

more stringently carried out, and that no more fines should be remitted, the Government would not hesitate in giving effect to the wish of the House. Even supposing it was deemed desirable to do away with the services of the paid inspectors, what would be the result? Three of them would become entitled to a pension of £30 a year, and the others would claim gratuities amounting in the aggregate to £227. Having furnished other reasons for opposing the adoption of the report, the hon. gentleman concluded by saying that that distasteful duty would probably have been saved him had the select committee been properly constituted, and including members representing the various shades of opinion prevailing in the House on the question, instead of being solely composed of flockowners—the very persons interested in the matter.

Question put, "That the select committee report be adopted," upon which a division was called for, the result being as follows:—

Ayes	7
Noes	8
	—
Majority against	1

Ayes.	Noes.
Mr. Steere	The Hon. H. H. Hocking
Mr. Hassell	The Hon. M. Fraser
Mr. Dempster	Mr. Russell
Mr. Pearce	Mr. Bickley
Mr. Carey	Sir Thomas Cockburn-
Mr. Padbury	Campbell
Mr. Logue (<i>Teller.</i>)	Mr. Monger
	Mr. Marmion
	The Hon. F. P. Barlee
	(<i>Teller.</i>)

Question thus negatived.

SCAB-IN-SHEEP ORDINANCE AMENDMENT BILL.

Motion for First Reading.

Mr. DEMPSTER, in accordance with notice, moved for leave to introduce a Bill to amend the Scab-in-Sheep Ordinance.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. F. P. Barlee) pointed out what, in the face of the division which had just taken place, must be the inevitable fate of the Bill. He, however, would offer no opposition to its introduction, if the hon. members who had charge of it so desired.

Question put and passed.

First Reading.

The Bill was read a first time.

The Council adjourned at 9.20 p.m.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Thursday, 31st July, 1873.

Appropriation Bill: first reading.—Inspector of Schools and Central Board of Education Reports—Departmental Expenditure: select committee report.—Transfer of Convict Establishment—16th Victoria No. 14, Repeal Bill: first reading.—Private Bills: suspension of Standing Orders—Pensioners' Benevolent Society Bill: first reading.—Tax on Saddle Horses in City of Perth Bill: motion for first reading: point of order—Harbor Improvement Board Report: select committee report—Estimates: in committee: point of order: Speaker's ruling: in committee—Public Works.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at 12 noon.

PRAYERS.

APPROPRIATION BILL.

First Reading.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. F. P. Barlee), with leave, without notice, moved for leave to introduce a Bill to appropriate the sum of £114,421 2s. 6d. out of the general revenue of the colony for the service of the year 1874.

The Bill was read a first time.

INSPECTOR OF SCHOOLS AND CENTRAL BOARD OF EDUCATION RE- PORTS.

Mr. CAREY, with leave, without notice, moved that the reports laid upon the Council table be printed.

Question put and passed.

DEPARTMENTAL EXPENDITURE.

Select Committee Report.

Mr. LOGUE brought up the report of the Select Committee appointed to inquire into departmental expenditure.

The report was read and ordered to be printed.

TRANSFER OF CONVICT ESTABLISH- MENT.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. F. P. Barlee), in accordance with notice, moved:—

That in the opinion of this Council the time has arrived when it is expedient to consider whether the transfer of the convict establishment to the colonial Government may not be arranged, on terms alike conducive to the interests of the Imperial Government and of the colony.

That this Council will favourably consider any arrangement that may be proposed for their consideration by Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies in concurrence with His Excellency, the Governor.

He said that a great deal of correspondence had taken place between the Imperial Government and our own relating to the transfer of the Convict Establishment, and he was in a position to state that His Excellency the Governor had been manfully fighting the battle on behalf of this colony. The correspondence being incomplete, His Excellency was precluded from communicating the nature of it; but it was considered that if the Council would affirm a resolution to the following effect, it would materially strengthen His Excellency's hands in any representations he might have to make to the Home authorities in fighting for the claims and interests of this colony.

Mr. STEERE thought there could be no objection on the part of the House to affirm the resolution, inasmuch as it did not bind the Council to any particular terms, nor did it call upon them to pledge themselves to anything beyond an expression of opinion that the time had arrived for the transfer of the Convict Establishment, and that the House would favorably consider any terms upon which such transfer ought to be made so as to conduce alike to the interests of the Home Government and this colony. The Council and the colony would have to rely entirely upon His Excellency the Governor in the matter. No doubt the Imperial Government would drive a hard bargain with us, as it had hitherto done in all matters connected with the Convict Department. There, however, could be no possible objection to the affirmation of the resolution before the House, and he would accord it his support.

Mr. PADBURY and Mr. MARMION concurred.

Question put and passed.

16TH VICTORIA NO. 14, REPEAL BILL.

First Reading.

Mr. CAREY, in accordance with notice, moved for leave to introduce a Bill to repeal an Ordinance to provide for the issue of licenses to kill kangaroos.

The Bill was read a first time.

PRIVATE BILLS.

Suspension of Standing Orders.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. F. P. Barlee) with leave, without notice, moved that the Standing Orders relating to private Bills be suspended with a view to permitting the Attorney General (Hon. H. H. Hocking) to move the motion standing in his name.

Question put and passed.

PENSIONERS' BENEVOLENT SOCIETY BILL.

First Reading.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. H. H. Hocking), in accordance with notice, moved for leave to introduce a Bill intitled an Act to make provision for the sale of certain lands heretofore vested in the Treasurer of the Pensioners' Benevolent Society.

The Bill was read a first time.

TAX ON SADDLE HORSES IN CITY OF PERTH BILL.

Motion for First Reading.

Mr. PADBURY, in accordance with notice, moved for leave to introduce a Bill to impose a tax upon persons using horses within the City of Perth.

Point of Order.

A point of order was raised that the Bill read was a private one, and could be introduced only upon petition, and read a first time upon production of the certificate required by Standing Order 109, which had not been complied with.

Mr. PADBURY thereupon, with leave, withdrew the Bill.

HARBOR IMPROVEMENT BOARD REPORT.

Select Committee Report.

Mr. BICKLEY moved the adoption of the report of the select committee.

The SURVEYOR GENERAL (Hon. M. Fraser) said that hon. members would, doubtless, recollect that last year, on a resolution affirmed by the House, certain gentlemen were nominated, and appointed by the Government to constitute a board to consider and report upon certain propositions connected with harbor improvements at the port of Fremantle, and also to consider the report of the Admiralty Surveyor in connection with the Challenger and other passages. In the few remarks with which he proposed to trouble the House

if he found it necessary to a certain extent to digress from the immediate matter of the report before the Council, his plea would be that he had not hitherto been afforded an opportunity of giving to hon. members in Council an expression of opinion on various matters involved in the report. He had anticipated that the select committee would have sought his evidence on the subject, he having been the chairman of the board whose report the committee were appointed to consider. Had that been done he would have been saved the necessity of making the statement which he now had to offer to the House. Although the select committee had produced a very verbose report—very well put together certainly—the result of their deliberations was in effect a repetition of the report of the Harbor Improvement Board. Reverting to the constitution of that board, it would be in the recollection of the House that the members thereof were nominees of the hon. member Mr. Bickley, who was himself also appointed a member of the board. Their duty was to consider certain propositions laid before them in connection with improvements of the harbor at Fremantle, and, when the Admiralty Surveyor had submitted his report to the Government, to consider and report thereupon. When the commission entered upon its duties he informed them that although he had been nominated to superintend the work of the committee, he was not prepared with any definite plan to bring before the board, and, after one or two meetings, it was considered advisable not to wait for the production of the Admiralty Surveyor's report. When that report was presented to the board they at once proceeded to consider its clauses *seriatim*, and, with leave of the House, he thought it would be as well to explain briefly the intention of the recommendations embodied in the short report which the board had prepared, inasmuch as he observed that one recommendation had been entirely overlooked by the select committee appointed to consider the report. He alluded to the third clause, in which the board, acting on the advice of Lieut. Archdeacon, recommended in regard to the entrance to Cockburn Sound,—“That in the opinion of the board the passage alluded to in Lieut. Archdeacon's report as marked “A” should be substituted for the old Challenger Passage as soon as efficient buoys or beacons can be laid down in it.” This was necessary to enable ships going to Garden Island to do so, or Fremantle would have to go without the safe winter anchorage which had been used ever since the colony was established. No allusion whatever had been made to this recommendation in the

report of the select committee, which was chiefly devoted to an exposition of the ideas of one of the members of the committee. At the same time he was free to confess that good might result from them, crude as they are. He was much disappointed that the Harbor Improvement Board had received such little assistance from the hon. member, Mr. Bickley, although, it was presumed, he had some grand scheme of his own in preparation. Paraphrasing Tom Hood, he might have said, addressing the members of the board—“There's something on my breast, sirs, there's something on my breast;” but unlike the great humorist, instead of its being “the confounded cucumber he ate,” it was, with Mr. Bickley, the plan for a breakwater which had disagreed with him. Ultimately he fled into the country, retired into the solitary wilds of the Canning, and the board saw no more of him. (Laughter.) Subsequently, it appeared, he returned to the haunts of men, and delivered himself of the crude and fragmentary scheme put forward in the report of the select committee. With regard to that scheme the hon. gentleman was altogether out of his calculations as to the estimated cost of carrying it out. He had obtained a tender from a firm of contractors to execute the motive way, or viaduct, by which the proposed mole was to be constructed complete, for the sum of £30,000. A glance at the proposed undertaking convinced him that about 150,000 cubic yards of stone would be required for filling in; and this, it was proposed to obtain from Arthur's Head. He (the Surveyor General) had examined the stone at that point, and he had no hesitation in stating that it was, for the most part, in a great measure unsuitable for the purpose contemplated; being a friable sandstone, and if used for the work suggested, and subjected to the force of the sea, would probably, in a few years, form a mere sand-bank. In considering Mr. Johnson's plan he believed the stone was calculated at 10s. per cubic yard; on that estimate the stonework alone of Mr. Bickley's scheme would cost £75,000—in the event of Mr. Manning's proposal to fill in both sides of the breakwater with stone instead of sheet piling being adopted, which would, however, make the cost £8,000 less as regards piling. It was proposed that the stonework should be done by convict labor, and 250 men were reckoned upon to do the work, but he would ask where were the men to come from? There were not more than a few score of convicts at Fremantle now available for that sort of work, and these are annually decreasing. It was quite absurd to think that the undertaking could be carried out other than by free labor. Although the Harbor Improvement Board

had been treated with very scant courtesy in the report of the select committee, which purported to be a report on the report of that board, the conclusions arrived at in both were, after all, alike. The solitary allusion to the report of the Harbor Improvement Board was with reference to the fourth paragraph, wherein it is stated that the board were of opinion that it was imperatively necessary to obtain the dictum of "some eminent marine engineer before going further into the question of harbor works, and that without some such weighty opinion the board must hesitate in recommending or supporting any scheme for harbor improvements, however concise and appropriate they might apparently be." The select committee, after going in a very round-about way to produce something sensational, arrived at the same conclusion, and almost in the same words they recommended the seeking of the advice of some eminent engineer or engineers before the adoption of any definite plan. In this respect, then,—and this really was the sum and substance of both reports—Mr. Bickley and the other members of the Harbor Improvement Board were actually after all in accord. But in his report, as chairman of the select committee, he remarked that the question being one that did not admit of needless delay the necessary advice could be obtained with far less loss of time than by resorting to the sources which were contemplated in the recommendation of the Harbor Improvement Board. How could he know to whom the board proposed to refer as he was not present at the meeting when the subject was discussed? No engineer was named or recommended. He (the Surveyor General) entirely concurred with the select committee, that if the necessary advice—if the opinion of a competent authority could be obtained without going out of the Australasian colonies, it would be unwise to seek for it elsewhere. At Oamaru, in New Zealand, there was at the present time a breakwater in course of construction, under the supervision of a Scotch engineer, which was a very similar construction to that contemplated in the report of the select committee. He maintained that that locality abounded in freestone of a very fine quality, which had been employed on some of the finest buildings in Melbourne—the town hall and post office, to wit; and the demand for it promised to be so great that the provincial Government of Otago determined upon the construction of a breakwater to facilitate the loading of vessels conveying away the stone. He gathered from the last file of papers he had received from New Zealand that the engineer appeared to have experienced an insuperable difficulty in carrying out the work

by contract, and therefore it was being done under the direction of the Government, at a cost of about £60 per lineal foot. The breakwater there would only be 1,200 feet long, and provide accommodation for vessels drawing 18 feet of water; whereas our proposed mole would be about 5,000 feet in length, and, if similarly constructed at the same rate—£60 per lineal foot—would cost £300,000. He was not prepared to say that the cost would be so great; no doubt, with the abundance of timber at our command, it would be considerably less, but he would caution hon. members who possessed no professional knowledge from being carried away with the idea that any such sum as that mentioned in the report of the select committee would suffice to carry out any such work as that proposed, because convict labor could not be taken into account at all. At the commencement of the session he had joined issue with the hon. member for Wellington that harbor improvements at Fremantle should take precedence of any other public work undertaken in the colony as being one of paramount importance. Now, at the close of the session he was happy to be able to concur with the hon. member that the improvement of the port of Fremantle should take precedence of any other public work initiated by this colony. He did so because the undertaking, which he ranked as first and foremost in importance, had been sanctioned by the House, and he trusted would ere long be *un fait accompli*.

Mr. MARMION was very sorry to find that the Surveyor General appeared inclined, to a certain extent, to throw cold water on the recommendations of the select committee. It must be allowed that in the report before the House certain definite plans were fixed upon, which had not been done in the report of the Harbor Improvement Board, which, with all due deference to the members thereof, he was bound to say was one of the most empty and vague reports he had ever read on such a subject. There was literally nothing in it. There was something, at all events, in the report before the House. He however agreed with the hon. the Surveyor General that something should have been done towards buoying the passage which it was shown in the Admiralty Surveyor's report afforded the only safe entry to the winter anchorage at Fremantle. Allusion had been made to the slight assistance rendered to the Harbor Improvement Board by Mr. Bickley, who had certainly taken great pains in the preparation of the report before the House, and deserved every thanks for the able manner in which it had been drawn up; and perhaps if the hon. member were consulted he could give his reasons for not evincing the same lively interest in the proceedings

of the Harbor Improvement Board. The hon. the Surveyor General had alluded to some scheme which he imagines weighed heavily on the mind of the hon. member, Mr. Bickley; but it could not be denied that Mr. Bickley was the only gentleman who approached the consideration of the question of harbor improvements with preconceived ideas. It was a matter of public report that the hon. gentleman himself had not yet abandoned his favourite Jervoise Bay scheme—a hobby-horse which he had well nigh ridden to death.

Mr. STEERE denied that the report of the select committee was a mere repetition of the report of the Harbor Improvement Board, as asserted by the Surveyor General. Had it been so, he, as one of the members of the select committee which had prepared it, would not have agreed to it. The report of the Harbor Improvement Board was certainly as vague as possible; it, in fact, amounted to nothing more or less than a recommendation to seek for advice elsewhere. No definite plans whatever were suggested for the consideration of a consulting engineer, as had been done in the select committee's report. The Surveyor General had also found fault because the committee had not alluded to the buoying of the passage marked "A" in the Admiralty Surveyor's report. In answer to that, all he had to say was, that it was the Harbor Master's duty to see that such passages were properly buoyed, and if that officer was imbued with a desire to do his duty he would not need to be stimulated to do so by any recommendation from the committee. As to the cost of the proposed breakwater he was in accord with the Surveyor General that it could not be constructed at the price named; but if it cost three times that sum the money would be well expended if a safe and commodious harbor were provided at Fremantle. Personally, he was of opinion that the breakwater should project from Rous' Head, and not from Arthur's Head.

Mr. PADBURY and Mr. PEARSE were of the same opinion.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. F. P. Barlee) supported the adoption of the report, which he characterised as one of the most able that had ever been presented to the House. Allusion had been made by the Hon. the Surveyor General to the "scant courtesy" shown by the select committee towards the Harbor Improvement Board. On the part of the committee, of which he had been a member, he was desirous of removing any such impression. He was quite sure that every member of the committee would endorse what he said when he stated there was no intention otherwise than to treat the board with the utmost

courtesy. The select committee fully recognised their services, and though it could not concur in their report there was certainly no intention to cast any blame upon the board, or to show, by word or deed, that the committee treated them with any feeling other than that of respectful courtesy.

Mr. CAREY, while supporting the adoption of the report, said, though it was as verbose as the report of the board was vague, the conclusion arrived at in either case was the same—that the question of harbor improvements should be referred to some eminent marine engineer before deciding upon any definite plan.

Mr. BICKLEY said the Surveyor General had done his best to turn the report of the select committee inside out, and endeavoured to show that, after all, the committee did no more than the board had already done, confining their recommendations merely to a rejection of Cockburn Sound and Owen's Anchorage. It was also alleged that the report had been made a vehicle for the ventilation of the ideas of one particular member of the committee. This he could safely deny; the report was never intended as any such vehicle. The plan to which the Surveyor General referred had been merely placed before the select committee in the same manner as any other plan, and until very recently it had not been taken into consideration at all by himself. It was the engineering difficulties which presented themselves in connection with that plan, and another, that had induced the committee, notwithstanding their desire and anxiety to have the question of harbor improvement settled as speedily as possible, not to submit any particular plan for adoption without first obtaining the advice of some competent engineering authority. He had understood that the source whence the board contemplated obtaining the necessary information would have created considerable delay, and it was with the view of obviating the involvement of any inordinate delay, and to reduce it to a minimum, that the committee resolved to recommend for the adoption of the House a nearer way of arriving at the same thing.

Question put and passed.

Mr. BICKLEY moved that an humble Address be presented to his Excellency the Governor, praying that he will carry into effect the recommendation of the select committee in such a manner as may appear to him most advisable.

Question put and passed.

ESTIMATES.

In Committee.

Resumed debate.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. F. P. Barlee) said that the estimates of Revenue had been prepared very carefully and, he believed, might be taken as a fair estimate of what the various items would produce. Some of his calculations might prove somewhat excessive in regard to some items, but, on the other hand, there were others which he believed were rather below than above the mark. At all events, he was quite prepared to abide by the Estimates which he then presented to the House.

Mr. STEERE wished for an explanation in connection with the Estimates for the past year. The actual revenue received from all sources, according to the Colonial Secretary's financial statement, was £105,301, while the actual expenditure for the same period only amounted to £98,248; apparently showing a credit balance of £7,000. There was an opinion abroad that there had been an actual saving of that amount, and that the balance in the Treasury Chest had been augmented to that extent; and he himself had been of that opinion on reading the financial statement. Perhaps the Colonial Secretary would be good enough to afford an explanation.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. F. P. Barlee) replied that the balance of £7,000 went to pay the deficit on the previous year. As to the actual sum in the Treasury Chest, if it was the desire of the House he would send over and obtain it within five minutes. It was quite competent, at any moment, for any hon. member to enquire what amount was deposited in the public chest, and the information would be unhesitatingly communicated to him.

Mr. STEERE said he was quite satisfied with the explanation, but in future Estimates he would be glad if the actual balance on hand at the commencement of the year were shown.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. F. P. Barlee): It shall be done.

Item: Contribution to Scab Ordinance, £1,150.

Mr. LOGUE contended that the Scab Act should be universal in its application, so as to include the northern districts of Nickol Bay, Eucla, and Esperance Bay, which, at present, are exempted from its operations so far as regards contributing towards carrying out its provisions with the intervention of scab-inspectors.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. F. P. Barlee) said that was done with the tacit assent of the House, and if it was thought desirable that those districts should come under the operation of the Act, and a resolution to that effect was adopted by the House, he had no hesitation in stating, on the part of the Government, that it would be strictly carried out.

Mr. LOGUE said the Council had had nothing to do with the withdrawal of the inspectors from the exempted districts, and he failed to see why any resolution of the house was necessary in order to induce the Executive to carry out an Act of Council in its integrity. His Excellency had no right to limit the application of the Act, and to exempt certain districts from its provisions.

Mr. PADBURY called attention to the fact that if the Act extended to the districts of Eucla, Esperance Bay, and Nickol Bay, it would necessitate the employment of three additional inspectors, while the contributions of the flockowners of those districts would certainly not suffice to cover their salaries. After some further discussion,

Mr. LOGUE moved the following resolution:—That all sheepowners in the colony be made to contribute to the Scab Ordinance, and that the inspectors be ordered to see that they do so, as long as the present Scab Ordinance is in existence.

Mr. STEERE remarked that the sum and substance of the resolution was that a certain Act of Council should be carried out in its integrity.

Mr. PADBURY said if that was the case he would support the resolution, for he considered that any Act passed by that House ought to be held sacred, and the Governor, nor any other man, should not be allowed to ride over it. But, if the object of the resolution was to tax the flockowners of the Nickol Bay, Eucla, and Esperance districts, he would oppose it. Let them manage their sheep in their own way.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. F. P. Barlee) remarked that the present Governor had always manifested, not only by his words, but also by his actions, an earnest desire and anxiety to carry out in its integrity every Act passed by that honorable Council. In regard of the application of the Scab Ordinance to the northern districts, the difficulties which the pioneer settlers of those districts had had to contend with, and the great expense they were put to in the introduction of flocks into those distant settlements, had been brought under the consideration of the House some

time ago, and every desire was evinced to relieve the flockowners of those districts from the payment of all dues in regard of the Scab Ordinance, on condition that they would superintend their own flocks, and undertake themselves to perform the duties which in other districts devolved upon the scab inspectors. The House, then, had accorded its tacit assent in regard of exempting those districts from the operations of the Act, and it was unfair to accuse the Governor of over-riding the Ordinance. If it was the desire of the majority of the members of that House that the Act should be universal in its application, no time would be lost on the part of the Government in giving effect to the wish of the Council. He need not point out that this would involve considerable additional expense, as the contributions by the flockowners of those districts would by no means be equivalent to the increased expenditure which would be necessitated by the appointment of additional scab inspectors.

Question put—

Point of Order.

Mr. HASSELL objected to the vote of Mr. Dempster being taken, he having a direct pecuniary interest in the question.

The SPEAKER resumed the chair.

The CHAIRMAN reported that a point of order had arisen in Committee as to whether Mr. Dempster could vote on the question proposed by Mr. Logue.

Speaker's Ruling.

The SPEAKER ruled that as the question was one of public policy Mr. Dempster was not prevented from voting.

In Committee.

Question put, "That all sheep owners in the colony be made to contribute to the Scab Ordinance, and that the inspectors be ordered to see that they do so as long as the present Scab Ordinance is in existence," upon which a division was called for, the result being as follows:—

Ayes 5
Noes 9

Majority against 4

<p>Ayes.</p> <p>Mr. Steere Mr. Hassell Mr. Padbury Mr. Monger Mr. Logue (Teller.)</p>	<p>Noes.</p> <p>The Hon. H. H. Hocking The Hon. F. P. Barlee Mr. Bussell The Hon. M. Fraser Mr. Bickley Mr. Marmion Mr. Pearce Sir Thomas Cockburn- Campbell Mr. Dempster (Teller.)</p>
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Amendment thus negatived.

Mr. LOGUE moved that no sheep owners in the colony be required to contribute to the Scab Ordinance.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. F. P. Barlee), by way of amendment, moved the previous question.

Question put, upon which a division was called for, the result being as follows:—

Ayes 5
Noes 9

Majority against 4

<p>Ayes.</p> <p>Mr. Steere Mr. Padbury Mr. Hassell Mr. Dempster Mr. Logue (Teller.)</p>	<p>Noes.</p> <p>The Hon. H. H. Hocking The Hon. M. Fraser Mr. Bussell Sir Thomas Cockburn- Campbell Mr. Monger Mr. Marmion Mr. Bickley Mr. Pearce The Hon. F. P. Barlee (Teller.)</p>
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Question thus negatived.

Mr. LOGUE: I shall now move that the provisions of the existing Scab Ordinance, so long as it be in force, be carried out in their entirety.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. H. H. Hocking) said that the motion of the member for Geraldton was beneath himself and absurd.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. F. P. Barlee) said it tended to turn a serious subject into ridicule. The proceedings of the House should be conducted with some regard to common sense and decorum.

Item: *Inspectors of Sheep*, £1,000.

Item: *Revenue*, £114,527.

Items agreed to.

The CHAIRMAN reported to the House that the Committee had considered the Estimates, and had agreed to the same without amendment.

PUBLIC WORKS.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. F. P. Barlee) informed the House that the sum of £30,000 raised by public loan last year would not suffice to complete the works upon which the loan was to be expended, and that a further sum of about £3,000 would be required. This sum, he was happy to say, he believed would be available out of the general revenue, and, with leave of the House, he would move that His Excellency the Governor

be authorised to expend a sum not exceeding £3,500 for the completion of the works authorised by the Public Loan Act, 1872.

Question put and passed.

The Council adjourned at 3.30 p.m.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Friday, 1st August, 1873.

Immigration—Busselton Jetty—Scab-in-Sheep Ordinance Amendment Bill: second reading—Appropriation Bill: second reading: Standing Orders suspension: in committee: third reading—16th Victoria No. 14, Repeal Bill: second reading: in committee: Standing Orders suspension: third reading—Pensioners' Benevolent Society Bill: second reading: in committee: Standing Orders suspension: third reading—Inspectors of Sheep—Immigration—Land Regulations.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at 6 p.m.

PRAYERS.

IMMIGRATION.

Mr. STEERE, in accordance with notice, moved:—

That this Council is of opinion that the plan of assisted immigration assented to by the House last session has failed, in consequence of its provisions not being sufficiently liberal; and this Council is further of opinion that no system of immigration which can be adopted under our present form of Government is likely to be successful unless a free passage is provided for the immigrants.

That this Council is also of opinion that immediate steps should be taken to procure such a suitable class of immigrants as are now required, and that free passages should be provided for them to the extent that the funds allotted for immigration will permit.

He said that what he meant by the words "under our present form of Government" was that we were not, under our present Constitution, in a position to offer free grants of land to induce immigrants to come here, the lands not being at our disposal.

After some remarks from Mr. PADBURY,

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. F.P. Barlee), by way of amendment, moved the omission of the words "under our present form of Government." He did so because he believed that on application to the Home Government no obstacles would be interposed in the way of the colony offering free grants of

land to a suitable class of immigrants. If the hon. member for Wellington would consent to the words being struck out, the resolution would have his cordial support.

Mr. STEERE agreed to omit the words alluded to, and, after some further discussion, the resolution, as amended, was unanimously affirmed.

BUSSELTON JETTY.

Mr. CAREY, in accordance with notice, asked the Colonial Secretary whether the Government intended to carry out at an early date any further extension of the Busselton jetty, as in the present state of the jetty it would be impossible for the steamer to be placed alongside.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. F.P. Barlee) replied that to carry the jetty out to a depth of 11 feet would involve an increased length of 40 fathoms, and an expenditure of from £800 to £1,000. He said the present trade of the district did not justify the expenditure of that sum out of the general revenue for the purpose named.

SCAB-IN-SHEEP ORDINANCE AMENDMENT BILL.

Second Reading.

Mr. DEMPSTER moved that the Bill be now read a second time. He said that the Bill was based on the principles enunciated in the report of the select committee appointed to consider the existing Scab Act.

Mr. LOGUE, in rising to support the motion, pointed out the most salient features which the committee proposed to introduce. The Bill had been prepared with great care, and after mature deliberation, by a select committee consisting of those most interested and experienced in the subject; and he was, therefore, quite surprised to find that there was likely to be any opposition to the second reading. The amendment of which the hon. baronet had given notice appeared very much like an attempt to stop discussion on the Bill; and he (Mr. Logue) thought he was quite justified in stating that such tactics were unfair and not calculated to advance the public interest. No doubt there were matters of detail in the Bill which would require amending, and that might be done if the House went into Committee upon it. Objection had been taken, and he thought very unfairly, the other evening, by the Colonial Secretary, before he had seen the Bill, to the measure because he thought it would involve considerable expenditure out of the public funds in pensions and gratuities to scab-inspectors whose services