

would build two very nice cottage hospitals.

MR. CROWTHER said this hospital at Geraldton was, he believed, the most ill-used public building that the colony possessed. When it was first proposed, the amount of money set down for it was so cut down by that House that at last it became impossible to do anything with it. Afterwards something more was added to it, but some of that money again was appropriated for something else—to improve the doctor's quarters. The building was an eyesore and a disgrace, and, if the Director of Public Works thought he could do nothing with it, the best thing that the hon. gentleman could do was to let them have some decent cottage hospitals.

MR. McRAE, referring to the item, "Albany Sand Patch, £400," asked if they ever were going to be done with this work. They had been told during the last three sessions that no more money would be wanted to complete the work; yet, as soon as another session came round, the item re-appeared on the Estimates.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright) said they had expended the whole of the vote made last session, and it was now found that about £270 would be required for bushing the place, so as to finish it. He thought that a most satisfactory job had been made of it. The reason why £400 was asked for was because a sum of £150 out of last year's vote had, through inadvertence on the part of the accountant, been allowed to lapse. The Finance Committee re-voted that amount to enable the work to be proceeded with, but they refused to sanction any further expenditure, in view of the near approach of the session. He believed the amount now required would finish it altogether, and that next year would prove the truth of what he said, that not another penny would be wanted to complete the job.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. S. Smith) said that the Finance Committee had sanctioned the greater portion of the vote asked for on these Estimates for "Sundry works at Derby and Wyndham;" but, if the committee wished for any detailed information on the subject, no doubt the

Director of Public Works would be happy to furnish it.

MR. GRANT said it was all very well to say that the Finance Committee had sanctioned this large expenditure; but that House was above the Finance Committee, and it was only right that they should have some further information about these works, which were to cost over £20,000.

MR. SHENTON said, although he was a member of the Finance Committee, he thought that this committee was simply appointed to advise the Government in the matter of any unforeseen expenditure being required. It did not release the Government from its responsibility to that House, and he thought the House was fully entitled to any explanation it might wish as to the action of the Finance Committee.

Progress was then reported, and leave given the committee to sit again another day for the further consideration of this item.

#### OPIUM DUTY BILL.

Read a third time and passed.

The House adjourned at twenty minutes to eleven o'clock, p.m.

---

#### LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

*Tuesday, 20th July, 1886.*

Reduction of the Mail Coach fare between Perth and Pinjarrah—Ticks in Sheep—Gratuity to Mrs. Slade—Sharks Bay Pearl Shell Fishery Bill: third reading—Chinese Immigration Bill: third reading—Supplementary Estimates, 1886: further consideration of—Adjournment.

THE SPEAKER took the Chair at noon.

PRAYERS.

REDUCTION OF MAIL COACH FARE BETWEEN PERTH AND PINJARRAH.

CAPTAIN FAWCETT, in accordance with notice, moved "That an humble address be presented to His Excellency

the Governor, praying that he would be pleased to reduce the fare by mail coach from Perth to Pinjarrah to 3d. per mile,—being at the same rate as that from Pinjarrah to Bunbury.” The hon. member pointed out that this would reduce the fare from 17s. to 13s. 6d.

**THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY** (Hon. M. S. Smith) said he had consulted the Postmaster General on the subject, and he might say that if the House agreed to the motion, the Government would be inclined to view it favorably.

The motion was confirmed.

#### TICKS IN SHEEP: PROPOSED COMMISSION OF INQUIRY.

**MR. BROCKMAN** moved “That an humble address be presented to His Excellency the Governor, praying that he would be pleased to take such steps as were necessary, during the recess, to appoint a commission to inquire into the existence of ticks in sheep in the Williams district, with the view of ascertaining if legislation on the subject was necessary.” The existence of ticks among the sheep in the district referred to and in the Blackwood district had been made known to him lately, and he had been requested to take steps with the object of preventing the spread of it throughout the flocks of the colony. He did not know much about the subject himself, for he had never seen ticks in sheep.

**MR. LAYMAN**, in seconding the motion, said he did so, not because he knew anything about ticks, but in order to elicit discussion.

**MR. VENN** failed to see what object was to be gained by the appointment of a commission to inquire into the existence of what was already known to exist; and, as to the necessity of legislation on the subject, they might as well legislate, or attempt to legislate, for the extermination of fleas in dogs. Ticks were found amongst sheep in most flocks in the central districts of the colony, and, so far as he was aware—and he had been among sheep all his life—they did no harm, unless the sheep were in very poor condition. All that was necessary to get rid of them was to dip the sheep.

**CAPTAIN FAWCETT** thought that some legislation was required in this

direction. It might be possible that the hon. member for Wellington's sheep were free from ticks, but other flocks were not free from them, and until we insisted upon compulsory and simultaneous dipping we would never get rid of them. Although ticks might do no great harm, still they were a decided nuisance, and if something could be done to effectually deal with the nuisance it would be a very good thing, in his opinion. He thought the Government might fairly be asked to assist the poorer class of sheep farmers to get rid of these pests in their flocks, and the best means of doing so would be to adopt some measure that would ensure all the flocks of a district being dipped simultaneously, otherwise they might as well not be dipped.

**MR. GRANT** failed to see any necessity whatever for the proposed commission. All the other colonies were troubled with ticks, and there was a very good remedy to be found by simply dipping the sheep in a weak solution of tobacco, arsenic, or sulphur. It was a very simple process, and no danger at all was to be apprehended. When every settler had a remedy in his own hands, what was the use of appointing a commission to inquire into what was known to everybody who had had any experience amongst sheep.

**THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY** (Hon. M. S. Smith) said that after the remarks that had fallen from hon. members who seemed to be acquainted with the subject, it appeared to him that no good would be attained by the appointment of this commission—a commission to inquire into the existence of what they all knew to exist.

The motion was negatived, on the voices.

#### GRATUITY TO MRS. SLADE.

##### POINT OF ORDER.

**MR. MARMION** asked whether it was necessary he should move the Speaker out of the chair, for the purpose of having his motion for an address to the Governor in favor of increasing Mrs. Slade's gratuity considered in committee.

**MR. SPEAKER**: It is a difficult question for me to decide, seeing that our Standing Orders contain two conflicting rules on the subject. The new rule

adopted last session contemplated that such a motion as this, which merely asks the Governor that a sum of money may be placed on the Estimates—the voting of which may form the subject of further discussion in committee—need not be moved in committee; but, on the other hand, the 49th Standing Order distinctly says “That this Council shall not proceed upon any motion for an address to the Governor praying that any money may be issued, or that any expense may be incurred, but in a committee of the whole Council.” It is rather a difficult thing for the Speaker to give a decision in the face of two such contradictory rules. Perhaps the hon. member, however, had better move me out of the chair. It is clearly an address for money.

MR. MARMION thereupon moved the Speaker out of the chair.

#### IN COMMITTEE:

MR. MARMION, in accordance with notice, moved, “That an humble address be presented to His Excellency the Governor, praying that he would be pleased to increase the sum of £300, placed on the Supplementary Estimates as a gratuity to Mrs. Slade, by the sum of £200.” It was not his intention to detain the committee very long with the few remarks he should like to make with reference to this motion. He might say, in the first place, that he considered this was one of those cases in which the Government might see their way clear to act somewhat liberally, though probably some hon. members, and possibly the Government themselves, might see some difficulty in the way, viewing this motion, if adopted, as a somewhat dangerous precedent which they might be called upon to follow hereafter. He might, however, point out that there were special circumstances connected with this particular case. Mrs. Slade’s late husband, as hon. members were aware, served this colony well and faithfully as Resident Magistrate at Fremantle for a term approaching eighteen years. It was very well known that Resident Magistrates in this colony were not overpaid, and it was also well known to hon. members that on more than one occasion it had fallen to his lot to appeal to that House for an increase to the salary of the late Resident Magistrate at Fremantle; but

it was only comparatively a short time before his death that his salary was augmented, by about £70 per annum. He might mention that, some five years before, the deceased gentleman had been in receipt of almost a similar salary to that which he received a short period before his death; but a sum of £50, which he was allowed as forage allowance, was taken from him, thus reducing his emoluments. During the whole time that he filled the position of Resident Magistrate at Fremantle, he fulfilled his public duties well and faithfully, and proved himself a good servant to the Government. Prior to his arrival in this colony the deceased gentleman had served the British Government elsewhere, and it was during his period of service in a tropical climate that the seeds were laid of that disease which at last, and under the circumstances which he would presently relate to the House, ended fatally, and which, it might be said, hastened his death. The late gentleman suffered on various occasions from this disease—a kind of intermittent fever—and he was informed by his unfortunate widow that during those attacks he was obliged to be very careful of himself, and to take complete rest. Just before his death, circumstances arose which compelled the Government to ask Mr. Slade to proceed to Champion Bay, to undertake the duties of Government Resident there, while Mr. Eliot went away on leave of absence. Mr. Slade felt himself too unwell at the time to proceed to Geraldton, and he was obliged to ask the Government to excuse him, and it was subsequently arranged that Mr. Leake, the Police Magistrate at Perth, should relieve Mr. Eliot, and Mr. Slade was called upon by the Government to perform magisterial duties at Perth as well as at Fremantle, and also occasionally to proceed to Guildford. At this time Mr. Slade was suffering from an incipient attack of the disease which he suffered from, but, as he did not wish to place the Government in any difficulty, rather than shirk the additional duties which they imposed upon him he agreed to perform them; and he was told—and he had no reason to doubt it—that the performance of these duties prevented the deceased gentleman from

giving that attention to his ailments that he should have done, and as he would have done under ordinary circumstances. This want of attention brought on complications of his disease, and eventually he was obliged to take to his bed, and from that bed he never rose again. It was his death-bed. His widow, unfortunately for herself, was left in a position which he might describe as penniless; in fact, he believed that not only was she left without any resources to meet her ordinary wants, but that there were certain claims that had to be met, no matter whence the funds came from. It would have been bad enough if this lady had been left alone to mourn the loss of the bread-winner, but she had also a young family to look after, who, from the tender and delicate nature of their rearing, were unable to assist her in obtaining a livelihood for herself and them. These were the melancholy circumstances of the case which he now brought before the House. It might be said by some hon. members, while acknowledging the painful nature of the case, that it might form a dangerous precedent if they were to agree to this address, and that there were difficulties in the way. He would ask hon. members to dismiss the question of precedence from their minds; he would ask them not to consider the difficulties of the position, but to deal with the case in the interests of mercy and humanity, and to leave others hereafter to discuss the question of precedents. He would ask hon. members to deal with the case as their own instincts of humanity told them they ought to deal with it. He did not know that if he were to speak at any greater length he could say any more, in urging this unfortunate lady's claim, as the widow of a deserving and faithful public officer, who had served the colony well, and who actually died in serving the colony. He asked hon. members to consider the peculiarly unfortunate circumstances of the case, and the sad position of the bereaved widow. If hon. members would be guided in this matter by the promptings of their own hearts they would not be frightened out of doing a benevolent action by the bugbear of precedence. He would remind hon. members that if the deceased magistrate had lived a little longer and been invalided, he would have

become entitled to a pension, which possibly he might have drawn for many years, and thus cost the colony a large sum—a much larger sum than the small meed of assistance which he now asked the committee to grant to his bereaved widow and his fatherless children. He did not ask for the widow any annual sum, but simply this small gratuity of £500, which, if they came to consider the population of the colony, would only be a few pence per head of the whole population. Once more he would ask hon. members to cast aside all considerations of precedents and to be guided by the instincts of humanity, of pity, and of mercy. Animated by that higher and nobler feeling he felt sure that there would be few members found in that House who would deny to this bereaved lady this small contribution from the public funds of the colony.

MR. PARKER said he had great pleasure in supporting the motion. As to the question of precedent, so far as the principle involved was at stake, that was as much involved whether the amount of the gratuity was £300 or £500, and, as the Government themselves proposed to grant this lady a gratuity of £300, he did not suppose they would object on principle, or on the ground of establishing a precedent, to that amount being increased to £500. The sum proposed by the Government was certainly very small. If they came to look at its annual value, say at 8 per cent., it would only yield £24 a year, which was certainly a very small pittance to give this lady. Even the larger sum of £500 would only give her £40 a year—not a very large amount for the widow of a public servant who had served the colony for nearly twenty years, and who actually died in harness. Whether it established a precedent or not, he felt himself bound, after the eloquent appeal of the hon. member for Fremantle, to support the motion, and he did so with a very great deal of pleasure. They might remember that last session, or the session before, they awarded a pension for life to the widow of another public officer, their late Colonial Secretary. He thought the present case was even a more deserving case than that one; for while the late Colonial Secretary had left them, in order to take service

under the Imperial Government abroad, Mr. Slade actually died in harness, doing his best in the performance of his duties, and serving the colony to the end. There was one thing which he thought was worthy of consideration in connection with this motion, and it was this,—that, if it could be managed, some means should be established and organised for insuring the lives of public servants. He understood that in New Zealand there was a system of insurance in vogue under which all Government officers had to insure their lives, thus making some provision for their families. They could see how great a benefit such a system would have proved in the present instance, and there could be no doubt that if the Government could see their way clear to introduce a similar system here they would be doing a great deal of good; and he hoped the Government would bear the subject in mind, with a view to bringing forward some measure of the kind.

MR. PEARSE said that in supporting the motion of his hon. colleague he most cordially endorsed the statements which he had so eloquently and feelingly expressed. The late Mr. Slade, as was known to hon. members, was in receipt of a very poor salary for many years, a salary out of which it was impossible for him to have made provision for his family. As to the suggestion that his widow might have benefited if her deceased husband had insured his life, he would point out that, in consequence of a long residence in tropical climates, in the public service, his health had become so impaired that the probability was no insurance company would have risked his life. The late officer had no means whatever of supplementing his income, and no means of providing for his family after his death. He sincerely hoped the House would take the claims of the bereaved widow into its serious consideration, and cheerfully grant this small addition to her gratuity which his hon. colleague had so eloquently urged.

MR. SHENTON said he considered this an exceptional case. Those who were acquainted with the circumstances were aware that the late Mr. Slade came forward to assist the Government in their difficulty when Mr. Eliot wished to

leave Geraldton, and that, ill as he was, he undertook to perform the duties of two Resident Magistrates. He was so unwell at the time that, instead of undertaking any additional duties, he ought to have been relieved of some of his own duties and taken rest. Instead of that he resolved to do all he could to assist the Government, and he (Mr. Shenton) was certain that this tended to bring about his untimely death. Under these circumstances, he thought it was the duty of the Government to come forward and assist the deceased officer's widow and the fatherless children, who unfortunately were left in very poor circumstances. A small increase of this kind would not be felt by the Government, while on the other hand it would prove of great benefit to the widow and her children.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. S. Smith) said the strongest objection to an address of this nature was the fact that it established a precedent; but, after all, circumstances altered cases, and he saw no reason why they should be afraid, if the necessity for it arose, even to establish a precedent. He fully endorsed all that had been said by the hon. member for Fremantle as to the deceased magistrate; and he could only say that, although the Government had only placed £300 on these Estimates as a gratuity to Mrs. Slade, still, under the painful and peculiar circumstances of the case, if the House was prepared to agree to this matter, the Government would consider the subject favorably.

MR. GRANT said he was somewhat sorry he could not fall in with what had been said by previous speakers. He maintained it would form a precedent at once, and one that would be sure to be followed hereafter. In fact, if the House agreed to vote this money as proposed, he could find other widows and other families quite as deserving of sympathy and quite as much in need of assistance. As to being guided by sentiment, they were not sent there to give vent to personal sentiment or to spend the taxpayers' money upon sentimental grounds, but to legislate and to do something that would practically advance the interests of the colony.

MR. MARMION: And to do justice.

MR. GRANT did not think that came

into consideration at all. He himself should oppose the motion, on the ground that if it should be acceded to it was a precedent which he should himself feel bound to act upon in other cases. They would then see how far the House was prepared to follow the precedent which it had itself established. As for the lady for whom this gratuity was asked, he did not know much about her, but he was not aware that she had ever made her mark in identifying herself with any of the institutions of the colony, and he did not see that she had any particular claims, except on the ground of sentiment, which was a very bad ground to be guided by in dealing with public money. As to her husband, it was a pitiful case, but it was said that his disease was contracted whilst he was in India, and therefore he should say it was a case for the Imperial Government, and that it was the duty of that Government to look after the poor widow and children. It had been said that the House had done this for Lady Barlee, but that was an exceptional case, and it was put forward as an exceptional case; and it was understood at the time that it was not to be looked upon as a precedent. They had now another case, and, if this was agreed to, the widows of all public officers would have just as much claim to the consideration of that House as this particular widow had. Therefore, he said it was a dangerous precedent, and those who brought it forward were not dealing fairly with the people's money.

MR. SCOTT said he should like to point out to the hon. member for the North that unfortunately this public officer had been receiving a very small salary—something like £300 or £400 a year, he believed, or at any rate a sum quite inadequate to enable him or his good lady to “make his mark” in society, or to entertain, or do anything else beyond keeping body and soul together. Not only that, this gentleman was struck down by disease in the service of his country, after eighteen years work in the colony. He thought, considering the onerous and intricate nature of magisterial work at a port like Fremantle, the chief port of the colony, that the late Resident had done his work well, otherwise they would have heard of a great many more appeals from his decisions.

He must confess that, looked at as a matter of precedent, the motion was rather objectionable, but, as the Government had already proposed to give a gratuity of £300, he saw no great harm in increasing it to £500. The principle would be the same. The widow had a family to bring up, and he thought she ought to receive this assistance. We were spending a great deal of money in bringing people into the colony, and he thought we might as well try and keep those here who were here.

MR. LAYMAN said he was rather sorry he should feel it his duty to oppose the motion. He knew nothing about Mrs. Slade, she was quite a stranger to him; but no doubt she was unfortunate. At the same time hon. members must be aware that there were a great many of these unfortunates, whose position appealed to their sympathy. But the question was, had they a right to vote public money for such purposes? With regard to the deceased gentleman, he did not know what his salary was, but he received the full pay attached to his office, and, so long as a Government officer did that, he failed to see that at his death they were bound to provide for his widow; and, if this case was going to be made a precedent of, the result would be that they would be swamped with proposals of this nature, from all quarters. He thought himself that the Government had acted rather liberally in offering this lady £300, and he felt it his duty to oppose any increase of it.

HON. J. G. LEE-STEERE said he wished to say a few words, because a personal appeal had been made to him by this lady, and, although he was careful not to commit himself in any way, or to lead her to believe that he himself would propose any increase, he had all along made up his mind to support such a proposal if brought forward. He thought the case was an exceptional one; and they ought to judge each application of this kind on its merits. He was quite aware that it set a precedent for future appeals, but he only hoped that there would not be many cases of such peculiar hardship as this case appeared to be. He also hoped the Government would take up the question alluded to by the hon. member for Perth, and establish here a system of Government insurance

for Government officers, so that in such cases as this, where the husband died leaving a widow unprovided for, there might be some means of assisting her out of this insurance fund. If such a measure were introduced by the Government there would be no more precedents of this kind required, for the families of deceased officers would be provided for.

CAPTAIN FAWCETT regretted he could not support the motion. It was very easy on all occasions to express one's sympathy, and also very easy to deal liberally with other people's money. He should be very glad to subscribe personally towards another gratuity, but he did not understand why the Government, after feeling the pulse of the House as to this gratuity of £300, should not be satisfied. He presumed the amount fixed upon by the Government was fixed with a full knowledge of all the circumstances, and with a reference to the salary and position of the deceased officer.

MR. CROWTHER said whether the motion was a desirable one or not, it was no use their attempting to shut their eyes to the fact that it would be establishing a precedent, and a dangerous one. But let each case be dealt with on its own merits. If they were to accept this as a precedent to be followed in all cases, they would find innumerable appeals made to their sympathies, and to the public purse also. He himself knew of a case of a gentleman who at the present moment had been fifty years in the service, and who in all probability would not live much longer; and his case would be one very deserving of their sympathy. No doubt there were many others. He did not say that he should oppose this particular motion, but he did think they ought to be careful in establishing anything like a precedent for such motions.

MR. BURGESS merely wished to say that he intended to record his vote in favor of the address. No doubt it was a dangerous principle to establish, but facts altered cases, and he thought the facts that had been placed before the House by the hon. member for Fremantle should have some weight, and that the House should go with the hon. member in this motion. The surrounding circumstances had been fully explained; how the officer in question had died while in harness,

after serving his country for a considerable time, and during the greater portion of that time receiving a very small salary. He received a small increase towards the end, but the deceased gentleman did not live long to enjoy it, and the result was that his widow and family were left unprovided for. His services in other parts of the world had so impaired his health that he was unable even to insure his life, which strengthened the claim of his widow; and he hoped the House would take all the circumstances of the case into consideration.

MR. VENN said he had heard hon. members on more than one occasion say that it did not matter what was said in that House, or what speeches were made, it never had the effect of altering a member's opinion or gaining a vote. But, had he been asked before he came into the House that day whether he would support or oppose the present motion he had no doubt in his mind that he would have opposed it; but, after listening to the eloquent address of the hon. member for Fremantle, he must say that the hon. member had at any rate enlisted his sympathy. The hon. member, however, had appealed rather to their feelings than to their judgment; and he thought it was a mistake in that House to be guided by one's feelings rather than one's judgment, especially in the distribution of public funds. He thought it was a mistake at all times to allow their feelings to usurp their judgment; and if they were to make their heart rather than their head their guide all through life they would often find themselves going astray. If they adopted that principle in governing their actions in private life he was afraid they would soon find their pockets affected and their affairs going adrift. He thought they ought to be governed by the same principle in public life, and in the disbursement of the public funds upon objects of charity. He did not use the word charity in any offensive sense, but he thought they must look upon such appeals as these as appeals made in the name of charity rather than in the name of public justice. They were told that the case was an exceptional case; but, exceptional or not, it would be hereafter quoted as a precedent for similar appeals. It appeared to him they could not get over that. At the present moment there

were one or two other relicts of late public officers which to his own knowledge had a claim upon the consideration of that House, if they were to be guided by their feelings in these matters. He cordially endorsed what had fallen from the hon. member for Perth and His Honor the Speaker that the Government would do well to initiate some scheme that would enable public officers to make provision for their families at their death, so that in future there might be no necessity for such appeals as these to be brought before that House. It was an awkward position for any member to be placed in when such appeals as these were made to his better feelings rather than to his judgment; for, whatever a man might feel, he had always this idea in his mind, that after all it would not cost him anything, while at the same time it would relieve a case of real distress,—forgetting that the appeal was not made to his own pocket but to the public purse. He thought it was beside the question to say that this public officer or that public officer had fulfilled his duties with exemplary care, for, if a public officer did not do so, he would be unfit for his position. They reckoned that every man holding a position in the public service and receiving public pay did his best to discharge the duties of his position with efficiency, and that they all earned their money. One thing he objected to: they were told that this particular officer had been receiving such a very small salary that he had been unable to put by even a small pittance for a rainy day. If that was a fact as regards this particular officer, was it not the case with others, and was it not rather an argument in favor of increasing the salaries of public servants? If it was a fact that the public servants of the colony were so badly paid that they were unable to make any provision for their families in the event of their death, the sooner they recognised that fact the better, in the interests of humanity. In this instance he should not vote either one way or the other. He should be glad to see this lady get the money that was asked for her, but the motion was one in support of which he could not conscientiously vote.

MR. HARPER said he had listened with great interest to the various views

that had been expressed on this point, and he could not help but feel that it was very inconvenient, to say the least, that a resolution of this kind should be brought before the House, for it put the members of the House in a position where they had to decide whether they would obey the promptings of their own feelings as men or whether they should obey the dictates of their judgment as legislators. He could not help thinking in this case—he admitted it—that the claims put forward, so far as considerations of humanity went, were strong; but at the same time they must not forget that any number of similar cases might arise in the future. It only wanted some member to get up, and, like the hon. member for Fremantle in this case, make a strong appeal to the sympathies of the House, to persuade the House to follow him. With regard to the suggestion of the hon. member for Perth and of the Speaker with reference to a Government insurance scheme for insuring the lives of public servants, he might call attention to the position in which the deceased officer in this case would have been, had such a scheme been in force. In all the other colonies where this principle of life assurance had been adopted by the various Governments, the very first process which a candidate for admission into the public service had to go through was a medical examination, and, if he could not pass that examination, he would be altogether disqualified from entering the service. Therefore, the late Mr. Slade, with his delicate state of health, would have been disqualified for admission into the public service at all, and would not have been able to enjoy eighteen years' pay; so that, however desirous it might be in the interests of the State that such a scheme should be adopted, it was one that did not always work in favor of individuals, and certainly it was no argument in support of the present motion. It was a very unpleasant thing to have to vote upon such a question as this, but, for his own part, he was inclined to go no further than the original proposal of the Government, although he fully recognised the claims which the widow had upon their sympathy, and upon their humanity.

MR. LOTON said the motion he might say in a few words had his fullest



sympathy, and he had no doubt it had the fullest sympathy of every member of the House: at the same time, he must add, he was sorry he could not give it his support. However unpleasant a matter of this kind might be to one's personal feelings, still, so long as he held a seat in that House, he should endeavor, to the utmost of his ability and following the dictates of his own conscience, to put sympathy on one side in such a case and to vote accordingly. He should not do like the hon. member for Wellington—he followed the hon. member to a great extent in what he said, but he should not follow the hon. member's example, and decline to go to the lobby either on one side or the other in a case of this kind. He thought that their sympathy should find expression in an appeal to their own pockets and not to those of their neighbors. He had listened attentively to the hon. member for Fremantle's arguments, but he must say that the hon. member did not to his mind make out any special claims in favor of the widow of this lamented officer. He fully sympathised with her in her unfortunate position, but he could not go further than that, and certainly not further than the proposal made in her behalf by the Government. The hon. member stated—and he was backed up to a certain extent by the hon. member for Toodyay—that the additional duties imposed upon the deceased officer to some extent caused his premature decease. If so—he did not know whether such was the case or not—but, if so, it appeared to him that was rather an argument in favor of an action at law by his widow against the Government. At any rate, so far as the present motion was concerned, however painful it might be to his feelings—as he was sure it must be to every other member who felt bound to oppose the motion—he would even go further than any hon. member had yet gone and say that he was opposed to any sum at all being voted by that House for the purpose named.

MR. GRANT said he should like to make one further remark, and it was this: if the present motion should be carried he would certainly look upon it as a precedent to be followed in other cases, and he should always look to those who voted for it to support him hereafter

in any similar appeal. He hoped the members of the Government would refrain from voting at all in a case like this, but leave the question to be decided by the representatives of the people and the guardians of the public purse.

**THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS** (Hon. J. Forrest): The hon. member talks of the occupants of this bench holding a different position in this House from that of the representatives of the people, and the hon. member hopes that the members of the Government will remain neutral in this case. I maintain that I hold as constitutional a position in this House as the hon. member for the North does, or any other hon. member.

MR. SCOTT: I hope the members of the Government will vote.

MR. GRANT: I can only add that if they do vote, and vote in support of this motion, they will be voting in their own interests,—

**THE CHAIRMAN:** Order.

MR. GRANT: I will leave it to the outside world to judge between us, and I think the world will be with me in that.

The committee divided upon the motion, the numbers being—

Ayes ... .. 9

Noes ... .. 8

Majority for ... .. 1

**AYES.**

Hon. J. Forrest  
Mr. Burges  
Mr. Parker  
Mr. Pearce  
Mr. Scott  
Mr. Sheulton  
Mr. Sholl  
Mr. Steere  
Mr. Marmion (Teller.)

**NOES.**

Mr. Brockman  
Mr. Crowther  
Capt. Fawcett  
Mr. Harper  
Mr. Layman  
Mr. Loton  
Mr. Randell  
Mr. Grant (Teller.)

Resolution to be reported.

**THE SPEAKER** took the Chair.

**THE CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES** reported that the committee had considered a resolution, and had agreed to it.

On the motion of Mr. MARMION, the report was adopted.

**SHARKS BAY PEARL SHELL FISHERY BILL.**

Read a third time and passed.

**CHINESE IMMIGRATION BILL.**

Read a third time and passed.

## SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES, 1886.

The House went into committee for the further consideration of the Supplementary Estimates for 1886.

*Works and Buildings, £26,899 16s. :*

## RESUMED DEBATE.

MR. SHENTON, referring to the item "New poles, Telegraph line to Albany, £400," asked if it was true that there were a large number of defective posts between Albany and Eucla?

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright) said he believed so, and provision would have to be made for their removal. About five per cent. of the posts between Perth and Albany were bad, and there were other matters to be attended to.

MR. SHENTON hoped something would be done to see that the Eucla line did not become interrupted, and that the necessary repairs would be carried out as soon as possible.

MR. PARKER said he believed there were some items that had been carried to the Suspense Account.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright) said the present votes were required in addition to any sums carried to Suspense Account. Nothing could be carried to Suspense Account unless there was a contract already entered into in connection with the vote and the contract was not completed at the end of the financial year.

MR. GRANT understood that a large expenditure was proposed in connection with the formation of a Government establishment at Wyndham (Cambridge Gulf), and he should like to know whether the Government had satisfied themselves that the site fixed for this new townsite was the best site that could be found; otherwise the whole of this expenditure might be thrown away.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright) said the expenditure which the committee was now asked to confirm, in the Kimberley district, was £10,850 for certain works at Derby, and £9,615 for certain works at Wyndham,—the two ports of the district, which the recent gold discoveries had brought into so much prominence. With regard to the first item, it was made up as follows: £500 had been voted for the necessary surveys at the port

of Derby, to connect the tramway and the jetty landing with the townsite, and also to ascertain the proper position for laying down buoys. Up to the present, £425 16s. 7d. had been expended out of this sum, leaving £74 3s. 5d., which would probably be absorbed before the end of the year in completing such surveys as were required. A sum of £10,000 had been authorised by the Finance Committee, to be expended upon other necessary works at Derby, on the understanding that, as soon as possible after the House met, a proper estimate and account should be given of the way in which it was proposed to expend the money. Up to the present time, the amount actually expended out of this £10,000, and the liabilities incurred in connection therewith, was £6,694 11s. 6d.,—consisting of charges connected with tramway material, goods shed, waggon, tools, implements, stores, wages, etc. In addition to that, provision had to be made for jetty extension, which, when carried out, would enable steamers and other vessels to come alongside and unload, without the aid of lighters. There were other expenses connected with transport and other matters, amounting to £2,305 8s. 6d.; and the remaining £350 was required by the Government Resident for sinking wells and for minor public works in the district. It was estimated that the whole of the contemplated improvements at Derby would entail an expenditure of about £12,000, so that next year he should have to ask the House for an additional sum of £2,000 to complete the whole of these works. That was at Derby. With regard to Wyndham, the Cambridge Gulf outlet, when the expedition to East Kimberley was sent off, the Finance Committee authorised an expenditure of £6,000 in connection with that expedition. Of that sum £3,615 had been appropriated for public works purposes—necessary works required there at once for the Government Resident and his party, including stores, drays, building material, wages, etc., which up to date had absorbed £2,529 6s. 2d. They had £1,085 13s. 10d. to further provide for wages, rations, horse-keep, and transport. The Government Resident had made a representation to the Government, pointing out the absolute necessity for providing jetty accommodation and custom-house accom-

modation, and some sort of bonded store, at Wyndham, in order to enable him to deal with the enormous quantity of stores and goods of every description now coming into the district. As hon. members were aware, several large steamers, bringing diggers and others to Kimberley, had recently arrived at Wyndham, and about a thousand people had come there within a short time, bringing with them a large amount of stores; and it was absolutely necessary that some provision should be made to enable the Government to look after these things. The Resident Engineer of the Northern District was now on his way to Cambridge Gulf, in order to prepare a thorough estimate and to advise the Government as to what works should be taken in hand at once; and, in the meantime, the Finance Committee had authorised an expenditure of £6,000 for our most pressing requirements, which, with the £3,615 already referred to, made up the amount on these Supplementary Estimates. From his own knowledge of the place, he estimated that a sum of about £16,000 would be required to complete the necessary works up there, including the jetty and its approaches, tramway, rolling stock, goods shed, Custom-dues house, stores, rations, etc.; but, as he had already said, he believed that the £6,000 sanctioned by the Finance Committee would be ample to carry them, so far as he could make out at present, to the end of the year. Until, however, the report came from the Resident Engineer, who was now on his way to the Gulf, he could not furnish the House with any more detailed estimate or more precise information than he had now given. With regard to the question asked by the hon. member for the North (Mr. Grant), as to whether the best site had been selected for the townsite, he must refer the hon. member to his hon. friend the Surveyor General, who selected the site. When he (the Director of Public Works) was at Cambridge Gulf he did not go to Wyndham, but to the Eastern arm of the Gulf.

**THE SURVEYOR GENERAL (Hon. J. Forrest)** said the present townsite was selected by him after a stay of ten or twelve days only in the district. He visited all parts of the district that he could visit in that short time, and he

came to the conclusion that the present site was the best that he came across for a townsite. Whether, if he had more time, he might have found a better site, he could not say; his own opinion at the time was that he couldn't. Up to the present it was true they had not heard of any permanent water having been discovered at this place. According to the latest reports which he had received, two or three wells had been sunk, but only salt or brackish water had been obtained. There was plenty of fresh water there when he visited the locality—surface water, not permanent water—close to the landing, within about a mile, or less than a mile; but, at present, they obtained their water at a place about three miles away from the townsite, and it was thought that the supply there was permanent. He hoped, however, that fresh water might yet be found in the townsite, or close to it. There was no doubt that the site selected possessed many advantages over the other site, three miles away, where fresh water had been obtained. On our Northern coast, as hon. members were aware, it was not always easy to find suitable localities for a townsite, and the Cambridge Gulf country was no exception. But at Wyndham, however, some of the drawbacks that generally presented themselves were absent. Usually, near the coast, there were extensive marshes to be traversed before they found a good landing; but at Wyndham, the hills came right down to the sea, and there was no marshy ground at all. He believed himself it was the best site that could be obtained on the eastern side of the Gulf for a townsite and a port, possessing, as it did, great natural advantages in the way of harbor accommodation, where ships could come and ride close to the shore. Mr. Price, the Government Resident, and the surveyors who were up there, had not reported that any better site had been discovered, nor did they recommend that any other site should be fixed upon. He thought they might rest assured that if any other and a better site was to be found in that neighborhood it would have been found before now.

**MR. VENN** said he had been very anxious to hear what reply the Government would make to the question of the hon. member for the North, as to the site

of this new township, which certainly was a most important question, looking at the very large expenditure proposed to be incurred, and he might say already sanctioned. He thought it would be a pity to fritter away a lot of money in keeping up two rival townsites, and that we should concentrate our expenditure in one place, so that the northern people might hereafter have something to show for their money. He had been informed—he may have been wrongly informed—but he was told that we ought to concentrate our energies in improving the port and town of Derby, rather than Wyndham. They were told that Derby would be most likely to be the outlet of the auriferous part of the Kimberley district: if so, why on earth did we want to go farther north, and farther away from our own settlements than we need go? He thought it would be in the best interests of the colony if we made up our minds at once to secure for Derby the trade of the goldfields, and make it the commercial emporium of the district. No doubt it would be necessary to have a small Government staff at Cambridge Gulf, but it appeared to him it would be a waste of money to incur any very large expenditure there, and have two rival settlements. They were now told by the Surveyor General that there was no fresh water at Wyndham, and yet the House was asked to commit itself to an immediate expenditure of £6,000 there, and a prospective expenditure of over £16,000. He thought, before they went any further, they ought to have some more reliable data to go upon.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright) said that up to the present time the only money actually expended was simply for the purpose of sending up the expedition and fixing the Government Residency. He quite agreed that great care should be taken and every exertion made to secure the bulk of the trade and the traffic for Derby, if possible; at the same time we could not close Cambridge Gulf against such vessels as might like to put in there, and we must have proper facilities for collecting the revenue there, and a goods shed, and a bonded store,—which was all that the Government Resident asked for at present. Apart from the goldfields traffic, there were a considerable

number of settlers in the district, whose wool and other produce would have to come to Cambridge Gulf. Members, however, need not be alarmed as to the expenditure. The Government would not commit themselves to any further expenditure until they received the report of the Resident Engineer.

MR. VENN thought a great deal of benefit to our northern territory might have been done, and might yet be done, if the Government were to disseminate a little more information about the country, and publish it in the other colonies, pointing out the advantages to gold prospectors of coming by way of Derby. When he was in the other colonies the other day he heard a great many inquiries as to the best route, and he did all he could to point out that Derby was the most convenient port of call, and the best starting point for the goldfields. The prevailing idea in the other colonies was that one place was just as good as the other, and, unless steps were taken to publish more information on the subject, in pamphlet form or otherwise, the result would be that as many people would go to Cambridge Gulf as to Derby. The little information which he had been able to give to one party of diggers induced them to change their destination entirely, and instead of going to Cambridge Gulf they went to Derby.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. S. Smith) said he might inform the hon. member that some time ago the Government had sent a very lengthy telegram to all the other colonies, giving all the information then in possession of the Government with reference to the two routes, and in that telegram they recommended Derby as the best place to go to.

MR. MARMION said he was in favor of arming the Government with ample funds to enable them to grapple with the situation, and he only hoped that the Government were fully alive to the exigencies of the position. He was inclined to agree somewhat with the hon. member for the North and the hon. member for Wellington that it would be as well we should concentrate our forces at Derby as much as possible, and keep only a small party at Cambridge Gulf, just sufficient to protect the revenue, until at any rate we found which of the two

places was really to be the future port of the goldfields. He must again come back to what he said last session as to the absolute necessity of the Government declaring a track or a line of route to the goldfields, and opening up communication between Derby and the diggings. He was sorry to find that no provision was made in these Estimates for that purpose, which to him appeared most important. He was reading the debates in the South Australian Assembly the other day, and was surprised to find how the Legislature of that colony had risen to the occasion. Our South Australian friends evidently were not asleep, nor blind to their own interests, for they had already placed a sum on the Estimates to open up a route from Port Darwin to Kimberley, in order to develop the trade of their own colony, and to secure for it as many benefits as they could. He thought the action of South Australia should come home to our own Government, and stir them up a bit in the same direction, and lose no opportunity of diverting the current of traffic Derbywards. Our Government had no business (to use a strong expression), they had no right, in the interests of the community, to lose the present opportunity of doing the colony a good turn. Such opportunities did not occur every day in the history of a country. There was a tide in the affairs of communities as well as of individuals, which taken at the flood led on to fortune, and it would be a thousand pities if we did not make the most we could of the present opportunity. He felt very strongly upon this point, and he should lose no opportunity of drawing attention to it, and it would not be his fault if no steps were taken in the matter. A large number of people were now waiting for the rainy season to set in, which would be about October, before starting for the goldfields, and there was yet time for the Government to move in the matter before another rush took place. There seemed to be a strong feeling in the other colonies in favor of Cambridge Gulf rather than Derby, as the best point for landing and the best starting place; and that feeling was fostered there because that route suited their purpose better than Derby; and it should be the ambition of this Government, in their own interests,

to do all they could to foster the trade of our own colony, and not let it slip out of our hands. He felt sure that the time was arriving when the Government would feel that they had been wanting in their duty towards the colony in this respect—he said wanting in their duty, both in the interests of the district more immediately concerned and of the colony generally—in not paying more attention to the advice of at least one humble member of that House.

MR. GRANT failed to see what more the Government could do in the way of opening up communication with the goldfields. There was already a beaten track, well-defined, made by those who had been to the diggings, and he did not see that the Government should be called upon to make a road for the diggers to come and go. Did the hon. member expect the Government to establish lodging houses and soup kitchens along the whole route, for the convenience of those going to the goldfields?

MR. MARMION said there might already be some sort of a route defined, but was it the best route? Was it the shortest route,—that was the point.

MR. GRANT said he should not like to express an opinion on that subject. What troubled him more than anything was whether the best site had been selected for a townsite at Cambridge Gulf, and this was a most important question.

MR. SHOLL thought we were going to a great deal of unnecessary expense in forming a settlement at both places, and that we were doing a great deal more than we need do in the way of providing accommodation for the pioneer parties going up to establish these settlements. When the Northern part of the colony was first settled, some years ago, people who went up there were content to rough it in tents until they saw what the country was likely to come to, but now they must have elaborate preparations and all the comforts of civilisation provided for their convenience. It might turn out that this precious Wyndham would be another Camden Harbor, and the site have to be abandoned. They had a splendid harbor there no doubt, but so they had at Camden, and there was no saying yet what these goldfields might turn out, and the Gov-

ernment should be very cautious in spending all this money. He agreed with the hon. member for Fremantle as to the desirability of a route being declared from Derby to the diggings, and that it would be much better if the Government, instead of providing all these elaborate buildings and other conveniences for the Government party, had taken steps to find out the best and shortest road, and publish it to the world. No doubt it would be necessary to have a small staff at Wyndham to collect the Customs duties, and to collect the poll tax from Chinese; but that was all.

**THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS** (Hon. J. A. Wright): Does the hon. member know anything at all about what he is talking about? I may tell him that the only "elaborate buildings" provided consist of a wooden shed that was put together at the Perth railway station the other day. As to Wyndham, the only "elaborate" structures provided, or proposed to be provided, are a three-roomed hut for the Government Resident, and wooden quarters for the police, and stabling. What has been done at Derby is simply to give them a means of communication between the landing and the town-site, which was perfectly impassable for teams before the goldfields were ever heard of. This tramway is required for the convenience of the settlers of the district, and was undertaken as much as anything to give them an accessible road. Not a single penny was spent that could have been spared. Hon. members may rest satisfied that the Government will do what it can for Derby, but at the same time there can be no doubt that Wyndham is a finer harbor, and that it is seventy miles nearer to the goldfields than Derby and a much better route. When people come round from the other colonies, Torres Straits way, they naturally get out at the first landing-place they come to, and take the shortest route they can find to their destination; and, do what we will, we cannot stop them. We have only to look at the fact that within a very short time no less than 1,000 persons have recently landed at Wyndham, which is already a bustling settlement, with every probability of becoming a prosperous one. We cannot possibly debar people from coming that way if

they like; we cannot blockade the place; and, looking at the large quantities of goods and stores pouring in there, we must provide some machinery to collect the revenue, and that is simply all the "elaborate" preparations contemplated.

**THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS** (Hon. J. Forrest) said he was quite certain of this much—that no better site than Wyndham could be found on the eastern arm of the Gulf, unless we went farther north, and that could not be done until the coast was surveyed. Although fresh water had not yet been found, there was a splendid landing, and an excellent outlet for the trade of the district, and he believed it would be the main place and the principal settlement. There might be other small townships established, twenty or thirty miles up the river, which would be available for small steamers.

**THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY** (Hon. M. S. Smith) said, as to finding out the best route to the goldfields, the Government had two months ago taken steps to find out all about the best route, and sent a party for that purpose. They were now waiting for the report of this party, which was expected daily; and, whatever was found necessary to be done, the House might depend that the Government would do it.

The vote was then agreed to.

*Roads and Bridges, £7,950:*

**MR. SHENTON** hoped that when the House voted the £5,000 down on these Estimates under the head of "Grants for various Roads," the Government in apportioning the vote would bear in mind the superior claims of those districts that derived no advantage from railway communication.

**MR. SCOTT** hoped that in allotting this money the Government would not forget to apportion some of it for the up-keep of streets within municipalities. He thought that Municipal Councils had as much right to some of this vote as the country Roads Boards, and that the towns ought to receive some assistance for the up-keep of their streets. In asking that they should get this assistance he was only asking what was done in the other colonies.

**THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY** (Hon. M. S. Smith): As a matter of fact this vote has already been ap-

portioned, in pursuance of a resolution of this House, adopted last session.

MR. SHENTON, referring to the item "Wilberforce Bridge, £1,200," said that a sum of £800 was voted last session for this bridge, but, afterwards, at a later period of the session, the House decided upon extending the Eastern Railway from Spencer's Brook across the Avon towards Northam, and that a siding should be provided for the convenience of the residents of this neighborhood. He was informed by a gentleman well acquainted with the locality that this bridge, if constructed, would only accommodate three or four settlers living in the neighborhood, and that it was wholly unnecessary now that the railway was to be extended. There were other districts having a much larger number of people to be accommodated—Dongarra and the Irwin, for instance, where, instead of three or four, there were 300 or 400 people. He moved that the item be struck out.

The motion was agreed to *nem. dis.*, and the vote as amended put and passed.

*Pensions, £398 14s. 1d.:*

MR. PARKER asked how the pension which it was proposed to give Mrs. Veall (£86 7s. 6d.) had been calculated. He believed that Mrs. Veall had been employed as Government schoolmistress for twenty-seven years, and this appeared to be a very small pension after so long a service. She only left the service in consequence of ill-health.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. S. Smith) said the amount of the pension had been computed like all other pensions were computed, in accordance with the regulations.

MR. GRANT said he noticed it was only proposed to give the late medical officer at the Vasse (Mr. Bompas) a pension of £17 5s. 7d. This seemed a very paltry sum after twenty years service.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. S. Smith): That is the amount due for this year. The amount of the pension is £24, calculated in accordance with the provisions of the Superannuation Act.

MR. LAYMAN said that considering the long services of this old officer the pension proposed to be given to him was altogether inadequate, and, compared

even with that of Mrs. Veall, was altogether too small. It seemed that the better a man was paid when in the service the higher his pension was when he left the service. He was sorry that the Act did not provide some means of increasing an officer's pension in a deserving case like this.

MR. VENN said he also would like to see this amount increased. This was a case that appealed to their hearts as well as to their understanding, and he thought if the Government were to place a larger sum on the annual Estimates than £24 for this officer, it would meet with a considerable amount of support.

THE ACTING ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt) said hon. members must be aware that all pensions were regulated by the Superannuation Act passed by that House, and that the Government had no power to increase the amount as they thought fit. The Government liked one man just as much as another, and was not actuated by any personal feeling in apportioning these pensions. The Act certainly did empower the Governor, if there were in his opinion exceptional grounds for doing so, to increase the regulation amount, and to report to the Legislature his reasons for suggesting the increase. Let hon. members ask themselves what special reason the Governor could have given in respect of any of these cases down on the present Estimates for going beyond the statutory allowance to be given in every case. Long service, faithful performance of duties, a valuable public officer, old age—these were arguments that could be urged in the case of every man who became entitled to a pension. It certainly was rather amusing to notice how after a man had been vilified and abused up and down while he remained in the service—even by members of that House occasionally—he became quite a model public servant when he died or retired from the service. If hon. members were not satisfied with the manner in which these pensions were computed, the better way would be to amend the Superannuation Act, or to leave it in the hands of the Legislative Council to settle the amount of pension which every officer should receive on his retirement from the service.

The vote was then put and passed.

*Miscellaneous*, £8,120 0s. 6d. :

MR. SHOLL asked for some explanation as to the item "Travelling expenses, £700."

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. S. Smith) said it included a sum of £300 allowed for the travelling expenses of two new medical officers, and the new Harbor Master's passage money from England,—£100 each. The remaining £400 was put on to meet any additional expenditure that might be necessary.

MR. LAYMAN asked for some information as to the item "Purchase of stallion for Rottnest, £157 10s." Was it intended to start a horse-breeding establishment on the island?

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. S. Smith) said it was. A recommendation to that effect was made to the Government by a Commission appointed to report upon the administration of the island, and the Government had purchased this animal for that purpose. The expenditure had been authorised by the Finance Committee.

MR. LAYMAN doubted the wisdom or propriety of the Government entering upon such a speculative business as horse-breeding. He hoped the officer in charge would keep an account of the receipts and expenditure in connection with this horse-breeding business, to see whether it would be a good thing for the colony to it keep up. He had his doubts about it himself.

MR. SCOTT said he had been told that this stallion was hawked about all over the place, and nobody could be got to buy it, until the Government were induced to purchase it, and that, in fact, it was foisted upon the Government. He did not believe that those who bought it for the Government would have bought it for themselves, and that the Government had been imposed upon.

MR. PARKER contended that if the stallion in question ("King of the Hills" by name) was all that its friends represented it to be, combining in itself all the qualities of a showy thoroughbred and the more humble carthorse, and was (as was claimed for it) capable of transmitting these opposite qualities to its descendants, as might be required, the Government had got a real good bargain in this wonderful sire.

MR. GRANT said he should like some explanation as to the item "Colonial and Indian Exhibition, £1,350."

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. S. Smith) said this money had been placed at the disposal of the Executive Commissioner, who found that it had been impossible to do what was necessary with our court at the Exhibition without additional funds, and this amount had consequently been granted to him.

MR. LAYMAN: Will there be anything more required to finish off this affair?

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. S. Smith): It is impossible to say at present. This is all that we are aware of, so far.

MR. PARKER thought, from all one heard about our court at this Exhibition, that the colony was uncommonly well represented for so small a sum of money as we had expended upon it. Some of the other colonies had spent as much as £20,000 on their courts, and he thought it was highly satisfactory to that Council and to the colony at large to hear how well our court had shown up.

MR. RANDELL thought so too, considering the very small amount of assistance that the colonists themselves gave to the members of the Commission; and he hoped that our appearance, our creditable appearance, at this Exhibition would result in permanent good to the colony.

MR. SHOLL was inclined to doubt whether the colony was so well represented as it might have been and ought to have been. They must not believe all they saw in the newspapers about our appearance at this Exhibition, for these newspaper reports were perhaps furnished by those who represented us. He placed very little reliance in them himself.

MR. LOTON said that independent of any newspaper reports, he could assure the House, from private correspondence of his own, that our court had attracted an immense amount of attention, and was very highly spoken of, and that it compared remarkably well alongside the courts of much wealthier and more advanced colonies.

CAPTAIN FAWCETT did not know that we had saved much by the selection



of our representative. He understood that another member of the Executive would have gone without putting the colony to any expense at all, so far as representing it went, whereas now we had to pay pretty smartly. He thought it was an unwise thing on the part of the Government to expend so much money in the purchase of Kimberley gold specimens at more than the market price.

MR. MARMION explained the circumstances under which the specimens were bought, and said he thought the Government would have been very much to blame if they had not secured these specimens, even though they paid a little more for them than the current rate. Possibly there was no other exhibit in our whole collection that would attract so much notice, and prove such a good advertisement for the colony.

MR. GRANT thought the Government would have been justified in paying double what they did pay for the gold specimens. It was about the only attractive exhibit which the colony had sent. There was nothing else of its own that was worth looking at, and he was afraid the colony was appearing in borrowed plumes at this show.

MR. SCOTT asked for some explanation as to the item, "G. C. Knight—costs of action while Acting Sheriff, £88 10s."

THE ACTING ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt) explained that when Mr. Knight was acting as Sheriff during Mr. Roe's leave of absence, some goods were seized, and it appeared informally seized, and the result was that an action was brought against the Acting Sheriff for wrongful seizure. The plaintiff won the action, and this was a moiety of the costs, which the Government proposed to allow the Acting Sheriff, under the circumstances, as it was through no laches on his part that the cause of action arose.

MR. SCOTT thought that under the circumstances the Acting Sheriff ought to have had the whole of his costs refunded by the Government, and not a moiety of the costs.

MR. SHENTON also thought that if the Acting Sheriff was entitled to a refund of half the costs incurred he was entitled on the same principle to the whole of them.

THE ACTING ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt) said that the officer

in question had no legal claim upon the Government for any refund, but the Government thought that under the circumstances of the case they would be justified in giving him this amount.

MR. SCOTT hoped they would give him all his costs, seeing that he had been mulcted through no fault of his own.

MR. SHENTON moved that progress be reported, and leave given to sit again next day.

Agreed to.

Progress reported.

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

## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

*Wednesday, 21st July, 1886.*

Reserved lands alongside Eastern Railway—List of Barristers admitted and paid Stamp Duty—Rules regulating admission to Civil Service—Rules for admission of Barristers—Rolling Stock, Eastern Railway—Return of Pastoral Leases in various Districts—Message (No. 8): Fare by mail coach, Perth to Pinjarrah—Message (No. 9): Increase of Gratuity to Mrs. Slade—Message (No. 10): Proposing establishment of a Benevolent Institution at Freshwater Bay—Message (No. 11): Suggesting desirability of Jetty extension at Fremantle out of Loan funds—Telegraph, Gingin to Dundragau—Universal Penny Postage—Supplementary Estimates, 1886: final consideration of—Proposed New Land Regulations (Message No. 3): Adjourned debate—Adjournment.

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

PRAYERS.

## LANDS RESERVED FROM SALE ALONGSIDE EASTERN RAILWAY.

MR. PARKER asked the Commissioner of Crown Lands whether the Crown lands on either side of the Eastern Railway were open for sale; and, if so, upon what terms and conditions, and at what price. The hon. member said it would be in the recollection of hon. members that when this railway was being constructed between Guildford and York it