

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Thursday, 11th September, 1879.

Extension of Money Order System—Consideration of Message (No. 8): Volunteers—Consideration of Message (No. 12): Bridge at West Guildford—Celebration of Marriage Bill: in committee—Adjournment.

THE SPEAKER took the Chair at noon.

PRAYERS.

EXTENSION OF MONEY ORDER SYSTEM.

MR. CAREY, in accordance with notice, moved, "That in the opinion of this Council it is desirable to extend the Money Order System to all the principal District Post Offices throughout the Colony, and this Council humbly prays that His Excellency the Governor will be pleased to take such steps as may be deemed necessary to carry out the same." The hon. member said the Colonial Secretary had just shown him a memorandum from the Postmaster General upon the subject of the extension of the inland money order system, from which it appeared that the system was about to be extended to all the principal towns of the Colony; but he (Mr. Carey) would like to go a little further than this, and see the system extended direct from the country post offices to the other Colonies, without, as at present, involving a reference to the head office at Perth, or at any rate that country postmasters by communicating by telegraph with the head office should be permitted to issue orders direct upon the other Colonies. This would save a great deal of inconvenience, and avoid much unnecessary delay.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy) read the Postmaster General's memorandum, and expressed his belief that the present system, when extended, as it was about to be, to all the principal towns of the Colony, would answer all our present requirements.

MR. CAREY said he had no desire to press his resolution, if the Colonial Secretary would hold out any hope that country postmasters would be allowed to issue money orders on the Eastern Colonies, upon communicating with the

head office at Perth by telegraph, instead of writing in the usual way.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy) said he would be glad to see every facility afforded for extending the money order system, and thereby contributing to the public convenience; but, as had been pointed out by the Postmaster General, to carry out the scheme proposed by the hon. member for Vasse would involve considerable expense, as it would necessitate the appointment of a different class of officials to the average country postmaster. He would, however, consult with the Postmaster General, and let him know what the hon. member had stated; but he could not give any promise at the present moment of what he wished being carried out.

MR. S. H. PARKER moved that the debate on this question be adjourned until Friday, the 12th September.

Agreed to.

MESSAGE (No 8): VOLUNTEERS.

The House then resolved itself into a Committee of the whole to consider the Message received from His Excellency the Governor on the subject of Volunteers, and a letter addressed to him by Colonel Harvest, the late Inspector of Volunteers, in reference to a resolution adopted by the House. [p. 134 *ante*].

IN COMMITTEE.

MR. SHENTON—referring to Colonel Harvest's letter, complaining of the wording of the resolution above alluded to—said he was sure he was only expressing the feeling of every hon. member when he stated that the House, when adopting the resolution, had not the slightest intention of casting any imputation, or of reflecting in any way whatever upon the gallant officer referred to: on the contrary, every member in the House was only too anxious to acknowledge and to express publicly their appreciation of Colonel Harvest's disinterested labors in the Volunteer cause. He was therefore very sorry indeed to find that the gallant Colonel had conceived an impression—which was certainly an erroneous one—that the House had sought to cast any censure whatever upon him consequent upon his resignation of the

office of Inspector of Volunteers—an office which he had filled so efficiently and so successfully for many years, without hope or expectation of pecuniary reward, and for which services the House and the country were deeply indebted to him. The hon. member concluded by moving a resolution to that effect.

MR. CAREY, in seconding the resolution, said that what had fallen from the hon. member for Toodyay would, he was sure, be heartily echoed by the whole House.

MR. BROWN: I cordially support the resolution submitted for our affirmation, but I very much regret that my feelings in the matter are not so cordial as they would have been had the Commandant acted towards this Council in the same spirit as the Council acted towards him. He must have been perfectly well aware that our intention in adopting the resolution referred to was to record our thanks, and not in any way to detract, or to seek to detract, from the value of the services which the Commandant has rendered to the Volunteer movement; and I think we ought not to pass over the exceedingly insulting letter placed on the Table of the House on the subject. The Commandant, not being satisfied with the notice which the Council took of his services, has dared to write in the following strain of the Legislative Council: "I can quite understand the Council desiring to give or withhold their thanks"—so far there is nothing to take exception against—"nay, even to censure me for 'having so long gratuitously discharged the onerous duties of Inspector.'" Now, I look upon that as a deliberate and intentional insult offered to this Honorable House. While saying this, I admit we perhaps did not in the nicest possible manner express our thanks to the Commandant for his services; but I hope it is the last time we shall find any one in the Commandant's position writing in such terms of the Legislative Council, and the last time we shall find a Governor consenting to place before the House a letter containing such an insult to this Honorable Body.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. M. Fraser) regretted that the hon. member for Geraldton had thought fit to indulge in such harsh

language. He was sure the hon. member had quite misinterpreted the terms of the Commandant's letter. Colonel Harvest, as hon. members were aware, had for many years given his services to the Volunteers of this Colony without hope or expectation of fee or reward. [Mr. BROWN: Hear, hear.] When the resolution, to the terms of which the gallant colonel had taken exception, was before the House, he (the Commissioner) referred to the somewhat ambiguous wording of it, and he thought at the time the Commandant, who was very sensitive on such a point, would be likely to take umbrage at it, though he (the Commissioner) was quite aware that there was not the slightest intention on the part of the House to afford any cause for umbrage. It must be admitted that the resolution was not so felicitously worded as it might have been, and he regretted exceedingly that the hon. member for Geraldton had thought proper to indulge in such harsh expressions with reference to the Commandant's communication, and to say that the gallant colonel had deliberately insulted the House. He (the Commissioner) must resent such an imputation, for, knowing the Commandant as he did, he felt sure that that gallant officer was quite incapable of any disrespectful, much less insulting, conduct towards that Honorable House.

The resolution was then put, and carried *nem. con.*

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy) moved that Progress be reported, and leave given to sit again for the further consideration of the Message, on Monday, September 15.

Motion agreed to, and Progress reported.

MESSAGE (NO. 12): BRIDGE AT WEST GUILDFORD.

IN COMMITTEE.

MR. BROWN, in accordance with notice, moved, "That this Council, in reply to His Excellency the Governor's Message No. 12 [p. 137 *ante*] respectfully submits that it would be inadvisable to expend a thousand pounds to provide a road bridge over the Swan River at West Guildford, but would suggest that a footway might be provided at

“small expense in connection with the “Railway Bridge.” The hon. member said he thought there were too few people residing at West Guildford to warrant the expenditure of so large a sum as £1000 upon a road bridge; at the same time he thought that something should be done to afford the residents some means of communication across the river. As pointed out in His Excellency’s message, a sum of £400 had already been recommended by the Council for expenditure on a bridge, and possibly this sum would suffice to provide a footway in connection with the railway bridge, as suggested in the resolution before the Committee.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy) did not know whether the hon. member would press his resolution, after the statement which he (the Colonial Secretary) was about to make to the House, as to the intention of the Government in this matter. His Excellency the Governor had consulted with the Commissioner of Railways with reference to the practicability of having a footpath for passenger traffic on the proposed railway bridge, and it had been decided that it would be practicable, and that it would be a most economical way of providing the accommodation required by the residents of West Guildford.

MR. SHENTON thought this would answer every purpose, regard being had to the small number of people who would be accommodated.

MR. HARDEY said this was only another instance of breaking faith with people—for it was nothing more nor less. A bridge had been promised to the West Guildford residents some three or four years ago, and a sum was voted by that House for the purpose, the inhabitants of the neighborhood in question also agreeing to raise by subscription a similar sum to augment the Government grant. This was in Governor Robinson’s time, and a promise was then made that when the railway bridge came to be constructed, the bridge asked for by the people at West Guildford should also be erected. The Government, in fact, had simply overlooked the matter, until it was again brought under their notice; and now the House wanted to back out of it, and to ignore the promise given altogether. He certainly would oppose

the resolution submitted by the hon. member for Geraldton.

MR. MARMION said he had an amendment to move, which he would read: That all the words after the word “it,” be struck out of the resolution, and the following words be inserted in lieu thereof:—“Is advisable “that the construction of the Railway “Bridge at Guildford should be carried “out, in accordance with the original “intention of the Government, as shown “in the papers and reports having “reference to the Railway, laid upon “the Table of the House during the “Sessions of 1877 and 1878, which “provided for the construction of a “bridge of sufficient width for a double “line of rails, and which after a full dis- “cussion and mature consideration, was “agreed to by the House.” The hon. member said, if the House adopted the original resolution, it would be adopting a most inconsistent course, to say the least of it. On referring to the Director of Public Works’ report on the Fremantle and Guildford Railway (dated 24th May, 1877) he found the following passage: “There would be but two large viaducts “required, one at Fremantle and the other “at Guildford,—the latter, by making it “answer the double purpose of a road “and railway bridge, would give the “accommodation so much required be- “tween East and West Guildford.” In the same officer’s report dated December, 1877, he found the following passage referring to the same subject, and showing that the Government still had in view the construction of a road bridge at the point indicated: “The bridges [one at Fremantle and one at Guildford] have “accordingly been made for a double “line of rails; and the extra expense “thus incurred in providing for such a “contingency I considered justifiable, “especially as at Guildford it is in- “tended, until required for railway pur- “poses, to use the second way for ordin- “ary road traffic.” When the matter of the railway was referred home, and Mr. Gregory was consulted on the subject, that gentleman, referring to the paragraph he (Mr. Marmion) had just quoted from the report of the Director of Public Works, said: “The large bridges are “proposed to be for a double line, as a “provision for possible future railway

"necessities, and, in the case of Guildford, for the purpose of using the extra width, at first, as an additional road bridge. I have not sufficient information to judge of the necessity of an extra road bridge at Guildford, but if this should be necessary, the width of 9ft. 6in. would be very small for such a purpose, and I cannot but think that for a long period a single line will carry all the traffic of the railway." These remarks made by Mr. Gregory were, with other comments, submitted by His Excellency to the Director of Public Works for his observations thereon, and what did Mr. Thomas say about it? "I submitted this point in my minute of the 24th November, 1876, and it was decided that double line bridges should be adopted, especially as the Government was pledged to give a road bridge at Guildford." Further comment, he (Mr. Marmion) thought would be superfluous. It would only be an act of simple justice on the part of the House to enable the Government to fulfil that pledge.

MR. HARPER seconded the amendment. The question appeared to him to resolve itself into this—was the House prepared, or was it not prepared, to carry out a pledge given by the Government and sanctioned by the House itself?

MR. BROWN would be sorry to see the House breaking faith with any person or with any district, but it could not be maintained that the House was pledged to an expenditure of over £400 for the purpose under consideration. That was the amount set apart by the House, and to that extent only could the Council be said to be pledged in the matter.

MR. CAREY would support the resolution. When the £400 was voted by the House, it was voted on the distinct understanding that a like amount should be raised by the inhabitants of the district.

MR. BROWN said a great deal had been said about the duty of the Government to fulfil its pledges; he would like to know whether the inhabitants of West Guildford were still prepared to carry out their pledge, and subscribe a sum equal to that voted by the Legislature.

MR. MARMION asked the Commissioner of Crown Lands whether it was not a fact that the railway bridge at

Fremantle was intended to accommodate a double line of rails?

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. M. Fraser): Not that I am aware of.

MR. MARMION: Then the Government have departed from what was the original intention of the House, which I think they should not have done without reference to the Council.

MR. HARPER—referring to what had fallen from the hon. member for Geraldton as to the inhabitants of Guildford being prepared to carry out their part of the agreement, to subscribe an equal amount to that voted by the House—said he was informed that the intention was that the Roads Boards should contribute something towards it, and also the Municipal Council, and that the residents should subscribe the rest. That was the original intention; but whether the several parties concerned were still prepared to carry out that scheme was another question.

MR. SHENTON thought the House ought to stick to the original stipulation, and insist that the inhabitants of the district should raise the sum promised (£400), otherwise the Council might have to provide the whole amount—£800.

MR. MARMION said it appeared to him that the stipulation referred to by the hon. member had been done away with by the subsequent action of the House in the matter.

The resolution, on being put to the Committee, was passed.

CELEBRATION OF MARRIAGE BILL.

On the motion for going into Committee for the further consideration of this Bill,

MR. SHENTON moved an amendment—"That it be further considered in Committee that day six months."

The Council divided, and the amendment was negatived, the numbers being—

Ayes	6
Noes	7
Majority against			1

AYES.
 Mr. Hardey
 Mr. Marmion
 Mr. Monger
 Mr. S. H. Parker
 Mr. Pearse
 Mr. Shenton (Teller.)

NOES.
 The Hon. G. W. Leake
 The Hon. M. Fraser
 Mr. Brown
 Mr. Burges
 Sir T. C. Campbell
 Mr. Harper
 The Hon. B. T. Goldsworthy (Teller.)

The House then went into Committee on the Bill.

Clause 6:

MR. BROWN'S amendment was, by leave, withdrawn.

THE ACTING ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. G. W. Leake) said he thought all the hon. member for Geraldton wished to be done, with reference to amending this clause, would be accomplished if he moved—which he now did—that after the word "marriage," and before the word "shall," in the first line, the words "in pursuance of such notice" be inserted, and after the word "nor," and before the word "until," in the fourth line, the words "in any case" be inserted.

Question put and passed.

Clause 6, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 7 agreed to.

Schedules A and B agreed to.

Preamble agreed to.

Title agreed to, and Bill reported.

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

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Monday, 15th September, 1879.

Secret Bills of Sale Bill: third reading—Money Order System: adjourned debate—Message (No. 8): Volunteers: further considered in Committee—Point of Order—Celebration of Marriage Bill: third reading; re-committed—Adjournment.

THE SPEAKER took the Chair at seven p.m.

PRAYERS.

SECRET BILLS OF SALE BILL.

This Bill was read a third time and passed.

EXTENSION OF MONEY ORDER SYSTEM.

ADJOURNED DEBATE:

The Order of the Day for the resumption of the debate upon Mr. Carey's

motion, relating to the extension of the Money Order System [p. 170 *ante*], being read,

MR. SHENTON moved that the Order be discharged, and the question referred to a Select Committee, such Committee to consist of more than five members, viz., the hon. M. Fraser, Mr. Crowther, Mr. Harper, Mr. Monger, Mr. Burges, and Mr. Carey.

This was agreed to.

MESSAGE (No. 8): VOLUNTEERS.

The Order of the Day for the further consideration of this Message, in Committee, being read,

MR. MARMION moved, "That—in reply to paragraph 7 of His Excellency's Message [p. 134 *ante*], this House is of opinion, after weighing fully the reasons and arguments set forth therein, that it is desirable so far to modify their Address of the 27th August, as to include upon the strength of the Volunteer Force of the Colony, 'The Fremantle Naval Artillery Troop, with a force of 30 men,' provided that the expenditure in connection with the organization and upkeep of such Corps shall not exceed the amount estimated by the Staff Officer of Volunteers, as shown in the Return laid on the Table of the House."

POINT OF ORDER.

MR. S. H. PARKER raised a Point of Order. The question involved in the resolution now before the House was substantially the same as one upon which judgment had already been expressed in the course of the present Session.

THE CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES said it certainly was a rule in both Houses of the Imperial Parliament not to permit any question to be offered, in the current Session, which was substantially the same as one on which their judgment had already been expressed. But what was to be determined here was—whether the question now brought forward by the hon. member for Fremantle was substantially the same question as that upon which the House had already expressed an opinion, or whether—though similar in its general import—it was not sufficiently at variance