

their husbands? Very often the woman was more to blame than the man in these matters, and instead of being his "better half" she was in some cases his very "worst half."

The amendment was then put, and a division being called for, the numbers were:—

Ayes	11
Noes	11

Ayes.	Noes.
Mr. Brown	Hon. M. Fraser
Mr. Burt	Hon. J. H. Thomas
Sir T. C. Campbell	Hon. J. Forrest
Mr. Carey	Mr. Bunge
Mr. Crowther	Mr. Glyde
Mr. Grant	Mr. Hamersley
Mr. Higham	Mr. S. S. Parker
Mr. Marmion	Mr. S. H. Parker
Mr. McRae	Mr. Randall
Mr. Wittensoom	Mr. Shenton
Mr. Venn (Teller.)	The Hon. A. P. Hensman (Teller.)

The numbers being equal,

THE SPEAKER gave his casting vote against the third reading of the Bill, on the ground that, opinion being so equally divided upon it, there did not appear to be any immediate necessity for such a measure.

The Bill was therefore rejected.

The House adjourned at half-past five o'clock, p.m.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Friday, 24th August, 1883.

Contract for Public Buildings at Roebourne—Town Hall, Fremantle—Message (No. 22); Roads and Bridges—Message (No. 23); Replying to Addresses—Message (No. 24); Telegraph Office Hours—Alteration of Postal and Telegraph Rates—Increase of Salary, Registrar of Titles—Expenditure on Government House—Increase of Salaries: Colonial Secretary and Mr. Prinsep—Swan River Bar Regulations, Repeal Bill: first reading—District Roads Act Amendment Bill: first reading—Dog Bill: in committee—Adjournment.

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

PRAYERS.

CONTRACT FOR PUBLIC BUILDINGS AT ROEBOURNE.

MR. GRANT asked the Colonial Secretary why tenders had been accepted by the Works Department for the public buildings about to be erected at Roebourne, with the experience the Government have had as regards the contractor (Mr. David Gray), and therefore knowing the contractor would have to be closely supervised, at an increased cost to the colony for these works? The hon. member said it was notorious that this contractor had given great dissatisfaction and trouble to the Government in connection with other contracts, and he was sorry his tender should have been accepted for works to be performed so far away from the supervision of the department, especially at Roebourne, where they required good, sound, substantial buildings, to resist the willy-willys which occasionally visited that part of the colony.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. H. Thomas) said that only two tenders were sent in for the Residency at Roebourne; and as it was, under any circumstances, the intention of the Government to send a man to supervise the erection of the buildings, he thought it would have been unwise to have given the contract to a local contractor, whose tender was nearly £400 in excess of the tender accepted. Mr. David Gray, like all other contractors, required looking after,—which was a very good reason why the staff of the Works Department ought to be increased. A man named Dunn had been sent up to supervise the work at Roebourne.

TOWN HALL, FREMANTLE.

MR. MARMION, in accordance with notice, moved, "That an humble address be presented to His Excellency the Governor, praying that he will be pleased to grant a sum of money to the Municipal Council of Fremantle to aid the Council in the erection of a Town Hall; such sum to be equal to 20 per cent. of the estimated cost of the building, but not to exceed in the whole £2,000, to be paid over to the said Council, one-fourth upon the laying of the foundation stone and the balance by instalments as the building

“progresses towards completion.” The hon. member said he thought it would be admitted at once that the motion was an important one, and one which carried with it a passport to the approval of the House. At any rate, it recognised a principle which that House had always been inclined to support—that of helping those who were ready to help themselves. The plans of the proposed building were already before the House, and he thought it would be generally admitted that, when completed, the hall would be a very handsome structure indeed. The inhabitants of Fremantle did not ask that the whole sum should be placed on the Estimates at once; they would be quite satisfied with the Council’s assurance that the amount asked for would be granted to them, from time to time, as the building proceeded, and at the discretion of the Government. They were very modest in their demands, and they only asked the Legislature to contribute one-fifth of the cost of the building. He thought £500 would be all that would be required next year. They based their request upon various grounds: in the first place it was urged that the work was one of a national character, and, in the next place, a precedent had already been established in Perth, by the handsome gift made to the citizens of their present Town Hall, which did not cost them a shilling. The Government, he submitted, might justly be asked to contribute towards the erection of this building, seeing that they paid no rates, nor contributed anything towards the cost of municipal government. The Municipal Council was at a heavy outlay in repairing and maintaining the streets, in the vicinity of the various Government buildings about the town,—buildings which, if rated like private property, would yield a handsome revenue to the municipality. Such a hall as this would contribute to the social, intellectual, and moral advancement of the inhabitants, and, he thought, on these grounds alone, the resolution was entitled to support. The work was one of public utility, and the general policy of the Government should be to contribute towards such works in all parts of the colony. It might be said that this was an individual case, and that he was not advocating the erection of town halls

throughout the colony; but, so far as he was concerned, any other municipality making a similar application, based upon similar conditions, would have his hearty and earnest support. It was of some importance that a building of this kind should be constructed at the principal seaport of the colony, especially in view of the enhanced importance which it was likely to attain, looking at the large projects now before the country, which could not fail to influence the destiny and increase the prosperity of their chief seaport. Fremantle already was next to the capital city itself in importance and population. According to the latest census returns, it represented one-seventh of the whole population of the colony; and, basing the returns of revenue at a stated rate per head, Fremantle had contributed during the last ten years—he referred merely to customs revenue—no less than £966,466, or nearly a million of money, to the general revenue of the colony. It might be said by country members that it was not fair that the towns should have assistance for building halls, when there was no possibility of country places receiving such assistance, for years to come; but he thought he could satisfy even country members that Fremantle had a very good claim upon the Government for a grant in aid of this building. During the last ten years that House had voted a large sum annually for the construction and upkeep of roads and bridges, the amount voted being altogether equal to £90,636. Now, taking the population of Fremantle at 4200—the number given in the last census—and dividing the sums voted for roads and bridges at so much per head of the whole population, it would be found that during these ten years Fremantle had contributed over £13,000 towards the construction and upkeep of roads and bridges in various parts of the colony; and he was sure he was within the mark when he stated that, of that amount, not more than £3000 had been expended in Fremantle itself. In addition to being taxed in this way for the maintenance of country roads and the upkeep of country bridges, the inhabitants of the town of Fremantle had taxed themselves for municipal purposes, to the extent of six per cent. of the rental value of their property, and when

the necessary loan came to be raised for the construction of this Town Hall, they would be assessed at the rate of $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. He hoped hon. members would look upon this motion in a fair and unprejudiced spirit, and would be inclined to deal liberally for once with the town of Fremantle.

MR. HIGHAM, in seconding the motion, said it afforded him very much pleasure to do so. After the exhaustive speech which had just fallen from his hon. colleague it would be unnecessary for him to point out the claims which Fremantle had to a favorable consideration in this matter. He thought the good sense of the House would lead it to acknowledge the necessity and utility of the proposed undertaking, with regard to which it appeared to him there could be no two opinions. Acting upon the good old principle of helping those who helped themselves, he did not think the House could refuse to adopt this resolution, which he hoped would meet with the unanimous support of all hon. members. As had been pointed out by his hon. colleague, the Municipal Council received no rates whatever from the Government in respect of the public buildings in the town. If the Council were in a position to assess these buildings at their fair rental value, it would enable them to pay the interest on a loan of a considerable amount.

MR. SHENTON said he was in favor of the resolution, for he thought if the people of Fremantle were prepared to come forward and tax themselves in this way for the purpose of raising money towards building a Town Hall, the Government might fairly be asked to come forward and supplement the amount so raised, by a grant out of public funds. He also thought there was some weight in the fact that Perth had obtained a Town Hall without any cost being entailed upon the citizens, and that, regard being had to all the circumstances, the second town in the colony might reasonably ask for this assistance.

MR. CAREY said he had intended to vote against the resolution, but it now appeared to him that the facts and figures put forward by the hon. member who brought it forward went to show that Fremantle had a very strong claim indeed. He could only express a hope

that when, on some future occasion, he brought forward a similar motion in favor of a grant towards a Town Hall at the Vasse, the hon. member would give him his support, by voice and vote.

MR. GLYDE said he had much pleasure, indeed, in supporting the motion. This subject of a Town Hall for Fremantle had been before the House on several occasions during the past few years, and the people of the town had from time to time been encouraged to hope that, when the finances of the colony admitted of it, they should receive some assistance towards their hall. Considering the importance of the place and the number of its inhabitants, and looking also at the amount of private enterprise which had been shown in the town, he thought it had a strong claim upon the Government, and he hoped hon. members would give the motion their support.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser): Do I understand the hon. member for Fremantle to say that only £500 will be required out of public funds next year towards this building?

MR. MARMION: I think that would be ample for next year.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser): The reason I ask is this: in the event of this address being adopted and approved it will be necessary to place a sum on the Estimates for next year to meet the demand which may be made upon the Government.

MR. MARMION said he was quite willing to accept the amount mentioned, for 1884.

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

MESSAGE (No. 22): ROADS AND BRIDGES.

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

"In paragraph 27 of the Speech with which he opened the Session, the Governor alluded to the administration of the Roads of the Colony as not being in a satisfactory state, and expressed his hope of communicating further with the Honorable the Legislative Council as to what was best to be done.

"The recent history of the subject shows that considerable administrative

"discord has from time to time arisen
"between the Government and the Road
"Boards, or some of these bodies. As
"regards this, the ground has now been
"cleared by the fact that the Road Loan
"has come to an end, and that the cost
"of maintaining the Roads and Bridges
"of the Colony must, henceforward, fall
"entirely on the annual revenue, and,
"in the absence of other special appro-
"priations, must be entirely defrayed
"from the funds placed at the disposal
"of the Road Boards.

"To meet this service, the vote for
"Roads and Bridges has been increased
"from £10,000 to £15,000, in the draft
"Estimates for 1884. The vote is en-
"titled 'Grants to various Road Boards,'
"and no other provision for any Road
"or Bridge appears on the Estimates.
"It therefore follows that the Road
"Boards will, during next year at least,
"be wholly entrusted with the Roads
"and Bridges of the Colony; and that
"the responsibility of the Government
"will be limited to the fair and equitable
"distribution of the vote to the different
"Boards.

"It has been suggested that the Road
"Boards should be given the assistance
"of two Inspectors of Works, one for
"the Northern and one for the Southern
"district of the Colony, possessing the
"skilled knowledge necessary for the
"building and repair of bridges, and
"for the arranging and supervision of
"the more important contracts entered
"into by the Boards. These officers, if
"appointed, might be nominally at-
"tached to the Public Works Depart-
"ment; but their services should be at
"the sole command of the different
"Road Boards, and their salaries would
"be defrayed from the aggregate vote on
"the Estimates.

"The Governor will be glad of the
"advice of the Council upon this sug-
"gestion.

"It has also been proposed, as an
"alternative to the above arrangement,
"that the vote for Roads and Bridges
"should be divided into the two sub-
"heads of 'Roads' and 'Bridges and
"Culverts': the former being adminis-
"tered by the Boards, and the latter by
"the Government, as having more at
"its command the professional know-
"ledge required.

"The Governor, however, would prefer
"to see the powers and duties of the
"Road Boards increased rather than
"diminished.

"During next year, the Road Boards
"will be upon a more independent and
"responsible footing than they have yet
"attained, for we shall be trusting to
"them entirely for our inland communi-
"cations. The Governor believes that
"the Colony will lose nothing by placing
"confidence in the Road Boards.

"It cannot be expected that the sums
"the Legislature is at present able to
"vote will suffice to keep the Roads of
"the Colony in good order. In reply to
"inquiries addressed to the Boards of the
"several Road Districts traversed by
"the Perth and Albany mail route, the
"Government have been informed that,
"on a careful estimate, it would cost
"£20,880 to place that road alone in
"good repair, and not less than £10,000
"to make it even fairly passable for
"traffic. Of course it is impossible to
"spend anything like this sum on a
"single road.

"Our Road administration is beset
"with difficulties, but the most satis-
"factory result will probably be attained
"by adhering to the Road Board system.
"It is in reliance on this system that
"the proposals of the Government for
"the year 1884 have been framed.

"Government House, Perth, 24th
"August, 1883."

The consideration of the Message was
made an order of the day for Tuesday,
August 28th.

MESSAGE (No. 23): REPLYING TO
ADDRESSES.

THE SPEAKER notified the receipt of
the following Message from His Excel-
lency the Governor:—

"In reply to their Addresses Nos. 5,
"23, 17, 31, and 18, dated respectively
"the 24th of July, and the 8th, 3rd,
"20th, and 3rd of the present month,
"the Governor informs the Honorable
"the Legislative Council that he has
"communicated their Resolutions upon
"the subjects of the proposed Submarine
"Telegraph Cable and the annexation of
"New Guinea to the Right Honorable
"the Secretary of State, by telegram as
"well as by despatch; that he has had
"much pleasure in directing the sums

“ requested, (a) for the refund of duty on a bell imported for St. Joseph’s Church, Albany, (b) for repair of a causeway and two bridges in Busselton, and (c) for the erection of a bridge on the Hamelin and Augusta road, to be placed on the Estimates of 1884; and that he will be glad to consider any application for a grant of land which may be made on the part of the Perth Coffee Palace. The Bill for the destruction of rabbits, requested by Address No. 12, of the 31st of July, has been introduced into the Council.
 “ Government House, Perth, 24th August, 1883.”

MESSAGE (No. 24): TELEGRAPH OFFICE HOURS.

THE SPEAKER also announced the receipt of the following Message from His Excellency the Governor:—

“ In reply to their Address No. 20, dated the 7th instant, the Governor informs the Honorable the Legislative Council that he has carefully considered the proposal to increase the business hours of the Telegraph Service of the Colony.

“ The Telegraph Offices are now open, on week-days, from 7 to 8 a.m., 10 to 4 p.m., and 7 to 8 p.m. On Sundays, the offices are open from 7 to 8 a.m., and 6 to 7 p.m.

“ It appears to the Governor that it would be more convenient to the community if a continuous service of nine hours, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., were substituted for these three broken week-day periods. The Sunday hours could remain as at present.

“ The longer hours of the Victorian Telegraph Offices could not be adopted in this Colony without considerably increased cost. The hours proposed are, the Governor is informed, those of the Queensland Telegraph Offices, and their adoption would cause no expense.

“ The Governor will be glad to learn whether this arrangement would meet the wishes of the Council.

“ Government House, Perth, 24th August, 1883.”

The consideration of this Message was made an order of the day for Wednesday, August 29th.

POSTAL AND TELEGRAPH RATES.

MR. CAREY moved that an humble address be presented to His Excellency the Governor, in favor of the adoption of a system of penny postage throughout the colony, free postage of local newspapers beyond the colony, the reduction of intercolonial postage from 3d. to 2d. (as in the other colonies), and a sixpenny telegram rate between Perth, Fremantle, Guildford, York, Beverley, Newcastle, Pinjarrah, Bunbury, and the Vasse. The hon. member said it appeared to him, as no doubt it would appear to other hon. members, that the time had arrived when we could afford to make some reduction in the rates of postage and telegraphic messages. With regard to the first portion of the address—the adoption of the penny postage system throughout the colony, he believed that rate existed at present between Perth and Fremantle (Mr. SHENTON: No). He had understood it was. At any rate he thought we might with advantage adopt a penny postage rate for local correspondence, instead of a 2d. rate, while, as regards the intercolonial rates, he certainly failed to see why a letter sent from this colony to Adelaide or Melbourne should cost 3d., whereas a letter sent from Adelaide or Melbourne to this colony only costs 2d. As regards free postage of local newspapers sent out of the colony, it would be in the recollection of the House that that system prevailed a few years ago, and he believed that postage was imposed when the revenue was at a very low ebb, and when we were glad to get every penny that could be obtained in the way of revenue. There was no necessity for it now, and he thought it would be very advantageous to the colony if the postage on newspapers were abolished, as it would result in a great many more papers being sent away than at present, and as these papers were our only advertisement, and the only means available for disseminating information about the colony, he thought it would be a wise policy to remove all restriction in the way of increasing the circulation of our public newspapers beyond the colony. With regard to sixpenny telegrams, that rate already existed between Perth and Fremantle, and he thought it very desirable it should be extended within a certain radius of the head office. It was some-

what anomalous that people could send a telegram from Perth to Fremantle for sixpence, when they had to pay a shilling to send a telegram from Perth to Guildford, a shorter distance. He hoped the motion would commend itself to the House, and that at any rate some of the reductions proposed would be granted.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said, while sympathising with the object of the resolution as regards affording facility for extending postal conveniences and for disseminating information about the colony abroad, he thought it his duty to inform the House what the reductions proposed would entail, as affecting the revenue of the colony. He had been furnished by the Postmaster General with an estimate of the probable loss which would result in the receipts of his department, if the address were adopted, and he thought it was but right that the House should enter upon a consideration of this question with its eyes open. The amount asked for on the Estimates next year for the postal and telegraph department was a little over £27,000, while the estimated receipts from the post office only amounted to £8,000,—last year the actual receipts were £7,719 7s. 3d.; and the estimated revenue from telegrams for next year was set down at £4,000, the actual revenue derived from that source last year being £3,629 14s. 9d. Therefore, the estimated receipts from those two sources next year, reckoned at present rates, amounted to £12,000, while the proposed expenditure was over £27,000. He might also state that in all the other Australian colonies the inland rate for letters was 2d., and for telegrams 1s. If the present motion were carried, the result, as regards the revenue, so far as it could be approximately estimated, would be as follows: there would be a loss of £1,500 upon local telegrams; £250 upon intercolonial postage; £150 in respect of newspaper postages; and £2,000 in connection with inland postage,—giving a total loss of £3,900, or about one-third of the whole of the estimated receipts of the department. It was of course for the House to say whether we ought to sacrifice this amount, in view of the increasing expenditure connected with the postal

department, necessitated by the extension of settlement.

MR. SHENTON said, looking at the fact that in the other colonies, where the revenue was much larger than ours, the rates of postage and the cost of telegrams were no lower than here, and seeing that we were already losing about £16,000 a year on this department, we should pause before agreeing to any of these proposals. For his own part, he thought it was a mistake to have reduced the charge for telegrams between Perth and Fremantle. There was no great outcry against the shilling rate, and the reduction had certainly entailed a considerable loss to the revenue. If this address were adopted, the Postal and Telegraph Department would be worked at a loss to the colony of about £20,000 a year.

MR. STEERE disagreed with the hon. member for Toodyay when he said we ought to pause before passing this resolution; he did not think we ought to pause at all. Looking at the fact that we were about to be asked to vote no less than £12,350 for the conveyance of our inland mails alone next year—being an increase of over £4,000 upon the vote for this year, he thought a 2d. inland rate was not at all too high; and, so far as he was concerned, he felt it to be his duty to oppose the whole motion, looking at the fact that the department was already worked at a great loss to the colony.

THE COMMISSIONER OF RAILWAYS (Hon. J. H. Thomas) was sorry the hon. member had not taken the same view of the proposal to run late trains during the session, and Sunday trains to Guildford.

MR. WITTENOOM said he intended to oppose the motion before he came into the House, and since he had heard the Colonial Secretary's figures he meant to oppose it on every point. He did not think the time had arrived for reducing the rates upon either letters or telegrams. We had an extensive territory to provide with means of postal communication, and he never heard any one grumble at the rates now charged.

MR. RANDELL said he also must oppose the motion, as he thought the colony was already sustaining a sufficient loss in connection with the carrying of its mails. It was but right that we should extend postal facilities as much

as possible for the convenience of settlers in the interior, and in view of the great expenditure already incurred in connection with this department he thought we could ill afford to lose any of the revenue derived from postages and telegrams. Possibly the loss might not be so great as was anticipated, as it was very likely a reduction in the rates would cause an increase of postal and telegraphic business, but looking at the limited number of our population this increase could not be very great. When Sir Rowland Hill advocated his penny postage system, what he relied upon was that the increase in correspondence from the great centres of population would make up for any loss sustained as regards letters from less populous and more distant parts of the country; but here we had no great centres of population from which to expect such an increase as would justify us in making these reductions. There was only one part of the address which he would be inclined to agree to at all,—that relating to the inter-colonial postage rate. This did seem to a certain extent an anomaly, but he did not think anyone felt it a hardship in the slightest degree. He agreed with the hon. member for Toodyay that it would be well if the Government were to reconsider the question of continuing the sixpenny telegram rate between Fremantle and Perth. With reference to the abolition of postage upon newspapers sent out of the colony, he doubted whether that would be a wise step either on the ground of economy or of expediency. He entertained an opinion—which he believed was shared very largely—that, generally speaking, the practice of sending our local newspapers abroad was not at all conducive to our best interests, and he should not be at all inclined to relax the rate now charged in this respect.

Mr. CAREY said it must be apparent that the Postmaster General, when he made his estimate of the probable loss which the revenue would sustain if this address were carried, had not taken into account the probability that the business of the department would be largely increased if these reductions in the scale of charges were made. The hon. member for the Swan, in opposing this address on the ground that it would not pay, was

somewhat inconsistent, for when the hon. member moved his address in favor of Sunday trains to Guildford, the hon. member said it was not a question of whether these trains would pay, but a question of public convenience. The same argument would apply to postal facilities as to railway facilities. The hon. member for Geraldton (Mr. Witteboom) told them, with refreshing candour, that he had come to the House with his mind made up to oppose the resolution, irrespective of any arguments that might be urged in its favor. This hon. member, the other day, moved for a sum of £2,500 for postal facilities for a few settlers at the North, and he would ask the House whether that was likely to prove as great a convenience and as great a boon to the public at large as this would? He might add that no postage was charged on local newspapers sent out of Tasmania, Queensland, or New South Wales, and that in South Australia the newspaper rate was only a half-penny. As, however, the feeling of the House seemed to be against the resolution, he would move that the Chairman leave the Chair.

Agreed to.

The matter then dropped.

REGISTRAR OF TITLES: INCREASE OF SALARY.

IN COMMITTEE.

MR. S. H. PARKER, in accordance with notice, moved that an humble address be presented to His Excellency the Governor, praying that he would be pleased to direct that a sum of £50 be placed upon the Estimates for 1884, as an increase to the salary of the Registrar of Titles. Although he did not consider it a good practice, as a rule, for that House to interfere with the salaries of public officers, that being a matter, he thought, essentially within the province of the Executive, still there were occasions when hon. members might justifiably bring the claims of individual officers under the attention of the Executive, and he thought the case of the Registrar of Titles was a case in point. He did not think the Government were aware of how good an officer they had in the present Registrar. The transactions of the Land Titles Department had

largely increased since he received the appointment, and the work devolving upon the Registrar had correspondingly increased. The revenue derived from the department last year was £1,020 17s. 4d., whereas the whole of the salaries of the officials only amounted to £960, so that the slight increase here proposed would not trench upon the general revenue at all. Having referred to the nature and scope of the Registrar's duties, and the peculiar qualifications required for the discharge of those duties—qualifications which, he said, the present holder of the office possessed in an eminent degree—the hon. member expressed a hope that the committee would give the resolution their favorable consideration.

MR. STEERE thought the same arguments as had been urged in favor of an increase of salary to this particular officer would apply with equal force to most other public servants, and, in view of His Excellency's message on the subject of salaries, which the Government had promised to take into consideration between this and next session, he thought the House should set its face against these proposed increases to individual officers, who happened to have friends in the House.

MR. SHENTON did not think the salaries of the officers of the Land Titles Department were at all fairly apportioned. He thought the Commissioner received a very large proportionate salary compared with the Registrar, both offices being positions of equal responsibility and requiring professional skill.

MR. CAREY supported the motion on the ground that the work of the department had largely increased of late.

MR. WITTENOOM did not think it would be fair to other public officers for the House to agree to this address, unless it was prepared to consider the claims of other applicants.

MR. BURT supported the motion on the ground that the Registrar was honestly worth more than he was receiving, as was known to every professional man who had dealings with the Land Titles Office.

MR. BURGESS, while prepared to admit the strong claims which this officer had to an increase, thought there were others with claims equally strong, and, unless the claims of other officers were

going to be recognised, he did not think the individual merits of any particular officer should be singled out for recognition.

MR. MARMION, though not opposed to the proposal, thought there were other public servants equally deserving of an addition to their salary, who discharged their duties as efficiently and as faithfully as the Registrar of Titles.

MR. RANDELL, though quite in favor of the address, thought the principle of selecting individual officers for an increase of salary, when other officers were perhaps equally entitled to consideration, was to say the least of it an invidious one. He thought the House was much indebted to the hon. member for the Swan for the honest and outspoken way in which he always resisted any efforts made to single out individual officers for increases of salary.

MR. S. H. PARKER said personally he would be delighted if the whole question of increasing the salaries of public officers were brought before the House by the Government. He had not selected the Registrar of Titles as an officer who was more entitled than others to increased pay, but because he (Mr. Parker) was more immediately acquainted with the duties devolving upon the Registrar, and with the very efficient manner in which he discharged those duties. He hoped the Government would accept this resolution as an earnest of the desire which the hon. members of that House entertained in favor of a general increase of salary in the case of our public servants.

The motion was then put and agreed to.

PROPOSED EXPENDITURE ON GOVERNMENT HOUSE.

IN COMMITTEE.

MR. STEERE moved, "That an humble address be presented to His Excellency the Governor, informing His Excellency that the Council approves of the recommendations of the select committee appointed to visit Government House, and to advise what expenditure should be provided in connection therewith; and requests that His Excellency will be pleased to place upon the Estimates the sum of £1000,

"to be expended in accordance with the recommendations contained in the report of the committee." Hon. members were aware that a committee had suggested that certain alterations and improvements should be carried out at Government House, and had called upon the Superintendent of Works to give an estimate of the expenditure which the proposed alterations would entail. That officer had informed them that he thought £1000 would be required. He believed he was right in saying that the committee intended this sum to be in addition to the usual amounts voted every year for furniture and repairs, this being regarded as a special vote to make good certain deficiencies. The committee were of opinion that in future stricter attention should be paid to the Colonial Regulations with reference to keeping an inventory of the furniture, crockery, etc., and making good any deficiencies; had this been done in the past the present state of affairs could not have occurred, and there would have been no necessity for this large vote. The committee had not considered it advisable at present to recommend any further additions to Government House, in view of the caution in regard to expenditure which the Governor himself had impressed upon the House, though no doubt some additions were necessary. The committee, however, recommended that any further improvements should be postponed, until the permanency of the present revenue had been established.

MR. S. H. PARKER, who was a member of the select committee, said hon. members would observe that he had appended a footnote to the committee's report, stating that he did not concur as to the advisability of postponing the execution of the necessary additions to Government House. It must be well known to hon. members that the building now used by the servants was in such a tumble-down state that it would be useless attempting to expend any money upon it, and he thought the time had arrived when one or two cottages should be built for the Government House servants. Another pressing want was a ball-room, at the back of the present drawing room, and he was sorry the committee had refrained from recom-

mending these additions to be carried out.

The motion was then put and adopted.

SALARY OF COLONIAL SECRETARY AND MR. PRINSEP.

IN COMMITTEE.

MR. CAREY—who had given notice of his intention to move an address to His Excellency the Governor, praying he would be pleased to direct "that an additional sum of money be placed on the Estimates to increase the salary of certain public officers"—now moved: "That an Humble Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor, praying that he will be pleased to direct that a sum of £100 be placed on the Estimates for 1884 as an increase to the salary of the Honorable the Colonial Secretary; and a sum of £75 as an increase to the salary of the Draftsman and Clerk (Mr. Prinsep) numbered 5 on the Estimates of the Survey Department." The hon. member said the address was one, he felt sure, that would meet with the support of every hon. gentleman in the House. He might say, with regard to the first proposal, that he could not help contrasting the addition proposed on the Estimates for the Colonial Treasurer, to whom it was proposed by the Government to give another £100 a year [Mr. S. H. PARKER: But will he get it?] with the salary now received by the Colonial Secretary. The Treasurer already received £550 a year from the Colonial Government and £150 as Imperial Paymaster, making his present salary £700, and it was now proposed to give him £100 more, thus bringing up his emoluments to the amount paid to the Colonial Secretary himself. It would be within the knowledge of hon. members that some years ago, when the work of the Colonial Secretary was not nearly so onerous nor the responsibility so great, the salary of the then holder of the office was raised to £900, but at present it was only £800. He thought the House would agree with him that this was very inadequate pay for the Colonial Secretary, compared with the salaries received by some of our other Government officials. Take the Government Resident at Geraldton, for instance, who received £535 salary, £100 forage allowance, and a house worth

another £100 a year, and also £7 18s. 6d. as District Registrar, making his total pay £782 18s. 6d., in addition to which he received his expenses, which brought up this officer's emoluments to about £870 a year. He was sure no hon. member would think of comparing the position held by this officer with the position occupied by the Colonial Secretary, who only received £800 a year. Take the office of Commissioner of Crown Lands again, whose salary was £600 a year, with a forage allowance of £150 more, bringing the emoluments of that officer up to within £50 of the salary of the Colonial Secretary himself. He thought there was a very great disproportion indeed in the amount of work and the responsibility attached to these two offices. He found that the late Deputy Surveyor General when employed on field work was paid at the rate of £3 13s. per diem, the salary of the Colonial Secretary being only at the rate of £2 3s. He thought all would agree with him that the Colonial Secretary's salary ought to be far in excess of that of any other member of the Government, and that the work now attached to that officer's department was insufficiently remunerated. The duties of the office and its responsibilities were much greater than those of the position previously occupied by the same gentleman, and yet he only received £50 a year more now than he did before. He thought it would be generally admitted that the time had arrived when the salary attached to the Colonial Secretary's office ought to be raised to what it was in Sir Frederick Barlee's time,—£900 a year. Hon. members who had sat on select committees on Excess Bills must be aware how careful the present Colonial Secretary was, when at the head of the Survey Department, in not overstepping the amounts voted for his department, there never being any overdraft in connection with that office, and what a good example to other public officers the gentleman referred to had set. No doubt the same regard for economy and the same anxiety to keep within the votes of the Legislature would be shown by him in his present position, which he thought all hon. members would admit was one of greater responsibility than any other position under the Government. With regard to the other officer

referred to in the address, hon. members would see that his present salary was only £225 per annum, although he had been nine years in the service. As an old officer of the Survey Department he (Mr. Carey) knew something of the duties which this gentleman had to perform, and he could say they were duties that required special qualifications to discharge them properly, and he had no hesitation in saying that the officer in question was a most efficient officer, who was very much underpaid.

Mr. STEERE said it seemed to him this was another instance of an hon. member of that House singling out his friends for special consideration, in the way of an increase of salary. He thought the way in which this motion had been brought before the House was scarcely fair: it had come upon them all as a surprise. The hon. member who introduced it had founded his arguments in favor of it upon what he considered to be a fact, but which in reality was not yet a fact accomplished,—namely, that the Colonial Treasurer was to receive an extra £100 a year. It remained to be seen yet whether the House would agree to that proposal, and he did not think the hon. member had any right to base his argument in favor of an increase to another officer upon the mere fact that it was proposed to give the Colonial Treasurer an increase, until he saw whether that proposal was likely to be carried. The hon. member had also drawn a comparison between the salary now attached to the offices of the Colonial Secretary and of the Commissioner of Crown Lands respectively; but surely the hon. member must have found that out years ago. As to the salary paid to Sir Frederick Barlee, when he retired from the position of Colonial Secretary, it must be borne in mind that the extra £100 a year voted to that officer was voted after he had held the office for sixteen or seventeen years, and not for a period of a few months. He should be very glad indeed, when the proper time came, to vote an increase of salary to the gentleman who so admirably filled the office now, but he did not think this was the proper time, nor was it the proper manner, in which to bring forward such a proposition, and he begged to move that the Chairman leave the chair.

MR. GRANT said the hon. member for the Swan spoke about springing a surprise upon the House. He did not see any more springing of a surprise about this matter than any other matter brought before the House. As to the proposal to give the Colonial Secretary another £100 a year, he considered the position and the duties of that officer next to the Governor himself: in fact he was the Governor's mouthpiece, and, in the event of an interregnum, he was virtually the Acting Governor. He had to keep the ball rolling from one Governor to another, and to post the new one in his duties. The revenue of the colony was much more than it was in Sir Frederick Barlee's time, and the work of the Colonial Secretary had doubled.

MR. CAREY said, as to this being another case of bringing forward the claims of friends,—he had no wish to refer to personal matters, but he was quite sure that it must be known to all hon. members that he had never been on very intimate terms with one of these gentlemen, while, as to the other, he had always been opposed to him (Mr. Carey) as much as possible at the elections, and they had never been on friendly terms. He had brought forward their claims simply because he considered that both of them were justly entitled to an increase of salary. Although the present Colonial Secretary had not been long in that position, he had been in the public service of the colony not far short of sixteen years, and no one could say that the work of the office in Mr. Barlee's time was anything like it was now.

MR. MARMION felt disposed to coincide with the hon. member for the Swan,—not that the proposition had actually been sprung upon the House, but that it certainly had come as a surprise. He thought there would have been a very much better chance of the motion being agreed to, and that it would have been more satisfactory to the gentlemen concerned, if the matter had come before the House less in the form of an unexpected surprise. All he would say now was that he considered the Colonial Secretary was entitled to an increase of salary, and that when the question came to be definitely discussed, he should be prepared to support it, but at present he thought the proposition ill-timed.

MR. BROWN said no one had been more surprised than he had been when he heard it was proposed to ask for an extra £100 to the Colonial Secretary's salary; at the same time he was not prepared to say that the office of Colonial Secretary was adequately paid at the present time, and he should like to have further time to consider the question in its relation to the salaries received by other public officers. He thought the action taken that evening by more than one hon. member showed pretty clearly that it was the opinion of the representatives of the people in that House that the civil servants of the colony were underpaid. Year after year he had himself expressed that same opinion, but the Government had begged the House not to interfere; at the same time assuring hon. members that, so soon as the revenue and finances warranted it, they would themselves come forward with a broad and comprehensive scheme of civil service reform; and, in consideration of that assurance, hon. members had refrained from putting forward individual schemes of their own. They now knew that the finances of the colony warranted them in dealing with the officers of the public service in a just if not a liberal manner. They also knew that the present Governor had taken the same view of the subject as previous Governors had done—not to make any increase this year. But it appeared that the feeling of hon. members on the subject was now so strong that they could wait no longer, and therefore it was that these particular claims were put forward, each hon. member considering the claims of those whom he advocated to be more pressing or more deserving of immediate attention than the claims of others. He hoped the Government would take this manifestation of the feeling of the House on the subject as an earnest that the members of the Legislature were desirous that the Government should really grapple with the whole question next session. The course proposed by the hon. member for the Swan—to move the Chairman out of the chair—would have the result of waiving the question altogether for the present, and he begged to move, as an amendment, that progress be reported, and leave given to sit again on Monday, August 27th.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. J. Forrest) said as the resolution dealt with the claims of one of the officers of his own department, he might be allowed to say that the gentleman in question was an excellent officer, and deserving of every consideration at the hands of the House. It must be a matter for congratulation to the officers of that department, and he thought it must be a source of satisfaction to the hon. members of that House, to find that, even in the opinion of the hon. member for the Vasse, the department was not without officers of some little merit, that the Augean stable had in a measure been cleansed, and that the crusade which that hon. member had led against the officers of the department had at length ended. With regard to himself, and what had been said about his salary,—so long as he occupied a seat in that House he should never descend to reply to any personal attacks made upon him by any hon. member, and therefore he should not reply to the attack made upon him by the hon. member for the Vasse, which he considered altogether beneath his notice.

Mr. CROWTHER confessed he was surprised when he heard the names mentioned in this resolution. He yielded to no one in the desire that the members of our civil service should be better paid than they were now, but if they were going to reform the present system let them begin at the root, and work upwards, not commence at the top of the tree and work downwards.

Mr. MARMION asked hon. members whether it would not be a wise and a graceful act to accept the amendment to report progress?

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. J. Forrest) rose to make a personal explanation. He found that he had entirely misunderstood the purport of what the hon. member for the Vasse had stated, and he begged to apologise to the hon. member for what he said with reference to what he understood at the time to have been a personal attack upon himself.

Mr. CAREY said he had not intended to cast any reflections whatever upon the hon. gentleman, personally.

The motion to report progress was then agreed to, leave being given the

committee to sit again on Monday, August 27th.

SWAN RIVER REGULATIONS REPEAL BILL.

Mr. RANDELL obtained leave to introduce a Bill to repeal a certain Ordinance to provide additional regulations for the port of Fremantle.

Bill read a first time.

DISTRICT ROADS ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Mr. CAREY obtained leave to introduce a Bill to amend "The District Roads Act, 1871, Amendment Act, 1876" (40th Victoria, No. 12).

Bill read a first time.

DOG BILL.

The House then went into committee for the consideration of the Dog Bill.

Clause 1.—Act to come into operation on the 1st January, 1884:

Mr. STEERE said as the House had already voted £200 for expenditure this year in rewards for the destruction of wild dogs, some provision ought to be made to enable the Government to expend the money before this Act came into operation, which would not be for four months yet.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said provision might be made for that, in a subsequent clause of the Bill.

The clause was then agreed to.

Clause 2.—Repealing existing Acts :
Agreed to.

Clause 3.—Interpretation :

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) thought this clause should contain an interpretation of the meaning of the word "dog," so far as the Act was concerned. He referred particularly to the age at which a dog should become liable to registration.

Mr. STEERE said provision to that effect was made in a former Act, but subsequently repealed, as a great many people used to urge it as an excuse for not registering a dog that the animal was under six months old—the age prescribed by the Act.

Mr. BROWN thought if an amendment to that effect were introduced in the present Bill it would be no use en-

deavoring to collect a dog tax at all. Dogs would never attain the registration age.

MR. MARMION said it might come very hard, on the other hand, upon the owner of a litter of pups, who, unless some limit were placed upon the age when dogs must be registered, would have to register the whole litter, or render himself liable to be fined.

MR. STEERE said there was no definition in the Acts of the other colonies as to the age when a dog became liable to be registered.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) moved that the further consideration of this clause be postponed.

This was agreed to.

Clause 4.—“The owner of every dog shall, on or within fifteen days after the first day of January, in the year of our Lord One thousand eight hundred and eighty-four, and on or within fifteen days after the first day of January, in each and every ensuing year, register such dog at the office of the municipality within which municipality it is intended to keep such dog, with the person appointed to register dogs at such office; or if it be not intended to keep such dog within any municipality then such dog shall be registered at the Court of Petty Sessions which shall be nearest to the place where it is intended to keep such dog, or at the residence of any person who shall have been appointed as hereinafter mentioned for that purpose:”

MR. MARMION pointed out that according to the wording of this clause the only time of the year during which a dog could be registered was between the 1st and the 15th of January in each year, so that a dog born on the 16th of January could not be registered until the 1st of January next year.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. A. P. Hensman): Not necessarily so. If the hon. member will look at the next clause he will see that provision is made for half-yearly registration.

MR. MARMION said it appeared to him the two clauses were at variance with each other.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. A. P. Hensman) said he had to move that the words “as hereinafter mentioned,” in the last line, be struck out.

This was agreed to, and the clause as amended put and passed.

Clauses 5 to 10 inclusive were agreed to without discussion.

Clause 11.—“Every person who, after the expiration of fifteen days from the first day of January, One thousand eight hundred and eighty-four, and after the expiration of fifteen days from the first day of January in each and every year thereafter, shall be the owner of any unregistered dog, shall forfeit and pay, in respect of such unregistered dog, a sum of forty shillings, recoverable as a penalty as aforesaid. Provided that this section shall not apply to the dogs of aboriginal natives:”

MR. BROWN said he rose with great diffidence to offer any remarks with reference to the wording of this Bill, for he knew it had been drafted by the Attorney General, and that the hon. and learned gentleman prided himself on the correctness of his phraseology, and did not like any mere layman to claim the right of reviewing his measures. But—if he might be permitted to say so—it appeared to him this clause only made provision for the registration of dogs between the 1st and the 15th days of January, in each year. As had already been pointed out by the hon. member for Fremantle, a man might become the owner of a valuable litter of pups within a day or two after the 15th of January, which he might be able to sell at ten guineas apiece, if registered; but this clause would prevent him from doing so. According to the law now in force, a man could register a dog any time throughout the year, and his license would hold good until the end of the year.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. A. P. Hensman) said this clause did not prevent a man from registering a dog at any other time than between the 1st and the 15th of January, and it was not to be supposed that, if the owner of a dog applied for a license at a subsequent period of the year, and tendered the proper license fee, the money would be refused. The object of the clause was merely that there should be some fixed time for the registration of dogs.

The clause was then agreed to.

Clause 12.—Dogs not registered, and unattended, to be seized and killed:

MR. MARMION said he had already felt called upon to oppose this Bill, and he really must do so again. This clause seemed to him to contain a very sweeping provision indeed, and half the dogs in a town might be destroyed under it, if they happened to be "unattended."

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. A. P. Hensman) said the clause did not require people to seize all dogs found at large, it merely rendered it lawful for them to do so, under certain circumstances.

The clause was then put and passed.

Clauses 13, 14, and 15:

Agreed to without comment.

Clause 16—Monthly returns of all dogs registered and of all monies received in respect of such registration to be sent to the Resident or Police Magistrates:

MR. BROWN said as there seemed to be no provision in the Bill for registering dogs except between the 1st and the 15th of January it appeared to him it would be altogether unnecessary to send in monthly returns all the year round. After the first month's return, all subsequent returns would simply be a *fac simile* of the January return.

MR. RANDELL said this clause taken in conjunction with the latter part of the 5th clause appeared to him to make it clear that dogs might be registered any time throughout the year.

MR. BURT: If so, what is the use of fixing the date as between the 1st and the 15th of January? According to the 4th and the 11th clauses these are the only dates on which a dog may lawfully be registered, and it will be found that if people offer to register after that date the clerks of Courts of Petty Sessions will refuse to do so.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. A. P. Hensman) said no Act could provide for every contingency. They could not legislate for dogs unborn. The first fortnight in January was fixed as the date for registering dogs simply in order to insure some uniformity as to the period of registration in respect of what might be called permanent dogs. If a dog were registered during these fifteen days it would have to pay the full fee, but, if registered after the first six months of the year had gone by, half fee only would be charged. The Act did

not say that people shall not register their dogs after the 15th of January.

MR. STEERE moved that progress be reported, and leave given to sit again on Monday, August 27.

Agreed to.

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

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Monday, 27th August, 1883.

Message (No. 25): Replying to Addresses—Message (No. 26): Salaries of Government Officers—Message (No. 27): Landed endowments in aid of Education—Petition against Totalisator Bill—Petition from Messrs. Smith & Co. for reserve of forest land on York Greenmount—Locomotives used at Natal—Consideration of Report of Select Committee on Immigration—Consideration of Report of Select Committee on Land Grant Railway Schemes—Electric Telegraph Bill: third reading—Imported Labor Registry Bill: second reading—High School, Perth, Mortgage Bill: third reading—Swan River Bar Regulations Repeal Bill: second reading—Totalisator Bill: in committee—Adjournment.

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

PRAYERS.

MESSAGE (No. 25): REPLY TO ADDRESSES.

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

"The Governor informs the Honorable the Legislative Council that he will have much pleasure in complying with the requests contained in the following Addresses:—

- "No. 15. Roebourne and Cossack Tele-
"graph;
- "28. Well troughs between De-
"Grey and Fitzroy Rivers;
- "29. Jetty accommodation at Fre-
"mantle;
- "30. Metalling of Mangles Street,
"Guildford;