

short time he was in the colony. Personally I feel certain that in him we had a Governor who had the interests of the colony completely at heart; and I know that ever since he left the colony he has given proofs of the sincerity of his feelings towards Western Australia by doing all within his power to serve it. He never lost an occasion to do Western Australia a good turn. I need say no more. I beg formally to move that the House do now adjourn.

MR. BROWN: I esteem it I may say a privilege to second the motion made in such feeling and fitting terms by the leader of the Government. Few know more than I do of how much Western Australia is indebted to the administration of Sir Harry Ord. Apart from his administrative qualities and what he did for the colony as its Governor, Sir Harry Ord was, socially, the friend of all who came in contact with him. I myself, sir, have felt a deep concern in the sad and sudden news flashed to us this evening, and, with the Colonial Secretary, I feel that it is due to the memory of the late Sir Harry Ord that this House should not proceed to business, but, as a mark of respect for his memory, adjourn.

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

## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

*Wednesday, 26th August, 1885.*

Continuous Brakes on Eastern Railway—Timber concessions to Mr. M. C. Davies—Vote for Indian and Colonial Exhibition—Eastern Railway Rolling Stock—Land Grant Railway Proposals—Conservation of Pearling Banks—Law and Parliamentary Library Amendment Bill: in committee—Volunteer Foreign Service Bill: adjourned debate, second reading—Freight charges, Northern Railway: referred to select committee—Dog Act Amendment Bill: recommitted—Report of Native Commission (Message No. 20): referred to select committee—Lady Barles's Annuity Bill: second reading—Municipal Councils' Titles Bill: second reading—Supplementary Estimates, 1885: recommitted—Adjournment.

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

PRAYERS.

## CONTINUOUS BRAKES ON EASTERN RAILWAY.

MR. HARPER, in accordance with notice, asked the Engineer-in-Chief whether he is not of opinion that it is desirable that the system of continuous brakes should be adopted on the Eastern Railway, in consequence of the steep gradients on that line?

THE COMMISSIONER OF RAILWAYS (Hon. J. A. Wright): Yes, sir, I am of that opinion.

## MR. M. C. DAVIES' TIMBER CONCESSIONS.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. J. Forrest), at the request of Mr. Steere, laid upon the table a copy of the agreement between the Government and Mr. M. C. Davies with respect to the timber concessions made to the latter in the Sussex District.

## INDIAN AND COLONIAL EXHIBITION.

MR. GRANT asked the Colonial Secretary whether a further sum would be required than that which had been already voted, for the purpose of having this colony represented at the Indian and Colonial Exhibition to be held in London next year.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said that until the Estimates were brought forward he was unable to give the hon. member any answer to his question. It would be seen then whether any additional funds would be available.

## EASTERN RAILWAY ROLLING STOCK.

THE COMMISSIONER OF RAILWAYS (Hon. J. A. Wright), at the request of Mr. Shenton, laid on the table a return showing how the sum of £26,199 4s. 2d. voted for rolling stock for the third section of the Eastern Railway had been expended. The hon. gentleman also promised to furnish a copy of the cost of the construction of the York-Beverley line, under various heads of expenditure.

## LAND-GRANT RAILWAY PROPOSALS.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser), without comment, moved, that the papers which have been laid on the table, containing proposals from

Mr. Anthony Hordern, and from a syndicate represented here by Messrs. Stone and Burt, be referred to the select committee now considering the question of railways and public works to be constructed from loan, and that power be given to them to call for persons and papers; also that it be made an instruction to the committee to report fully to the House on these proposals, and as to the action they may recommend in regard to them. The hon. gentleman also moved that the name of Mr. Steere be added to this committee for this special purpose.

The motion was agreed to, *nem. con.*

#### PROTECTION OF PEARLING BANKS.

MR. McRAE moved that a select committee be appointed to consider the question of the desirability, in the public interests, of closing certain portions of the pearling banks on the North-West coast, in place of those lately opened—such committee to consist of the Colonial Secretary, Mr. Grant, Mr. Steere, Mr. Brown, and the mover. The hon. member said that, as the House was aware, some few years ago a commission appointed by the Governor to inquire into the working of the pearl shell fisheries advised that some of the pearling banks should be temporarily closed, as they had become exhausted. These banks had since been opened again, and were now being worked, but with what result they were not yet in a position to say; but judging from the good result which had attended the closing of the banks at Sharks Bay, there was every reason to believe that these other banks had become replenished. During the past few years, however, some other banks had become all but exhausted, and it was very desirable that immediate steps should be taken to have them closed, so that they may have an opportunity of regaining their productiveness.

The motion was agreed to.

#### LAW AND PARLIAMENTARY LIBRARY AMENDMENT BILL.

The House went into committee on this bill.

Clause 1.—Repealing section 3 of the 37th Vic., No. 15:

MR. STEERE said as this section did not revive the clause in question, it was unnecessary to repeal it. He therefore moved that it be struck out.

Agreed to.

Clause 2.—“The Law and Parliamentary Library Committee shall consist of five members, two of whom shall be appointed from time to time by the Governor, and three of whom shall consist of unofficial members of the Legislative Council to be appointed in that behalf by the said Council from time to time; and any three members so appointed as aforesaid shall form a quorum for the despatch of business. In the event of the dissolution of the Legislative Council, or of its expiring by effluxion of time, the Committee constituted as aforesaid shall continue to exist until the newly elected Council shall proceed to the appointment of three unofficial members as hereinbefore provided.”

MR. RANDELL said he rose to move an amendment, and that he did so with the full concurrence of the hon. member who introduced the bill, and who, he believed, would himself have submitted the amendment if the forms of the House had enabled him to do so. It was that the words “appointed from time to time by the Governor” be struck out, and the following words inserted in lieu thereof, “the Chief Justice and the Attorney General for the time being, or such two other officers as the Governor may appoint.” These words followed the wording of the present Act. The hon. member in charge of the bill had already assured the House that he had no intention, when he drew the clause, to reflect in any way upon the holders of these offices; he believed the amendment now proposed would commend itself to the House.

The amendment was agreed to *nem. con.*, and the clause as amended put and passed.

Clause 3.—Short title:

Agreed to.

Preamble:

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. A. P. Hensman) said that when he saw section 1, which said that section 3 of the 37 Vic., No. 15, would be repealed, he thought it was a mistake for section 2 of the Act of 1881, which provided that the Chief Justice and the Attorney General

and one elected member of the House shall form the Library Committee. But he saw that section 2 of the Act of 1881 still remained, and unless that section were repealed there would be two contradictory sections on the Statute Book, one providing that the committee shall consist of three members and the other that it shall consist of five members. There was another point which he would suggest, that there should be a section saying that this Act shall be read with the other Act.

MR. STEERE said he was much obliged to the hon. and learned gentleman for drawing his attention to the fact as to clause 2 of the Act of 1881. With regard to the other point, as to inserting a clause providing that the two Acts shall be read together, that did not escape his mind, but on reference to the Act now in force, drawn up by the then Attorney General, who did not think it necessary to insert that provision in that Act, he thought there was no necessity for it, otherwise it had been his intention to have inserted a clause to that effect; and as the present Attorney General thought there ought to be such a clause put in, he would take care that it should be inserted. He begged leave that progress be now reported, and leave given to sit again.

Agreed to.

Progress reported.

#### VOLUNTEER FOREIGN SERVICE BILL.

On the order of the day for the resumption of the debate on the motion for the second reading of this bill,

MR. S. H. PARKER said the object with which he had moved the adjournment of the debate the other evening was so that he might have an opportunity of considering the provisions of the bill, and whether such a measure was not *ultra vires*. The bill was one to provide for the government and discipline of our Volunteers when serving outside the limits of the colony, and the first section of it provided that when so serving they were to be subject to Imperial military law. It would thus be seen that it was proposed by a local statute to make the Imperial law applicable to our local forces when serving abroad, and a question arose in his mind at the time as to

whether we had any power to legislate concerning anything done or to be done beyond the limits of our own colony. Under what was generally known as the Constitution Act, the Governments or the Legislatures of these colonies were authorised to make laws for the welfare and good government of their own colony, subject to certain provisos. There was also another statute on the same subject, giving colonial Legislatures power to make laws for the good government and the maintenance of order within their own territories. It therefore appeared that the only power we had under the Constitution Act was the power to legislate upon matters concerning the internal affairs of our own colony, and that we had no power to make laws relating to any matter whatever beyond the limits of the colony. In fact this question had been so decided in a court of law, at home. While it had been held that within the colony itself the local Legislature was absolutely supreme, and in no way subservient to the Imperial Parliament, still no colony had any power to legislate in matters affecting the colony beyond its limits; and, such being the case, it had appeared to him that at any rate the first clause of this bill, even if they passed it, would be wholly inoperative, unless the Imperial Parliament were also to pass a measure confirming it. Possibly such may be the intention of the Imperial authorities, for he understood that it was at their desire that these colonies were asked to legislate in this direction. He did not propose himself to move that the second reading of the bill should not be proceeded with: he simply wished to record his opinion that this clause of the bill, if passed, must remain a dead letter, until it is confirmed by an Act of the Imperial Parliament. It was a matter that rested entirely with hon. members themselves whether they thought it advisable to pass the bill. No doubt the second clause was one that might become useful in the case of our ever having occasion to send our Volunteers abroad, and any of them becoming wounded or killed, as it provided that all the provisions of the local Act passed two years ago—as to pensions and gratuities to wounded Volunteers, and to the widows or families of Volunteers killed in actual service, within the colony—shall also apply to

Volunteers wounded, and to the families of Volunteers killed, while serving outside the limits of the colony. He did not know whether it was likely that this colony will—at any rate for a great many years to come—be in a position to send a military force abroad, to assist the mother country. He imagined we shall find quite enough to do in looking after our own defences. Of course we all felt proud at the recent action of New South Wales in sending a contingent to the Soudan; we all felt that the action of that colony on that occasion was an act of patriotism that had reflected honor upon the whole group of Australian colonies. Nothing probably since the foundation of these colonies had brought them more into prominence in the eyes of the world than the spirited action of New South Wales on the occasion referred to. At the same time, although our more wealthy, more populous, and more prosperous neighbors might be in a position to send troops to assist the mother country in this way, he feared that for some years at any rate Western Australia would not be in a position to follow their example; and it seemed to him that even if we did pass this clause there was no chance of its coming into operation or bearing any fruit for many years hence.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. A. P. Hensman) said it would have afforded him much pleasure, and no doubt it would have been most interesting to the House, if he could have followed the hon. member into a discussion of the questions of constitutional and international law which he had raised. He was sure, if they had been in a position to deal with that aspect of the question they might have carried on this debate with much satisfaction to themselves, interest to the public, and great advantage to all concerned. But he feared it was not open for them to do so on this occasion. The only question raised by the hon. member which it was competent for them to deal with at present, was the question of whether this colony had a right to pass an Act of this description, affecting subjects of Her Majesty resident in this colony, but serving Her Majesty outside the limits of the colony. The hon. member had very justly observed that, before we did that, it would be necessary (or at all events ad-

visable) that there should be an Imperial Act bearing upon the subject. As a matter of fact this matter came before the House simply by reason of despatches received from the Imperial authorities on the subject. It appeared that when the New South Wales contingent was serving in the Soudan, the attention of the military authorities in England was drawn to the question of the exact legal position of the colonial troops, and as to whether they were in all respects amenable to the same discipline as the Imperial troops. This led to a question being asked in the House of Commons, and to a very decided opinion being given on the subject by the Advocate General, which resulted in a suggestion being made that a bill of this kind should be passed by all the colonies, so that in the event of any future necessity of assistance being rendered by colonial troops serving with the Imperial forces abroad, there should be no question as to the jurisdiction under which the colonial troops were so employed. In the words of the Advocate General, it was expedient that an Act should be passed "for more abundant caution"—it appearing that at present certain words in the colonial Acts conflicted with the wording of the Imperial statute. He thought this alone was sufficient assurance that the authorities at home had a full knowledge of the facts and of the law bearing on the subject. The discipline of the English Army was at present controlled by an Act which passed the Imperial Parliament in 1881, which from year to year had expanded in its operation, and which now prevailed in the colonies, over Her Majesty's troops. This Act expressly enacted that where a Volunteer force is raised in a colony, any local law of that colony might extend to the officers, non-commissioned officers, and men of such force, either within or beyond the limits of the colony; so that the Imperial Act expressly provided for such legislation as was contemplated by this bill, and would give validity to it. It was further provided that, supposing no such local legislation existed, and in the event of a colonial force serving with the Imperial troops, they would be subject to the Imperial law. But, as the Advocate General had pointed out, most of the colonial Acts contained provisions which

conflicted with the Imperial law; therefore "for more abundant caution," and to prevent the possibility of mistake in the future, it had been suggested that a bill of this kind should be introduced into the colonial Parliaments, and that was why the present bill had been brought forward, so that colonial troops when serving abroad with Her Majesty's forces should be subject to the same disciplinary law as the regular army. It was unnecessary that he should point out all the points where our local Act was in conflict with the Imperial law. In our Act we said, with regard to the men serving, that there shall be no death punishment, the heaviest punishment provided for, by court martial, being imprisonment for a period of seven years. That was as regards non-commissioned officers and men—he believed the officers were placed under the same law as the Imperial troops. There were several other minor points as regards courts martial and courts of inquiry being held by volunteer officers, which conflicted with the Imperial law. It was obvious that if our troops served with the Imperial troops they should be subject to the same discipline and the same law, which was the object of the present bill. He therefore hoped the House would see that it was very good advice which had been given to us, that we should unreservedly pass an Act that will put our Volunteers, when serving out of the colony, unconditionally under the jurisdiction of the Imperial law; and that was the object for which the present bill was brought in. He might say he was much obliged to the hon. member for calling his attention to the point, as it had enabled him to make this explanation. With regard to the social part of the question, it was not for him to suggest whether our Volunteers were likely to be called upon to assist the mother country, or how remote that time might be. At all events, considering the excellent effect which the action of the New South Wales Government had produced in closely binding these colonies with the mother country, he thought it was surely desirable we should still further tighten those bonds by passing an Act under which, should our own Volunteers ever serve side by side with the Imperial troops, they shall be subject

to the same discipline, the same code of honor, and the same law as the Imperial army.

MR. BURT said he simply rose to say that when he seconded the adjournment of the debate the other day, he did so because, like the hon. member for Perth, he had some doubt in his mind as to the utility of passing such a bill as this, unless it was done at the instance of the Imperial authorities; and he thought the House should be thankful to the hon. member for Perth for having elicited the explanation which he had elicited from the Attorney General—an explanation which he thought would be viewed as a satisfactory one.

MR. MARMION agreed with what had been said by the hon. member for Perth, that the time was probably very remote when the Volunteers of this colony would be called upon to serve abroad; and he would draw attention to the fact that no Volunteer belonging to the local force could be compelled to serve outside the colony. They only volunteered to serve within the colony. But, should the occasion ever happen that they volunteered their services to assist the Imperial troops abroad, he thought it was well that they should know the exact position in which they would be placed, under the Imperial law; and, under the circumstances, he thought possibly it was a good thing that this bill had been introduced.

The motion for the second reading was then agreed to.

#### FREIGHT CHARGES, NORTHERN RAILWAY.

On the order of the day for the resumption of the debate on the question of assimilating the freight rates on the Northern Railway with those of the Eastern Railway,

THE COMMISSIONER OF RAILWAYS (Hon. J. A. Wright) moved that the order of the day be discharged, and the question referred to the select committee sitting on Public Works.

This was agreed to.

#### DOG ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

This bill was recommitted, and some verbal amendments introduced. (*Vide* "Votes and Proceedings," p. 98).

# REPORT OF NATIVE COMMISSION (MESSAGE No. 20).

The Report of the Commission on the treatment of Aboriginal Natives, forwarded to the House with His Excellency's message (No. 20), was referred to a select committee, consisting of the Surveyor General, Mr. Randell, Mr. Brockman, Mr. Burges, and Mr. McRae.

## LADY BARLEE'S ANNUITY BILL.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser), in moving the second reading of a bill to secure an annuity of £150 a year, for life, to Lady Barlee, in recognition of the long and meritorious services of her late husband as Colonial Secretary of this colony, said he felt sure that no words of introduction were required on his part to commend the bill to the House. When the House went into committee on the bill it would be necessary to decide when the payment of the annuity should commence from,—which he would leave to the discretion of the hon. member who had first moved in the matter (Mr. Crowther).

The bill was read a second time, *nem. con.*

## MUNICIPAL COUNCILS TITLES BILL.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. A. P. Hensman) moved the second reading of a bill to make provision for changing the style of the Municipal Councils of Geraldton and of other towns in the colony. The hon. and learned gentleman said the House was aware that the natural or original title of the presiding officer of our Municipal Councils was that of Chairman; but as our towns increased in importance there was a desire that the title of their governing bodies should be altered and that the presiding officer should be styled a Mayor—he supposed, he would not say in imitation, but rather to follow out the rule in England—rather than a Chairman. One need not be surprised at that, for the title of Mayor was a very ancient one, and one surrounded, in England, and particularly as regards the city of London, with very honorable associations. The city of Perth and the town of Fremantle having already had the honor of having their presiding officer called a Mayor, it appeared that

Geraldton desired the same privilege, and it was in pursuance of an application made in that behalf that this bill had been introduced, in order that if such be the pleasure of the House, Geraldton may have its Mayor as well as Fremantle or Perth. A rose, as they all knew, by any other name would smell as sweet, and no doubt these civil functionaries would perform their duties equally as well whether they were styled Mayor or Chairman. It was perhaps after all partly a matter of sentiment. At the same time one could quite sympathise with the prevailing sentiment at Geraldton, but as it was considered probable that other towns would sooner or later aspire to the same distinction, and in order to avoid the necessity of bringing in a fresh bill for every future Mayor, provision was made in the present bill whereby the Governor-in-Council may at any time change the style and title of any municipality. He thought it was unnecessary he should say any more than this, that, as regards Geraldton, the House would probably be of opinion that Geraldton was a town that had attained a position in the colony which fully justified it in seeking to have its presiding officer styled a Mayor.

MR. RANDELL said he was very glad to be able to support the second reading of the bill. He should have liked to have seen the names of two or three other municipalities mentioned in the bill, such as Albany, York, and possibly Bunbury, for he really thought the time had arrived when these municipalities—and especially York and Albany, which were rapidly growing in importance—should be converted into mayoralties. The change of title was not merely a question of sentiment, it was also one of utility, for the title of Mayor was a very much shorter one than that of Chairman of the Municipal Council. It was also very much better understood by strangers visiting the colony, who knew what the Mayor of a town was, but perhaps would be at a loss to know what the precise status of a Chairman of the Municipality was. He should be inclined to go even further than conferring the title of Mayor upon the presiding officer of our principal towns only. He found that in South Australia every little township boasted of its Mayor, and he thought no harm would be done if we followed the

example of our South Australian neighbors in this matter.

MR. WITTENOOM said he was very pleased indeed to find that this bill was not likely to meet with any opposition, and that as regards the town of Geraldton the honor of being its first Mayor would, according to the provisions of the bill, fall to the lot of the present Chairman of the Municipality (Mr. Baston).

The bill was then read a second time.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES, 1885.

On the order of the day for the committee of supply to report to the House,

THE CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES reported that the committee had passed resolutions granting a supplementary supply amounting to £24,036 13s. 8d.

MR. BROWN moved that the report be adopted.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) moved, as an amendment, that the Estimates be recommitted.

Agreed to.

*Harbor and Light Department (Steam Launch, £500):*

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said hon. members were aware that a sum of £1,500 was included in the schedule of the last Loan Bill for providing a steam launch for the port of Fremantle. Since then it had been found that the class of steamer required would probably cost about £500 more, and, as it was the desire of the Government to provide an effective boat while they were about it, he had to ask that this amount should be added to the present Estimates. It was proposed to get a steamer measuring 60ft. in length, 12 ft. beam, 6ft. 6in. depth of hold, and with compound engines of about 50 indicated horse power, capable of steaming something like eleven knots,—in short, a thorough-going harbor steamer. The intention of the Government was to call for tenders for the construction of the vessel both within the colony and without the colony; and he only hoped that, with the advantage possessed by local enterprise in having the vessel built on the spot, rather than having it brought here from a distance, the result would be that the contract would fall into the hands of a local builder. In the meantime his present duty was to ask for the

sum of £500—in addition to the £1,500 on the Loan Estimates—to be added to the vote for the Harbor Master's department, to which department the steamer would be attached. On the Estimates for next year it would be his duty to move for a sum for the salary of an engineer, to have charge of this boat, and also a vote for fuel, etc.; but as it was not likely that the vessel would be put into commission during the current year, it was unnecessary for him to do more now than provide a sufficient sum for building the vessel.

MR. MARMION hoped the Government, while they were about it, would take care and secure a good, useful, serviceable boat. He was pleased to find that our local builders would have an opportunity of tendering; for he believed himself that a vessel can be built in the colony, certainly equal in quality, and he hoped it would be found that it could be more cheaply built than the same class of vessel could be built elsewhere and then brought into the colony. Would it not be desirable, in addition to the photograph of the steamer obtained from the Victorian Government, also to obtain from that Government a copy of the specifications and working drawings?

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright) said that what he proposed doing was this: He had already prepared the advertisement calling for tenders for building the vessel, and he proposed having the notice published in Adelaide, Melbourne, and Sydney, as well as in this colony, giving a general idea of the kind of launch we require, leaving it to the different firms tendering to supply their own drawings and specifications. As soon as those drawings and specifications were received, we should then be in a position to select the best and most suitable for our requirements. He thought this would be better than for the Government here to provide a hard and fast set of specifications.

MR. MARMION: Is she to be a wooden vessel?

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright): Yes, but coppered six inches above the waterline.

MR. WITTENOOM: What is she intended for? Is it to enable the hon. mem-

bers of this House to make excursions about the harbor?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said the vessel would do the work that was now done by the Harbor Master's lugger, in addition to which she would be employed as a tug boat. She would also be available for Rottest service, which was now a weekly one; and it was estimated that, once the vessel was provided, it would be a saving to the department.

MR. RANDELL while agreeing as to the desirability of securing such a vessel, expressed some doubt as to whether the arrangement would prove an economical one.

The vote was agreed to.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said that last year a sum of £100 was placed on the Estimates for moorings at Rockingham. It was placed on the Estimates merely in order to put on record the necessity of providing moorings for that port, rather than in expectation that the amount would prove sufficient. It had since been ascertained that these moorings would cost at least £250. Hon. members were aware that vessels visiting Rockingham were subject to the same dues as vessels visiting Fremantle, and nothing had been done yet by the Government in the way of providing moorings. The wharves belonged to a private company, and it was proposed to put down heavy moorings in the anchorage, to which vessels frequenting the port might fasten with safety.

The vote was confirmed.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) also moved to insert £300, being the estimated expense of removing the East Fremantle railway platform.

MR. SHENTON asked whether such a large sum would be required to move a platform that had only cost about half that amount?

THE COMMISSIONER OF RAILWAYS (Hon. J. A. Wright) said if the hon. member was satisfied with the present primitive structure, no doubt the thing could be done for the same money. But he hoped the days of such structures on our main line of railway were numbered. His intention was to provide a station that would be a little more presentable, not only from an architectural

point of view, but also from the point of view of affording the public every convenience that he could for the money.

The vote was then agreed to.

*Roads and Bridges* (Clackline road, £100):

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said he had to ask for this amount to enable the good people of Newcastle to complete the road from that township to the Clackline, so as to enable them to avail themselves of the railway.

MR. SHENTON hoped there would be no opposition to this vote. The people of the district would be unable to make any use of the railway at the Clackline without this road, and it was shown to the committee on public works that a large amount of the traffic of the district would come down to the railway by this road, when it was completed and made passable for traffic its whole length. It would then answer every purpose until the proposed branch railway was constructed.

MR. WITTENOOM thought it very strange that the Government, after telling them there was no money available for anything except what had already been placed on the Estimates—not even enough to pay the salary of an inspector of mineral lands—should now come forward and add several new items, for which it appeared money could be found.

MR. SHENTON said this was a work of urgent necessity.

MR. BROWN said unless it had been a work of urgent necessity he should have opposed its being put in the Supplementary Estimates. For his own part he should like to see the last of these supplementary votes.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright) said it was necessary that this work should be taken in hand at once. It would be too late, if they waited until the annual Estimates came before the House. The sooner the settlers were able to utilise the railway the better would it be for all parties.

The vote was then agreed to.

The CHAIRMAN reported that the committee had reconsidered the Supplementary Estimates, and agreed to certain resolutions.

MR. BROWN moved that the re-



solution be reported to the House at its next sitting.

This was agreed to.

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

## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

*Friday, 29th August, 1885.*

Sanitation and Water Supply, Perth and Fremantle (Message No. 7).—Superannuation Act Amendment Bill: first reading—Facilities to Gold Prospectors in the Kimberley District—Supplementary Estimates, 1885: reported—Destruction of Rabbits Amendment Bill: third reading—Municipal Institutions Act Amendment Bill: second reading—Volunteer Foreign Service Bill: in committee—Dog Act Amendment Bill: third reading—Dame Barlee's Annuity Bill: in committee—Law and Parliamentary Library Amendment Bill: further considered in committee—Adjournment.

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

PRAYERS.

### SANITATION AND WATER SUPPLY (MESSAGE No. 7).

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright), in moving that the report of the select committee appointed to deal with the question of sanitation be taken into consideration, said the committee had given their most careful attention to the subjects referred to in His Excellency's message, and that they had been very much assisted in their labors by the report of the commission appointed during the recess to inquire into these matters. The committee, in the main, had adopted the conclusions arrived at by this commission. In the first place they recommended the appointment of a Central Board of Health, having jurisdiction over the whole colony. This board it was suggested should consist of five members, to be appointed by the Governor, and out of the five it was recommended that one should be a civil engineer, one a medical

man, and one a practical builder. It was also proposed that, acting in conjunction with this Central Board, there should be a Chief Inspector of Nuisances appointed, who should also occupy the position of secretary to the board. It was considered advisable and a reasonable thing that the members of this Central Board should be remunerated for their services; and what the committee suggested was that their remuneration should take the shape of an attendance fee. The Chief Inspector and the Board's Secretary would of course also have to be a paid officer. In the next place it was proposed that there shall be local or District Boards of Health, to be appointed by the Governor, on the recommendation of the Central Board, in the various towns of the colony, and that the Mayor or Chairman of the local Municipal Council for the time being should be *ex officio* members of these District Boards. These local boards would have power to appoint their own inspectors of nuisances, but subject to confirmation by the Central Board. With regard to the expenses that must necessarily be incurred by these boards in carrying out their duties, the committee suggested that the expenses of the Central Board,—which, as he had already said, would have jurisdiction over the whole colony,—should be defrayed out of the general revenue, while the expenses of the various District Boards should be defrayed out of local funds. Nothing of course could be done in this matter, either by the Central Board or the local bodies, until an Act was passed giving them statutory powers; and the committee contemplated the introduction of such an Act this session. With regard to the question of water supply for Perth and Fremantle, which had also been referred to the committee, the committee after giving the question their most careful consideration came to the conclusion—while fully recognising the importance of providing a pure supply of water for these towns and Guildford,—that the financial position of the colony at present precluded them from recommending the adoption of what must ultimately be our proper source of water supply, namely, that it should be obtained from the Darling Range. It appeared, however, to the committee that though the colony itself