, and he did not think it was at all good policy to do so in the face of the determination arrived at, after a careful consideration, to close the banks for a certain period.

MR. HARPER, speaking as one who had had some little experience in the locality mentioned, thought perhaps it would have been better if the hon. member for the North had moved to open not the whole of it, but that portion of the sea coast where it had been proved that deposits of shells existed in deep water. There was no reasonable ground for leaving this large quantity of a valuable product unutilised, unless, as the hon. member for the Gascoyne said, the deep sea shells contributed to the replenishment of the shallower waters. He thought it would be perhaps wiser and safer if they were to limit the areas to be thrown open, and at the same time still close those banks that were found not to have been replenished after five years. He should think, if these were closed for another five years, we might by that time

probably find them replenished. At any rate, our present limited experience as to the utility or otherwise of closing these banks would be very much extended.

MR. VENN thought the question resolved itself into this: should they now abandon the principle which they adopted some few years ago of closing these banks, or should they adhere to that principle? If the principle was a good one, or if the result was yet doubtful, he thought it would be unwise to abandon it. It appeared to him it would be wise on their part—unless they abandoned the principle altogether—to go to a little expense and have an annual inspection of all the closed banks, in order to ascertain whether the principle was a right or a wrong one.

SIR T. COCKBURN-CAMPBELL said that a great number of members really knew nothing about these banks, and would be voting altogether in the dark; and as there appeared to be a difference of opinion amongst those who did understand the subject he thought it would be better if the debate were adjourned, so that those who knew something about the matter should have an opportunity of meeting and consulting together.

MR. MARMION moved the adjournment of the debate until Wednesday, July 7. He did not think it would be well to adopt any half-and-half principle with reference to the closing of these banks. They should either adhere to the principle or abandon it.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. J. Forrest) pointed out that a portion of the coast embraced in the resolution had not been closed by proclamation in the *Gazette*.

The debate was then adjourned.

MESSAGE (No. 5): FORWARDING CORRESPONDENCE WITH MR. CARR-BOYD AS TO DISCOVERY OF A GOLDFIELD.

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

"In reply to the Address of the Honourable the Legislative Council No. 4, of the 29th of June, the Governor has the honour to transmit, herewith, copy of correspondence between this Government and Mr. Carr-Boyd, with

"regard to the discovery of a goldfield in the Kimberley District.

"Government House, Perth, 2nd July, 1886."

OPIMUM BILL.

The House went into committee on this bill.

Clause 1.—"On and after the passing of this Act there shall be charged, raised, collected, levied, and paid upon opium, and all goods, wares, and merchandise mixed or saturated with opium, or with any preparation or solution thereof, or steeped therein respectively, imported into Western Australia, whether by land or sea, in lieu of any duty now imposed thereon, a specific duty of 20s. per lb.":

MR. RANDELL asked if homœopathic preparations of opium would come under this clause? He thought it would be a very difficult thing to charge for the opium in these preparations at so much per lb.

THE ACTING ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt) said he certainly should say that homœopathic preparations, like any other preparations containing the drug, would be liable to the duty. The clause was to the same effect as that in force in other colonies—in Victoria for instance—and, if there was any difficulty about it, we should not be the only colony that had to face the difficulty. These were the usual terms upon which the duty was imposed. What difficulties there might exist in the collection of the duty elsewhere he was not at present prepared to say, but, no doubt, whatever the difficulties were, they were to be overcome here as in other places.

MR. WITTENOOM moved that all the words between "opium," in the fourth line, and "respectively," in the seventh line, be struck out, so as to exclude medicinal preparations containing opium from the operation of the Act.

MR. SCOTT said he thought that would meet with the approval of the medical faculty, and chemists. It would do away with the difficulties he had referred to when he spoke on the subject before, on the occasion of the second reading of the bill. So long as the solid opium was taxed that would meet all the

requirements of the Act, it seemed to him; for, what they wanted to get at was to prevent the abuse of the drug by the Chinese, and he believed they rarely used any other preparation of it.

THE ACTING ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt) said the omission of these words from the clause might defeat the object of the Act. If they imposed a duty simply on solid opium, he thought that people who were in the habit of using the drug would take care not to have it introduced in its crude state. They would have it mixed up in some sort of preparation, and so evade the duty. These words were no doubt introduced to meet that difficulty. If the committee, however, desired simply to exempt preparations of opium used for medicinal purposes only, the Government would like to hear the views of hon. members on that point; but the best way of accomplishing it, and at the same time not to defeat the object of the bill, appeared to him a matter of some difficulty.

MR. MARMION said he understood the bill was copied from the Victorian Act; and if it was found to answer in a place like Melbourne, and in a populous colony like Victoria, he did not think it would cause any serious hardship here. The omission of the words suggested by the hon. member for Geraldton might destroy the usefulness of the Act.

MR. WITTENOOM said that when he moved his amendment he did not anticipate that there would have been any opposition to it. He thought after what had been said when the bill was read a second time the Government would have framed a new clause so as to meet the objections then raised by the hon. member for Perth and himself. He should be the last to wish to defeat the object of the bill, but if they could attain the object in view, without at the same time making the duty press hard upon the poorer classes, he thought it would be worth a little trouble to do so. There were many of the so-called patent medicines mixed with opium, and these medicines were largely used, especially in country places. Perhaps the Attorney General would endeavor to frame a clause that would meet this objection, if the hon. gentleman was not prepared to accept the amendment.

THE COMMISSIONER OF RAILWAYS (Hon. J. A. Wright) said he understood that the objection which the hon. member for Perth and the hon. member for Geraldton had to the clause was that it would press hard upon poor people. Seeing that the proposed duty was only 20s. per lb., if they came to calculate how much that came to upon a dose of opium it would be so infinitesimal that he was afraid these poor people would hardly appreciate all this trouble on their behalf.

Mr. SCOTT said it was not so much the quantity of opium that poor people consumed in doses that they had to think of; opium was used in a great many other ways besides internally; it was used for fomentations and in other ways, and also given to animals, in far larger doses than to human beings. If, however, there was any difficulty in amending the clause so as to meet the objections referred to, he had no wish to press the matter. But he could not appreciate the difficulty himself. He failed to see why opium required for medicinal purposes should not be treated in the same way as spirits of wine when required for medicinal use was now treated, and exempted from duty. He did not see how the duty could possibly be levied on all the preparations of opium contained in the pharmacopœia. There was one good thing which the bill would do,—it would necessitate the appointment of a public analyst.

Mr. GRANT said he remembered the great controversy about this opium question which took place in the other colonies some years ago, when, he believed, the same objections were raised to the bill as were raised here; but, in order to make sure of the duty and to leave no loophole for evading it, on the part of the wily Chinese, the Legislature thought it would be better to run no risk, and he had never heard that the bill had caused any great hardship among the poorer classes or anybody else. He must express his surprise at the action of the Government in advertising to the world their intention of bringing in this bill, thus giving every opportunity for people to lay in a good stock of opium before the duty came into force. Why did not the Government bring it in without any flourish of trumpets, and pass it instantaneously as they did other bills affecting the tariff?

Mr. SHOLL said he understood the bill was a copy of the Victorian Act; he did not think we wanted to copy Victoria with its policy of protection, in this colony. There was another thing he should like to know—how were the Government going to test the liquid preparations of opium, so as to find how much opium they contained?

THE ACTING ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt): The whole preparation would have to pay the duty. This bill, I may point out, has been introduced by the Government at the request of this House, expressed in a resolution passed last session, that a high duty should be placed on all imported opium. With that resolution before them, it appears to me that the Government took a wise course in ascertaining upon what lines legislation on the subject was framed in other places, and what was the amount of the duty charged upon the drug. It was found that the duty levied in the various colonies differed, and that 20s. was not the highest nor yet the lowest, but it just happened to be the amount of the duty charged in Victoria. It appears to me that, if you want to impose a high duty upon any article like this, you want to protect and safeguard it as much as possible, for the higher the duty the greater will be the attempts made to evade it. I think that in matters of this kind we cannot do better than see the direction of legislation in other places, where the same object is aimed at. At the same time, the Government have no desire whatever to press this clause upon the House, or to insist in the smallest degree that every preparation of opium, whether used for medicinal purposes or not, shall be chargeable with this duty. If it is the wish of the House that an amended clause should be introduced, exempting certain preparations of the drug, the Government will offer no serious objection, but we should like to consult with the Collector of Customs on the subject, and ascertain what his views would be, as an officer experienced in the collection of these duties. If it is only desired to exempt preparations of opium used for medicinal purposes, we might do so by adding those words to the clause as a proviso; but it might be found that this would not be a sufficient protection to the revenue, and that advantage would

be taken of it by unprincipled dealers. The Government simply desire to take the sense of the House on the subject. I would remind hon. members that if the other bill is passed, dealing with Chinese immigration, we are not likely to have any very large influx of these people here, and the consumption of opium will not be so great after all.

MR. PARKER moved that progress be reported. He could foresee objections to the addition of a proviso excluding all opium used for medicinal purposes from the operation of the Act. We should probably have a number of Chinese medical practitioners amongst us, and we should have a great many Chinese patients requiring medicinal preparations made of opium.

Progress was then reported, and leave given to sit again another day.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT AMENDMENT BILL (INCREASE OF MEMBERS).

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. S. Smith), in moving the second reading of a bill to increase the number of members to serve in the Legislative Council, said the bill had been introduced by the Government in compliance with the desire of the hon. members of that House, as stated in an address presented to His Excellency last September. It would be seen on reference to the bill that it was proposed to divide the Northern electoral district, now returning two members (Mr. Grant and Mr. McRae), into two electorates, to be called the Northern district and the Kimberley district. For the Northern district, as defined in the bill, the two present members would still be the representatives, but it would be requisite to elect a fresh member to represent the newly-defined Kimberley district. This additional elected representative would, according to the Imperial Act, necessitate an increase in the number of non-elected members, so that the House, if the present bill passed, would be composed of seventeen elected and nine nominated members. As settlement advanced and outlying districts become developed and populated, it was obviously desirable that they should have their representatives in that House, to watch over their interests and point out their wants.

Besides that, it appeared to him that a gradual increase of the members in that House would prove very beneficial to the colony, as, in this way, an additional number of public men would get initiated in parliamentary proceedings, become accustomed to political life, and gain a knowledge that would stand them in good stead when the time came when it might be found expedient to adopt an alteration of the constitution. The present bill, however, it would be seen, simply provided for the addition of one electorate, but it would be competent, he presumed, for the House to enlarge the scope of the measure, so that further additions might be made in the number of electorates returning members to that Council, and, so far as the Government were concerned, they were quite prepared to adopt any reasonable amendments, with that object in view, which the House might think proper to suggest. He was not aware that he need say any more at present, but simply move the second reading of the bill.

MR. PARKER said he did not rise with the least intention of opposing the second reading, but for the purpose of saying that he believed the course that would commend itself to hon. members was this,—that the bill should be read a second time now, and a date fixed for its consideration in committee, and that when the question of its committal came before the House, an amendment should be moved and adopted, referring the bill in the first place to a select committee. Not that such select committee should have the power to decide what number of members should be added, but that under special instructions from the House it should proceed to define the areas of the additional electorates which the House might deem advisable to add to the present electoral districts. Therefore it appeared to him that the proper time for discussion to take place upon the question of the number of additional members would be upon the motion to go into committee of the whole House. He had not the slightest doubt that the majority of hon. members, from what he could hear, were prepared to largely increase the number of members. Speaking for himself, he was gratified to hear that the Government coincided in their

views on that point, and were prepared to agree with hon. members in any measure they might think proper to adopt for increasing the present number of representatives of the people in that House. It might be said that the population of the colony was still small, and that the number of voters on the electoral rolls was small, and, that taking this into consideration, sixteen elected members constituted a very fair proportion of representatives for a colony so sparsely populated. But, after all, it was a very small number of representatives for such a vast territory, possessing so many varied interests; and he thought it would conduce greatly to the advantage of the people and to the welfare of the colony, if they had a considerably larger number of representatives. Not only would it tend to give greater dignity and greater weight and greater force to that House, it would at the same time educate a larger number of persons to take part in that higher form of Government which he hoped to see introduced at an early date. Looking at it in that light, he was pleased to find that the Government were prepared to coincide with the views of hon. members who, like himself, wished to see the number of our representatives increased. He was not prepared to leave this question of the number of representatives that we ought to have to the select committee which he had referred to; he thought that was a question that should be decided by the House itself, and also the number of fresh electorates. The select committee might then be asked to obtain the necessary information for defining the areas or boundaries of the various electoral districts, and the powers of the committee would simply be confined to that duty. Having consulted with other hon. members on the subject, he believed that the course which he now suggested would commend itself to hon. members generally.

MR. SHENTON said he was happy to hear that the Government were willing to enlarge the scope of the bill. He thought the present was an opportune time for reconsidering the whole question of representation. From a return laid on the table this session, he found that some of the present electoral districts were far larger even than he had thought, and no doubt required to be divided. The bill

before the House, he thought, might be amended as suggested by the hon. member for Perth, so as to give a fairer representation to the various districts. In his own opinion, the number of members having seats in that House should be increased from 24 to 36. By so doing, the House would, he thought, carry a great deal more weight outside, and also, as stated by the hon. member for Perth, they would be educating a larger number of people to take part in politics and training them to public life, thus preparing them for that great change which, he thought, they all looked forward to, at some future time. Looking through the return of electoral districts recently laid on the table, he found that in Perth there were 944 electors, who only returned two representatives. He thought Perth might fairly be divided into four different districts, each returning its own member. Fremantle, too, might receive an additional member. Turning to the country districts, he found that in the York electoral district there were 433 electors, and he thought that this electorate might be divided so as to give the Beverley district a member of its own. The Toodyay district contained 404 electors, and, as he had mentioned on a former occasion, he thought this district also might be divided, so as to give a separate member to Victoria Plains and Dandaragan. The Wellington district had 358 electors on the roll, and he thought that the Williams district might fairly have its own representative. Eucla, also, should in his opinion be represented by a member of its own, and he thought they might give the Kimberley district two new members instead of one, and also two members for what was known as the Nicol Bay district. He thought they should do all in their power to give these northern districts a fair share of representation in that House, and do all they could to bring them into closer union with this portion of the colony, so as to let them feel that their interests are properly represented in the Legislature. He believed that a measure of this kind would give general satisfaction throughout the colony.

THE ACTING ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt) said he must say that they had taken rather a new departure with regard to this bill, since a resolution was moved in that

House last session, which, he thought, he himself had the honor of proposing, or at any rate of supporting, namely, that an additional member should be given to the district of Plantagenet. At that time the sense of the House was against any further representation whatever, with the exception of this one member for the Kimberley District. He was somewhat glad to see that a change had come over the minds of hon. members during the past twelve months; but, now, he thought really—speaking for himself only—they were going rather far in the other direction, when they talked of having 36 members, and complained of certain outlying districts not being represented. Why, he believed, that Port Darwin, an important district like that, was not represented in the South Australian Legislature at this day; and he thought that because a few squatters and shepherds happened to go and occupy a large extent of pastoral country it did not necessarily follow that they should have a representative of their own. Would it not look rather ridiculous to have an electoral roll with only twenty or thirty names on it? He thought that an electorate of 300 was quite small enough. If they were to have 36 members there would be a member for about every 150 electors in the colony,—unless they also intended to lower the qualifications of electors and so increase their number. At present, according to the last census, the whole adult male population of the colony numbered something under 10,000, which, with our present number of members, would give a representative to about every 300 electors. He thought himself that was a very considerable representation. At the same time he admitted there were districts in the colony which were very large, and in which the interests at one corner did not run perhaps quite in the same line as the interests at the opposite corner, or at the other end of the district. Some districts, such as the Plantagenet District, were he thought too large to be represented by one member only, and, if the representation of the North was going to be increased, he thought the representation of the South should also be increased. Hon. members talked of educating a large number of representatives by training them for public life under another form

of Government. No doubt that was a very good thing, but he would point out to the hon. member for Fremantle—he (Mr. Burt) himself was not just now interested—he would point out to the hon. member for Fremantle particularly that these additional members, whom it was proposed to introduce into the House in order to have them educated, might be employed in bringing about a certain change before their education was completed, or even commenced. He merely threw out the suggestion to the hon. member for Fremantle. He thought himself they were going too far when they proposed to increase the number of members to 36, and that they might stop somewhat short of that number. At the same time he was not opposed to a decided increase, if such was the wish of hon. members generally.

MR. BURGESS thought the time had arrived when they might very well increase the representation of the country in that Council. It would of course be a matter for the House to consider whether it would be desirable to increase the number of members to 30 or 36. The present bill only proposed to give them one additional member, and that was for the Kimberley district. He should say, looking at the growing importance of that part of the colony, that it was entitled to two representatives, which, with an additional nominee member which the Government would be entitled to appoint, would give them 27 members in all, instead of 24. If, however, it was decided to further increase the number, it would require very serious consideration. They would have to consider the claims not only of the Kimberley district, but also of such districts as the Murchison, the Victoria Plains, and the Eucla districts. In the present state of the political atmosphere, whether it was desirable to go into this matter he was not in a position to say. If Responsible Government was to be adopted immediately, it would perhaps be waste of time to increase the number of members in the present House. In any case, he thought that 27 or 30 members would be enough to carry on the work efficiently, and that there would be no necessity for any more. He also thought that, in any redistribution of seats, the claims of country districts should be considered.

If they increased the number to 36 that would give them 24 elected members and 12 nominees, and in that case he thought the country should be divided into as many electorates as possible, so as to give the outlying districts a voice in the House, because the number of nominees that would have to be appointed could be elected from amongst those residing in the centres of population. But at present he thought it would meet all that was required if they gave the Kimberley district two members of its own, which would give the Government the right to have one more nominee.

SIR T. COCKBURN - CAMPBELL said it appeared to him that at the present time all they had to decide was the principle of whether there should be an increase of representation at all. He thought that upon that point—apart altogether from the question of to what extent that representation should be increased—they were all perfectly well agreed; and that was all they were now asked to affirm in reading the bill a second time. The proper time for discussing what the extent of the increase should be was when they went into committee, and, perhaps, between this time and that, hon. members would be able, after consultation, to make up their minds on the subject, so that they might be in a position to discuss it with some profit. It seemed to him they were discussing it now in a roundabout rambling way, which would do no good at all. The only thing at present to be considered was the principle of the bill, and upon that he thought they were all agreed.

MR. MARMION said he was inclined to disagree with the hon. baronet that the present discussion was a profitless discussion. It had already elicited from the Government the announcement that they would not object to extend the scope of the bill, so as to give the country further additional representation; therefore, he did not think the time of the House had been wasted. He was inclined to agree that it was not necessary at this stage to go into details, but he thought an expression of opinion from hon. members generally, as to the extent of the increase they would desire, would not be out of place nor a waste of time. They were looking forward to the colony making good progress within the next

few years. There were several important works in contemplation that would materially alter the state of affairs. It was only that day that he heard, with much satisfaction, that the Great Southern Railway (Mr. Hordern's scheme) was about to be commenced in earnest, within a few months, also that a large number of immigrants were coming out in connection with that work. He hoped, before the House rose, also to receive the same pleasing intelligence with regard to Mr. Waddington's line. If these two great undertakings were carried out successfully, they might look forward to seeing great changes, a considerable increase in business, and a large influx of population; and, in now increasing the number of representatives, they would be simply taking time by the forelock. Although there might not be many people in these districts now, they hoped to see their number largely increased within the next year or two, and, meantime, matters would be put in train for them to ensure their interests being represented. He was strongly himself in favor of increased representation. He had not lost sight of the probable effect it might have upon the question of Responsible Government, but he thought that what they had to consider was to give the people of the colony fair representation in that House. If the people thought proper to send into that House a number of members to advocate on their behalf a change in the form of Government, it would be for those members, as loyal representatives of the people, to bow their heads and accept the people's decision; and he had no doubt that when that decision was given in favor of a change, those who were now honestly but strongly opposed to the introduction of the change, at the present time, would, in all probability, be prepared to do their share in loyally carrying on that more advanced form of Government.

MR. LOTON said, as had been remarked by the hon. baronet, the member for Plantagenet, the principle of the bill was all they had to decide upon at the present moment. He was glad to hear from the leader of the Government that they were not averse to this principle being somewhat enlarged or extended by a further increase of representation. He thought it was desirable, from the short

experience he had had in that House, that some increased representation should be given to the country districts, and, so far as his views went, the proposed increase of representation should be given to the country districts. The towns—the centres of population—were generally well looked after. Country electorates, when they had an opportunity of returning local candidates, did not always do so. If they looked around that chamber they would see several town residents representing country districts; hence he thought it was important that when they increased the representation the claims of country districts should be the paramount consideration. Without now going into details, his own view would be that at all events four new districts should have separate representation; one member for the Kimberley district, as proposed in the bill; an extra member for the Plantagenet district, and for the Victoria Plains and Dandaragan districts—which, although not at present containing a great many electors, still possessed a population of over a thousand, and, as the Midland Railway would pass through these districts, it would no doubt tend to increase the population very considerably—and a representative for the Williams and Beverley districts. This would give them four additional members, which he thought would answer our present requirements. He did not think it would be desirable to introduce what might at present be looked upon as an unnecessary number of cogs or wheels into the legislative machinery, though he was heartily in favor of increased representation.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. S. Smith) said that, judging from the remarks that had fallen from hon. members generally, it was evident that there was a unanimous feeling that the scope of this measure should be enlarged, and the number of members further increased. As he had already stated, the Government had no objection, or, at any rate, they were not anxious to oppose that increase, so long, of course, as it was kept within reasonable limits; for such increase, he could only repeat, would, he thought, prove advantageous and beneficial to the colony at large.

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

THIRD READINGS.

The Geraldton-Greenough Railway Bill; the Cossack-Roebourne Tramway Bill; the Spencer's Brook-Northam Branch Bill (Eastern Railway), were read a third time and passed.

LICENSED SURVEYORS BILL.

The House went into committee on this bill.

Clause 1—Appointment of board of examiners:

Agreed to, *sub silentio*.

Clause 2—Board may make rules:

Agreed to, without discussion.

Clause 3—Governor, on recommendation of board, may appoint licensed surveyors:

Agreed to, without comment.

Clause 4.—“Surveys made by such licensed surveyors shall, on verification and approval by the Surveyor General, be accepted by the Survey Department of the Government, and adopted in all questions between the Government and the occupiers of any demised waste lands of the Crown, and between the occupiers of any such demised land as correct surveys.”

MR. PARKER said he had read through this bill very carefully, having been anxious to ascertain what advantages were to be gained by becoming a licensed surveyor. He found that the bill did not preclude other persons who were not licensed from surveying land or practising the profession of a surveyor, nor preclude such persons from charging for their work; and he wondered what advantages the bill sought to confer upon these licensed surveyors. He now found that the advantages to be gained were contained in this clause,—that the surveys of these gentlemen shall be accepted by the Government in all questions between them and the occupiers of Crown lands. But it would be observed how cautious their hon. friend the Surveyor General was. Licensed surveyors though they might be, he would not allow their surveys to be accepted as correct until they were verified by himself. He thought if there

was one thing about this bill which commended it to the House it was the extreme caution displayed by the Surveyor General. Not even from a duly qualified and licensed surveyor would the hon. gentleman accept surveys until the hon. gentleman had himself verified them. But what he wished to ask was this: this 4th clause said that the surveys made by these licensed surveyors would (on verification and approval by the Surveyor General) be accepted as correct surveys as between the Government and the occupiers of demised waste lands of the Crown,—why should not this also apply to the owners of purchased Crown lands, that was to say, to the holders of fee simple land? He took it that the words “demised waste lands” meant lands held under a lease or license from the Crown; and these surveys as regards such lands were to be accepted as correct by the Government. He thought it would be as well if the clause were also made to apply to fee simple lands.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. J. Forrest) said the hon. member seemed to think that he had found out something, and that the bill would be of very little use. [Mr. PARKER: I don't think that.] Its chief advantage was that it would give a status to the members of the survey profession who were licensed under it. It was all very well for a man to call himself a surveyor or a lawyer, but unless he had something to show that he was a duly qualified surveyor or a duly qualified lawyer, people would not have much faith in him. The very first question which a person employing a surveyor would ask, if this bill became law, probably would be, “Are you a licensed surveyor?” If the surveyor could show that he was, it would be a guarantee to the person employing him that he was employing a competent man. As to verifying surveys, he might inform the hon. member that all surveys before they were accepted by the Government were subject to verification, even when the surveys had been conducted by members of the staff or by contract surveyors, who were known and trusted by the department. As to making this clause apply to surveys of fee simple lands—lands already alienated from the Crown—he presumed that such lands would not come under this Act at

all, but would be surveyed by surveyors licensed under the Land Transfer Act.

THE ACTING ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt) said, as to extending the clause to surveys as between the Government and fee-simple holders, he thought it would be rather unfair towards the fee-simple holders to enact that the surveys of any surveyor should, in the words of the clause, be accepted as correct surveys, when possibly the holder of the land could prove that they were not correct. But no harm could arise if the bill, as at present intended, should apply to the mere occupier of waste Crown lands and the Government. In such cases, the bill would be very useful, as regards the surveys of runs and unalienated blocks of land in districts remote from Perth, such as the Kimberley District, where there might be a licensed surveyor employed. Both sides would have to be satisfied with the surveys—the Government on the one hand and the occupier of the Crown land on the other. But it would be obviously unfair and unjust to the fee-simple owner to force on him as correct a survey which perhaps he could at once show was incorrect. The real value and object of the bill was to give to duly qualified surveyors a certain recognised status, and to enable them to assume a title that would give the public some confidence in them.

The clause was then agreed to, as was also the next clause.

Clause 6—Surveyors to make declaration and give bond:

Agreed to, without discussion.

Clause 7—Issue of license:

Agreed to, *sub silentio*.

Clause 8—“Every surveyor shall pay “to the Colonial Treasurer the sum of “£5 for such license aforesaid, provided “that such fee shall not be charged in “the case of licenses issued to surveyors “practising as such in Western Australia “previous to the first day of June, 1886.”

MR. PARKER: Why should surveyors practising before this date, who will enjoy all the privileges and advantages conferred by the Act, be exempted from the payment of this fee? Most of them, if not all of them, are already in good practice, and probably in a better position to pay this fee than a new comer.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. J. Forrest): The principal reason why they were exempted was this: all these surveyors—I think all of them—are already licensed under the Land Transfer Act, which is proof of a higher qualification than if they were simply licensed under this bill. It was considered that it would be rather hard upon surveyors already holding a good status in the colony, and already licensed, to compel them to pay for a license under this bill. The same remark applies to the examination; it was considered unnecessary to submit these surveyors to a further examination, before they were licensed under this Act.

The clause was then agreed to.

The remaining clauses were adopted, *sub silentio*.

Schedule A.—Form of declaration:

MR. PARKER pointed out that the usual formula, winding up a statutory declaration, was omitted; and the schedule was amended accordingly.

Schedule B.—Form of license:

MR. PARKER thought that the license ought to be embellished with the seal of the colony. A man ought to get something more than the bare signature of the Governor, for £5.

Schedule—put and passed.

Schedule C.—Fee payable to surveyors, *per diem*:

THE ACTING ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt) moved to insert “£3 3s.” in the blank left for the amount of fee to be charged by a licensed surveyor.

Agreed to.

Preamble and title agreed to.

Bill reported.

The House adjourned at a quarter past nine o'clock, p.m.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Monday, 5th July, 1886.

Letter from Lady Leake acknowledging Vote of Condolence—Sir John Coode's Report: When likely to be received—Government Geologist and Public Analyst—Moneys carried to Suspense Account—Railway Platform, North Fremantle—Telegraph line from Bannister to Wandering—Importation of Stock from abroad (Message No. 2)—Excess Bill, 1881: second reading—Hawkers Act, 1882, Amendment Bill: second reading—Pearl Shell Fishery Special Revenue Bill: in committee—Land Regulations (Message No. 3)—Adjournment (Funeral of Sir Luke Leake.)

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

PRAYERS.

LETTER FROM LADY LEAKE ACKNOWLEDGING VOTE OF CONDOLENCE.

THE SPEAKER notified that he had received the following letter from Lady Leake, acknowledging the message of condolence with her, agreed to by the House, on the death of her husband, Sir Luke Leake, the late Speaker:—

“Lady Leake desires to thank the Members of the Legislative Council of Western Australia most sincerely for their kind expression of sympathy with her in the loss she has sustained by the death of her late husband, Sir Luke Samuel Leake, Kt.

“Lady Leake is deeply sensible of the numerous marks of regret for the loss of her husband, which have been shown by the inhabitants of Western Australia; and she will ever entertain a grateful remembrance of them.”

The letter was ordered to be inserted among the minutes of the Council.

SIR JOHN COODE'S REPORT ON HARBOR WORKS.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright), reverting to a question put by the hon. member for Murray and Williams some days previously, said that the Government had received a telegram from Sir John Coode, in answer to the one sent to him asking him when his report upon Harbor Works was likely to be ready. Sir John Coode's reply was to the effect that they might expect his report in about three months.

APPOINTMENT OF GOVERNMENT GEOLOGIST AND PUBLIC ANALYST.

MR. SCOTT, in accordance with notice, asked the Honorable the Acting Colonial Secretary whether it was the intention of