

“Grounds of the North-West from injury and depreciation in value, it might perhaps be practicable to frame regulations which could be more usefully applied than those at present in force; and that an Humble Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor, praying that he will appoint a Commission to investigate the subject, and to enquire whether, by farming the fishing grounds or by other means, some better protection may not be afforded to the beds, and arrangements carried out for conducting the fisheries, which would be more advantageous both to the pearlery and to the Colony”—was put, and agreed to, without further discussion.

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

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Wednesday, 1st October, 1879.

Timber Concessions to Mr. M. C. Davies—Message (No. 18) from His Excellency the Governor: Acknowledging Addresses—Message (No. 19): Melbourne Exhibition—Message (No. 20): Assent to Bills—Royalty on Guano—Wines, Beer, and Spirit Sale Act, 1872, Amendment Bill, 1879: first reading—Estimates—Point of Order—Adjournment.

THE SPEAKER took the Chair at 7 o'clock, p.m.

PRAYERS.

TIMBER CONCESSIONS TO MR. M. C. DAVIES.

IN COMMITTEE.

MR. CAREY, in accordance with notice, moved the following resolution: “That whilst the Council fully recognizes the right of the Governor and Executive to deal with the Crown Lands of the Colony, it is of opinion that it is inadvisable, objectionable in principle, and has a tendency to interfere with the rights and privileges of the Legis-

lature, that any arrangement or engagement should be entered into by the Government, pledging the Colony to the remission of any duties (export or otherwise) that may be hereafter imposed by the Legislature; and respectfully submits that before any such remission or exemption shall be made, the nature of such remission or exemption shall have been considered by this Council, and recommended by a resolution of the House, or an address to His Excellency the Governor.” The hon. member said that in bringing forward the resolution he was actuated more with reference to the future than what had been done in the past, and he hoped the House would clearly understand that it was not his intention in any way to reflect upon what had been done by Mr. Weld’s administration, or even by Governor Ord’s, with reference to the remission of duties; his sole object being to prevent these remissions or exemptions being made in the future without reference to that House. The hon. member then read the terms of the concessions made to Mr. Simpson, of the W. A. Timber Company, in 1871, and said although these concessions were nothing like those made to Mr. Davies in regard to their liberality, still a great outcry was made at the time, although it was acknowledged that the timber trade, which was in a very depressed state, did require some stimulus. Mr. Simpson received no concessions whatever until after he had constructed a railway and a jetty, erected saw mills, and the works were in full operation. A commission had been appointed some years ago to visit these timber stations, and to report upon the timber trade, but whether the commission reported in favor of an export duty, or otherwise, had never transpired, so far as he was aware. When His Excellency the Governor visited the district last year, his attention was called to the subject, and he (Mr. Carey) understood that a proposal was made that if the Company waived their right to the exemption from paying export duties and to have licenses, the fees would be considerably reduced. In the face of this fact, he must say he was surprised at the nature of the concessions made to Mr. Davies. The document granting these concessions was signed,

sealed, and delivered on the 12th September within a month after the House was in Session, yet no reference was made in the House to the negotiations which must have been pending when the Council was sitting. Surely if it was now deemed necessary to consult the House with regard to a concession of 30,000 acres, it was still more incumbent upon the Government to have done so with regard to a concession of 90,000 acres.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. M. Fraser) said that the present Administration, having a precedent before them, and acting as they believed in the interests of the Colony, had agreed to the concessions alluded to. If the House was desirous of expressing its opinion on the subject, it was, of course, at perfect liberty to do so.

MR. BROWN was of opinion that, before any such remissions were made in the future, the Government should not become a party to them without the assent of the Legislature; but, at the same time, he did recognise that the Government, in the exercise of their duties towards the Colony, were bound to act upon their own discretion in certain cases, and he thought they were perfectly justified in doing so in this case. Governor Weld had to make very liberal concessions in order to revive the timber trade, and liberal concessions had been made since, among them that now under consideration. And although he thought the Government may have been justified in acting as they had done—he had nothing before him to show that they were not justified—still he thought that in future it would be well that the Legislature should have an opportunity of expressing an opinion upon proposed concessions of any magnitude. This, he understood, was all what the hon. member for the Vasse desired. He would, however, oppose the resolution as now worded, which in effect states that Governor Weld, and every subsequent Governor who had entered into an agreement with timber companies to exempt such companies from the payment of an export duty, had interfered with the rights and privileges of the Legislature. He would, therefore, move, as an amendment: "That this Council is of opinion that it is inadvisable that

"any arrangement or engagement should
"in future be entered into by the Go-
"vernment, pledging the Colony to the
"remission of any duties (export or
"otherwise) that may be hereafter im-
"posed by the Legislature, and respect-
"fully submits that before any remission
"or exemption shall be made, the nature
"of such remission or exemption shall
"have been considered by this Council,
"and recommended by a resolution of
"the House, or an address to His Excel-
"lency the Governor."

MR. S. H. PARKER would support the original resolution, which he believed was more in consonance with the views of the House. It appeared to him that the very words which the amendment proposed to leave out of the resolution constituted its very pith. He failed to see that the action of successive administrations in remitting export duties in the case of certain timber companies was not an interference with the prerogatives of the Legislature; on the contrary, it appeared to him a very unwarrantable interference, and he believed that were the Legislature this Session, or hereafter, to impose an export duty on timber, the companies in question would have no legal right to claim exemption simply because this or that Governor had, without reference to the Legislature, entered into an agreement with them that they should be exempt from the payment of a duty. If the Government had a right to remit these duties, they had an equal right to remit any other duty, and to relieve any merchants, say at Fremantle, from the payment of Customs dues payable by the rest of the mercantile community. The principle involved was just the same, and was undoubtedly an interference with the privileges of the Legislative Council, which alone had the right to impose or remit taxation.

MR. MARMION said it was his intention to support the original resolution, and, in doing so, he might say he had not the slightest desire to cast any slur upon any past administration. It had been said that Governor Weld was the first to grant these concessions, and if he (Mr. Marmion) supposed there was any intention whatever to cast any imputation upon that gentleman with regard to his action in the matter, he was quite

prepared to remove that imputation. At the time the arrangement was entered into by the Weld administration with Mr. Simpson, of the W. A. Timber Co., there was representative Legislature (in the proper sense of the word) then in existence in the Colony. That agreement was entered into on the 12th October, 1869, before the present constitution came into force: the first Session under the existing form of Government did not open until the 5th December, 1870—fifteen months after the agreement was entered into and the concessions granted. A Governor at that time might have fairly conceived himself entitled to do that which a Governor under the present constitution would not feel himself justified in doing—and it was very doubtful whether he had the right to do. He believed that in imposing or remitting these taxes, the Government were encroaching upon the rights and privileges of the Legislature, and he saw nothing in the resolution that any one could take exception to.

MR. CAREY said he was quite willing to amend his resolution in any form the hon. member for Geraldton might suggest, so long as it did not go so far as the hon. member proposed in the amendment now before the House, which struck out the very pith of the resolution. The Commissioner of Crown Lands said that the concessions were made in the interest of the Colony. No doubt they were intended as such, but it was very clear that it very materially affected the revenue. Some years ago, Mr. Connor applied for a concession on this very grant of Mr. Davies', and the reply he received from Governor Robinson was that the days for granting concessions had gone by, the timber trade having now become an established industry.

The original resolution was then agreed to.

MESSAGES FROM HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR.

MR. SPEAKER announced the receipt of the following Message from His Excellency the Governor:

MESSAGE (NO. 13) ACKNOWLEDGING ADDRESSES.

The Governor has the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the follow-

ing Addresses from Your Honorable Body:—

“No. 19.—Stating that, in the opinion of Your Honorable House, the improvement of the Registration System in the Registrar of Deeds Office can only be satisfactorily performed by some person skilled in the preparation and registration of Deeds, and in the habit of making searches in the office.

“No. 20.—Suggesting that a footway might be provided at a small expense in connection with the Railway Bridge at West Guildford.

“No. 21.—Respecting a grant of land to Mr. M. C. Davies.

“No. 22.—Praying the Governor to cause a sum of £200 to be placed on the Estimates for 1880, to be expended by the Perth City Council in the improvement of the lands between the William Street and Barrack Street Jetties.

“No. 23.—Praying His Excellency to make the necessary provision for the payment of the annual contribution of the Colony towards the duplication of the Sea Cable at Port Darwin, now estimated at £367 a year.

“No. 24.—Stating that, in the opinion of Your Honorable Body, it is desirable to carry out the recommendations of the Select Committee in their Report of 17th September, 1879, as to the conveyance of the Inland Mails, and the extension of the Money Order System.

“No. 25.—Praying His Excellency to grant Mr. Henry Spencer a gratuity of one hundred guineas, in further recognition, in addition to his pension, of his long and valuable services as Chief Clerk in the Treasury.

“No. 26.—An Humble Address to place on the Estimates for 1880 a sum of £50 to provide for the visits of a Magistrate and Medical Officer to Bridgetown and the Blackwood.

“No. 27.—Expressing the opinion of Your Honorable House with respect to certain alterations in the salaries of Public Officers, as suggested in the papers laid before Your Honorable House by His Excellency's command, and also as to the transference of the Registry of Deeds to the Registrar of Titles.

“No. 28.—Expressing the opinion of Your Honorable House that it would

"be advantageous were the Surveyor of Roads to consult with the Road Boards respecting the expenditure of the Road Loan in their districts.

"No. 29.—Expressing the views of Your Honorable Body as to the provision to be made for the Volunteer Force.

"No. 30.—That in the opinion of Your Honorable House, it will be desirable at an early period to form a Government Station at Beagle Bay, or elsewhere on the North-West Coast, and praying His Excellency will take such steps as may seem to him necessary for carrying out the wishes of the House in this matter.

"No. 31.—Praying the Governor to appoint a Commission to investigate the subject of the Pearl Shell Fishing Grounds, and to enquire whether some better protection may not be afforded to the beds, and arrangements carried out for conducting the fisheries which would be more advantageous both to the pearlers and to the Colony.

"In reply, the Governor has the honor to inform Your Honorable Body with respect to:—

"No. 19.—That it shall receive His Excellency's careful consideration.

"No. 20.—That the Governor is advised by the Commissioner of Railways, that, with certain precautions, the railroad bridge may be made available for foot passengers.

"No. 21.—That it is His Excellency's intention to grant but a limited concession to Mr. M. C. Davies, and to inform him of the opinion expressed by Your Honorable Body, respecting the upkeep of the road leading to it, in which opinion His Excellency entirely concurs.

"Nos. 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 29, 30, and 31.—That His Excellency has much pleasure in taking steps to carry out the wishes of Your Honorable House, as expressed in these Addresses.

"No. 28.—The Governor is glad to be able to inform Your Honorable Body, that, acting on His Excellency's instructions, the Surveyor of Roads is in the habit of consulting with the Road Boards, and inviting their co-operation in carrying out the arrangements for

"the expenditure of the Loan Fund in their districts.

"Government House, Perth, 1st October, 1879."

MESSAGE (NO. 19): MELBOURNE EXHIBITION.

Mr. SPEAKER also announced the receipt of the following Message relating to the Melbourne Exhibition:—

"The Governor had the honor to inform Your Honorable House in his Message No. 1, of the 8th August, that he had much pleasure in complying with the requests contained in the address of Your Honorable Body, No. 2, of the 4th August, praying that he would place on the Estimates such a sum, not exceeding £1000, as would ensure the products of the Colony being properly represented at the Exhibition to be held at Melbourne next year.

"In conformity with the views expressed in His Excellency's opening speech to the Legislative Council, in which the question was first raised, and which views the Governor understood to be endorsed by your address before quoted, His Excellency caused the following notice to be inserted in the *Government Gazette*, of the 12th August.

"No. 389.—C.S.O.

*Colonial Secretary's Office,
Perth, 11th August, 1879.*

"It is hereby notified, for general information, that the Legislative Council has decided on placing at the disposal of Government a sum of money to ensure the products of the Colony being properly represented at the forthcoming Exhibition, to be held at Melbourne in 1880.

"It is the intention of Government in the appropriation of this sum to restrict itself, as is usual in other countries, to assisting the efforts of persons who may be willing to exhibit on their own account—and not itself to attempt to exhibit on behalf of the Colony, except it may be in the case of some special product for the exhibition of which it has greater facilities than the public.

"The Commissioners of the Melbourne Exhibition having urgently re-

“ requested that the Government would state, as soon as possible, the probable amount of space required by Western Australia, it is necessary that intending Exhibitors should forward to the Colonial Secretary, not later than 30th September, a list of the articles or products proposed to be exhibited, to facilitate which, blank forms, as under, can be obtained from Government Residents and Resident Magistrates, and at all the Post Offices throughout the Colony.

“ By His Excellency’s Command,
 “ R. T. GOLDSWORTHY,
 “ Colonial Secretary.

MELBOURNE EXHIBITION.

Name of Exhibitor and place of residence.	Goods proposed to be Exhibited.		Cubical or superficial space to be occupied when exhibited.	Remarks.
	Description, including quantity or number.	In which District Grown, Produced or Manufactured.		

“ And up to this date, there have been received in response only the following applications for space by, Mr. Geo. Curedale, of Fremantle, for the exhibition of starch, gums, oils, &c., Mr. James Lamb, Bunbury, for the exhibition of leather tanned in various ways.

“ Mr. C. A. Berringer, Champion Bay, for the same purpose.

“ Under these circumstances His Excellency proposes, with the concurrence of Your Honorable House, to withdraw from the Estimates now about to be submitted for your consideration the £1000 in question.

“ Government House, Perth, 1st October, 1879.”

MESSAGE (NO 20): ASSENT TO BILLS.

MR. SPEAKER further acknowledged the receipt of the appended Message:

“ The Governor has the honor to inform Your Honorable House that in the name and on behalf of the Queen he has assented to the following Acts:—

“ 21. *An Act to repeal an Act to make provision for the punishment of Masters of Vessels in certain cases.*”

“ 22. *An Act to confirm the Expenditure for the services of the year 1878, beyond the grant for that year.*”

“ 23. *An Act to prevent The Importation of Diseased Stock.*”

“ 24. *An Act to amend ‘The Absconding Debtors’ Act, 41st Victoria, No. 17.’*”
 “ Government House, Perth, 1st October, 1879.”

ROYALTY ON GUANO.

Mr. MARMION, pursuant to notice, moved the following resolution: “ That in the opinion of this Council, with a view to offer encouragement to the cultivation of the soil and of improving its productive capabilities, it is advisable that all guano gathered or collected upon the coast or islands of the Colony, and sold for use and consumption within the limits of the Colony, should be free of all royalties or duties, and that such royalty or duty should only be levied on all guano exported.”

The hon. member said the principle of affording encouragement to agriculture had already been recognised by the House, as was illustrated in its action in removing the import duties upon agricultural implements, seeds, etc., and he thought the principle might very beneficially be extended in the direction here indicated. Guano might fairly be regarded as a colonial product, and as such it had a right to be admitted into our colonial ports free of duty. He believed that in the other Colonies guano was on the free list, and, where there was a railway system, it was conveyed by rail at a lower rate than any other product, the various Governments fully recognising the desirability of offering every encouragement to the cultivation of the soil. It might be said that it was hardly worth while bringing forward this resolution in the face of the statement that there was very little guano left; but his opinion was that there were many other islands on the coast where this valuable fertilising agent would yet be found in abundance, and he knew of no step more likely to bring them to light than the adoption of the proposal embodied in the resolution before the House. During a great portion of the year there was a large number of small vessels lying idle, and which, were the

guano sold for use within the Colony relieved from royalty or duty, would be induced to go searching for fresh deposits. Were this done, and the search proving successful, he believed that in the course of a short time guano might be sold in the Colony at £3 per ton; and he need hardly point out what a boon that would prove to our farmers and gardeners.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. M. Fraser) was afraid the subject was surrounded with greater difficulties than seemed to have presented themselves to the mind of the hon. member who had brought forward this resolution. He concurred in the belief that further deposits of guano would hereafter be discovered, and it appeared to him that this substance was a very fair source of revenue, and one which the Colony could ill afford to lose. He need hardly point out that in the event of all guano brought into our colonial ports for consumption within the Colony being exempted from all royalties or duties, it would be necessary to make some provision for preventing such a concession being abused. How were they to prevent vessels loading with guano, avowedly for use in the Colony, taking it elsewhere, and thus avoid the payment of royalty? How were they to prevent unscrupulous outsiders from loading, with the announced intention of bringing the guano to Fremantle, or some other colonial port, and then sailing away to some foreign part of the world? It was clear that something would have to be done to protect the revenue, and to prevent fraud of this kind being practised.

MR. MARMION believed that these difficulties were imaginary rather than real, and the House was not now asked to deal with the proposition in detail, but merely to affirm a principle. The same objections as had been urged by the hon. the Commissioner of Crown Lands as to the difficulties surrounding this question applied with equal force to pearl shells or any other article upon which there was an export duty, such as sandalwood. If the Government were not prepared to suggest such precautionary measures as would prevent the revenue being defrauded in connection with the free introduction of guano into

our colonial ports, he would have no hesitation in proposing such measures himself.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy) was surprised to find such a resolution as that before the House being brought forward by any honorable member in the present financial condition of the Colony, when in place of curtailing our sources of revenue it was found necessary to add to them. He was still more surprised to find such a resolution—put forward, as the hon. member alleged, solely in the interests of the farming community—introduced by an hon. member representing a seaport town, which very circumstance made him (the Colonial Secretary) look a little deeper into the question, as to what class of the community the proposal, if carried out, would be most likely to benefit. When Customs duties were removed, it was the merchants and storekeepers, as a rule, and not the general public, that benefited by their abolition, and he was afraid it would be the same here. He did not think it was the agricultural community that would benefit, but the shippers and the merchants. Where the shoe really pinched was this—shippers did not relish having to pay the royalty upon guano, as they now had to do, such a long time before they received any return for it. As he believed it was the shipping interest, rather than the agricultural interest that would be likely to reap the benefit of the proposed concession, he certainly would oppose the resolution before the House.

MR. BROCKMAN said he certainly would support it. He at any rate was not interested in the shipping trade, and therefore could not be charged with giving his adhesion to the resolution from interested motives.

MR. SHENTON thought the resolution was one which would commend itself to most hon. members, whether representing agricultural districts or seaport towns. It had his cordial support, inasmuch as it would prove a great boon to the farming community, who were entitled to every consideration at the hands of that House.

THE ACTING ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. G. W. Leake) was of opinion that however admirable in principle the proposition before the House was, it

would be found that to carry it into practical effect would be attended with very serious difficulties. As pointed out by his hon. friend the Surveyor General, how were they to ascertain whether a vessel loading with guano, say at the Lacedepes, though stated to be destined for Fremantle, was not in reality going to some foreign port? What was to prevent her, after clearing for Bunbury, sailing away to Hamburg. Vessels sometimes "cleared" for Guam when their real destination was the Mauritius. One thing was clear, the proposition embodied in the resolution could only be carried out at the expense of the public revenue, and he did not think it would be gainsaid that the Colony just now could ill afford to relinquish any legitimate source of income.

MR. BROWN said if he had ever met a man who, in his public actions, was not actuated by some personal consideration, that man was the hon. member who brought forward this resolution, though the hon. the Colonial Secretary seemed to think otherwise. He would say this—whichever would be benefited by the proposed concession, or immunity from royalty, he was perfectly certain the Colony would not be a loser by it, and consequently he would support the resolution. He failed to see that the subject was surrounded with any difficulties that could not be surmounted. It was absurd to think that any shipper would bring a load of guano to a colonial port, discharge it, and then re-load and proceed with it elsewhere, for the sake of avoiding the payment of a royalty of 15s. per ton, which was the amount now imposed.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy) rose to say a few words in reply to what had fallen from the hon. member for Geraldton, who generally constituted himself the champion of everybody else. The hon. member hinted that he (the Colonial Secretary) had made a personal attack upon the hon. member for Fremantle: he assured the House he had no such intention. What he said was, and what he believed was, that it would be the shippers and not the farmers that would derive most benefit from the concessions contemplated in the resolution before the House.

MR. CAREY said the resolution would certainly have his support. It appeared to him that the Government would be quite as justified in placing a royalty upon wheat as upon guano. Both were colonial products. He thought the proposed concession would be a very great boon to the agricultural community, and especially to the small farmers, who at present were unable to procure manure at a cost within their means.

MR. S. S. PARKER said he also would support the resolution, in the belief that, if carried into effect, it would prove of immense advantage to the cultivators of the soil, and, indirectly, to the whole Colony. The hon. the Colonial Secretary seemed to think that farmers would derive no benefit from the proposal. He begged to differ from the hon. gentleman; he believed that not only would they benefit by it, but it would prove an incalculable boon to them, and, for that reason, the resolution had his cordial support.

MR. PEARSE said, although in supporting the resolution he rendered himself liable to the same imputation as had been cast upon his honorable colleague by the hon. gentleman opposite, that would not deter him from expressing his hearty approval of the proposition, which he believed would prove a public boon.

The resolution was then put and carried.

WINES, BEER, AND SPIRIT SALE ACT, 1872, AMENDMENT BILL, 1879.

MR. BROWN moved for leave to introduce a Bill to further amend "The Wines, Beer, and Spirit Sale Act, 1872."

Leave granted, and Bill read a first time.

THE ESTIMATES.

The House then went into Committee of Supply for the consideration of the Estimates for the ensuing year.

Governor's Establishment, Item £443 17s. 8d.:

Agreed to.

Legislative Council, Item £775:

MR. S. H. PARKER moved that the provision proposed to be made for the salaries of the Speaker and of the Chairman of Committees be reduced to £100, and £50, respectively, in view of the

approaching dissolution of the present Council, and the possibility of there being no other Council to preside over for some months to come.

MR. BROWN opposed the motion, which he could only regard as another illustration of the hon. member's irrepressible propensity for joking.

The motion was not pressed, and the whole vote was agreed to.

Colonial Secretary's Department, Item £1432 :

MR. SHENTON moved that the item "First class clerk and Registrar General, £350" be reduced by £25. He noticed that under the head of Land Titles Department there was an increase of £50 to the salary of the Registrar of Titles, in consequence of the extra duties about to be imposed upon that officer in connection with the registration of deeds; he therefore presumed that a part of the duties now discharged by the Registrar General had been transferred to the Land Titles Department. Consequently he failed to see why the Registrar General, who was also a first-class clerk in the Colonial Secretary's office, should draw the same amount of salary, or rather an increase.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy) was sure it was not the wish of the House that any officer occupying a position like Mr. Eliot's, should be a loser by any reorganisation of the service. Previous to Mr. Eliot taking his present appointment, he was receiving within £5 or £10 the amount now placed on the Estimates. He hoped the House would not, in a fit of economy, do an act of injustice to a deserving public officer.

MR. CAREY said the duties of the Registrar General were very light indeed, and, under the proposed new arrangement, the main portion of the work of registration would fall upon the Registrar of Deeds. It appeared to him that the amount proposed to be struck off the Estimates was a fair one.

MR. BROWN: At the time Mr. Eliot was appointed to the office he now holds in the Colonial Secretary's department he was receiving £345 a year, and if he had stuck to the position which he then held he would have become entitled to some consideration on account of length of service. He was asked to give up

that position, and he consented to do so, in the interest of the service. Surely he is entitled to at least as much as he was receiving before he gave up his former position.

POINT OF ORDER.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy) said these figures had already been approved by the House when the report of the Commission was under consideration. He would ask whether the Committee was not out of order, as the question now before it was substantially the same as that upon which the House had already expressed its judgment.

MR. SHENTON: When the report of the Commission was under consideration, I purposely abstained from taking any share in the debate so as to leave myself free when the Estimates came on.

THE CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES: In my opinion, the House having decided on a former occasion with regard to the salaries of certain officers, and resolved that those salaries should be fixed at a certain sum, it is not competent for the Committee to come to a contrary decision at the present Session.

MR. SHENTON: I must appeal to Mr. Speaker for his ruling on that point. If that is so, it is perfect waste of time to discuss these Estimates at all.

MR. CAREY: When the report of the Commission was adopted by the House, I reserved for myself the right to object to any vote when the Estimates came before us.

THE CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES: I shall be glad, myself, if this question were referred to His Honor the Speaker. It is substantially the same question as came before us on another occasion. Hon. members may have in their own minds reserved to themselves the right to object to any of these figures, but certainly the House came to a decision on the subject, and, in my opinion, the House cannot go back from that decision which it arrived at before. I may be wrong, and I am perfectly willing to report to the House.

MR. S. H. PARKER: I do not think there was any substantive resolution committing the House to the amount of each particular officer's salary.

MR. BROWN: I think that the very object of the report of the Commission being submitted for our judgment was in order to enable the Government to frame these Estimates in accordance with the decision of the House.

THE CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES: My ruling will be that the decision which the House came to, the other day, with regard to these salaries must be adhered to; and if the Committee takes exception to that ruling, it will be necessary for me to report to the House, in order that His Honor the Speaker may give his decision on the Point of Order.

MR. CAREY moved that the Chairman of Committees do report to the House.

THE SPEAKER took the Chair.

THE CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES reported, as follows: On Friday, 26th September, the House adopted the following Resolution:—"That this Council having taken into consideration the report of a Committee appointed to report upon certain Resolutions of the Legislative Council, suggesting alterations in salaries, &c., in certain Departments, is of opinion that the action proposed to be taken by His Excellency the Governor, as recorded in the papers before this Council, be approved; but the House is at the same time of opinion that it would be advantageous to the Public Service were the Registrar of Titles also Registrar of Deeds." And these items, the approbation of which the Resolution involved, are embodied in the Estimates now before the Committee. A Point of Order has been raised as to whether the Committee can now reverse the decision formerly arrived at by the House.

MR. SPEAKER: Certain Estimates have been framed and submitted to the Committee for their consideration, and the Committee has only to deal with the questions submitted for its judgment. It has not been instructed that a certain resolution has been passed by the House with reference to some of the items on the Estimates, and, therefore, it has no cognisance of what has taken place in the House on the subject. All the Committee has to deal with is that which is committed to it, and that is—the Estimates.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy): Having heard your Honor's decision, I shall now move the adjournment of the House. It will be necessary for me to consider how these Estimates are to be re-framed.

MR. BROWN: The hon. gentleman is possibly in a 'pet,' and the other side delighted, at the ruling of His Honor; but I think that's no reason why the business of the Session should be delayed.

MR. CAREY: Yesterday the hon. gentleman wanted to proceed at once with the Estimates—in fact, to rush them through the House; and now, just because he is opposed in his wishes, he wants to adjourn the House and to defer their consideration.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy): I am very sorry I cannot continue the discussion on these Estimates, as it will be necessary for me to reconsider and reframe them. As to what has fallen from the hon. member for Vasse, I decline to reply to it in any way: I treat it with the contempt it deserves. I now move that Progress be reported, and leave asked to sit again.

Question negatived.

MR. SLENTON, with leave, withdrew his amendment.

The vote for the Colonial Secretary's Department was then agreed to.

Treasury Department, Item £850:

Agreed to, without comment.

Audit Department, Item £960:

Agreed to, *nem. con.*

Survey Department, Item £8110:

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy) said he had omitted, when glancing at the Estimates in making his financial statement, to refer to the proposal to give the Deputy Surveyor General an increase of £50. This officer when he returned to this Colony after his successful trip across the interior to South Australia, did so under the belief that his salary would be increased; but he had not yet received that increase. During the past twelve years the only addition he had received to his salary was £75; and, looking at the fact that during the absence of the Surveyor General he performs the duties of that officer, looking also at the value of the services which the Deputy Surveyor General had rendered to the Colony in

the cause of exploration, he (the Colonial Secretary) did not think the Government were asking too much when they asked the House to increase his salary to the extent of £50 a year.

MR. MARMION asked the Commissioner of Crown Lands if it was intended to carry out the suggestion made last year that an amount of something like £700, overdrawn in connection with the special survey of the North-West Coast, should be refunded?

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. M. Fraser): The refund will take place this year: these Estimates are for the next year.

MR. CAREY would like to see the item "Contingencies" placed before the Committee in a different form. The general impression with regard to the sum of £5,000 under this head was that it was expended entirely upon contract surveys, whereas in reality a sum of £1,320 out of it was expended in the salaries of extra clerks. Another item which he would like to see altered was that of £150 forage and travelling allowances for the Surveyor General; it appeared to him that it would be much better to add this sum to that gentleman's salary.

MR. MARMION thought the vote for contract surveying might fairly be reduced from £5,000 to £4,000, and he was inclined to move that it should be. He found that the total amount expended in 1878 was about £4,500, including the expenditure in connection with meteorological observations, and £370 paid towards the special survey at the North-West, leaving about £4,100 for contract surveys.

MR. SHENTON said he would be inclined to support the amendment of the hon. member to reduce the vote from £5,000 to £4,000, unless there was a special object in view; and he felt so more particularly from the information gleaned by the Select Committee on the Excess Bill, with regard to the lavish expenditure in connection with the North-West Coast Survey. He thought a great deal more economy might be practised in this department.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. M. Fraser) said he had long wished to publish a complete map of all the settled Districts of the Colony,

and if hon. members had read his official reports they would have seen that he had striven hard to overtake the general survey of the Colony, so as to enable him to compile a reliable map. If hon. members were aware of all that had been done in this direction, he thought they would allow that, with the slender means at his disposal, a great deal had been accomplished. The House might rest assured that when he asked for so large a sum as this to be placed on the Estimates again, under the head of "Contingencies," he did not do so without mature consideration. Surveys which he projected, and which were necessary to facilitate the settlement of the Colony, would absorb the whole of that sum. Seven or eight years ago, surveys could be conducted at much less cost than they can now; laborers' wages alone being now double what they were then. It was impossible for the work to be done at less cost than was shown in the returns which accompanied his report. The hon. member for Toodyay asked if there was any special work in view? He might say that there was. One hundred thousand acres of special occupation land had recently been taken up, and this alone would constitute a pretty heavy item, and, with the "connections" which he had in view, and the surveys of outlying country, would absorb the whole of the vote. Although he did not exactly contemplate any special survey, he hoped to be able to fill up many gaps. The southern parts of the Colony also demanded attention. If hon. members wished it, he would have no objection, next Session, and in future, to embody in his official report a sketch of the work proposed to be done in the ensuing year. With reference to special surveys, he might remind the House of the proposed establishment of a Government station at Beagle Bay.

MR. MARMION expressed a hope that that expedition would not be conducted on the same liberal scale as the last special survey in that direction.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. M. Fraser): With regard to that, I can only say that if a survey party is despatched, it will be organised on as economical a scale as possible. I cannot say more than that.

MR. CAREY then formally moved, as an amendment upon the Estimates, "That the sum of £400 in the first item (Deputy Surveyor General), be reduced by £50."

Question—That the sum proposed to be struck out stand part of the Estimates—put.

Committee divided.

Ayes	...	...	7
Noes	...	...	9
Majority against	...		2

AYES.	NOES.
The Hon. G. W. Leake	Mr. Brockman
The Hon. M. Fraser	Mr. Burges
Mr. Brown	Mr. Glyde
Mr. Harper	Mr. Hardey
Mr. Marmion	Mr. Monger
Mr. Pearse	Mr. S. H. Parker
The Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy (Teller.)	Mr. S. S. Parker;
	Mr. Shenton
	Mr. Carey (Teller.)

The amendment was therefore carried.

MR. MARMION, referring to the item "Two Surveyors, at £300 each," said there was a general impression that the work in the Survey Office might be carried on with less hands than at present, and that there did not exist any urgent necessity for the employment, in addition to the Surveyor General and the Deputy Surveyor General, of one of the "two surveyors," who were looked upon as being employed solely in field work, when one of them, at least, spent his whole time in the office at Perth. He did not know whether the impression he had referred to was a correct one, or not, but it certainly existed.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. M. Fraser): I presume the hon. member refers to Mr. Price. In the beginning of last year this officer returned with the Eucla Telegraph party; immediately afterwards the Deputy Surveyor General was absent on the special survey on the North-West Coast, and Mr. Price was left in charge of the office while he was away. As to the other of the "two surveyors" referred to (Mr. Brooking), he was engaged during the whole of the season in the field. When the Deputy Surveyor General returned from the North-West Coast Survey, Mr. Price was making preparations to start for the bush; but the Deputy Surveyor General was sent on a special mission to the Lacepede Islands, and Mr. Price remained in Perth. Immediately upon

Mr. Forrest's return, Mr. Price took to the field, and did not return to the office until field operations were interfered with by the weather. As to Mr. Brooking, he has been actively employed on a difficult task for two years past, and had made good headway with it. There was no desire or intention to keep these two officers in the office more than could possibly be avoided.

The vote for the Survey Department was then agreed to.

Customs Department, Item £3,305:

MR. MARMION asked, with reference to the Revenue services on the North-West Coast, whether it was the intention of the Government to hire or to purchase a vessel for these services?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy) said there was no intention on the part of the Government to do either. The matter was left entirely in the hands of Captain Walcott. The amount placed on the Estimates, and voted by the House for the service, would be placed at his disposal, and if he exceeded it, it would be at his own responsibility; the Government would not recognise any excess. This course it had been found necessary to adopt, in consequence of the very lavish expenditure in connection with this service in the past. Captain Walcott would receive a certain monthly sum, and he would not be allowed to go beyond it; with this he would have to maintain the vessel and pay the crew. He would be called upon to perform certain services during the pearling season, and in the interim would be employed as an itinerant magistrate, visiting the outlying stations, all at a fixed salary of £200 a year.

The vote for the Customs Department was then put and passed.

Works and Railways Department, Item £5,430:

MR. MARMION—referring to the item "Locomotive and Traffic Expenses, "Wages of Porters, Guards, Workmen, "Stores, and Incidental Expenses, "£3,000,"—said it really appeared to him that it would be advisable to close the Northern railway altogether, until such times as the mines resumed operations; it was only throwing money away to keep up an expensive staff, and no traffic returns. This railway at the

present time might certainly be regarded as a "white elephant." He understood that lead ore was now being carted by horse teams on a road running parallel with the railway.

MR. SHENTON could not agree in the proposal to close the line until such time as the traffic increased; but he did think the expenditure in connection with the working of the railway might be considerably reduced. So far from the traffic on the line being *nil*, he believed that during the past few months no less than 900 tons of ore had been conveyed down the line, for shipment by the wool vessels, to say nothing of the goods conveyed from Geraldton to the Mines.

The vote for the department was then agreed to.

Postal and Telegraph Department, Item £27,508 10s.

MR. CAREY said he would like to know what course he should adopt in order that the item "Postmaster General, £450," should be increased to £500, in order to carry out the wish of the House.

THE CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES: Unless the members of the Government are prepared to place the larger amount on the Estimates, the hon. member's course will be, another day, to move an address.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy): I am not prepared to do what the hon. member suggests should be done, and for this reason—when the commission was appointed to enquire into the salaries of the officers of this department, it was not intended that the commission should include the head of the department in their enquiries; but, if it is the wish of the House, and an address to His Excellency the Governor is adopted, praying that the sum of £450 be increased to £500, I have no doubt His Excellency would accede to the prayer of the address.

MR. BROWN said he understood the Colonial Secretary to say the other evening that the Government, in lieu of increasing the salary of the Postmaster General, had granted him an extra clerk to perform certain clerical duties in consideration of which the commission had (among other reasons) recommended an increase in the salary of the Postmaster General. He also understood that the

Postmaster General had expressed himself as perfectly satisfied with this arrangement.

MR. CAREY was understood to say that he was in a position to state that the Postmaster General was by no means satisfied with the arrangement, but had expressed his dissent.

MR. S. H. PARKER moved that the following items be struck out: Postmaster, Cheangwa, £10; do., Dardanup, £10; do., Etipup, £10; do., Jayes, £10; Messenger, Kojonup, £12; Postmaster, Lockeville, £15; do., Strawberry, £10. The motion was negatived.

MR. SHENTON—referring to the item "Extension of Telegraphic Communication between Pinjarrah and Mandurah, £300,"—said he hardly thought the state of the finances admitted of this work being carried out at present, especially bearing in mind that the line, if erected, would entail the necessity of employing a telegraphist at Mandurah. According to the report of the commission it would cost £90 a year to maintain the line. He would move that the item be struck out.

This was agreed to, upon a division, the numbers being—

Ayes	...	...	10
Noes	...	...	4
Majority for	...	...	6

AYES.	NOES.
Mr. Brockman	The Hon. G. W. Leake
Mr. Burges	The Hon. M. Fraser
Mr. Glyde	Mr. Carey
Mr. Harper	The Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy (Teller.)
Sir L. S. Leake	
Mr. Marmion	
Mr. Monger	
Mr. S. H. Parker	
Mr. S. S. Parker	
Mr. Shenton (Teller.)	

The item "Postal and Telegraph Department, £27,208 10s.," was then ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The House adjourned at one o'clock.