

day or days within the time specified in the notice.

MR. VENN said he was rather inclined to favor a boundary line, though he had no particularly strong wish in the matter. So far as the Southern districts were concerned, he thought it was very desirable that some fixed date be specified for burning. He also thought the notice should be in writing.

MR. BROCKMAN pointed out that in some cases there would be no occupier to whom to deliver the notice, and the owner of the land might be hundreds of miles away.

MR. BROWN moved that progress be reported, and leave given to sit again.

Agreed to.

Progress reported.

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

## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

*Wednesday, 5th August, 1885.*

Fortification of King George's Sound: Federal action—Breaksea Cable and Eucla Telegraph line—Supplementary Estimates, 1885: in committee—Northern District Special Revenue Amendment Bill: first reading—Correspondence relative to Powers and Responsibilities of Harbor Master—Land Regulations (Message No. 3)—Transfer of Imperial Convict Establishment (Message No. 18)—Imported Stock Amendment Bill: second reading—Colonial Passengers Amendment Bill: in committee—Adjournment.

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

PRAYERS.

### FORTIFICATION OF KING GEORGE'S SOUND: FEDERAL ACTION.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser), replying to the hon. member for Plantagenet, said it would not be expedient to lay on the table of the House copies of the correspondence and telegrams which had passed between this

Government and those of the neighboring colonies, on the subject of fortifying King George's Sound, inasmuch as the correspondence was yet incomplete, and had been superseded, to a great extent, by the Secretary of State's despatch of the 12th June, now under the consideration of the various Governments concerned. Since the receipt of that despatch this Government had telegraphed to the Governments of the other colonies on the subject, and when their replies would be received a further communication would be made to the House.

### BREAKSEA CABLE AND THE EUCLA TELEGRAPH LINE.

SIR T. COCKBURN-CAMPBELL asked the Director of Public Works whether the Breaksea Cable had been connected with the Eucla Telegraph Line, and, if not, when the connection would be effected, and the reporting station at Breaksea placed in working order.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright): The submarine cable for the Breaksea telegraph only arrived from England on board the s.s. *Parramatta* on Wednesday, the 16th July. Everything had, however, been prepared and was in readiness, so that on Saturday afternoon, or only three days after the arrival of the cable at the Sound, the laying was successfully finished. The Public Works Department was most materially assisted in this by Captain Brooke, Lieutenant Moore, and a party of seamen from H.M.S. *Opal*, and it is to this coöperation that the laying of the cable was so quickly and satisfactorily accomplished. Immediately after the cable was laid a start was made to connect the land lines and the cable across the mouth of Oyster Harbor, and the work is being pushed forward as quickly as possible. All the necessary materials have been sent off. We purpose trying the experiment of telephonic communication at this place, instead of telegraphic. If this answers, as I have every reason to believe it will, it will afford greater facilities in communicating, with less loss of time and the great expense of having to station a skilled operator at the lighthouse with nothing to do but report passing vessels.

## SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES, 1885.

**THE COLONIAL SECRETARY** (Hon. M. Fraser), in accordance with notice, moved that the House do now resolve itself into a committee of the whole, to consider certain expenses requisite to be incurred during the current year beyond the amount authorised by the Appropriation Act, 1884.

**MR. BROWN** said he had hoped the hon. gentleman would have made a statement to the House before asking them to go into committee, explaining the necessity for these supplementary votes. That was the course which used to be followed in former years, but for some reason or other it was abandoned last year. He could not help thinking that this explanatory statement should be made in the House and not in committee, otherwise there would be no opportunity of discussing these Estimates as a whole, and hon. members would be confined to the particular item before the committee. He had thought it necessary to call attention to this departure from a practice that had been followed until last year.

**THE COLONIAL SECRETARY** (Hon. M. Fraser) said he thought he had followed the usual practice with regard to the Supplementary Estimates. The financial statement or budget speech was made when the annual Estimates were introduced. When the House went into committee he would be quite prepared, and it would be his duty, to offer explanations with reference to the various items.

**MR. SPEAKER** remarked that the practice in the House of Commons was to deliver the budget speech in committee, which was the proper time for making financial statements.

**MR. BROWN** said he did not rise to question the right of the leader of the Government to adopt the course which he proposed to adopt, and to reserve any comments he had to make until the House went into committee. It was, no doubt, quite competent for the hon. gentleman to move these Estimates without a word of explanation. He had merely pointed out the inconvenience of the course.

**THE ATTORNEY GENERAL** (Hon. A. P. Hensman) said this was not the occasion for delivering the budget speech. The question now before the House was the consideration of the Supplementary

Estimates in committee. What matter of principle was there before the House to discuss,—unless hon. members wished to discuss the question of whether there shall be any Supplementary Estimates or not?

**MR. BROWN** said if there was not a question of principle there was a question of expediency involved. Some of the items, though appearing in different parts of these Estimates, bore a close relation to each other, and he could quite conceive an hon. member being quite prepared to vote for one of these items but not for another, or at any rate he might want some explanation before doing so. The Estimates could not be discussed as a whole in committee, and members would be debarred from asking for any explanation except as regards the particular item put from the Chair. There was also this principle to be—

**THE COLONIAL SECRETARY** (Hon. M. Fraser): There is no question before the House.

**MR. SPEAKER**: Yes, sir; the question before the House is that the House do now resolve itself into a committee to consider the Supplementary Estimates of Expenditure.

**MR. BROWN** said that, when he was interrupted, he was speaking to a point of order, or rather of practice. They could not concede to the leader of the Government a privilege which was not accorded to other members of the House. Unless they were allowed to discuss these Estimates generally, before going into committee to consider them in detail, it would not be competent for them to deal with them as a whole after going into committee, nor would it be competent for the Colonial Secretary to do so, according to the rules of the House. If the hon. gentleman was to be permitted to review the whole of these Estimates in committee, instead of limiting himself to the particular item put from the Chair, and if the same privilege was not to be granted to other hon. members, then, he submitted, that a question of principle and of a very important principle came in. He had no intention himself to review these Estimates; he had only raised the point as a matter of principle.

**SIR T. COCKBURN-CAMPBELL** said he believed that since he had been an officer of the House it had been the

practice—and it was undoubtedly the Parliamentary practice—for the Budget speech to be delivered in committee, and it generally wound up by moving the first item on the Estimates; and when that item had been put from the chair, it was out of order to refer to other items. How the difficulty was got over in the House of Commons he was not at present informed. The only way he could see out of the difficulty was not to put the first item from the chair until hon. members had an opportunity of addressing themselves to the Estimates generally.

MR. SPEAKER: No budget speech has ever been made in the House, and it would be contrary to the usual practice to allow a financial statement to be made except in committee. I look upon these Supplementary Estimates in the same light as the ordinary Estimates, and if it is proposed to make any financial statement with reference to them, that statement should be made in committee. The question before the House is that the Supplementary Estimates be now considered in committee: those who are of that opinion will say Aye, on the contrary No. The Ayes have it.

#### IN COMMITTEE.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said this practice of introducing Supplementary Estimates had of late years almost superseded the much more objectionable practice of bringing in large Excess Bills and asking the House to confirm the expenditure which had already been made, and for which there had not been a shadow of legislative authority. The Government now-a-days met the House frankly, took it into its fullest confidence, and incurred no expense which had not been sanctioned by the Legislature itself, or, if not by the Legislature itself, by the Finance Board. Hon. members would find, as regards the Supplementary Estimates now before the committee, that, though in the aggregate they represented a sum of £29,242 ls. 9d., he thought he might say that in almost every case the advice of the Finance Committee had first been obtained by the Government. It was not his intention now to make any elaborate financial statement, as these were not the annual Estimates. When those Estimates were submitted, it would be his duty to ad-

dress himself at some length as to the financial policy of the Government, but at present it was only necessary that he should draw attention to one or two main facts in connection with these Estimates. He might premise by stating that last year our revenue was exceeded by the expenditure to the extent of £987 7s. 3d.,—that was to say, after paying all those charges and expenses incurred during the year, the balance at the end of the year was nearly a thousand pounds less than it was at the end of the previous year. The original estimate of expenditure for this year was £294,891 16s. 11d. and the estimate now before the committee involved a further expenditure of £29,242 ls. 9d. (inclusive of certain charges provided by statute), making a total estimated expenditure for the current year of £324,133 18s. 8d. The original estimate of revenue was £295,666, and the credit balance brought forward on the first January was £75,165 9s. 10d. giving a total estimated income of £370,831 9s. 10d. as against a total expenditure estimated, as he had already said, at £324,133 18s. 8d., and leaving an estimated credit balance on the 31st December next of £46,697 11s. 2d. Comparatively with last year, the financial outlook at the present moment was, he might say, a pleasant one, as regards the public revenue. Whereas the revenue for the first half-year of 1884 amounted to £167,628 10s. 9d. the revenue for the first half of the current year, ending on the 30th June last, amounted to £183,935 18s. 8d., showing an increase on the half-year of over £15,000. Of course it was impossible to forecast the revenue for the whole year from that of the first half of the year, but he thought they might reasonably infer that the receipts for the second half-year will, with what had already been received, at any rate reach the estimated revenue of the whole year. Consequently he did not think they were running any risk in appropriating these supplementary charges. In addition, however, to these Estimates, it would be his duty before the committee disposed of them to bring under the notice of the committee the provision that would have to be made for the maintenance of the Water Police from the 1st of April this year, when, under arrangement with the Imperial Government, the force had be-

come chargeable to this colony. Hon. members were aware that the Imperial Government had consented to refund the colony the amount it had expended in connection with the maintenance of the Water Police up to the 31st March last, but that henceforth the cost of this force would be chargeable to colonial funds. The whole subject would of course be laid before the House in due course, and he merely referred to it now incidentally. There were also a few other claims that had come in since these Estimates were in type, but he did not apprehend that, after provision was made for all estimated charges, we should be doing anything which from a financial point of view might be regarded as reckless or improvident. Hon. members would observe on reference to the supplementary schedule before them, that nearly the whole of the expenditure was in connection with works of a public character, and that the departmental claims were very small indeed. Among other provisions that had to be made was that in connection with the interest upon our last loan. Hon. members were aware that the only provision already made to meet this charge was a sum of £3,000 voted to meet the interest on a portion of the loan, £150,000, which, as hon. members were aware, was the amount originally intended to be at first raised. But, as the committee were already informed, the whole loan was floated in one lump sum, and consequently it would be necessary to make some further provision to meet the interest upon it during the current year. For this purpose a sum of £7,500 was now asked, which, with the £3,000 already voted, would provide interest at the rate of four per cent. on the whole amount, for six months. On the other hand we should recoup a large portion of this sum, for the reason that arrangements had been made for financing the loan in such a manner that the difference between the amount paid by the colony in the shape of interest and the amount which the colony would receive in the shape of interest on such portion of the loan as would not be immediately appropriated, would not be a very large difference. He would only add that in this as in all other matters the Government had gone carefully and cautiously to work, with the object of maintaining the finances of the colony on

a sound and satisfactory basis. And, as to the public revenue, he felt sure it had been under-estimated rather than the reverse. The hon. gentleman then moved the first item—"Extra messenger, Colonial Secretary's office, £25."

Agreed to.

*Survey Department, Item £218 4s. 3d.:*

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) explained that the item "Geological Surveys, £188 4s. 3d.," was to cover the salary and expenses of Mr. Hardman, while visiting the other colonies on his way back to England, for the purpose of instituting comparison between certain geological discoveries made here and the auriferous strata of some of the other Australian Colonies, so as to make his report of more value and of more interest than it otherwise would have been.

*Customs Department, Item £215:*

MR. SHENTON asked for some explanation as to the item "Rent of Warehouses, £75."

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said the charge had been necessitated by reason of their having had to hire additional buildings, all the Government warehouses being full.

MR. CROWTHER thought that the upper storey of the "A" store might be utilised for warehousing bonded goods.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) hoped they would soon be in a position to dispense with this item altogether, when the additional accommodation became available.

The vote was then agreed to.

*Works and Railways Department, Item £7,105:*

MR. SHENTON, referring to the item "General Manager of Railways and Maintenance Engineer, £100," said he found on reference to the Estimates for last year that they voted the full salary of this officer, and now they were asked to vote an additional £100.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said that Mr. Mason occupied, temporarily, the position of head of the department from the beginning of the year until the present Commissioner of Railways arrived in the colony, his salary being at the rate of £800 a year, and this £100 was given to Mr. Mason in recognition of his services during the present year, to the end of June.

MR. BROWN said he observed that it was proposed to give this officer a travelling allowance at the rate of £100 a year. Was this to be a perpetual charge?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said the duties of this officer took him very frequently from Perth. All the Government railways in the colony were under his general management, and it was proposed now that a travelling allowance equal to £100 a year be made to him in lieu of a daily allowance under the ordinary scale. This amount, he knew, was below that which the head of the department considered adequate for this officer, but His Excellency thought that, until a full trial was given to see whether it was sufficient or not, the vote should be fixed at £100 a year; and the £50 placed upon these Estimates was to cover the officer's allowance for the next half-year.

MR. SHENTON: Is he allowed to travel free on the Government railways?

THE COMMISSIONER OF RAILWAYS (Hon. J. A. Wright): Yes, sir, he travels free.

MR. LOTON thought it would be much more satisfactory if all public officers, instead of having a lump sum for travelling allowance, were paid according to a fixed scale, per diem, when travelling on duty. He thought so for this reason,—the Government would then be able to tell where any particular officer was on a given date, and what took him there. It struck him that this item was put forward in a lump sum, in order to save trouble, so that the officer need not bother himself about keeping any account of his expenses when travelling.

MR. SHENTON said that when this officer's emoluments were under consideration last year, the committee added to his salary in consideration of the fact that he would have to travel about a good deal, in his position as General Manager and Maintenance Engineer.

MR. S. H. PARKER said there appeared to him to be a great difference between paying a man who was always stationed at Perth, and who usually resided there, and paying a man whose special duty it was to travel about from one part of the colony to the other, like this officer had to do. He thought, however, he ought only to have his actual expenses refunded to him, and no more.

It was part of this officer's duty to travel about, and he thought there was a great distinction between what he was entitled to claim when travelling, in the ordinary discharge of his daily duty, and what such an officer as the Colonial Secretary for instance would be entitled to claim, if called away from Perth.

THE COMMISSIONER OF RAILWAYS (Hon. J. A. Wright) said that speaking personally he should say that it would be to the advantage of the department and of the colony that there should be a fixed travelling allowance for this officer.

MR. MARMION said the question of the amount of the vote was not so much as the principle involved. He thought that the much more satisfactory system of the two was for an officer to be paid his actual expenses, on a fixed scale.

MR. BURT said, as he did not himself agree with the principle involved, he should move that the item "Travelling Allowance to General Manager of Railways and Maintenance Engineer, £50," be struck out. This item would come to be looked upon hereafter as part of the officer's salary; and when it came to be regarded as part of his regular salary, he would come to look upon it in this light,—that the less he travelled about the less would his salary be interfered with. A far better system was to pay public officers what they were actually out of pocket when travelling, even although it should come to more than a fixed allowance.

MR. BROWN said he too preferred the principle advocated by the hon. member for the Murray. He understood there was a certain fixed scale of daily allowance for public officers when travelling, and that they were entitled to have all their legitimate expenses recouped to them, which he considered a more satisfactory plan than a fixed allowance, whether an officer travelled about or not.

MR. S. H. PARKER thought they ought to give due weight to what had fallen from the head of the department, namely, that in this case a fixed allowance would be the more economical arrangement for the country. It must be borne in mind that this officer had to travel not only on the railways but also by steamer. The Northern Railway was under his charge, and his travelling ex-

penses must necessarily amount to a good lump sum in the year. He thought they might let the item remain.

The question was then put—that the item be struck out; and, upon a division, the numbers were,—

Ayes	...	...	14
Noes	...	...	5
Majority for ...			9

AYES.	NOES.
Mr. Brockman	Hon. M. Fraser
Mr. Brown	Hon. A. P. Hensman
Mr. Burges	Hon. J. Forrest
Mr. Grant	Mr. Randell
Mr. Harper	Hon. J. A. Wright (Teller.)
Mr. Layman	
Mr. Loton	
Mr. Marmion	
Mr. Pearse	
Mr. Shenton	
Mr. Steere	
Mr. Venn	
Mr. Wittenoom	
Mr. Burt (Teller.)	

The amendment was therefore carried, and the vote, as amended, agreed to.

*Postal and Telegraph Department, Item £281:*

MR. SHENTON asked what arrangements were proposed to be made with reference to the appointment of a Superintendent of Telegraphs?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said the matter was in the hands of the Postmaster General, and that no definite decision had been arrived at as to the appointment yet. He hoped, however, to be in a position to make a statement to the House on the subject when submitting the annual Estimates.

MR. SHENTON hoped it would be borne in mind that it was proposed to establish a telephone exchange, and that this officer ought to have a knowledge of working the telephone as well as the telegraph.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser): Care will be taken of that.

MR. MARMION, referring to the item "Inspector of Telegraphs, £125," said he presumed this was a new appointment, necessitated by the extension of our telegraph system?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said that was so; and that Mr. Bailey had been provisionally appointed to the office. He had now to move that the item "Linemen's Equipment, £100," be increased by £140, making it £240. This was necessary in view of the extension of the Roebourne line,

so as to ensure the lines being worked properly.

The motion was agreed to, and the vote confirmed.

*Medical Department, Item £230:*

MR. STEERE, referring to the item "Allowances in lieu of Quarters to Resident Medical Officer, Newcastle, £30," said there were other districts where no such allowance was made, and why should this officer be singled out more than any other medical officers?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said a strong appeal had been made in favor of this particular officer, and a numerous signed requisition had been received by the Government from the inhabitants of the district in favor of granting him this allowance. The district was only sparsely populated, and the amount of private practice was very small; and it was on the distinct understanding that the allowance was not to be regarded as a precedent that this item was placed on the Estimates, in view of the exigencies of the position of this officer. In York, the adjoining district, the medical officer was provided with quarters; also at Guildford.

MR. BURGESS advocated the claims of the medical officer at the Greenough and the Irwin to the same privilege.

MR. CROWTHER said they had lost the service of an excellent medical officer at the Greenough and Dongarra because no quarters were provided for him. He hoped the same concession as it was proposed to make to Newcastle would be made to other districts.

MR. BROWN moved that the item be struck out. Very likely the private practice of this officer was small, but the whole question was taken into consideration very recently, and he thought if they dealt with one country district in this way, they ought to deal with them all in the same manner. He did not think the matter at any rate was so urgent that it need be dealt with upon the Supplementary Estimates.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. J. Forrest) said if the argument was to hold good that because some officers did not receive house allowance none ought to receive it, great hardship, if not injustice, might be wrought. In some districts, medical officers were able to supplement their official salaries

by a considerable amount of private practice, whereas in others, as in the case of the district where this officer was stationed, the amount of private practice was very small indeed.

Upon the question to strike out the item being put, it was negatived, on the voices, and the departmental vote agreed to.

*Harbor and Light Department, Item £465 :*

MR. MARMION again called attention to the claims of the coxswain of the Harbor Master's boat and of the Pilot boat to an increase of salary. He drew attention to the claims of these officers last year, and a promise was made that the matter would receive the attention of the Government.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said the matter had not been lost sight of, and when the annual Estimates were being framed he would draw the attention of His Excellency to the claims of these officers.

MR. S. H. PARKER asked for some explanation with reference to the item "Diving Apparatus, £100." What was it for?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said the department at present was without such a thing as a diving apparatus. An accident might happen at any time to one of our coasting steamers, which might get stuck upon a rock, and without a diving apparatus it would be impossible to get at her bottom. It was a very necessary adjunct to the department, at the principal port of the colony. Strong representations had been made on the subject to the Government by Lloyd's agent and others interested in shipping matters, and the Government proposed to obtain a diving apparatus for the port of Fremantle with this money.

The vote was then agreed to.

*Judicial Department, Item £50 :*

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said this item was intended as a table allowance for the Government Resident at Albany, the demands upon whose hospitality had been so great that the allowance granted to him last year had proved totally inadequate. It was incumbent upon this officer, as the representative of the Government at Albany, to entertain he might say all dis-

tinguished strangers who touched there, and he could not be expected to do so out of his own pocket.

MR. S. H. PARKER supported the vote. He thought £100 a year was a very small sum for a table allowance for this officer, whose hospitality reflected credit upon the colony. It would look very mean indeed if the Government did not depute somebody to represent it at such a port as Albany, and the present Government Resident was a gentleman who did the honors for the colony most admirably.

The vote was then put and passed.

*Police Department, Item £930 (postponed).*

The following votes were agreed to without comment: *Rottnest Prison Department, Item £25; Printing Department, Item £250; Inspection of Sheep Department, Item £100; Educational Department, Item £200.*

*Poor Relief Department, Item £400 :*

MR. S. H. PARKER said this was a large supplemental vote for the maintenance of paupers and the relief of the destitute,—what was the cause of it?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said the Superintendent of Poor Houses estimated that this extra sum would be required, judging from the expenditure during the first quarter of the year. There had been a considerable increase of pauperism during the past year, and the Superintendent apprehended that such would be the case for some years to come, chiefly in consequence of the number of expirées who became chargeable to the Colonial Government.

The vote was then agreed to.

*Aboriginal Department, Item £83 :*

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) explained that this item would have to be incurred in connection with the boarding and clothing of children at the native and half-caste institutions at Perth and Busselton, which would be in debt to this amount unless the funds were voted. As to the policy of State-aiding these institutions, that was another question.

MR. STEERE said he understood the Council voted a certain lump sum for these institutions, and that those in charge of them were supposed to maintain as many children as they could out of the

grant apportioned to them; but it would appear from what the Colonial Secretary said that the managers took in as many as they liked, and if the grant was not sufficient they came to the Legislature and expected it to make up the deficiency. Last year they agreed to an extra £50, and now they were asked for another £83. Of course, if they went on the principle of paying so much per head for each child admitted, it would be a different thing; but he understood all they had undertaken to do was to vote a lump sum annually, and let the managers of these institutions make the money go as far as they could. He thought himself the time had arrived when the question should be considered whether it was advisable to maintain a native institution at Perth. He thought it would be much better if it were removed out of town altogether into the country, and that all these children should be placed in the institution at Busselton.

The vote was then put and passed.

*Government Gardens*, Item £100:

MR. BROWN asked for some explanation of this item?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said the money was required by reason of the fact that no prison labor was available for working in the gardens, and consequently paid laborers had to be employed. The committee of management were quite unable to carry out the objects they had in view without some additional funds, their main difficulty being as regards prison labor.

MR. STEERE said he had been told that this difficulty arose in consequence of the Police Magistrate of Perth having converted all the habitual drunkards of the place into sober citizens.

The vote was allowed.

*Volunteer Department*, Item £881:

This vote, after the Colonial Secretary had read a memorandum by the Inspecting Field Officer, as to the various items constituting it—which included maintenance of field guns, small arms ammunition, prizes for rifle contests, accoutrements, expenses of Easter encampment, Martini-Henry rifles for Fremantle and Albany corps—was agreed to.

*Works and Buildings*, Item £1,765:

MR. RANDELL asked if the attention of the Public Works Department had been directed to the narrow strip of land

near the river's mouth at Fremantle, and to the necessity of protecting it. If not, he hoped the opinion of some competent authority on the subject would be obtained.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright) said he had visited the spot referred to, and that there was no immediate danger. Even where the sea had come over, it had not taken hardly a particle of sand away, but steps were now being taken to protect the place with fascines.

The vote was agreed to.

*Roads and Bridges*, Item £1,300 (Bridge at Wilberforce, £800; do. Mackie, £500):

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said the first-named bridge was one of two bridges which the Government had been asked by the Road Board of the district to get built, in order that the inhabitants on the other side of the river may be able at all times to have access to the railway. The second bridge asked for was between York and Beverley, about mid-way between those two places, and probably it would be his duty when the general Estimates were under consideration to ask that provision be made for this second bridge; but, inasmuch as the line to Beverley would not be opened for traffic before the end of this year, no vote was considered necessary at present for this bridge. It was necessary that tenders for the Wilberforce Bridge should be called for without delay, so that it might be put in hand during the summer. With regard to the Mackie Bridge, the condition of that bridge was a very dilapidated one, and a strong appeal had been made by the residents of the district for a sum of money to put it in repair.

The vote was confirmed.

*Literary, Scientific, and Agricultural Grant*, Item £50:

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said that £25 out of this vote was for the Fremantle Museum, the vote for last year having lapsed, without being expended. The other £25 was for a grant-in-aid of an agricultural society at the Blackwood, the inhabitants of which district aspired to have a society of their own, and they had appealed to the Government for some little assistance.

The vote was agreed to.



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

#### NORTHERN DISTRICT SPECIAL REVENUE BILL.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) moved the first reading of a bill to amend the Northern District Special Revenue Acts, 1873 and 1878.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

#### POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE HARBOR MASTER.

MR. SHENTON, in accordance with notice, moved, "That an humble address be presented to His Excellency the Governor, praying that he will be pleased to lay on the table of the House the correspondence between this Government and the authorities of ports of a similar character to Fremantle, in reference to the powers and responsibilities of the Harbor Master, as referred to in His Excellency's Message (No. 29) of last year." His Excellency in that message, replying to an address of the House, said that before altering the law regulating the powers and responsibilities of the Harbor Master at Fremantle, he thought it would be better to make some inquiries as to the rules and practice in other ports of a similar character elsewhere. The correspondence he now asked for would show the result of those inquiries.

The address was agreed to.

#### LAND REGULATIONS (MESSAGE No. 3).

On the order of the day for the consideration of His Excellency's Message (No. 3) relating to the Land Regulations,

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. J. Forrest) moved that the message be referred in the first instance to a select committee, consisting of Mr. Harper, Mr. Brockman, Mr. Grant, Mr. Venn, Mr. Wittenoom, Mr. Marmion, and the mover. He was aware it was competent for the House to have the committee elected by ballot (to which he had no objection), or to increase the number of the committee. But he thought it was not advisable to have too large a committee. It would, however, assist the select committee very much if those hon. members who were not on the

committee would give the committee some idea as to the principle which in their opinion should guide them in framing their report.

MR. RANDELL said this was a very important question, and one which he should like to see discussed openly in full Council before it was committed to the tender mercies of any select committee. He would move, as an amendment, that the debate be adjourned until tomorrow.

MR. S. H. PARKER said he should use his most strenuous efforts to oppose the appointment of a large select committee, which would simply have the result of swamping the House. When these large committees brought in their report, they knew they carried a majority with them, and all discussion in the House was futile. The object of appointing select committees was not in order to shirk or to burke debate in public, but to pave the way for a free and open discussion of the subject upon its merits. He would always strongly oppose the appointment of any select committee consisting of a large number of members.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. J. Forrest) said he would withdraw his motion for a select committee, for the present.

Agreed to.

#### TRANSFER OF IMPERIAL CONVICT ESTABLISHMENT (MESSAGE No. 10).

On the order of the day for the consideration of His Excellency's message relating to the transfer of the Convict Establishment to the Local Government,

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said hon. members had doubtless read the report of the commission appointed to consider the question of the terms upon which the proposed transfer might be reasonably and equitably agreed to and accepted by the Government. Hon. members were aware that the commission, after carefully considering the whole question, strongly recommended the entire acceptance of the terms now offered by the Imperial Government. They did so in the belief—which he might state was shared by His Excellency himself—that it would be advantageous to the colony to take over

the Convict Establishment on the terms stated. The commission, it would be observed, recommended that if practicable the transfer should take place at the end of the current year. He was not aware that he need add anything to the report of the commission, which was concise and to the point; and he would therefore now move, That the House approves of the recommendations of the Commission, in their report on the transfer of the Imperial Convict Establishment, to the effect that the offer made in the despatch from the Secretary of State, dated 11th May, 1885, be accepted.

MR. RANDELL asked whether, under the terms of the proposed transfer, Imperial officers would receive their pensions in full, irrespective of their employment by the Colonial Government.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said that was a question to be settled between those officers and their employers. The Secretary of State's despatch clearly stated upon what conditions, as regards the Imperial Government, the staff should be retired and pensioned. Under the Imperial regulations, upon the transfer of a service and its officers from one Government to another, each Government undertook liability only for its own proportion of pensions, and such pensions did not become payable until the officer's retirement. These regulations, the Secretary of State informed them, the Imperial Government intended to adhere to. When the Establishment came to be reorganised, on its transfer, the whole subject would have to be gone into.

MR. MARMION apprehended that officers whose services would be retained by the Colonial Government would not receive their pension on retiring from the Imperial service to join the colonial service; but, if they did not enter the colonial service, he presumed they would be entitled under the statute to claim their pensions, upon the abolition of their office. Of course it was not for us to dictate terms to the Imperial Government in the matter, but he did hope the claims of these officers would be equitably adjusted. The most deserving of them had been retained in the service of the Imperial Government, while the reduction in the establishment had been going on; and these men naturally looked forward to

receive their pension when their offices were abolished; but there was a possibility of their being deprived of their pension if their services were still retained by the Colonial Government. It might possibly be considered desirable and politic on the part of the Colonial Government to dispense with the services of these old officers, so that they might be able to claim their pensions.

MR. SHENTON said that as one of the members of the commission he wished to state that the duties of the commission were very much lightened by the action taken in the matter by the Governor while in England, and he thought the colony was indebted to His Excellency for the trouble he had evidently taken in the matter. He thought the arrangement now proposed was one that would commend itself to the House. The main conditions of the arrangement were that the Imperial Government shall maintain, at a fixed rate per head, all the convicts at present in the establishment, and all reconvicted men, lunatics, and paupers, also to contribute towards the maintenance of the orphans and destitute children of convicts or ex-convicts, upon certain conditions. The Imperial buildings were to be handed over to the Colonial Government, and, although the question of putting the buildings in repair had not been settled quite as satisfactorily as we could wish, still, looking at the amount which the Imperial Government had consented to pay us on account of the Water Police (over £6,000), he thought this sum would more than recoup the colony for any expense which it would be put to as regards repairing the buildings.

MR. PEARSE asked whether it would be compulsory on the part of the Colonial Government to employ the officers now in the Imperial service?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said that was a question that did not appear very clear from the despatch, and he should not like to reply to it without consideration.

MR. LOTON thought it was a matter that rested with the officers themselves. There was no doubt that the Government of this colony—if the proposed arrangement should be accepted, and he hoped it would—would be in a position to say to any of these officers now employed under the Imperial Government: "We don't

require your services any longer;" and, in that case, the officer would retire on his pension, which the Imperial authorities would pay. But if he entered the colonial service he would draw no pension at all but receive his regular salary, and on his retirement the Imperial Government would only pay him such pension as he would have been entitled to had he retired when the establishment was transferred to the Colonial Government. That was how he understood it. His own advice—and he thought it was the best advice both for the officers themselves and for the Government—would be to dispense with their services, when the transfer took place.

The resolution submitted by the Colonial Secretary, approving of the terms of the proposed transfer, was then put and passed.

#### IMPORTED STOCK AMENDMENT BILL.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. A. P. Hensman), in moving the second reading of this bill, said its object was merely to extend the provisions of the Cattle Diseases Acts to camels introduced into the colony, and to any other animals which it may be desirable in the future to bring under the operation of the Act.

The motion for the second reading was agreed to in silence.

#### COLONIAL PASSENGERS AMENDMENT BILL.

This Bill was passed through committee, *sub silentio*.

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

#### LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

*Thursday, 6th August, 1885.*

Petition (No. 2): Route of Blackwood Railway—Lockeville Post Office—Bridges over the Swan—Postal Notes: adjourned debate—Water-Boring, Eucla District (Message No. 9)—Adjournment.

THE SPEAKER took the Chair at noon.

PRAYERS.

#### PETITION (No. 2): ROUTE OF BLACKWOOD RAILWAY.

MR. VENN presented a petition from certain settlers styling themselves as of the Central-Southern District, praying for an alteration in the direction of the proposed Blackwood Railway, and moved, That it be received.

Petition received and read.

#### LOCKEVILLE POST OFFICE.

MR. LAYMAN, in accordance with notice, asked for a return of the number of letters and papers that had gone through the Lockeville Post Office during the six months ending 30th June last; such return to show the annual cost of mail service between Busselton and Lockeville. The hon. member said he found from the Postmaster General's report for last year that the number of letters received during 1884 was 2,636, whereas the number sent was comparatively few, only 804, which he thought went to show that the position of the post office was not a convenient one for the settlers round about. There could be no doubt about that, and the money now paid for the service between Busselton and Lockeville was almost thrown away.

The return asked for was laid on the table.

#### BRIDGES, SWAN DISTRICT.

MR. BROCKMAN, in accordance with notice, moved, "That an humble address be presented to His Excellency the Governor, praying that he will be pleased to place on the Estimates a sum of £700 for the construction of two new bridges in the Swan District." One of these bridges, the hon. member said, was to be an entirely new one, there being no bridge there at all, the Swan Roads Board having lately abandoned