

amendment to add a certain rider to it. But, as the result of the division just taken, the report itself is thrown out, and the rider remains—if I may say so, without the horse—in consequence, I am afraid, of the mismanagement of an hon. member.

SCAB ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

This Bill was read a third time and passed.

The House adjourned at eight o'clock, p.m.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Thursday, 4th August, 1881.

Supplementary Estimates for 1881.

THE SPEAKER took the Chair at noon.

PRAYERS.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES FOR 1881.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Lord Gifford) moved that the House do now resolve itself into a Committee of Supply, in order to consider certain expenses requisite to be incurred in certain departments, over and above the sum voted in the Appropriation Act last Session, for the services of this year. The noble lord said the original estimate of revenue for the current year was £192,154, and, on that basis, he was now coming before the House to ask it to confirm or to approve an increased expenditure over that sum which the Government had anticipated would have sufficed to carry them through the year. He might otherwise have come before the Committee with possibly a more hopeful financial statement, and stated that our revenue for the first half of the current year having reached the sum of £106,881, there was therefore good reason for supposing that the revenue for the next

half year would suffice to meet the whole of the expenditure which they were now asking the House to confirm. The Government, however, did not think that necessary, as they still had a credit balance on their original estimate; but, in addition to that estimate they now asked the House to re-vote two small items which were placed to special account for expenditure on the following services, but which were not now required, namely—repairs, Mount Eliza Dépôt, £223 14s. 4d., and Court House, Roebourne, £350. These two additional items, taken in conjunction with the original estimate of revenue (£192,154), would bring the total amount available for this year up to £192,727 14s. 4d. With regard to the two small items just mentioned, it was found that, as regards the vote for the Dépôt, only £60 would be required, and, as regards the vote of £350 for the Roebourne Court House, that would not be required for that purpose at all, as provision was made for this service in the Bill for the re-appropriation of the £5,000 appropriated three years ago for the purchase of a steam tug, which, afterwards, it was not considered expedient to obtain. So much for the revenue. With regard to the Supplementary Estimate of expenditure which the Committee were now asked to confirm, the two first items—interest and sinking fund on loans due on 31st December last (£8,671 5s.), and interest on this year's loan, due on 31st December next (£2,500)—these amounts were authorised and provided for by special enactments, and consequently would not require confirmation, though they were shown on the Estimates placed in the hands of hon. members, in order to enable the House to see what the total expenditure was estimated to be. The original estimate of ordinary expenditure for the year was £168,894 13s. 10d., which, however, would be reduced by a sum of £1,573 12s. 11d., consisting of various amounts provided for by the Estimates for 1881, but which it was found would not be required, and to which he would presently refer in detail. The corrected amount of expenditure therefore (less interest and sinking fund on loans) was £167,321 0s. 11d., and the Supplementary Estimate which the Committee was now asked to confirm was

£13,316 1s. 11d., which brought up the estimated ordinary expenditure to £180,637 2s. 10d. Adding to this the amount required to provide for interest and sinking fund on loans (already specified), the proposed expenditure was set down at £191,808 7s. 10d., leaving a credit balance of £919 6s. 6d. on the estimated revenue (£192,727 14s. 4d.). He would now proceed to detail the various items which had been provided for by the Estimates for this year, but which would not be required, the total amount of which, as he had already said, being £1,573 12s. 11d. The first item was that of Clerk and Registrar General in the Colonial Secretary's Office (£172 10s.) This officer was no longer required in that office, and had been transferred to the Treasury, and the same remark applied to the next item,— Probation Clerk, £19 0s. 1d., the strength of the Colonial Secretary's Department having been reduced by the removal of these two officers. The next item was a sum of £500 voted by the House last year for a survey of the Kimberley district. This amount, not being deemed sufficient by the Government to accomplish any good, the vote had been allowed to lapse. Another small sum, voted for the salary of a telegraph lineman at Bremer Bay (£42), would not be required, the office of lineman having been merged in that of the assistant operator, in accordance with the recommendation of the Departmental Commission; his salary, therefore, for the remainder of the year, as lineman, would be available for other purposes. He next came to the Judicial Department. where a saving of £255 6s. 6d. had been effected. The first item was a sum of £45 17s. 4d., available in consequence of the recent changes in the police magistracy at Perth; and the next item was a sum of £176 14s. 8d., rendered available by reason of the amalgamation of the Greenough and Geraldton magisterial districts. A further sum of £32 14s. 6d., in respect of forage allowance voted for the Resident Magistrate at Greenough, would also not be required. The next item was a sum of £52 voted for the salary of the Secretary to the Education Board; but as the gentleman now occupying that position was in receipt of an Imperial pension, this amount would

be available to swell the underdraft. The services of the head gardener at the Public Gardens (Mr. Polak) having, in accordance with the recommendation of the Departmental Commission, been dispensed with, that officer had received notice that, at the end of two months, his services would not be required, the office being about to be amalgamated with that of the caretaker of the Government domain. Two pensions had fallen through, in consequence of the death of the recipients—Mr. Stephen Knight, late postmaster at Albany, and Mr. Pretious, late pilot at the same place. A saving of £85 6s. 4d. had been effected on the year's vote by the death of Mr. Knight, and £23 15s. by the death of Mr. Pretious. A sum of £50 voted for the Steam Dredge would also not be required this year, as it was not the intention of the Government to work it. Under the head of "Miscellaneous," it would be observed that a sum of £350, voted for reprinting statutes, would not be required this year, as it was found impossible to do the work, and it was proposed that this sum and an additional £250 should be appropriated for defraying the expenses connected with the census. He had now glanced at all the items provided for by the Estimates for this year, but which it was believed would not be required for the purposes specified, and which therefore became available for other services, to the extent of £1,573 12s. 11d. Proceeding to deal with the items of expenditure in respect of which a supplementary vote was now asked, he first of all came to the item, chief clerk and accountant in the Treasury Department, £37 10s. The vote for the chief clerk in the Treasury was £300, which is the salary attached to the office; but as the officer who had recently been appointed to that position (Mr. Eliot) was previously in receipt of a larger salary, it was felt that he could not justly be asked to mulct himself of a portion of his former pay, simply because he was considered by the Government as the most fitting person available for filling the appointment of chief clerk and accountant in the Treasury. He was appointed to that office on the 1st of April, and the supplementary vote here asked for, was to meet the difference in the amount voted for the chief clerk

(£300) and the salary paid to Mr. Eliot. The next item in connection with the Treasury was that of £143 17s. 9d. for a book-keeper—an officer appointed in pursuance of a resolution approved of by the House. The salary attached to the office was £200 a year, but the present book-keeper would only receive pay from the 12th April, the date of his appointment. The next item in respect of which a supplementary vote was required was for the salary of the chief clerk in the Postal and Telegraph Department, who was previously employed in the Treasury, and who when so employed was receiving £300 a year, which was in excess of the amount voted for the chief clerk in the Post Office. A sum of £20 16s. 8d. would therefore be required to make up the difference, this officer's transfer to the Postal Department dating from August 1st. Under the head of contingencies, in connection with the same department, was an item of £637 12s. 2d., in respect of the foreign mail service, for the quarter ending 31st December, 1880. In the financial statement submitted to the House last year, this item was shown as a liability. It was the amount due for the conveyance of mails between Galle and Albany, with the premium that had to be paid on remitting the amount home to the P. & O. Co.; but as the money was not forwarded, or indeed due, until after the close of the year, the vote had lapsed, and the House was now asked to place it on the Supplementary Estimates for the current year. The next item on these estimates was a sum of £224 13s. 6d., for the officer provisionally employed to complete the improved system of registration and indexing, in connection with the Land Titles Department. This officer had been appointed in pursuance of a petition addressed to the Governor, and numerously signed by hon. members of that House, and others, in order to complete the indices under the new and improved system of registration recently adopted, and the Government had kept him on at a salary of £250 per annum. The next item on the Supplementary Estimates was a sum of £25, for the Surgeon Superintendent of the Lunatic Asylum at Fremantle. This might appear to hon. members to be a new vote altogether, but it was not so. Since the year 1878, when a division of labor took

place between the Surgeon Superintendent and Dr. Elliott, the former had drawn his proportion of the salary attached to the office, but, hitherto, this amount (£25) had appeared under the head of "Provisions." In the Judicial Department, a sum of £100 was asked for, in respect of the Attorney General's salary, as agreed upon by the House last Session. The next increase was in connection with Rottneest, where, since last year's Estimates were passed, an officer had been appointed at a salary of £120 a year, to take charge of the Juvenile Reformatory recently established on the island. The amount now asked for (£76 5s.), was the amount which would be required for the payment of this officer's salary from the date of his appointment until the end of the year. There was also a sum of £20 for transport services, owing to the contract entered into for the conveyance of produce and provisions to and from the island being higher this year than usual, in addition to which there had been more expenses incurred under the head of wharfage and jetty dues. The next item in respect of which a supplementary vote was asked was in connection with the inspection of sheep, an assistant inspector having, in accordance with the recommendation of the board of advice, based upon representations received from the Gascoyne, been appointed for that district, at a salary of £100 a year, with forage allowance for one horse (£50). This appointment was made on the 15th January, and a sum of £96 4s. 9d. was required for the assistant inspector's salary for the year, and £48 2s. 4d. in respect of his forage allowance. There had also been a change in the Educational and Registry Departments, a clerk having been given to the Registrar General, who had now undertaken the work in the two departments. The probation clerk, formerly employed in the Colonial Secretary's office, had been transferred, and entered upon his duties as clerk to the Registrar General at a salary of £90 a year. The next item was in connection with a newly-created department, that of the Colonial Storekeeper—a department the establishment of which had met with the approval of the House last year, in the belief that it would tend towards economy. The storekeeper appointed was formerly engaged as chief clerk in the Post Office,

and his salary had been fixed at £175 a year, but as the gentleman now occupying the position was in receipt of an Imperial pension, this Colony was in reality only called upon to pay him at the rate of £125 a year. An issuer had also been appointed in connection with the same department, at a salary of £160 a year, but that officer also happened to be in receipt of an Imperial pension, and he was only drawing at the rate of £115 10s. 7d. a year from Colonial funds. He next came to the item of Works and Buildings. He had already informed the Committee that a sum of £223 14s. 4d., placed to special account for expenditure on repairs to Mount Eliza Dépôt but not now required, had been added to the total amount of revenue available for the year, and from that sum the House was now asked to vote £100 for some necessary repairs at the Perth poor-house, in connection with the kitchen and outhouse, which were in a very dilapidated condition. A small sum would also be required for re-shingling the dépôt at Mount Eliza. The next item under the head of works and buildings was a sum of £180 required for two weigh-bridges, for the railway stations at Perth and Guildford. These weighing machines were ordered some time ago, before the opening of the railway, in March last, and were expected shortly to arrive in the Colony. Their prime cost was £140, but, with the necessary fittings and cost of erection, it was expected that the vote now asked for would not be more than enough. The next item—survey extension, £500—was in accordance with a resolution adopted by the House last Session (April 1st), in order to connect the present surveyed route of the Eastern Railway, at Northam, with the town of York. The next vote required was a somewhat larger item than any which he had yet enumerated, namely, a sum of £1,000 under the head of working expenses of the Eastern Railway. The amount voted last year under this head was £2,300, but when he asked the House for that sum it was based upon a supposition that the line would not be ready for opening until June, the date of the expiration of Mr. Robb's contract. But, as hon. members were aware, the contractor completed the work some months within the contract

time, and the line was open for traffic at the beginning of March. No doubt the computation of the working expenses should have been taken as from February or March, for it would be in the recollection of the House that the Commissioner of Railways, in his report presented to the Council last year, and also His Excellency the Governor, in the Speech with which he opened the Session, anticipated that the line would be ready for traffic in February or March. The Commissioner estimated that he would require more than the sum here asked for (£1,000), to cover the whole of the working expenses for the year, and that he would want about £1,700; but the Government, anxious to cut down expenditure to a minimum, did not at present feel justified in asking the House to sanction more than £1,000. The maintenance expenses of the line during the past few months had been heavy, but he thought it would be recognised that the expenditure on any line within the first few months of the opening must—in consequence of the number of things to be obtained, and to be done, before the line can be considered in good working order,—necessarily be heavier than it need be afterwards. It was therefore but reasonable to anticipate that the working expenses hereafter would not be so heavy, and the Government hoped they would be able to meet the requirements of the line with the supplementary vote now asked for. It was but fair, however, to the Commissioner that he should inform the House what Mr. Thomas himself said on the subject, when he was told that only £1000 would be asked for. In a minute which the Commissioner had addressed to him (the Colonial Secretary) Mr. Thomas said: "I find, according to your minute of the 22nd, that you have only put £1,000 on the Supplementary Estimates to meet the working expenses of the Eastern Railway for the remainder of the year. To do this, and to strike out the £1,700 which I estimated as the amount required, I feel would only be deceiving the Council as to the actual facts of the case, for which I cannot be held responsible." He (the noble lord) in no way wished to hold the Commissioner responsible for the reduction, and, of course, if the House wished it, the larger sum

could be placed on the Estimates. The next item was a press for printing railway tickets (£123 10s.),—a most useful machine, which had already saved a large expenditure. They had purchased it cheap in Melbourne, and, he believed, it would soon recoup the outlay. He next came to the item of pensions.

MR. STEERE: Will the noble lord state at what rate these pensions have been computed?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Lord Gifford) said he would do so. The first amount (£16 8s.) had been inadvertently omitted from last year's Estimates, and that was the reason why it appeared here. With regard to the next pension (Mr. Sholl's), that gentleman—who, as hon. members were aware, had been the Resident Magistrate at Roebourne for some years past—had been offered the appointment of Police Magistrate at Perth, but he did not feel himself justified in accepting the appointment, on account of the climate in this part of the Colony not agreeing with his health, and he elected to resign the service on a pension. The Government regretted to lose such a valuable officer as Mr. Sholl, but they had no alternative, when he asked to be placed on the retired list, except to comply with his request. His pension had been calculated upon the salary he had been receiving since 1865, being at the rate of sixteen-sixtieths upon his annual emoluments (£415), exclusive of forage or house allowances. Computed on this basis, the pension which Mr. Sholl had become entitled to was at the rate of £110 13s. 4d. per annum, and the amount required to meet his claims for the current year was £65 14s. 9d. The other two items under this head were so small as hardly to require any comment, namely, the trifling pensions granted to Mr. and Mrs. Benson, formerly in charge of the Gaol at Fremantle: the pension of the former only came to £5 16s. 8d. a year, and Mrs. Benson's allowance was considerably less. He next came to a somewhat heavy item, under the general head of "Miscellaneous"—£9,030 5s. 8d. The bulk of this amount was made up of the award and costs in the Beaver arbitration case, the papers relating to which had already been moved for in the House, and would be presented as soon as

possible. The sum here asked for was £6,968 6s. 6d., which was made up as follows:—Amount of the award made by His Honor the Chief Justice in favor of Messrs. Beaver & Co. £5,600, with interest at the rate of 8 per cent. until the amount was paid,—which was done without delay, the interest only amounting to £14 14s. 6d.; claims admitted on the part of the Crown Solicitor (representing this Government), £673 8s. 7d.; costs incidental to the arbitration, up to date, £275—exclusive of the costs of Messrs. Beaver & Co.'s solicitor here (Mr. Burt), which, he believed, amounted to about £30; expenses of the Chief Justice's Clerk, whose services were required by His Honor in Melbourne, £19 19s.; the Crown Solicitor's expenses, £189; expenses of the Chief Justice, £157 10s.; Mr. Wynne's expenses, £33 19s. 5d., and his passage back (£5 5s.);—making a total of £6,968 6s. 6d. In addition to this amount, there was a sum of £58 10s. provided for in 1880, being a proportion of the amount of Mr. Wynne's expenses in proceeding to Melbourne, and a further sum of £20 13s. 6d. (Mr. Leake's passage expenses). The total cost to this Colony might, therefore, be said to have been £7,047 10s. plus the amount of Mr. Burt's costs (said to be about £30). He ought perhaps to say a few words in explanation as to how this claim had arisen, but in doing so he would be very brief, as the papers relating to it would soon be submitted for the information of the House. Licenses, as hon. members were aware, were issued by the Local Government in respect of the guano deposits which it was believed existed on the Lacedepes, and Messrs. Beaver and Co. took out eight licenses, and paid royalty in Melbourne and London in respect of the same number of ships, which were despatched to the islands. These licenses were issued on the following terms: that the ships engaged should pay a royalty on the amount of their registered tonnage, plus one-third, which entitled them to receive a full cargo of guano. One vessel, the *Johann Wickhorst*, of 600 tons, was refused any guano at all, when she went to the islands, and another vessel, the *William Melhuish*, being refused a cargo at the Lacedepes, had to come to Fremantle, and was detained

there about twenty days, and subsequently despatched back to the islands with a permit to load. The carriage capacity of this ship was 1,100 tons, but she only got 492 tons of guano, and Messrs. Beaver & Co. claimed in respect of the difference, and also in respect of the other vessel, which got no guano at all. These were the claims which formed the subject of arbitration. The claims which were admitted by the Crown Solicitor, on the part of the local Government, were £226 15s. 3d. in respect of the *Mabel*, and £446 13s. 4d. in respect of another vessel. The next item on the Supplementary Estimates was that under the head of "Revenue Stamp Act," £680. Hon. members would probably recollect that, when he introduced the Stamp Act last Session, he stated that this would be about the lowest amount for which they could expect to obtain the stamps and dies necessary to carry out the provisions of the Act, unless they resorted to the use of postage stamps, which would necessarily lead to inconvenience and confusion, especially having regard to the relative values of such stamps and the amount of duty payable under the Act in respect of some of the documents liable to be taxed. This Act would come into force on the 1st of October next, and it was anticipated that within the first three months of its coming into operation they would be able to provide for this expenditure out of the revenue received under the Act,—provision having already been made for the payment of interest on the loan, for this year. The next item was a sum of £600, cost of collecting the census, and preparing the returns. This amount would no doubt appear somewhat excessive, but, taking into consideration the great distances which in many districts the collectors had to travel, the scattered nature of the population, and the immense labor entailed in the preparation and compilation of the schedules, he did not think it could be said that the amount was in any way exorbitant. About £100 of it had been expended in the collection of statistics, chiefly in the Northern Districts, and in the direction of Esperance Bay, and other outlying localities; £200, it was estimated, would be required for extra clerical labor in the compilation of the returns; and the

printing of the various schedules and of the census book, it was anticipated, would cost about £275. The whole clerical staff employed on the work was under the supervision of the officer employed as chief clerk and accountant in the Treasury, who was also entrusted with the laborious task of analysing and compiling the various returns sent in from all parts of the Colony. He need hardly say that this was a most tedious and laborious task, requiring for its efficient performance great care, patience, and exactitude. The work was done entirely by this officer at his own residence after office hours, and would extend over several months, the remuneration proposed to be given to him being £75—a sum which he did not think any one would begrudge for such an immense amount of labor, of the most tedious character, and involving such great responsibility. The next item which he had to refer to was that of interest on Savings Bank deposits for the year ending 31st December, 1880, amounting to £781 19s. 2d., which was shown as a liability in the financial statement presented to the House in the course of the special Session held in March last. The returns showing the amounts of interest due on these deposits were not completed in time to admit of the amount being ascertained by the end of the year, and as the vote for this purpose had lapsed, the House was now asked to re-vote it. The next item was that in respect of some unpaid claims, due to contractors and others, for which a sum of £605 12s. was required. In future, under the new Treasury regulations recently put in force, it would be the fault of the heads of the various departments, and of all persons having dealings with the Government, if the claims upon the Government were not sent in and paid by the 31st December in each year; so as to obviate the necessity of including this item in future Supplementary Estimates. The various departments and services to which the amount now asked for was chargeable, would be found in the schedule attached to the Estimates, and he did not think he need do more than refer to the principal items amongst them, as the majority were for very small sums, particulars of which would be furnished, if hon. members wished. The first appreciable item

was a sum of £40 expended in castor oil for the Director of Public Works. [An Hon. Member: Did he drink it?] No; it was utilised for lubricating machinery connected with the department. There was a sum of £60 8s. 7d. in connection with the Postal Department, owing to some of the mail contractors not having sent in their accounts at the end of the year, and various other items arising from the same cause, but to which it was unnecessary to refer in detail. The whole amount was only £605. He had now gone through the Supplementary Estimates, both of revenue and expenditure, and, in conclusion, he would only point out that, after making provision for all the services specified and the unpaid claims, there would still, it was estimated, be a balance of £919 to the credit of the year's revenue, compared with the total expenditure. The revenue for the first half-year had, as he had already stated, exceeded the estimate, and there was every prospect that the same satisfactory result would be realised as regards their expectations for the current half-year, and that the revenue of the Colony for the twelve months would exceed £200,000, instead of £192,000, the amount originally estimated. He now begged formally to move the first item of expenditure on the Supplementary Estimates before the Committee—"Treasury Department, £181 7s. 9d."

MR. S. H. PARKER congratulated the noble lord on the explicit manner in which he had dealt with the various items constituting the Supplementary Estimates, but he would ask the right hon. gentleman whether he was prepared to furnish the House with any information as to how the sinking fund was invested? He would also like some further explanation with reference to the underdraft in connection with the recent changes in the police magistracy at Perth. Surely the saving effected in this vote must have been more than £45. Perhaps the money had been expended in some other way, and, if the noble lord would explain the matter, no doubt the Committee would be obliged to him.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Lord Gifford) replied that, with regard to the sinking fund, the money as it became

due was sent home to the Crown Agents, who invested it, allowing us a certain percentage upon it.

MR. S. H. PARKER would like to know how the money was invested, and at what rate of interest.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Lord Gifford) said he would obtain the information which the hon. member asked for. With regard to the underdraft in connection with the police magistracy, he would explain the whole matter when they came to deal with the item.

The Committee then proceeded to deal with the various items of supplementary expenditure, *seriatim*.

Item, *Treasury Department*, £181 7s. 9d.:

MR. SHENTON, referring to the sum of £37 10s. required for making up the difference in the salary attached to the office of "chief clerk and accountant" at the Treasury, and the salary paid to the present occupant of that office (Mr. Eliot), wished to be informed whether, in the event of Mr. Eliot's services being transferred to any other department, the salary of the chief clerk and accountant would revert to the amount of pay attached to the office (£300). He mentioned this subject because, on a former occasion, when the House agreed to give a certain officer a higher salary than was attached to a certain office—because he had previously been receiving a higher pay—the concession was made a precedent, and that officer's successor received the same salary as had been specially voted for his predecessor, and the increase had been perpetuated.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Lord Gifford) said it was not proposed that such should be the case here, and whoever Mr. Eliot's successor might be in the capacity of chief clerk and accountant, the salary he would receive would be the salary attached to the office—unless, of course, there were special circumstances, as in the case of Mr. Eliot, entitling the officer to a higher salary.

The vote was then agreed to.

Item, *Postal and Telegraph Department*, £658 8s. 10d.:

MR. MARMION asked if the sum now asked for in connection with the foreign mail service, for the quarter ending 31st December last, had not been voted last year.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Lord Gifford) said it had, but as the money was not paid that year, the vote had been allowed to lapse, and the House was now asked to re-vote the amount. The same remark applied to some of the other items.

MR. MARMION: It appears to me that if the course recommended by the Select Committee on the Over-expenditure Bill had been adopted, with regard to lapsed votes, there would have been no necessity for a supplementary estimate. What the Committee referred to recommended was, that money voted, and not afterwards required for the services of the year for which it was voted, but which it could be clearly foreseen would be required in the following year, should be passed to suspense account, and shown as expended.

The vote was agreed to.

Items—*Land Titles Department*, £224 13s. 6d.; *Medical Department*, £25; *Judicial Department*, £100; *Rottnest Prison Department*, £96 5s:

Agreed to *sub silentio*.

Item—*Inspection of Sheep Department*, £156 7s. 1d.:

MR. SHENTON, referring to the item of assistant inspector for the Gascoyne, asked whether the contribution received from sheep-owners under the Scab Act would suffice to cover this supplementary expenditure.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Lord Gifford): Yes, with the contribution received from the Gascoyne.

MR. S. H. PARKER (who at this stage re-entered the House) said it appeared to him they were adopting a most unusual course in voting these Estimates, without having had any opportunity of considering the financial statement made that evening by the right hon. gentleman the leader of the Government. It appeared to him that the proper course to have followed was to have reported Progress, after hearing the noble lord's financial statement, and obtained leave to sit again after having had an opportunity of seeing it in print, and of considering it. He was himself not aware that there was likely to be any objection to any of the items; at the same time he thought it very unwise on their part to pass these Estimates the moment they were placed before the Committee

of Supply. He would not press the motion, but would formally move that Progress be reported and leave given to sit again on Tuesday.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Lord Gifford) said, if the Committee wished to report Progress, he would offer no objection on the part of the Government; at the same time, he might state that he was fully prepared that evening to afford hon. members every information which they might wish with regard to the various items.

MR. CROWTHER failed to see what they would gain by reporting Progress. It appeared to him that any extra precaution now taken with regard to this expenditure was akin to the precautionary measure taken when people locked the stable door after the horse was stolen. This money had been expended and paid, and if they were to discuss the various items until doomsday, it would not bring it back.

The motion to report Progress was then put and negatived, and the item before the Committee was agreed to.

Items—*Educational and Registry Department*, £42 11s. 8d.; *Colonial Storekeeper's Department*, £143 14s. 9d.:

Agreed to without discussion.

Item—*Works and Buildings* (Perth Poor House, £100; Mount Eliza Depot, £60; weigh-bridges for Perth and Guildford, £180; survey extension, £500; working expenses of railway, £1,000; ticket printing press, £123 10s.):

MR. MARMION asked how it was no provision appeared to have been made for procuring a weigh-bridge for Fremantle? It seemed strange that Perth and Guildford stations were each to have one of these machines, but that the terminus of the line should be without one.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Lord Gifford) said the present intention of the Government was to place one of these weigh-bridges at each end of the line—Fremantle and Guildford; though the original intention was to have one at Perth and one at Guildford.

MR. SHENTON thought it would be a great mistake to leave Perth without one. All the goods traffic from Guildford must necessarily be for Perth and Fremantle, and the bulk of the cargo from either end of the line would be for Perth; consequently there was no great

necessity for having a weigh-bridge at Guildford.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Lord Gifford) said it was the intention of the Government to order a third weigh-bridge as soon as funds were available for the purpose, so that there should be one placed at each station on the line.

MR. STONE expressed a hope that when the machines were erected, they would be placed in some central and convenient position so as to admit of their being utilised for other purposes than weighing goods coming by rail. He thought it was not improbable that, before long, people bringing such produce as hay, or firewood, to market, should be compelled to pass their loads over a weigh-bridge before disposing of it to a purchaser, and that in this way, by levying a trifling toll, some little revenue might be derived from these machines. For this reason, he thought it would be desirable that they should be erected in such a position as to be of general use.

MR. SHENTON, referring to the item "Survey extension, £500," asked if this was the survey of the line between Guildford and Chidlow's Spring?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Lord Gifford): No, but in accordance with a resolution of the House last Session, in order to connect the present survey with the towns of Northam and York.

MR. RANDELL, referring to the item "Working expenses of the Railway, £1,000," said he really thought it desirable to increase this amount to £1,700, in accordance with the Commissioner's estimate, rather than run the risk of having another excess Bill. While on this subject he might draw attention to one very necessary item of expenditure required in connection with the working of this railway. He alluded to the "sentry box"—the structure could hardly be dignified even by that name—which did duty for the Station-Master's ticket-office at Guildford, and which, in the summer months, must inevitably lead to that officer being struck down by solar heat, unless some greater protection were afforded him from the rays of the sun. [Mr. SHENTON: He's been to the Lacedædes, and is acclimatised.] He had also noticed that the goods shed at Guildford was placed in such a position

as to involve what the Commissioner so much objected to, when opposing the deviation from Stirling Square—a double curve. With a slight change in the position of the shed, it would have followed the curve which the Select Committee recommended the line to follow. While on the subject of the railway expenses, he should like to ask the noble lord, the leader of the Government, whether it was not a fact that a sum of £1,000 (or thereabouts) had been expended out of the road loan money in the formation of the approaches to the railway stations at Guildford and Fremantle, and whether this sum would not have to be refunded?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Lord Gifford) said the cost of these approaches would not come out of the road loan or the railway loan, as it was the intention of the Government to ask the House to make provision for it.

MR. STEERE said he was quite of opinion with the hon. member Mr. Randell, that the sum placed on these Estimates for meeting the working expenses of the line during the remainder of the year would not be anything like sufficient, and that therefore it would be better to increase the vote, as suggested by the Commissioner, rather than have the vote exceeded, and thus necessitate an Over-Expenditure Bill. It was just a question whether it would be advisable to cut down the expenditure, or provide for that contingency. He noticed by Mr. Thomas's Report that the working expenses of the line during the first three months (including the proportion of salaries voted) amounted to £1,787. Estimating the remaining nine months at the same rate, it would require £5,361 to meet the working expenses. The House last year had only voted £3,175 for this purpose, which the supplementary vote now asked for would increase to £4,175, being still about £1,200 under the amount which would be required if the expenses were calculated on the basis afforded by the return given for the first three months after opening the line.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. A. C. Onslow) said, although the hon. member for Swan had shown a few evenings ago that there were two paragraphs at least in the Commissioner of

Railways' Report which had attracted the attention of the hon. member, there was one paragraph of the report which seemed to have entirely escaped his notice. He alluded to the paragraph in which Mr. Thomas remarked that it was invariably the case, within the first few months of the opening of any new line of railway, that—in consequence of the number of things to be obtained, and to be done, before the line could be considered in good working order—the expenses were always greater than they were afterwards.

MR. SHENTON suggested that the Committee should now report Progress, in order that the Commissioner of Railways might furnish the House with a detailed statement showing how he proposes to expend the supplementary vote which he estimates as necessary to carry him through the year (£1,700). It appeared to him that, so far from the expenses being likely to be reduced during the next few months, it was more probable that they would increase, as, with the development of goods traffic, which was yet at a minimum, the staff employed probably would have to be strengthened. Additional trucks would also, he believed, be required to meet the demand which would be created when this traffic was increased. He thought it was much to be regretted that some steps had not been taken long ago to develop the goods traffic on this line, for, no doubt, a great deal of revenue had been lost through the supineness or indifference of the department in this respect.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Lord Gifford) said, although the Government had only placed £1,000 on the Estimates, he had not felt justified in stating that this would suffice to cover all the expenses incidental to the working of the line; but that, with a view to retrenchment, the Government would endeavor as far as possible to work the railway, and keep within the vote. If the additional £700, asked for by the Commissioner, were granted, he believed that would suffice to cover all expenses between this and the end of the year.

MR. RANDELL did not think that anyone who had any practical experience in the development of such enterprises as railways, would be inclined to accept

the statement that the expenses would decrease as the work progressed, and the business expanded; on the contrary, he was inclined to look at the Commissioner's statement to that effect as delusive. He therefore thought the House would be acting very unwisely to cut down this vote to a minimum.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Lord Gifford) said the Government were quite willing to increase it to £1,700, if such was the wish of the House.

MR. STEERE said he noticed that no provision appeared to be made for meeting the expenses incurred by the smashing of the railway gates.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Lord Gifford) said that came under the head of "Casualties," and was a pretty heavy item.

MR. SHENTON then moved that Progress be reported, and leave given the Committee to sit again on Monday, by which time the House, he hoped, would be furnished with a statement showing how the Commissioner estimated the supplementary vote required at £1,700.

The motion was agreed to, and Progress reported.

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

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Monday, 8th August, 1881.

Mechanics' Institute, Perth: Object of Foundation—High School: Grant of Military Hospital for—Fortification of King George's Sound—Goats Bill: second reading; in committee—Messages (Nos. 5, 6, 7, 8, 9) from His Excellency the Governor—Audit Bill: first reading—Diseases in Vines Bill, 1881: second reading; in committee—Loan Act, 1878, Re-appropriation Bill—Supplementary Estimates for 1881: further considered in committee—Adjournment.

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

PRAYERS.