

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser); I move, sir, that you do report progress. These proceedings are derogatory to the dignity of the House.

MR. WITTENOOM: Turn him out.

Progress was then reported, and the House resumed, leave being given the committee to sit again on Monday.

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

## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

*Monday, 21st September, 1885.*

Prosecution of Messrs. Campbell and Sharp at Geraldton—Sanitary condition of Perth and Fremantle—Ostrich Farming: Mr. Malcolm's application—Electoral representation of the district of Plantagenet—Freight charges, Northern Railway—Kimberley Goldfields and Chinese immigration—Estimates, 1886: further considered in committee—Immigration Estimate, 1885-6: in committee—Public Works, etc. (Message No. 23): adjourned debate—Customs Ordinance, 1880, Amendment Bill: in committee—Loan Act, 1884, Amendment (Reappropriation) Bill: in committee—Scab Bill, 1885: motion for committal—Adjournment.

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

PRAYERS.

### PROSECUTION OF MESSRS. CAMPBELL AND SHARP, AT GERALDTON.

MR. BROWN (in Mr. Wittenoom's absence) asked the Attorney General the following questions, of which the hon. member for Geraldton had given notice.

1. Is it a fact that Messrs. A. Campbell and Chas. Sharp were a short time since arrested on the Upper Murchison and brought to Geraldton, a distance of over 300 miles, and tried on a charge of "wounding and inflicting grievous bodily harm upon an aboriginal native 'Babbagee,' at Ludiomdi, about the month of January last," who died from measles while under the escort of Police Corporal Smith?

2. Was the warrant under which they were arrested issued upon the unsupported testimony of one or more native prisoners undergoing sentence in Rottnest gaol?

3. If so, were any steps taken to test the accuracy of the allegations of the informer or informers before the warrant issued; and if so, what steps?

4. Before whom, and at whose instigation was the information laid?

5. What were the reasons, if any, why Messrs. Campbell and Sharp were taken to Geraldton for trial, instead of before the honorary Justices of the Peace residing on the Upper Murchison?

6. Is it a fact that upon the trial at Geraldton the charges against Messrs. Campbell and Sharp were, upon the testimony put forward by the prosecution itself, proved to have been wholly without justification?

7. Are the Government aware that the testimony of aboriginal native criminals should be received with great caution?

8. Do the Government intend to make amends to Messrs. Campbell and Sharp for the great injustice and loss which they have suffered in this matter?

9. What has already been the cost to the country of this prosecution?

10. To lay upon the table of the House all papers and correspondence in connection with this matter.

11. Whether the native interpreter used on this occasion was not brought from Rottnest for the case, and returned?

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. A. P. Hensman) replied as follows:

1. Messrs. Campbell and Sharp were arrested and brought to Geraldton from the Upper Murchison, on a charge of wounding and inflicting grievous bodily harm upon a native named Babbagee. There is no satisfactory evidence as to the exact cause of death of this native; he died while on the march, but whether his death was caused or hastened by heat, fatigue, measles, ill-treatment, or any other cause, or by any of those causes combined, there is not sufficient evidence to show.

2. The warrant was issued on the testimony of three natives who were with Babbagee at the time in question, and who were then under sentence of imprisonment at Rottnest upon charges of larceny.

3. The greatest pains were taken to test the accuracy of the statements of these natives before the warrants were issued. They were examined separately by the Superintendent of Rottnest, and with the assistance of a very intelligent interpreter. Their statements were given without hesitation, and appeared, to those who heard them, to be trustworthy.

4. The information was laid before the Government Resident at Geraldton, by Sergeant Waldeck, acting for the police on the part of the prosecution.

5. The charge was one which could not have been tried on the Upper Murchison, being beyond the jurisdiction of the Justices there. The witnesses were taken from Rottnest to Geraldton to give evidence.

6. It is not a fact that the charges were, upon the testimony of the prosecution, proved to have been wholly without justification. On the contrary, the evidence went to show that an assault had been committed, although perhaps not of so serious a nature as that which was charged in the information.

7. The Government are aware that the testimony of native criminals, as of all others, should be received with caution, and great caution was observed in the present case.

8. The Government are not prepared, under the circumstances, to make compensation to Messrs. Campbell and Sharp.

9. The costs of this prosecution have not been at present ascertained.

10. The Government are prepared to give any further information as to the facts of the case that may be required; but as the papers and correspondence contain communications of a confidential nature, it is not thought desirable to lay them upon the Table.

11. The native interpreter was brought from Rottnest, and afterwards returned there.

#### SANITARY CONDITION OF PERTH AND FREMANTLE.

MR. RANDELL, in accordance with notice, asked the Colonial Secretary, if it is the intention of the Government to take any action upon the report of the select committee upon the sanitary state of Perth and Fremantle, and the water supply—especially for Fremantle, as re-

commended and adopted by the Council. If any action was proposed to be taken, of what nature was such action, and when was it intended to take it? He might state that since he had given notice of this question, a message had been sent to the House by His Excellency the Governor, stating that action would be taken; if so, he should like to ask what was the nature of the action which the Government intended to take, in this important matter.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser), said he could only inform the hon. member that the matter would be considered with care, and any feasible action taken during the recess. It was impossible to make a detailed statement at present, as the resolution of the Council had only been in the hands of the Government a few days.

#### OSTRICH FARMING: MR. MALCOLM'S APPLICATION.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser), said that, in the absence of his hon. colleague the Surveyor General, he had to move the following resolution standing in his name: "That this House, having taken into consideration Mr. Malcolm's application for a grant of land, is of opinion that Mr. Malcolm should be offered the same concession as recently recommended to be offered to Mr. Lempriere." He was not aware that it was necessary for him to dilate upon the motion, for he assumed the feeling of the House would be in favor of granting Mr. Malcolm the same terms as it had already offered to Mr. Lempriere, so that we may have two strings to our bow.

MR. RANDELL said he understood that the present applicant, who was a resident of South Australia, was prepared almost immediately to carry out his scheme.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said the correspondence seemed to indicate that Mr. Malcolm was prepared to commence operations without delay; but whether he would do so on the terms which the House had agreed to offer Mr. Lempriere he could not say.

MR. MARMION did not think they would be justified in offering 5,000 acres of land in this way to everybody who

chose to apply for it. He thought the intention of the House was that the concession should only be given to the first applicant. It did not follow that because they had agreed to offer a concession to Mr. Lempriere they were going to repeat the offer to all comers. He thought the land regulations of the colony were liberal enough without any further concessions, and he would ask hon. members to pause before they granted any more concessions of this kind.

Mr. BROWN said that as one of those who had supported Mr. Lempriere's application he intended to support the present application, and upon the same grounds. If these gentlemen, or either of them, could succeed in rearing ostriches on land that was almost worthless for other purposes, they would be doing good service to the colony. Mr. Malcolm, he understood, was the same gentleman to whom a concession for the same purpose was made by the South Australian Government, and he was informed that Mr. Malcolm's venture there had proved successful. He sincerely hoped it would be equally successful here, if not more so. It was just possible that Mr. Malcolm, with his colonial experience, might succeed where Mr. Lempriere failed. He did not know that he would approve of these applications if the applicants were to be allowed to select their land where they liked, but it was expressly provided that the land shall only be selected with the approval of the Government.

Mr. MARMION: The applicants themselves will in the first place decide what is a suitable locality for carrying on their operations. Unless they get their land in a suitable locality for ostrich breeding they may as well be without it; and they themselves, we may depend upon it, will settle that point.

Sir T. COCKBURN-CAMPBELL said he understood that in South Australia a free grant was only given to the first person who made the attempt, and the terms offered were very liberal. He thought that was the principle we ought to act upon here.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said it might be argued that Mr. Malcolm was the first applicant here, for he made a similar application years ago. The question for the House to

decide was whether it was advisable that we should have two strings to our bow. If the House did not consider it desirable to offer the same terms to Mr. Malcolm as to Mr. Lempriere, he had no intention to press the matter.

Mr. BURGESS thought it might be advisable to grant these concessions, but he should like to see steps taken to prevent any similar applications being entertained in the future, otherwise they might be inundated with applications. He thought, with the hon. member for Fremantle, that our land regulations were sufficiently liberal to induce those desirous of establishing ostrich farms to lease the land required for that purpose.

Mr. S. H. PARKER said he intended to support the resolution, for this reason: it appeared to him very doubtful whether Mr. Lempriere will ever carry out his idea of ostrich farming. That gentleman dated his application from a London club, and very probably knew nothing about ostrich farming. If he had had no experience, the probability was that, if he did attempt to establish a farm, it would result in complete failure; whereas Mr. Malcolm, they knew, was a man who had already had some colonial experience, and who had succeeded in establishing an ostrich farm in a neighboring colony. Under the circumstances, he thought Mr. Malcolm deserved far more consideration at their hands than a gentleman who had taken up the idea apparently as a hobby, or from some whim or caprice. What he should like to see the Government do was, to offer the concession to the first person who carried out the conditions imposed; and, if Mr. Lempriere had not already been communicated with, he thought they might pass a resolution to that effect. If, however, it was too late to do that, he was prepared to support the present application, coming, as it did, from a practical man.

Mr. GRANT said he was averse to granting this concession, as he also was in Mr. Lempriere's case, for he considered that the success of the experiment having been already established in South Australia, there could be no doubt as to the success of the experiment here. He thought it was a very bad advertisement for the colony for it to go abroad that we had land to give to every Tom, Dick, or

Harry who chose to apply for it, to carry out any particular hobby.

MR. LAYMAN would support the motion. He did not think our land regulations were at all likely to induce people to come here and go to the expense of endeavoring to establish an industry like this; but he thought this certainly ought to be the last concession of the kind.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. A. P. Hensman) said the motion before the House stood in the name of the Commissioner of Crown Lands, and that alone gave him an idea that there must be something in it. Hon. members were aware that the Commissioner of Crown Lands had made himself obnoxious in some quarters by the strong views which he took as to his duty to protect the lands of the colony, and they might depend upon it that this proposal would not have emanated from the Commissioner unless in his opinion it was fraught with some possible benefit to the colony. The recommendations of the select committee in Mr. Lempriere's case appeared to him to have been very reasonable ones, and he could not help thinking with the Colonial Secretary that it was very desirable we should have two strings to our bow in this matter. It was simply carrying out a principle which the House had affirmed the other day.

Upon the motion being put, the House divided, the numbers being—

Ayes	...	...	14
Noes	...	...	7
			—
Majority for	...	...	7

AYES.  
Hon. A. P. Hensman  
Hon. J. A. Wright  
Mr. Brown  
Mr. Burges  
Mr. Burt  
Sir T. C. Campbell  
Mr. Crowther  
Mr. Harper  
Mr. Layman  
Mr. Loton  
Mr. McRae  
Mr. Parker  
Mr. Randall  
Hon. M. Fraser (Teller.)

NOES.  
Mr. Brockman  
Mr. Grant  
Mr. Pearson  
Mr. Shenton  
Mr. Veun  
Mr. Wittenoom  
Mr. Marmion (Teller.)

The motion was therefore carried.

#### REPRESENTATION OF THE EUCLA DISTRICT (PLANTAGENET).

SIR T. COCKBURN-CAMPBELL, in accordance with notice, moved "That any enactment introduced to give separate elective representation to the

"Kimberley District should also include similar elective representation for the "Eucla District." The hon. baronet said he thought it unnecessary for him to say many words in bringing forward this motion, because, he thought, when he spoke on the subject the other night, nearly all hon. members seemed to consider it a reasonable thing to do. He believed that among the dissentients on that occasion was the hon. member for the North; but he would assure the hon. member that he did not bring it forward for the purpose of what might be called adjusting the balance of power. Individually, he had no jealousy whatever towards the North,—he thought it was absurd to talk of jealousy between one part of the colony and another; and he had simply brought forward the motion for this reason,—if it was considered desirable and just to increase the representation of the colony by giving an extra member to the far-away pastoral district of the North, it was equally desirable and just to give an extra member to the far-away pastoral district of the South. The North already had two members, whereas the district which he represented—although it had three times the population of the North—only had one member. Although Eucla might not have the grand future before it which Kimberley was believed to have, with its minerals and its supposed capabilities for the growth of tropical products, still there was an immense extent of territory in the Eucla district, which only required the discovery of water to make it a source of great wealth to the colony. He did not imagine that any action would be taken in this matter by the Government this session; it would be almost unreasonable to expect it, seeing the late period of the session. At the same time he hoped hon. members would agree to this motion, and if a bill should be introduced next session giving increased representation to the North, he hoped a similar provision as regards the South would be included in it.

MR. GRANT said he rose to oppose the motion. As to the Eucla district being entitled to increased representation because Kimberley was, he should like to know what there was about Eucla to be compared with Kimberley, either as regards its revenue or its capabilities.

The only comparison he could draw between the two districts was that of a mosquito and an elephant. The hon. member combated the statements made in the course of the debate on Mr. McRae's motion, that the Plantagenet district (with Eucla) embraced as large an extent of territory as the North district, with Kimberley. Such misrepresentations, the hon. member said, were unjust, unfair, unreasonable, and dishonest. It was an imposition to attempt to place a district like Eucla, that was hardly known, on a footing of equality with the far-famed Kimberley district. If this motion should be persisted in, the settlers of the North could not fail to feel that jealousy was at the root of it, no matter what the hon. baronet might say to the contrary. If carried, it would only further strain the relations which existed between the North and the South.

MR. S. H. PARKER pointed out that before Eucla could be made into a separate electoral district it would be necessary it should have a Resident Magistrate, a clerk, and a court-house, and all the paraphernalia required by the Act for the preparation of the electoral roll and for carrying on an election. In this respect, Kimberley had decidedly an advantage over Eucla. As to there being no desire to disturb the balance of power, it could not be gainsaid that this proposal to give the South an additional member was not thought of until a movement was made to give the North an extra member, and, if this counterbalancing movement in favor of the South was likely to create any feeling of jealousy at the North, he certainly should oppose it. Kimberley was decidedly a more go-a-head place than Eucla, which for the next few years at any rate was not likely to rise to any great importance. The district was already well represented, and he hoped the hon. baronet would not press his motion.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) suggested that the motion should be amended, so as to make it refer to the Plantagenet District—giving an additional member to that electorate, instead of a separate member for Eucla. This would get over the difficulty referred to by the hon. member for Perth.

SIR T. COCKBURN-CAMPBELL said he did not quarrel with what had

been said by the hon. member for the North as to the statement made the other day that the district which he represented was, with Eucla, as extensive as the North West district, with Kimberley thrown in. He found on reference to the map that, although the coast line was perhaps as extensive, if the sweep of country inland was taken into account, there was a great difference. He failed to see why there should be any strained relations between the North and the South if this motion were carried. He was not aware that the Kimberley settlers considered that the House had been unmindful of their interests; what they complained about was that we did not practically understand the wants and requirements of their district, which was the reason why they wanted a local man to represent them. For years past there had been a feeling in his district that it had a much less voice in the Legislature of the colony than it ought to have; and, as a movement had been made to give this increased representation to the North, he thought this would be a favorable opportunity to bring forward the claims of his own district. He thanked the hon. member for Perth for calling attention to the fact that, under the Constitution Act, there was a difficulty in the way, as regarded Eucla; but the difficulty could easily be overcome by substituting "Plantagenet" for "Eucla" in the resolution. [This was done.]

MR. SHENTON urged the claims of the Victoria Plains, Dandaragan, and Yatheroo districts to increased representation. If an extra member was wanted in order to make up the required number to entitle the Governor to appoint a nominee member, he thought the claims of these districts ought not to be lost sight of.

MR. MARMION said if the argument was a good one that the North was not adequately represented by two members—he thought himself it was—then the mere fact of giving an additional member for the South would not give that district adequate representation; and the House would again be asked to give that district, as it was now asked to give the North, a third member. Last session he intimated his intention of bringing forward this question of increased representation, both for Kimberley and Eucla

during the present session, but he had not seen his way clear to do so. It would however, be rather inconsistent on his part, after making that intimation last session, were he now to oppose the present motion. But it appeared to him there was no immediate necessity to move in the matter now: when the bill giving increased representation to the North was brought in, it would be easy then to extend its provisions to the Plantagenet district. He still thought Kimberley had stronger claims to increased representation than Eucla.

MR. BURGESS thought the claims of the Murchison district to increased representation were well worthy of attention—quite as much so as the claims of the Victoria Plains district. The matter had been mentioned to him on several occasions, that, in the event of any further increase of members taking place, the Murchison and Northampton districts were entitled to consideration.

MR. RANDELL said he should support the motion. He had thought for a long time that the district of Plantagenet ought to have another member. It was not only a very extensive district, but also a district that was growing in importance almost daily, and he thought it would only be an act of justice to the more southern part of the colony that it should have another member. He considered that the North was already very fully represented in the House, and that it had always succeeded in getting what it had asked for. He thought if there were any interests or institutions in the colony that had real ground to complain of inadequate representation in that House, it was the municipal institutions of the colony.

MR. MARMION said although he would have been prepared to support the motion as originally put forward, giving Eucla a member of its own, he could not support the proposal now made to give the Plantagenet district increased representation.

The motion was then put, and negatived, upon a division, the numbers being—

Ayes	...	...	8
Noes	...	...	10
Majority against	...		2

AYES.	NOES.
Mr. Brockman	Mr. Brown
Mr. Burt	Mr. Burgess
Mr. Harper	Mr. Crowther
Mr. Layman	Mr. Grant
Mr. Loton	Mr. McRae
Mr. Randell	Mr. Parker
Mr. Venn	Mr. Pearce
Sir T. C. Campbell	Mr. Shenton
(Teller.)	Mr. Wittenoom
	Mr. Marmion (Teller)

#### FREIGHT CHARGES, NORTHERN RAILWAY.—REPORT OF SELECT COMMITTEE.

THE ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF (Hon. J. A. Wright) moved that the recommendations of the select committee appointed to consider the advisability of assimilating the freight charges on the Northern and the Eastern Railways be adopted. The committee had gone very carefully and most fully into the question, and after taking into consideration the different circumstances that governed the two cases, the majority were of opinion that, as regards the conveyance of ore, the charge on the Northern line should be reduced from 16s. per ton to 12s. This included loading and unloading by the Railway Department. As to small parcels, the committee recommended the adoption of the same rates on the Northern as on the Eastern line. With regard to produce and what he might call special goods, the committee came to the conclusion that the rates on the Champion Bay line should be one-fourth higher than the rates ruling on the Eastern Railway; and that all other goods be carried at the same rates on the two lines. These, he thought, were very considerable reductions to make, under the circumstances, and he hoped they would be acceptable to the Northern people.

MR. LAYMAN asked the Engineer-in-Chief whether he could say what the estimated loss to the revenue would be, if these reduced rates were adopted.

THE ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF (Hon. J. A. Wright) said it would be difficult to estimate, but he should say about £800 a year.

MR. LAYMAN thought they were already losing quite enough by this Northern Railway, without sacrificing any more.

MR. CROWTHER said the first paragraph of the committee's report stated that the committee had had under their

consideration the question which was referred to it, and that after "a careful study of the different circumstances that governed the two cases," the majority of the committee came to certain conclusions. He was sorry that the report did not set forth what the "different circumstances that governed the two cases" were, and that the chairman of the committee did not think it necessary to enlighten them on the subject. No doubt, if the rates were reduced, and the amount of traffic remained as at present, the revenue would suffer. Any school-boy could understand that simple sum. But it was beyond the bounds of possibility that the traffic would not increase if the rates were to be assimilated with the rates on the Eastern Railway. He had already, the other day, pointed out some of the anomalies in the rates charged on the two lines, and the injustice of the charges made on the Northern line, and it was no use wasting the time of the House in going over the same grounds again. He was sorry that no reasons were given for not placing the two railways on the same footing. It could not be on the ground that the Northern line did not pay its way, for it appeared that neither did the Eastern line pay its way, nor anything like it. The committee, after "carefully studying" the question, came to the conclusion that it would be just to the Northern people to make them pay 25 per cent. more than the people in this part of the colony for having the same class of goods conveyed by railway. Why the committee should have come to this strange conclusion, he really could not say, and he was very sorry, as he had already said, that the Commissioner in his speech did not let them know. As regards the post office and the telegraph, the Northern people were placed in exactly the same position as the people of any other part of the colony, and why they should not be placed in the same position as regards railway rates was one of those mysteries which certainly took a clearer headed man than the average mortal to fathom. The committee in their report said: "This reduction"—25 per cent. over and above the Eastern Railway rates—"your committee considers will be likely to give satisfaction to the inhabitants of Geraldton and Northampton." He could tell the com-

mittee it would do nothing of the kind. He ventured to take upon himself to speak in this matter for the whole district, and he had no hesitation in saying that the inhabitants of Geraldton and Northampton would prefer the existing rates to this paltry reduction, which only perpetuated what they regarded as a gross injustice. It was these little things that tended to create a feeling of jealousy and to strain the relations between one part of the colony and the other. There seemed to be an impression that the Northern people were not in earnest when they talked of Separation; but he assured that House that the Northern people were thoroughly in earnest, and that the perpetuation of this injustice would only intensify that feeling.

MR. BURGESS said he could fully endorse what had fallen from the hon. member for the Greenough. He thought with that hon. member that the inhabitants of the Victoria District had every right to have their produce conveyed by rail at the same rates as those residing in this part of the colony. There was a dead loss in working both lines, and as the people of one district contributed to the revenue just as much as the people of another district, he thought they all had an equal right to the same privileges; and he hoped the Government would yet see their way clear to assimilate these rates. It was an unsatisfactory state of affairs at present, and, if this report were adopted, the dissatisfaction in the district would be still greater.

THE ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF (Hon. J. A. Wright) said it must be borne in mind that circumstances altered cases, and he certainly failed to see the force of the argument that because they were already losing money they ought to make the rates on all their railways the same. The committee found that there was no more traffic likely to be on this line if the rates were reduced than if they remained as at present. It was absurd to say that the freight rates on all the railways of the colony should be the same, irrespective of the amount of traffic. The greater the traffic the lower the rates. They might as well argue that the price of all the necessaries of life should be regulated by law, and be the same in one district of the colony as in the other.

MR. MARMION said this Northern line, as they all knew, was built for a special purpose, the development of the mineral resources of the district. It was not a main trunk line, and there was no intention of extending it. Beyond the carriage of lead and copper ore, it was never anticipated that there would be any large amount of any other traffic, and he was not aware that there had been any great complaint as to the freight rates until a comparison was drawn between the tariff on the two lines. As pointed out by the Commissioner, the circumstances of the two cases were very different. We had other lines of railway in contemplation, and we should have every district in the colony crying out for an assimilation of rates. If this petty grievance, which only amounted to a few hundred pounds in the whole year, was likely to endanger the friendly relations that ought to exist between the North and South, if a small matter like this was the only ground which the Northern people could find to complain about, if a paltry grievance of the difference of a few shillings per ton in the rates for the conveyance of produce was going to result in Separation, it certainly was not worth while mincing matters,—let them give the North all they demanded.

MR. LOTON said he was on the select committee whose report was now under consideration, but unfortunately he had been too ill to attend the committee's sittings. He thought they were going rather too much into details which might very fairly and properly be left to the head of the Railway Department; and, although not disagreeing entirely from the report, he should very much prefer seeing the matter left to the Commissioner of Railways, rather than that the House should decide a question like this, which after all was a departmental question.

MR. McRAE said he knew that the question was regarded as a grievance by the Champion Bay people, and he thought they had some grounds for looking at it in that light. He moved, as an amendment, "That the report of the select committee be not approved, and that in the opinion of this House the freight charges on the Northern Railway be assimilated to those on the Eastern Railway."

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon.

M. Fraser) said the reason why this question had been submitted to the House was in order to give hon. members an opportunity of ascertaining the actual facts of the case, and to elicit from them an expression of opinion on the subject, after hearing what the loss was likely to be. There was no objection, so far as the Government was concerned, to the proposal embodied in the amendment, so long as the House would be prepared to make good the deficit. At any rate there was no intention on the part of that bench to oppose the amendment, but the House must clearly understand that in the opinion of the Engineer-in-Chief it would entail a very considerable loss.

MR. BROWN was sorry to hear that the Treasury bench had no opinion, one way or the other, upon this important subject. He thought the select committee had proposed a considerable reduction, as a concession to the strong feeling which existed at the North. But even now it appeared there would be a considerable difference between the rates on the two lines, the differing circumstances of the two lines justifying a different rate. If the amendment were adopted, in favor of assimilating the rates on both lines, the House would be adopting this principle, namely, that upon all railways, built or to be built in the colony, all goods shall be carried at the same rates; the question of profit and loss, all consideration of pounds, shillings, and pence shall be set aside, in favor of one uniform scale of charges. He would point out to the committee that they might be doing a grave injustice to some parts of the colony if they adopted and confirmed that principle, for this reason: the question might be asked hereafter, will it pay to construct a railway in this or that district, when we know that the traffic must necessarily be small, and that the Government will be bound to carry goods upon it at the same rates as on the main trunk line of the colony? It must be perfectly plain that where there was a large amount of traffic goods could be conveyed at a much lower rate than where the traffic was small. The argument in favor of assimilation of rates simply amounted to this: because the State undertook to carry goods at a certain rate upon one line of railway it was bound to carry them at the same rate on every line of railway,



regardless of the extra proportionate loss which it might entail. That argument carried to its legitimate conclusion meant this: he, as a taxpayer of the Murchison, had a right to demand the Government to give him railway communication, as they had given railway communication to other parts of the colony, regardless of the loss which his railway might entail, and the cost to the State. He should certainly vote against the amendment. He should really have liked to have known the personal views of the head of department upon this matter. He trusted the Government had ascertained his views, as to whether in the interests of his department he thought it would be wise to assimilate the rates. As to his Northern friends, he was sorry they were not prepared to accept this compromise in the same conciliatory spirit at it was offered.

**THE ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF** (Hon. J. A. Wright) said the hon. member for the Gascoyne charged the Government with having no policy and no opinion of its own on this subject, and it was suggested that they were shirking their responsibilities. Another hon. member wished to throw all the responsibility upon himself, the head of the department. He was afraid it was rather difficult to please hon. members. Of one thing the House must be certain—if the rates on the Northern line were to be assimilated to the rates on the Eastern line, this fact must materially affect the question of any further reduction being made in the rates on the Eastern Railway. The hon. member for the Greenough said he represented the feeling of the whole district when he said he knew that the proposed concessions would not give satisfaction. On the other hand, he himself had it on the authority of one of the most influential residents that these revised rates would meet with the approval of almost everyone. He thought it must be obvious that it would be manifestly unfair and unwise to adopt the principle of a uniform rate upon all the railways in the colony. This question of rates was a question that adjusted itself to circumstances, and every tub ought to stand on its own bottom.

**MR. RANDELL** pointed out that, in addition to the reduction in the freight rates for ores—which, after all, constituted what he might call the staple

product of the district which this line served—there was another concession, in loading and unloading, which would be done by the railway authorities free of cost. That was a concession that was not granted on the Eastern Railway—certainly not as regards timber. He quite agreed with the hon. member on his right (Mr. Loton) that the question was one of departmental detail rather than of public policy, and, for his own part, he should be in favor of leaving the matter entirely in the hands of the head of the department.

**MR. BROWN**: The Government themselves referred the matter to the House.

**MR. RANDELL**: Yes, I am aware of that, and I am sorry they did so.

The amendment was then put, and, a division being called for, the numbers were—

Ayes	...	...	7
Noes	...	...	18
Majority against			6

**AYES.**  
Mr. Burgess  
Sir T. C. Campbell  
Mr. Grant  
Mr. McRae  
Mr. Pearce  
Mr. Wittenoom  
Mr. Crowther (Teller.)

**NOES.**  
Hon. M. Fraser  
Hon. A. P. Hensman  
Mr. Brockman  
Mr. Brown  
Mr. Burt  
Mr. Harper  
Mr. Layman  
Mr. Loton  
Mr. Marston  
Mr. Randell  
Mr. Shenton  
Mr. Venn  
Hon. J. A. Wright (Teller.)

The original resolution was then put and carried.

**THE ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF** (Hon. J. A. Wright): I may say now, that as I intend going to the North as soon as the session is over, I shall most carefully inquire into this question, and if we can make any further concessions to the Northern people, I shall be happy to do so.

#### CHINESE AND THE KIMBERLEY GOLDFIELDS.

**MR. GRANT**, with leave without notice, moved the following resolution:—"That in anticipation of the discovery of payable goldfields in Western Australia it is desirable to take steps to prevent Chinamen or Mongolians from acquiring licenses to dig upon the said fields." He thought that in view of the probable influx of Chinamen to the Kimberley gold-

fields it was very desirable that we should place some restrictions upon them, as was done in the other colonies; and he hoped all hon. members would be with him in this matter. He thought it was very desirable indeed that our goldfields should be reserved for Europeans.

The motion was agreed to, *sub silentio*.

#### ESTIMATES, 1886.

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

#### *Works and Buildings, £13,315:*

MR. S. H. PARKER, referring to what took place between himself and the hon. member for Geraldton, when this vote was under discussion on Friday evening; said he desired to say that he regretted very much having, on the occasion referred to, in the heat of discussion, made use of some rather strong expressions, which he had much pleasure in now withdrawing. With regard to the item "Government House and Domain, repairs and upkeep, £200", he should like to know what this money was wanted for. A large sum had already been appropriated out of the Loan for additions to Government House.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright) said this was for the general upkeep of the house, and the amount was totally insufficient.

MR. RANDELL expressed a hope that the Government next session would be induced to place a sum on the Estimates to provide free labor for the Government Domain and the Government Gardens, so as to relieve the prison party for other purposes. The Municipality would get a great deal more good out of these prisoners than the Government could.

MR. BURT, referring to the item "Police buildings, repairs to various stations, £1,200," reminded the committee that last year the Government represented that they wanted £800 for this very purpose. Had that money been spent; if so, how, and what further need was there for another £1,200? Our public buildings seemed to cost a very large amount, year after year: it was almost incredible that such a large expenditure was really necessary.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said that about £700 of last year's vote had been spent, and the present vote was for different buildings altogether.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright) said he had estimated that about £4,400 would be required, but his estimate had been cut down to this amount.

MR. SHENTON said he noticed an item of £1,800 for Roebourne court house; what had become of the old building?

MR. GRANT: Eaten up by white ants.

MR. MARMION asked if the £800 put down for Roebourne new hospital was in addition to the £700 voted last year.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright): Yes; that money was expended in patching up the doctor's quarters and in making some additions to the hospital.

MR. McRAE said the hon. gentleman had been misinformed. Not a penny had been spent in connection with the hospital. What was spent was spent on the doctor's quarters.

MR. MARMION asked why the £300 was wanted for warders' quarters at Rottnest?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser): Following out the recommendation of the Commission who visited and reported upon the island.

MR. MARMION asked for some explanation as to the item "Furniture for Hospital and Court House, £500."

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright) said the furniture was required for Geraldton and Roebourne, and for the quarantine station at Carnac.

MR. S. H. PARKER, referring to the item "Furniture for Government House, £200," said they voted a large sum last year for this very purpose. The usual vote was £100 a year, but now it was doubled.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright) said that every care would be taken to keep down the expenditure, but he thought it was better to ask for what was considered likely to be necessary rather than be always going to the Finance Committee.

MR. GRANT thought it was high time they should economise the expenditure upon Government House. There seemed to be no end to it. It cropped up on almost every page of the Estimates.

MR. S. H. PARKER, referring to the item "Steam Dredge, £350," asked the Director of Public Works if he considered this a sufficient sum for this purpose? There was a considerable reduction, compared with the vote for the current year, and he also noticed that several votes in connection with river improvements had been struck out altogether. He understood the river was silting up rapidly.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright) said he did not think any more would be required for the Dredge. Last year the vote was £750, but a considerable portion of it was not expended. This was for working the vessel. With regard to the votes for river improvements, last year's vote for improvements in the Canning river had not yet been expended, and the vote for dredging at the mouth of the Swan at Fremantle had only been partly spent.

MR. RANDELL was sorry to see nothing provided on these Estimates for river improvements, and so little disposition shown on the part of the Government and of that House to pay any attention to the navigation of the river,—a river that would be valued very highly in any other part of the Australian Continent. The Dredge was merely toying with the work, and she was now fixed in a position where she could do no good whatever. Notwithstanding the establishment of railway communication, the trade on the river was increasing rather than decreasing, owing in a great measure to the opening up of new industries. He also thought it was very desirable that the Dredge should be overhauled and cleaned, and placed on the slip, which no doubt would entail considerable expenditure; but, unless it was attended to, a much more serious expense might be entailed, if she went to the bottom. Properly cared for and worked, this same Dredge was capable of doing good work still.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) moved to add, under the heading of "Harbor and River Improvements," a new item. The House had agreed to a resolution for a platform on the other side of the Ashburton river, and he moved to place £160 on the Estimates for that purpose.

Agreed to.

MR. MARMION, referring to the item "Roebourne and Kimberley Wells and Troughing, £200," said that year after year they voted money for these wells, but they had no information whatever with reference to them. They were not told whether any wells had been sunk at all, or, if there had, where they were situated.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright) said he believed there were four wells then in course of construction and completion, out of the vote passed last year. He did not know how many more it was intended to sink. Those that had been sunk were put down on the representation of the Government Resident of the district. When he (Mr. Wright) went up to the North, he would make inquiries about the matter.

MR. BROWN pointed out the necessity of wells being sunk between the Ashburton and Northampton, along the telegraph line. This was a work of absolute necessity. Should the line break or any interruption occur, it would be impossible at some seasons of the year to have it repaired, owing to there being no water procurable.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright) said that would be looked after. He understood that a great many wells had been sunk on the line referred to.

MR. MARMION, referring to an item "Gas fittings, various Government Buildings, £325," asked whether this vote was intended for Perth alone, or whether Fremantle was to get its share.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright) said he believed that, with the exception of the railway station, the vote was intended entirely for the Government buildings in the city.

MR. S. H. PARKER called attention to the item "Albany Sand Patch, £400." The expenditure upon this sand patch seemed, like Tennyson's brook, to "go on for ever." Hundreds and thousands of pounds had been expended upon the work, and there seemed to be no end of it.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright) said that when he was in Albany he visited this sand patch, and he believed that the present vote ought to finish it. It would

be a very great pity if the work were to be stopped just at this moment, for he believed it was doing a great deal of good. Everything seemed to be going on exceedingly well, and he trusted the whole thing might be finished next year, if prison labor continued available.

MR. BURT said that was exactly what had been said in that House for the last four years. Attention was called to it last session by the hon. member for Fremantle, and the then Director of Public Works said he believed that the vote then asked for *would* be the last vote required. The Colonial Secretary also said there was every reason to believe that no more money would be required after last year's vote. That was a very old tale indeed, and yet they were now asked to vote another £400, with the same promise that this certainly *would* be the last amount required. No doubt it was a very necessary work, but the mystery was, why the Government did not have it completed, and be done with it. He really did not feel inclined to vote another sixpence for this sand-patch. If some really effective scheme were placed before them, he should be prepared to vote even £3,000 or £4,000 to make a good job of it, that would last; but this was simply frittering money away. He thought the vote ought to be struck out, and that the Director of Public Works should formulate some scheme that would effectually meet the difficulty, which would have his (Mr. Burt's) cordial support.

MR. RANDELL thought it would be a great pity that an important work like this should be stopped just as it was on the eve of completion. He was not prepared to say whether the money had been well spent or not, or whether proper measures had been taken to arrest the drifting of the sand; but he felt that in this, as in other matters of the kind, it ought to be left in the hands of the responsible head of the department, the Director of Public Works.

MR. MARMION said he should most decidedly support the proposition that the vote be struck out. It was simply perpetuating a useless expenditure. Last year they voted £600 for the work, and he asked the Government whether that would really be the last sum they would be asked to vote, and they were assured

that it would. If all this money was required for the work, it ought to have come out of another vote and not out of general revenue; and, if they voted this amount this year, they might depend it would not be the last vote they would be asked to pass for this same sandpatch.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright) said he had already stated that he had seen the work himself, and that he was perfectly satisfied with the way it had been carried out, and that the present vote would complete it. He thought it would be a very short-sighted policy to strike out the vote. It might cost the colony £10,000 to remedy the evil.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said that no one who opposed this vote could have the interests of Albany at heart, and he might say the interests of the colony. It was an absolutely necessary expenditure, unless they wanted this splendid harbor filled up. He hoped the hon. member would not press his intention of moving to strike out the vote.

MR. BROWN: Can the Director of Public Works inform us how many acres still remain to be covered?

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright): I believe, about 23 acres.

MR. BROWN: I am quite satisfied that to potter at it, as has been done in the past, will be money thrown away, but if only about 20 acres remain to be scrubbed, which would probably cost about £20 an acre, the present vote may probably suffice, if the scrub is within easy distance. Perhaps, under the circumstances, now that we have been informed of the precise number of acres that require to be covered to complete the work, this vote may be allowed to pass. But I do hope we shall have no more votes asked for.

MR. MARMION said that out of respect for the Director of Public Works he should not press his motion to strike out the vote, though he still thought he would be acting judiciously were he to do so. He only hoped that under the supervision of the present head of the Works Department they might hope for some better results than in the past.

MR. BURT failed to see how the Director of Public Works could supervise

a work, hundreds of miles away from it. He doubted very much whether the Director of Public Works was aware of the system that had been pursued in connection with this sandpatch—two or three men employed now and then, in a fitful way, instead of grappling effectually with the evil at once, and so do away with it.

The matter then dropped.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said that under the heading of "Minor Works and Services," he had to move the addition of the following new item: "Two locomotive boilers, £500."

THE ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF (Hon. J. A. Wright) said these boilers were required to replace those worn out on the Northern Railway.

MR. SHENTON asked whether it was true that portions of the new Fairlie engine on that line had been used for repairing the engine now at work?

THE ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF (Hon. J. A. Wright) said that a great many parts belonging to the new engine had been so used, but, luckily, they were parts that could be easily replaced here. He had given orders to have the new engine put in working order so as to relieve the other one, and they would then be able to see exactly what was required.

The new item was agreed to, and the vote as amended put and passed.

*Roads and Bridges, Item £10,000 :*

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said hon. members were of course aware that there was a further sum of £5,000 which he hoped would be available for expenditure under this head.

MR. BURT said he did not know how it was that this vote for roads and bridges was always voted in a lump sum, seeing the detailed information which they had with reference to the apportionment of other votes on the Estimates. Possibly it was thought better, in order to avoid all wrangling and jealousy, that the distribution of the vote should be left to the Government. He wished to draw the attention of the Government to this fact—that, as several districts of the colony were now provided with railway communication, it would only be fair towards those districts which had no such means of communication provided for

them, that they should have a larger share of this vote for roads and bridges. He would ask the Government to give particular attention, in the apportionment of this grant, to the claims of the district which he represented, which derived no benefit whatever from any railway in existence or contemplated. He thought the Murray district was entitled to at least £2,000 out of this vote.

MR. SHENTON said there were other districts which required just as much consideration as the Murray district. The hon. member should bear in mind that although money had been appropriated for branch railways to Newcastle and Northam, still those railways were not yet accomplished facts. The Victoria Plains, Dandaragan, and Yatheroo districts were far more entitled to consideration than the Murray, where the whole population did not exceed more than about 250 adults.

MR. RANDELL did not know whether the hon. member for the Murray and Williams was in earnest when he spoke of getting £2,000 out of this vote for the Murray District; he should think the hon. member was only joking. The hon. member's request reminded him of Shakespeare's words about "vaulting ambition overleaping itself."

MR. LAYMAN thought the southern districts ought to have a much larger share of this vote than they had been receiving in the past, and he thought the Government might, out of the £5,000 additional which it was proposed to expend on roads, devote £500 towards improving the road between Bunbury and Busselton.

The vote was agreed to, as printed.

*Ecclesiastical Grant, Item £3,543 :*

Agreed to without comment.

*Literary, Scientific, and Agricultural Grant, Item £975 :*

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said hon. members were aware that there was a gentleman residing at Fremantle who for some years past had devoted much valuable time to collecting and arranging the nucleus of a Museum, mineralogical and geological, in that town, which it was hoped would some day blossom into a national institution of which the colony may be proud. Had the finances of the colony warranted it, he had intended to have asked the

House to vote a considerable sum for developing and enlarging the scope of this useful institution, but he did not feel justified in doing so this year, though he hoped the day was not far distant when they would be able to vote a considerable sum of money towards the establishment of a really creditable Museum, worthy of the colony. Very good work was now being done by the gentleman referred to, done systematically and unobtrusively, and as a labor of love; and he had been directed to ask that a sum of £100 may be included in this vote as a gratuity to the Rev. Mr. Nicolay, in recognition of his voluntary services in connection with this infant establishment. He thought all who knew Mr. Nicolay, and who knew the labor he had bestowed upon this collection, would cheerfully recognise his claim to a recognition of his services.

The new item was unanimously approved.

MR. RANDELL asked whether the Government received any reports from the Mechanics Institutes and kindred associations in receipt of grants-in-aid, as to how the money was expended?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said no reports were received by the Government, but he thought it would be a very good plan if the secretaries of these institutions were required to furnish an annual report. The House had a perfect right to know how the money it voted was expended, and the matter was one which he would give his attention to.

The vote was then put and passed.

*Pensions*, Item £1,851 8s. 3d.:

Agreed to, without comment.

*Revenue Services, North-West Coast*, Item £1,200:

Agreed to, without discussion.

*Miscellaneous*, Item £20,546:

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser), referring to the item "Stationery for Public Offices, £1,500," said that the Government Printer and the Storekeeper estimated that this amount would be insufficient, in view of the increasing demands for stationery, and he had to move that the item be increased by £300.

MR. SHENTON said he was a member of the Departmental Commission that sat some years ago, and he remembered

that the Commission drew attention to the very expensive quality of the stationery used in the public offices—far more so than was used in the other colonies—and it was understood that a cheaper paper would be introduced. He believed a considerable saving might be effected in this vote if that were done.

The additional amount was agreed to.

MR. SHENTON—referring to the vote for the "Destruction of Wild Dogs"—called attention to the desirability of offering rewards for the destruction of porpoises, which were becoming very numerous in the river Swan, causing great havoc among the fish in the river. A boatman told him the other day that he recently counted 50 porpoises between Perth and Fremantle, and, unless some steps were taken to destroy these fellows, which preyed on the smaller fish, the latter would soon become very scarce.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) suggested the formation of a syndicate, to be called the Porpoise Destroying Syndicate, which he should imagine would be a very good paying concern, as the oil from these porpoises was a very valuable article of commerce.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser), referring to the item "Boat for Carnarvon, £250," said it would be necessary also to provide a floating light, and he had to move that the vote be increased by £80. This was done at the request of the hon. member for the district, who was satisfied as to the sufficiency of the vote.

Agreed to.

MR. SHENTON hoped the position of this light would be fixed by the Admiralty surveyors.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser): Attention will be paid to that.

The vote under the head of "Miscellaneous" was then put and passed.

*Refunds*, Item £600:

Agreed to, without discussion.

*Immigration* (reverted to):

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said he had to move, in accordance with a resolution of the House, that a further sum of £10,000 be added to this vote, as follows: "Transfer to Immigration Fund under Act 47th Vict., No. 24, £10,000."

The motion was agreed to *sub silentio*.  
Estimates to be reported.

#### IMMIGRATION ESTIMATES, 1885-6.

These Estimates, which contemplated an expenditure of £22,000 for immigration purposes, were passed without discussion or comment.

#### PUBLIC WORKS, ETC. (MESSAGE No. 23).

On the order of the day for the further consideration of this Message,

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser), referring to paragraph (b)—being an application from the Postmaster General for a grant of £3,000 for the repoling of the Eucla telegraph line—said, with regard to this item, a simple relation of the facts of the case might prove satisfactory. His attention was drawn to the necessity of it by the hon. member for Toodyay, who asked him whether he was aware of the state of the telegraph line, as he (Mr. Shenton) had heard that it was in a very unsatisfactory state. He immediately wrote to the Postmaster General for information on the subject, and that officer made a report. This was on the 7th May, and subsequently the Postmaster General made another report on the present condition of the line, showing that the line on the whole was in good working order, excepting certain sections, and suggesting that a working party starting from Albany would be able to do much good by thoroughly repairing the line from Albany to Eucla. It seemed that to carry this out, the sum required for next year was as follows: Equipment of party and transport of material, £370; cost of party for twelve months, £720; and cost of materials, £1,918,—or £3,008 in all, and he was at first directed to place that sum on the Estimates for next year, but from facts of which hon. members were aware, it was found to be impossible to make provision for everything. Although it was advisable that this work should be taken in hand, the Postmaster General's report did not disclose the fact that there was an immediate necessity for it; but he hoped that when the House met again it would be in a position to vote the necessary funds for carrying out the work.

MR. BROWN said that after the explanation of the Colonial Secretary, it was unnecessary he should say any more than to move the following resolution: "That, in the opinion of this House, it is not necessary at present to expend the sum of £3,000 in repoling the Eucla Telegraph line."

Agreed to, without discussion.

THE CHAIRMAN reported that the committee had considered His Excellency's message, and agreed to certain resolutions.

The report was adopted.

#### CUSTOMS ORDINANCE, 1860, AMENDMENT BILL.

This bill passed through committee *sub silentio*.

#### LOAN ACT, 1884, AMENDMENT (RE-APPROPRIATION) BILL.

The House went into committee on this bill.

Clause 1—"It shall be lawful for the Governor to appropriate out of the sum of £35,000, in the schedule to the Loan Act, 1884, appropriated to the work 'Telegraph from Roebourne to Derby,' a sum of £4,227 for the purpose of completing the construction of the Northern Telegraph line (Northampton to Roebourne); and also to appropriate out of the sum of £28,000, in the schedule to the Loan Act, 1884, appropriated to 'Contingencies,' a sum of £15,000 for requisite works and improvements in connection with the Eastern Railway."

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said that since the bill was printed, some other charges in connection with the Northern Telegraph Line, for the completion of the line, had come in, and in order to cover all the charges he had to move that "£4,500" be inserted in lieu of "£4,227."

This was agreed to, and the clause as amended put and passed.

Preamble and title:

Agreed to.

Bill reported.

#### SCAB BILL, 1885.

On the motion for going into committee on this bill,

MR. RANDELL said that when at an earlier period of the session he introduced a bill dealing with municipalities, objection was raised because the public had not had an opportunity of considering the provisions of the bill; but here was an important measure, containing no less than forty-nine clauses, brought before them just at the fag end of the session, and a measure, too, which he ventured to say embodied a serious departure from the principle of the present Act, and one which seriously affected the country. He alluded to the compensation clause, under which the Government would be called upon to pay compensation to owners of sheep out of public funds. This was a provision that touched the interests of flockowners, great and small, and also touched the pockets of the public: and he thought it would only be just and reasonable that the country should have an opportunity of considering the bill before it became law. There was another reason why he thought the passage of the bill should be delayed, and that was, because it had not been officially referred to the Board appointed to advise the Government upon this question of scab in sheep. He thought there was no pressing necessity for passing such a bill at this late period of the session, and he therefore felt constrained to move, as an amendment upon the motion for going into committee, that the committal of the bill take place that day six months.

MR. BURGESS seconded the amendment. The bill was a very important bill, and one that ought not to be hurried through the House. The session was now drawing to a close, and it was not likely that the bill would now receive that consideration which it deserved.

MR. BURT said he was not surprised at the amendment, considering what had been done during the last few days to hurry on the work in order to bring the session to a close. He himself had been opposed to this hurry-scurry all through, and it was not his fault if hon. members were not prepared to devote more attention to the bill. This question of amending our Scab Act had been brought before the House a month ago, and the question was referred to a select committee; but, owing to the number of other committees sitting at the time, it was found impossible to deal with this

question a moment earlier than it had been dealt with. The bill was chiefly a reprint of the existing Act, with a few amendments rendering the law more stringent; and these amendments, which appeared in the report of the committee, had been before the House for several days past. As to referring the bill to the country, because it affected the interests of flockowners, he thought, when they came to look at the names of those who sat on the select committee upon the bill—Mr. Steere, Mr. Harper, Mr. McRae, Mr. Grant, Mr. Brown, and himself—it would be seen that the committee consisted almost entirely of sheep-owners, and it might be depended that their recommendations would be recommendations made in the interests of flockowners, rather than otherwise. There was a general desire on the part of sheep-owners to deal with this question of scab more effectually than it had been dealt with hitherto; and this could only be done by adopting more stringent measures. The question of compensation was one that simply affected sheep that became infected when travelling, and he did not suppose any sheepowner would object to receiving compensation for any of his sheep that had been destroyed; therefore, he did not think there was any necessity to appeal to the country upon that question. Although the bill had not been referred officially to the Board of Advice, the members of that Board quite concurred in the recommendations of the committee, and all the leading inspectors who had been consulted on the subject were of the same opinion, that the bill was a move in the right direction; and that without some such legislation there was no hope of the disease being entirely eradicated. Under these circumstances, though late in the session, he hoped the House would not rise until this very necessary work was completed.

MR. HARPER said he might state that the Board of Advice thoroughly agreed with the recommendations of the select committee, as embodied in the bill. With regard to the compensation clause, he regarded that part of the bill as of very little importance, the probability being that it would seldom or ever be put into force. It was very desirable that this work should be taken in hand



without delay. The disease was now reduced to within a comparatively narrow compass, and, by enforcing these more stringent measures, it was hoped that it could be effectually stamped out. There was nothing in the amendments introduced that was contrary to the spirit of the original Act; and all the sheep inspectors he had spoken to on the subject thought that the suggestions proposed were just what they required to enable them to cope successfully with the evil.

MR. BROWN said, as to the new principle referred to, of payment by the Government for sheep destroyed under the provisions of the Act, he would point out that this principle was only intended to apply under one condition, namely, to travelling sheep that were found to be scabby; they could be detained while the owner of the run on which they happened to be at the time sent for an inspector, who, if he found any of them infected, was required to destroy all upon which he observed any signs of disease, and to order the shepherd in charge to return with the rest of the sheep where he came from. The probability was that scab would break out among these sheep all along the road, and this perhaps above all things had tended to spread the disease in this colony. It certainly was a most potent cause of infection, and it was highly desirable that steps should be taken to prevent sheep from moving from the spot where the disease was first detected amongst them. It would be far safer, and more in the interest of sheepowners generally, that the sheep should be destroyed; but it would scarcely be fair that these sheep should be destroyed and the owner receive no compensation at all, seeing that he had been damnified in order to protect the public. All the neighboring colonies commenced with the same provision as we were now working under, but they all abandoned it, and substituted the more stringent provision which the present bill proposed to introduce here.

MR. BURGESS said that, in seconding the amendment, it was not that part of the bill alone that was in his mind. He had perhaps had as much experience in scabby sheep as other hon. members had, and he still thought the bill ought to go to the country and receive more time for

consideration than it was likely to receive at this period of the session.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said he had no wish to interpose any obstacle to the passage of the bill, but he thought their labors had now reached that stage when it would be necessary to have recourse to a slaughtering of the innocents, and he knew of no more fitting measure to be subjected to such a treatment than a bill dealing with sheep. Several hon. members seemed disinclined to proceed with the bill at this late stage of the session, and, though he believed the bill contained many useful and desirable provisions, he was afraid it was not likely now to receive much consideration.

MR. LAYMAN said he certainly should vote for the amendment. He thought there were many things in the bill which required thinking over, and that it would be better to put it off until next session. He did not see why the Government should be called upon to pay compensation to sheepowners out of public funds, any more than to other people.

MR. McRAE hoped the bill would be proceeded with. It was one of the most important measures of the session, in his opinion, and he believed if its provisions were strictly enforced the country would get rid of a disease that it had been vainly trying to get rid of for many years past.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. A. P. Hensman) said if the bill was such an important measure, it seemed a very curious thing that within a few hours, or, at any rate, a few days, of the Council being prorogued, they should be asked to take such an important measure into consideration, in a thin House, in the early hours of the morning. [Mr. Brown: It passed its second reading in a full House.] All he could say for himself was this: that, if bills of this important character were to be rushed through the House, at the fag end of the session, he was not prepared to take any great share of the responsibility of such hurried legislation.

MR. BURT thought it was very ungracious on the part of the Government, after the way he had, time after time, allowed the Government business to be proceeded with and to take precedence; and, after sitting there to all hours, it was very ungracious, he thought, on the

part of the Government, now to try and shelve this bill.

MR. MARMION said he was inclined to agree with the Attorney General that there was no necessity to proceed with the discussion of the bill at that late hour. Those hon. members who intended taking their departure had already done so, or would do so in the morning; and it would be impossible to get through the bill in committee that evening.

MR. VENN hoped they would go on with the bill, but he saw no reason for pushing it through with any undue haste or hurry. They had heard why it had been brought in at a late period of the session—owing to pressure of other work—and it did not contain many new clauses. They had been trying for years to get rid of scab, but without avail, though it was clearly a disease that was capable of being eradicated.

The amendment—That the House go into committee on the bill that day six months—was then put, and, upon a division, the numbers were:

Ayes	...	...	6
Noes	...	...	10

Majority against ... 4

AYES.	NOES.
Hon. M. Fraser	Mr. Brockman
Hon. A. P. Hensman	Mr. Brown
Hon. J. A. Wright	Sir T. C. Campbell
Mr. Burges	Mr. Harper
Mr. Layman	Mr. Loton
Mr. Randell (Teller.)	Mr. Marmion
	Mr. McRae
	Mr. Shenton
	Mr. Venn
	Mr. Burt (Teller.)

The amendment was therefore negatived, and the House agreed to go into committee upon the bill next day.

The House adjourned at a quarter to one o'clock, a.m.

## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

*Tuesday, 22nd September, 1885.*

Revised Loan Estimates, 1885: further considered in committee—Loan Estimates, 1886: in committee—Estimates, 1886: reported—Appropriation Bill, 1886: first reading—Scab Bill, 1885: in committee—Customs Ordinance, 1860, Amendment Bill: third reading—Loan Act, 1884, Amendment (Reappropriation) Bill: third reading—Adjournment.

THE SPEAKER took the Chair at noon.

PRAYERS.

### REVISED LOAN ESTIMATES, 1885.

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

*Eastern Railway*, Item £20,678 7s. 9d. read:

THE ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF (Hon. J. A. Wright), replying to Mr. Shenton, with regard to the item "Buildings, £2,550," said that a portion of this was for the station at Guildford.

MR. SHENTON asked how the station at Guildford came to be charged to the Third Section of the line.

THE ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF (Hon. J. A. Wright) said that, so far as he could make out, it was because no loan had been sufficient to carry out the work for which it was intended, and the result was that money raised for one section had to be used for another section.

MR. SHENTON said it was amounts like these that reduced the amount available for the branch lines, and the line to Beverley. This expenditure for the Guildford station never came before the Audit Committee. If the Government were simply on their own authority going to divert loan moneys as they pleased, he saw no use in submitting these estimates to the House.

THE ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF (Hon. J. A. Wright) said the total amount of the loan had not been exceeded.

MR. SHENTON said that did not matter; it was unauthorised expenditure. The money was borrowed and voted for the Third Section, and Guildford was certainly not included in the Third Section. The Governor was only empowered to authorise expenditure (that had not been sanctioned by the Legislature) when the Committee of Advice refused to do so,