

## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

*Thursday, 2nd October, 1879.*

Estimates—further considered in committee.

THE SPEAKER took the Chair at noon.

PRAYERS.

## ESTIMATES:

## FURTHER CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE.

*Land Titles Department, Item £910:*

MR. MARMION said he would like some explanation as to the item "Registrar of Titles and Deeds, £300," which was £50 in excess of the present year's vote.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy) thought the reason for this increase was sufficiently well known to all hon. members. The House having expressed a wish that the duties of the Registrar of Deeds should in future be discharged by the Registrar of Titles, this extra sum of £50 had been added to the latter officer's salary, in consideration of the extra work imposed upon him.

MR. MARMION said the new arrangement would certainly not prove an economical one, for the officer who heretofore had discharged the duties of Registrar of Deeds still received the same salary.

MR. SHENTON said if his proposal made the other day to reduce the vote for the salary of the Registrar General had been agreed to, he would not have felt disposed to offer any opposition to this increase in the salary of the Registrar of Titles. But, under the circumstances, he felt bound to move, as an amendment, that the item "Registrar of Titles and Deeds, £300" be reduced by the sum of £50.

MR. S. H. PARKER thought that, bearing in mind that the Government was only carrying out the expressed wish of the House in amalgamating the offices of Registrar of Titles and Registrar of Deeds—and they could not expect the former to do the work of the latter for nothing—he thought the House was

bound to agree to this vote. He hoped, however, that in the event of the office of Registrar of Titles becoming vacant, care would be taken that the vacancy be filled up by some person skilled in law conveyancing.

MR. CAREY asked if the Registrar General would still have a clerk?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy) said he would.

MR. CAREY: Then, I think the amendment of the hon. member for Toodyay ought to be carried.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy) said that in the event of a vacancy occurring in the office of Registrar of Titles and Deeds, the salary of the officer appointed to fill the vacancy would be £250; but it was only fair to the present occupant of the office that as he was called upon to perform extra work beyond that which he undertook to perform, some addition should be made to his salary.

The vote for the Land Titles Department was then agreed to.

*Medical Department, Item £7,447:*

MR. S. H. PARKER asked why it was proposed to give the Resident Medical Officer at the Colonial Hospital an increase of salary from £170 to £200?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy) replied that it was on account of his having been appointed assistant to the Superintendent of Vaccination. The Colonial Surgeon and the District Medical Officers were entitled to vaccination fees, but the Resident Medical Officer was not.

MR. S. H. PARKER asked why, if the Resident Officer performed the work (vaccination), he should not receive the fees? Why should the Colonial Surgeon have them? He would move that the sum of £200 be reduced to £170.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy) pointed out that, although the Vaccination Act imposed a great deal of extra duties upon the Superintendent of Vaccination (the Colonial Surgeon), no provision was made in the Act for any addition to the pay of that officer; and the only increase of expenditure which the Act would entail—so far as the payment of salaries went—was this £30 to the Resident Medical

Officer at the Colonial Hospital, who, as he had already said, received no fees.

MR. BROWN thought the country was to be congratulated upon the fact that a valuable enactment like this was worked at so little increased expense. When the Act was under discussion last Session, it was anticipated that its working would entail a great deal more expense than that.

The amendment was, with leave, withdrawn, and the vote for the Medical Department agreed to as printed.

*Harbor and Light Department, Item £3,193:*

MR. CAREY asked why the light keeper at Bunbury got £5 a year more than the light keeper at Busselton?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (HON. R. T. Goldsworthy) said it had been so for years past. Bunbury was a more important place than Busselton, and unless the hon. member could urge some stronger ground for increasing the pay of the Vasse light keeper beyond the simple fact of his being the representative of that district, the votes would remain as they were.

The item was then agreed to.

*Judicial Department, Item £9,860:*

MR. S. H. PARKER called attention to the discrepancy in the salaries of the clerks to the magistrates at York and at Newcastle; the former was to receive an increase (consequent upon the abolition of fees) of £35, whereas the latter was only to receive an increase of £25.

MR. CAREY failed to see upon what scale the additions to the salaries of the clerks to magistrates had been made, at all; it was certainly not the average of the past three years.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (HON. R. T. Goldsworthy) pointed out that it was proposed to place the clerk at York and the clerk at Newcastle on the same footing, as to salary, in the future.

MR. S. H. PARKER: But it was decided that the increase to these clerks' salaries should be based on a certain average of the amount of fees which they used to receive, and I see no reason why the clerk at York should receive an increase of £35, while the clerk at Newcastle only receives £25. I would therefore move, That item "Newcastle, £125," be reduced by £10.

Question—That the sum proposed to be struck out stand part of the total—put.

Committee divided:

Ayes	...	...	7
Noes	...	...	6
Majority for	...	...	1

#### AYES.

The Hon. G. W. Leake  
The Hon. M. Fraser  
Mr. Brown  
Mr. Glyde  
Sir L. S. Leake  
Mr. Shenton  
The Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy (Teller.)

#### NOES.

Mr. Brockman  
Mr. Carey  
Mr. Hamersley  
Mr. Monger  
Mr. S. S. Parker  
Mr. S. H. Parker (Teller.)

The amendment was therefore negatived, and the vote for the Judicial Department agreed to.

*Police Department, Item £20,029:*

MR. S. H. PARKER asked for some information as to the item "Special Constable, £120," which did not appear in the Estimates for the current year.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (HON. R. T. Goldsworthy) said that the item ought to have been printed special 'constables' and not 'constable.' This amount was intended to cover the expenditure connected with all special constables.

MR. CAREY asked how these special constables had been paid heretofore? This was the first occasion on which the item had figured in the Estimates.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (HON. R. T. Goldsworthy) presumed that their pay came under the head of "incidental." It would be observed that there was a very considerable reduction in that item next year.

MR. CAREY asked why the Inspector of the North District was to have a ration allowance of £15, any more than the other Inspectors?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (HON. R. T. Goldsworthy) said it must be patent that this amount was merely intended to provide that officer with rations when travelling on duty beyond the limit of his district proper. It would be seen on reference to the next item that the inferior officers of the force were allowed £25 for ration allowance.

MR. CAREY said he regarded this granting of ration allowances to the In-

spectors as the introduction of the thin end of the wedge, and next year they would find other officers getting it. He would therefore move, as an amendment, That item "Ration Allowance to Inspector, North District, £15," be struck out.

Question—That this item stand part of the total—put.

Committee divided:

Ayes ... 9

Noes ... 7

Majority for ... 2

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

The amendment was therefore negatived.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy) explained, at this stage,—on reference to the report of the Superintendent of Police—that the £15 was allowed to the Inspector at the North in lieu of the ten per cent. on the amount of his salary, to which the officer in question had an equitable claim.

MR. MARMION asked if there was any reason to anticipate that the expense of the remounts, wear and tear, would be £50 more next year than the present year? He observed that the vote was increased by that amount.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy) said the average expenditure under this head during the past three years was £327, and he did not think, under the circumstances, that exception could be taken to the amount of the proposed vote for next year,—£250.

MR. MARMION said the amount set down under this head in the report submitted to the House by the Superintendent of Police was £200, and he would move as an amendment, That the item "Remounts, wear and tear, £250" be reduced to £200.

Question—That the sum proposed to be struck out stand part of the total—put.

Committee divided:

Ayes ... 6

Noes ... 11

Majority against ... 5

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

The amendment was therefore carried, and the vote accordingly reduced.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy): Of course the House will bear in mind that if there is an overdraft in connection with these items which the Committee cut down, the Government cannot be blamed for it. We have estimated the expenditure under each head as fairly as we can compute it, based upon an average of the past three years. I have now to move that the figures in the item "Travelling Expenses of Police between Stations, "£850" be struck out, and "£1000" be inserted in lieu thereof. This amount, I may add, is also based upon a three years' average.

MR. S. H. PARKER: Then I understand the hon. gentleman to say that, if we do not vote the amounts set down in these Estimates, the Government will spend the amounts all the same, and the House will have to make it up by an Overdraft Bill. My idea is this—if this House only votes £200, for any particular item, the Government has no right to spend any more. As to calculating upon an average of the past three years, that is not a fair computation. The police do not travel so much now as they did in past years, owing to telegraph extension; and moreover their number is reduced.

Question—That the sum proposed to be struck out, stand part of the question—put.

Committee divided.

Ayes	...	...	4
Noes	...	...	12

Majority against	...	8
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AYES.	NOES.
Mr. Brockman	The Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy
Mr. Carey	The Hon. M. Fraser
Mr. Monger	Mr. Brown
Mr. S. H. Parker (Teller)	Mr. Burgess
	Mr. Glyde
	Mr. Hamersley
	Mr. Harper
	Mr. Marmion
	Mr. S. S. Parker
	Mr. Pearce
	Mr. Shenton
	The Hon. G. W. Leake (Teller)

The substitution of "£1,000" for "£800" was then agreed to.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy) moved that the item "Expenses of Police when escorting Prisoners, £300," be reduced by £150. The system of conveying prisoners by means of a police van, instead of making them walk, reduced the expenses of escort.

Motion agreed to.

MR. S. H. PARKER called attention to the item "Forage, £3,432." Every hon. member sitting in that House must be aware that forage was now much cheaper than when the annual vote was first fixed at this amount. If tenders for forage were invited about the month of September it would be supplied at a much cheaper rate than when invited, as they are now, after the hay season has gone by.

MR. BROCKMAN could not agree in what had fallen from the hon. member. In his opinion the Government contracts for forage were taken at a very low rate last year, and instead of being lower, he thought they would be higher next year.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy) said the expenditure under this head in 1875 was £3,880; 1876, £3,700; and 1877, £3,500.

MR. MARMION pointed out that there was not so large a number of horses attached to the department now as there was in years gone by.

The vote for the Police Department (as amended in Committee) was then agreed to.

*Gaol Department and Rottnest Prison Department, Item £8,365:*

MR. S. H. PARKER said he understood the number of native prisoners at Rottnest had been considerably reduced lately, consequent upon several of them being employed in connection with the new police mail service.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy) pointed out that there was a considerable reduction in the items of clothing and provisions for this establishment.

The vote was then agreed to.

*Printing Department, Item £2,012 7s.; Inspectors of Sheep Department, £1,250; Educational Department, £9,570; Poor Relief Department, £5,562; Aboriginal Department, £1,210; Special Coast Survey, £3,250; Government and Public Gardens, £145:*

These items were agreed to without discussion.

*Works and Buildings, Item £9,527:*

MR. CAREY moved, That Progress be reported.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy): I shall oppose the motion on the ground that the public business is continually being obstructed by such motions. I do not object to full discussion, but I have a dislike to obstruction. We have all a duty towards the public, and what the object in reporting progress is, I don't know.

MR. BROWN: I also shall oppose the motion. We have been sitting here so long without any real work before us that I think in the interests of country members—who, naturally, desire to get to their homes as soon as they can, consistently with the discharge of their public duties—we ought to stick to the work now before us.

MR. S. H. PARKER called attention to the first item under the head of "Works and Buildings"—"Additions to Government Printing Office, £160." He understood that no additional buildings would be required to accommodate the new machinery which it was in contemplation to introduce. The Select Committee in their report said so.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy) said the sum placed on the Estimates for 1879 for additions to the Printing Office (£470) was sufficient for the purposes then contemplated but it had been considered advisable, since, to remove all stationery, etc., from

the Colonial Secretary's office to the printing establishment, and additional room for its storage had therefore to be provided. This was what the vote now on the Estimates was required for.

MR. CAREY asked for some explanation relative to the item "Alterations and Improvements of Public Buildings at Albany, £700."

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy) said this amount was to provide for services which had been long needed, in connection with quarters for the pilot and crew, a quarantine station, and jetty and custom houses, which the intended additional P. & O. mail services rendered it necessary should be at once carried out. As to the quarters for the pilot's crew, the present accommodation was utterly inadequate, —of which fact His Excellency the Governor had convinced himself by personal inspection when in Albany.

MR. CAREY said he thought the House was entitled to some information with regard to the item "Repairs and Additions to Public Buildings, Minor Works, &c., £3000." This seemed a very large amount of money to be voted without some explanation as to what buildings and works it was proposed to provide for.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy) said he had been blamed last year for placing so small a sum as £1000 on the Estimates for the current year for public buildings, and he was not too proud to admit that he had erred in doing so; in fact, that amount had already been considerably overdrawn. The average expenditure under this head during the three previous years had been as follows; 1876, £3700; 1877, £3500; 1878, £3000. The amount was cut down last year, and the result was, it had proved altogether insufficient.

MR. CAREY said several works and buildings were provided for separately, in other items on the Estimates, and he thought that in the present financial condition of the Colony we could not afford to spend £3000 on public offices. He would move, as an amendment, that the item be reduced by £1500.

MR. S. H. PARKER thought a portion of this sum might be appropriated to provide improved hospital accommodation at Geraldton, for which pur-

pose he noticed that a vote of £1000 was asked for.

Question—That the sum proposed to be struck out stand part of the total—put.

Committee divided:

Ayes	...	...	9
Noes	...	...	8
Majority for			1

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

The amendment was therefore negatived, and the original vote agreed to.

MR. S. H. PARKER moved that the next item "Reformatory, Rottnest, £400," be struck out. He was aware that the sum was placed on the Estimates in pursuance of a recommendation embodied in the report of the departmental commission, but when that recommendation was made, and the report adopted by the House, they were not aware of the state of the finances. No doubt a reformatory was a very desirable institution, but the probability was that it would only be required for one or two youngsters. Not more than half a dozen youths had been convicted, he supposed, since the foundation of the Colony. And the worse of it was with regard to these institutions when the building was completed the attendant expenses would only commence.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy) said the plans had been prepared for this Reformatory, which it was acknowledged was an institution much needed, and which had already been begun. Only £100 would be expended during the present year, which the Director of Public Works thought would probably be chargeable to a saving on the Rottnest vote. He (the Colonial Secretary) considered that the money which it was proposed to expend on this institution would be money well laid out, if they succeeded in saving our youthful offenders—however few in number—from the corrupting influences of association with hardened

criminals, and thus save the Colony a great deal of expense in the future.

MR. BROCKMAN did not rise to oppose the establishment of a reformatory, which was no doubt a very desirable institution if we could afford it; but he thought it was their duty, in the present state of the finances, to reduce, or rather to postpone, every possible charge upon the revenue.

The Committee then divided upon the amendment, when there appeared—

Ayes	...	...	8
Noes	...	...	9
			—
Majority against	...		1

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

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

MR. S. H. PARKER moved that the next item "Hospital at Roebourne, £500," be struck out.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy) referred the hon. member to the remarks of the Director of Public Works on this item, from which it would be seen that a small building had been erected for hospital purposes at Roebourne, but it had suffered severely in the hurricane. Provision was now therefore made for restoring and adding to it, so as to render it secure in future. The Resident Medical Officer complained very much of the present state of the building, and if the proposed protection was not afforded, the Colony would be the sufferer in the event of another hurricane, by the building being, in all probability, swept entirely away.

MR. HARPER did not think there could be any question as to the necessity of improved hospital accommodation at Roebourne. It was with the greatest difficulty that persons who were in health could be accommodated, and when people were taken ill the only place of shelter for them was a wretched shanty. He had known of most dis-

tressing cases of sick persons being exposed to the severities of the weather, and suffering accordingly. The original building was not at all fitted for a hospital, and, without the proposed additions, he did not think it could be utilised any longer. On the ground of humanity alone, he thought some provision ought to be made in this direction.

The amendment was negatived, on the voices, and the vote agreed to.

MR. CAREY moved that the item "Towards the erection of a Hospital at Geraldton, £1,000," be struck out.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy) said he hoped the hon. member would not press his amendment. The necessity for increased hospital accommodation at Geraldton had been long acknowledged, and, he might add, that he had never seen a building more unfitted for the purpose than that now used for a hospital in that town.

MR. BROWN said he did not entertain the slightest hope of securing the votes of the majority of hon. members on this vote, for he understood they were pledged to an hon. member opposite (Mr. Burges) to oppose it; at any rate, he was aware that the hon. member had been doing his best to induce other members to believe what no doubt he himself believed—that it would be an unwarrantable expenditure. He (Mr. Brown), while sympathising with any hon. member who voted against what he conscientiously believed the country could not afford, asked the House to pause for a moment and reflect what the present vote was asked for, and to do their duty in the matter, irrespective of the district where the money was to be expended. Personally, it was nothing to him, and he appealed to the House on higher grounds than personal consideration—he appealed to hon. members in the name of humanity. The building now used for hospital purposes had been found, for years past, to be utterly inadequate to afford accommodation to the patients seeking admission. He had heard and known of sick persons coming there at death's door, and having to be turned away, the two small wards which constituted the building, being already cramped full with suffering humanity. He had heard of other invalids being turned out

of the hospital long before they were convalescent, in order to make room for more serious and more pressing cases; and of dying lunatics huddled in the same room with sane but sick and helpless patients. It might be asked—why could'nt they get some other building, affording more accommodation, and more suitable for the purpose? All he could say was—if there was such a building in the town, he did not know of it. All the Imperial buildings were occupied, and fully occupied; and, even were it otherwise, none of them, in the opinion of those best able to judge, were fit for a hospital. The necessity for such a building had been brought under the notice of the Government for years past, from the days of Governor Weld to the present Administration; and every successive Governor who had visited the district had acknowledged the necessity, and promised that the long-felt want should be supplied. But, until now, no vote for the purpose in view had ever been placed on the Estimates. The district was too far from Perth to admit of patients being brought down to the Colonial Hospital, towards the support of which the district, nevertheless, contributed its quota. A hospital at Geraldton was not required for the inhabitants of that town alone, but for the inhabitants of the whole of the Champion Bay district,—a population nearly as numerous as that of the capital city itself, but for whose accommodation no hospital accommodation beyond two small wards had ever been provided. He hoped and trusted the House would allow their better nature to triumph over any feeling of local jealousy in this matter, and agree to the vote now before the Committee.

**THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS** (Hon. M. Fraser): This House and the Executive Government, together, undertake the charge of people's bodies as well as their souls. We educate the young, we provide hospitals for the infirm in body, and for the cure of souls we make provision by voting the grant for ecclesiastical purposes. Knowing as I do, the extent and condition of the building now used as a hospital at Geraldton, I can fully endorse the statement made that it is utterly unsuited for the purpose; and I think this House will

ill fulfil its duty if it turns a deaf ear to the appeal just made by the hon. member representing the district. Economy is no doubt a very good watchword, and a very popular cry; but even economy must be made subservient to the claims of benevolence and humanity.

**MR. BROCKMAN** regretted having to oppose a vote for so desirable an object, but he saw no alternative in the present state of the country's exchequer.

**MR. SHENTON** also felt that, under the circumstances, he would have to oppose the vote. The sum now placed on the Estimates was, admittedly, only intended for commencing the work, and the building when completed would in all probability cost £2000. He had supported the vote of £3000 for "Repairs to Public Buildings, Minor Works, etc.," in the hope and expectation that some of the money would be available for such a purpose as this.

**MR. CAREY** pointed out that the Director of Public Works, in his report upon "works and buildings," acknowledged that the sum now asked (£1000) was only intended to make provision for commencing the work, which, for all the House knew, might cost £4000 or £5000 before it was finished.

**MR. BURGESS** said he was aware that a new building had been promised, time after time, by successive Governors; but, still, looking at the state of the country's finances and the expenditure otherwise contemplated, he could not bring himself to support this vote at present. He was well aware that he would be censured for his action in this matter; but he would be voting against his conscience were he to vote for this expenditure, in view of the circumstances he had referred to.

**MR. MARMION** considered that plans and specifications of any proposed new public buildings should be submitted to the House when a vote for that purpose was required. He had made the same remark, as far back as the Session of 1876, when a sum was placed on the Estimates for a court house at Geraldton; and he found on reference to *Hansard* (Vol. I, p. 56) that in this view of the matter he was supported by the then hon. member for Wellington (Mr. Steere), who on that occasion said that "this course was adopted in most legislative assemblies, and it would be a

"good plan if the same rule were laid down here." He (Mr. Marmion) thought so, too. He considered that the House should not be called upon to vote sums of money for the construction of public buildings, or for any other purpose, without having some idea of what the entire cost was likely to be. With regard to the present vote, he did not think this was the time for the Colony to indulge in any fancy structures. The hon. member who represented the district whose claims to a hospital were under consideration, had certainly made a very forcible appeal to the House, and no doubt every hon. member who voted against the item would, like himself, feel pained in doing so; at the same time it was absolutely necessary to retrench in every possible direction. It was quite within the province of the Government, out of the vote already passed for public buildings, to make some alteration and improvement in the present hospital at Geraldton, as a temporary expedient until better times dawned upon the Colony.

THE ACTING ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. G. W. Leake) said that since he had had the honor of occupying a seat in that House he had learnt that the primary duty of the Legislature was to provide for the payment of salaries, and, secondly, to embalm the eloquence of hon. members in a book called *Hansard*. Personally he thought that the primary duty of a legislative body was to provide sanitary measures for the community—for the preservation in health of those already in the enjoyment of that blessing, and the restoration to convalescence of those who were afflicted with disease. And well, he thought, had the Legislature done its duty in this respect, so far as regards Perth, Fremantle, and, he might say, Guildford. They never heard a single complaint in Perth about the lack of the means and appliances for ministering to the wants of the sick. They knew that their Hospital was generally full, that the patients were being well attended to, and that ample justice was done to them, not merely with respect to curative treatment but also as to sanitary surroundings. Other towns, however, were not so well provided, and certainly Geraldton was not. Could they conceive anything more re-

volting than a foul hospital, or anything more disgraceful than the callous indifference of a community that allowed its fellow-men to languish in the midst of pestilence? The condition of the Geraldton Hospital had, he understood, been the subject of investigation by every Governor who had been there, and each of them, he believed, had given almost his personal pledge that, so far as the Legislature was concerned, this blot should be removed, and that at least one of the attributes of civilisation should have its sway. Even regarding the question from a more sordid point of view, he thought, regard being had to the contributions made by the Champion Bay District to the general revenue, that the district was entitled to some consideration, and to a cheerful recognition of its claims to have some means within its reach for the purpose of alleviating human misery. They were told by the member for the district—they were also told by the Colonial Secretary, who, in this instance at any rate, had no personal motive to serve,—that the present hospital was a stinking nest of pestilence, and a disgrace to the community. The House was told by some of its members that it was their duty to economise. And so it was—to economise in human life as well as in public expenditure; to minimise human suffering as well as to minimise departmental expense. Ours was as splendid a climate as the great and good God had ever blessed any country with, and it was a curse and a disgrace that, in a town like Geraldton, men should be allowed to linger in pestilence—that human beings should waste away in a place where disease was engendered, and that the hon. members of that House should tell them that it shall continue to be engendered because it was their duty to—economise. Perish the economy that was brought about at the expense of human suffering and the sacrifice of human life.

MR. S. H. PARKER pointed out that the population of the District had lately been considerably reduced in point of number, consequent upon the exodus from the District upon the completion of the railway and the stagnation of the mining industry; and he thought that the present hospital building might, with the expenditure of about £500,



taken out of the vote of £3000 for public buildings, be made to answer every purpose, for the present at any rate. This would admit of additional wards being provided, and increased accommodation afforded.

**THE COLONIAL SECRETARY** (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy): No one putteth a piece of new cloth unto an old garment, neither do men put new wine into old bottles; but this is what the hon. member for Perth proposes to do in this instance. The Director of Public Works says it would be only throwing money away to attempt to patch up the present building, and any hon. member who gave his vote in favor of such a proposition would certainly be acting on the "penny wise and pound foolish" principle.

**MR. MARMION** called attention to the inadequate hospital accommodation provided at Fremantle—the second town of importance, and the principal port, in the Colony, which yet had no public hospital of its own, with a population of something like four thousand souls. He thought Fremantle, for the matter of that, had equally as strong claims as Geraldton in this respect. The House had pointed out to the Government what might be done in this matter—appropriate a portion of the vote for public buildings to improve the present hospital; and, if this was not done, he thought the responsibility might fairly be laid on the shoulders of the Government.

**MR. BROCKMAN**: If the Government regard this hospital as a work of such supreme importance and of such urgent necessity, why not appropriate for it £1,000 out of the £3,000 already voted for public buildings?

**MR. SPEAKER** pointed out that money appropriated for a special purpose, by a vote of the House, could not be diverted from that purpose.

**MR. BROWN**: If hon. members think the vote for public buildings was obtained under an erroneous or improper impression, I take it that it is competent for us to have the Estimates recommitted.

**MR. SHENTON** availed himself of the present opportunity of stating that, in his opinion, the views of the gentleman at the head of the Works Department were altogether too expensive for a Colony like this. The buildings planned

by him were far in advance of the requirements, and beyond the means, of the Colony. This very hospital was a case in point. It was proposed to erect a building that would cost no less than £2,000, when half that amount would provide a hospital that would meet the requirements of the District for many long years to come.

The amendment of the hon. member for Vasse—that the item "Towards the erection of Hospital at Geraldton, £1,000," be struck out, was then put, and a division called for, when there appeared—

Ayes	...	...	10
Noes	...	...	7
Majority for			3

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

The amendment was therefore carried. Progress was then reported, and leave obtained to sit again on Friday.

The House adjourned at six o'clock p.m.

## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

*Friday, 3rd October, 1879.*

Pastoral Lands held by Messrs. Forrest, and by Forrest & Co.—Tariff Act, 1878, Amendment Bill: first reading—Wines, Beer, and Spirit Sale Act, 1872, Amendment Bill: second reading; in committee—Estimates: further considered in committee—Point of Order—Adjournment.

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

**PRAYERS.**