

Item: Pensions, £2,382 3s.

Item agreed to.

Item: Inspectors of Sheep, £1,050.

After some debate,

Mr. STEERE moved that in the item "Forage for one Inspector at £100," the amount be reduced to £50.

Debate ensued.

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

Ayes11
Noes 7

Majority for 4

Ayes.	Noes.
Mr. Padbury	The Hon. M. Fraser.
Mr. Rendell	The Hon. H. H. Hocking
Mr. Shenton	Mr. Burt
Mr. W. Burges	Mr. T. Burges
Mr. Gale	Mr. Brown
Mr. Monger	Mr. Crowther
Mr. Glyde	The Hon. A. O'Grady
Mr. Marmion	Lefroy (Teller.)
Mr. Pearse	
Mr. Bickley	
Mr. Steere (Teller.)	

Amendment thus passed.

Item, as amended, agreed to.

Item: Ecclesiastical Services, £3,543.

After some debate, the item was agreed to.

Item: Education, £7,895.

Item agreed to.

Item: Works and Buildings, £12,789.

Debate ensued.

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. A. O'Grady Lefroy) moved that the following item be inserted, "School Houses Perth and Fremantle, £2,000."

Amendment agreed to.

Mr. STEERE moved that an humble Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor to place the sum of £300 on the Estimates for the extension of the Albany jetty.

Amendment agreed to.

Mr. SHENTON moved that an humble Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor to place the sum of £200 on the Estimates for the extension of the Perth jetty.

Amendment agreed to.

Debate ensued.

Item, as amended, agreed to.

Item: Roads and Bridges, £11,000.

After some debate, Mr. BURT moved that progress be reported.

Question put and negatived.

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. A. O'Grady Lefroy) moved that the words, "road, Cossack to Roebourne," in the second line be struck out, and the words, "roads, north district," inserted in lieu.

Amendment agreed to.

Item, as amended, agreed to.

Progress reported, and leave obtained to sit again.

The Council adjourned at 1 a.m. (Thursday).

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, Thursday, 23rd December, 1875.

Adjournment—Standing Orders Suspension—First Readings—Geraldton and Northampton Railway: Message from the Governor, No. 4—Lands and Works Department: select committee—High School Bill: third reading—Estimates: in committee—Geraldton and Northampton Railway: Message from the Governor, No. 4: in committee.

The ACTING SPEAKER took the Chair at 12 noon.

PRAYERS.

ADJOURNMENT.

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. A. O'Grady Lefroy), with leave, moved that after the close of the business of the day the House adjourn until Tuesday, the 28th December.

Question put and passed.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS.

Mr. STEERE moved for the suspension of Standing Order No. 2 with a view that the House may be enabled to meet at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, the 28th December.

Question put and passed.

FIRST READINGS.

The following Bills were read a first time, in accordance with notice, on motions by the Attorney General (Hon. H. H. Hocking): Trespass Act, 1872, Amendment Bill and the Remission of Penalties Amendment Bill.

GERALDTON AND NORTHAMPTON RAILWAY.

Message from the Governor—No. 4.

The ACTING SPEAKER announced the receipt of the following Message from His Excellency the Governor:—

The Governor acknowledges the receipt of an Address from your Honorable House, requesting him to introduce a Bill to raise by Loan the necessary sum to carry to completion the works of the Geraldton and Northampton Railway, as recommended by the Select Committee, a copy of whose Report has also been presented to the Governor.

The question will receive immediate consideration, and the Governor's decision will be communicated to you with as little delay as possible.

In the meanwhile the Governor considers it right to point out to your Honorable House that your Select Committee are in error in thinking that the decision of the late Governor to alter the gauge of the Railway from 3ft. to 3ft. 6in., at an additional cost of £480 per mile, was arrived at "previously to the vote for raising a Loan for the construction of the Railway." The Loan Act was passed in July, 1873; the Railway Act in November of the same year; and a reference to the *Government Gazette* of the 27th January, 1874, will show that down to that date tenders were continued to be invited for the construction of a 3 ft. gauge Railway as originally proposed, and as sanctioned by the Legislative Council. It was at or about the date at which Mr. Palmer's tender was accepted, namely June or July, 1874, that the alteration of the gauge was finally decided upon, and therefore twelve months subsequent to the passing of the Loan Bill; and while, undoubtedly, the Legislative Council should have been informed at its meeting in July, 1874, that the gauge had been altered on the responsibility of the then administration, the Governor believes that, with these dates before you, your Honorable House will hasten to admit that the censure contained in the Report of your Select Committee is uncalled for, and to acquit his predecessor of anything more than an oversight in not taking the earliest available opportunity (namely that afforded by the Session of July, 1874.) of

informing the Council that he had sanctioned an alteration which your Honorable House are agreed was in itself advisable and proper.

Government House, Perth,
23rd December, 1875.

LANDS AND WORKS DEPARTMENT.

Select Committee.

Mr. STEERE moved that before proceeding with the Orders of the Day leave be given to the select committee appointed to enquire into the working of the Lands and Works Department to sit during the recess.

After some debate,

Mr. BURT moved an amendment that all words after the word "that" be struck out, and the words "the order of reference to the select committee be discharged," be inserted in lieu.

Amendment agreed to.

Motion, as amended, agreed to.

HIGH SCHOOL BILL.

Third Reading.

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. A. O'Grady Lefroy) moved that the Bill be now read a third time.

The Bill was read a third time and passed.

ESTIMATES.

In Committee.

Resumed debate.

Item: Aborigines, £1,188.

After some debate, the item was agreed to.

Item: Miscellaneous Services, £26,500.

Volunteer Corps, £550.

Agreed to.

Purchase of Rifles for Perth Volunteers, £550.

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. A. O'Grady Lefroy) moved that the words "Rifles for Perth Volunteers," be struck out, and the words, "Small Arms for Volunteers," inserted in lieu.

Amendment agreed to.

Aid to Agricultural and Horticultural Societies, £200.

Queen's Plate, £100.

Agreed to.

Mechanics' Institute and Working Men's Associations, £300.

After some debate, this was agreed to.

Perth Museum, £50.
Transport for Government Stores,
 £300.
Travelling Expenses of Officials, £400.
*Payment of Interest on Funds in Post
 Office Savings Bank*, £500.

Agreed to.

*Purchase of a Vessel for North-West
 Coast*, £1,500.

After some debate, this was agreed to.

Sericulture, £100.
*Acclimatisation: plants, fish, and ani-
 mals*, £100.
Stationery for Public Offices, £800.
Postage for Public Offices, £1,600.

Agreed to.

Admiralty and Colonial Survey,
 £1,500.

After some debate, this was agreed to.

Telegraph Line to Eucla £18,000.

Agreed to.

Item agreed to.

Progress reported, and leave obtained to sit
 again.

GERALDTON AND NORTHAMPTON RAILWAY.

Message from the Governor—No. 4.

In Committee.

The SURVEYOR GENERAL (Hon. M. Fraser) moved that this Council, after receiving the explanation afforded by His Excellency the Governor in his Message, has much pleasure in withdrawing the censure lately passed by it upon the late administration of the colony in the second paragraph of the report on the Geraldton and Northampton railway.

After some debate,

Mr. RANDELL moved, as an amendment, that the following words be added to the above motion in so far as in paragraph No. 2, line six from the top, these words occur: "that previously to the vote for raising a loan for the construction of the railway a change of gauge had been determined upon."

Mr. BROWN moved, as an amendment to the original question, that all words after the word "That" be struck out, and the following inserted in lieu thereof: "This Council has much pleasure in finding, from the explanation which His Excellency The Governor in his Message, No. 4, has afforded, that it was in error in concluding that the change of gauge from three feet to three feet six inches had been determined upon previously to the

vote for raising the Loan for the construction of the Railway in 1873, and it therefore withdraws the charge of want of candor made by it in consequence against the late administration. The Council, however, regrets to find that the Executive Government, in informing the Council during the Session of 1874 that the contract had been accepted, when, at any rate, they had determined on the change, did not make the Council acquainted with the fact and ask for the increased note necessary to carry it out, and think that such reticence under such circumstances, evidenced a want of consideration of the views and province of the Legislative Council."

Question, that the amendment moved by Mr. Brown be agreed to, put and passed.

The Council adjourned at 5 p.m.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, Tuesday, 28th December, 1875.

Speaker of the House—Acting Speaker of the House—Sericulture—Petition—Papers Tabled—Geraldton and Northampton Railway: Message from the Governor, No. 4—Bridges and Jetties—Fremantle Lodge of Freemasons—Bill: second reading: in committee—Harbor Improvements, Fremantle: select committee report—Land Regulations for the Northern and Eastern Districts: select committee report.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at 7 p.m.
 PRAYERS.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE.

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. A. O'Grady Lefroy), in felicitous terms, congratulated the Speaker upon his safe return to the colony, and expressed the pleasure of the House at his resuming the position of Speaker.

Mr. STEERE followed in the same strain.

The SPEAKER, in acknowledging the congratulations, expressed his sense of the obligation he was under to the House for the consideration shown to him in every way during his unavoidable absence since the commencement of the session.

ACTING SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE.

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. A. O'Grady Lefroy) moved that the House desires to express to Sir Thomas Cockburn-Campbell its appreciation of the judgment, impartiality, and ability with which he had presided over its deliberations since the opening of the session on the 30th November, in the absence of the Speaker.