

it would be very desirable that the colony should be fully represented at a Conference which proposed dealing with the question of Federation. The other colonies, he believed, intended sending four delegates, and he thought Western Australia should do the same.

Mr. BROWN seconded the motion. He said no doubt, so far as the question of annexation was concerned, the question was one that did not directly interest this colony much; at the same time he thought we ought to show our neighbors that our sympathies were with them. But in the larger question of Federation we were largely and directly interested, and he thought we ought to be fully represented at the Convention. No doubt the question of expense was one which ought not to be lost sight of, but possibly there were gentlemen in the colony who would deem it an honor to represent it at this Convention, free of expense to the colony.

Mr. STEERE hardly thought it was necessary to send more than one delegate. He did not suppose the general question of Federation would be largely discussed at this conference, which was mainly convened to deal with the question of annexation. Moreover the action of the delegates would not bind their respective Governments, and whatever decisions were arrived at would finally have to be submitted for the ratification of the various colonial Legislatures.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said, that in the proceedings of Conferences in which he had taken part as the representative of the colony, his own single vote had had the same weight as the combined votes of the representatives of colonies who sent more than one delegate, the voting generally being in the name of the colony represented, and not according to the number of representatives it had. He thought the interests of Western Australia might be safely entrusted to the gentleman whom His Excellency had nominated—Mr. E. A. Stone.

The motion, upon being put, was negatived.

The House adjourned half an hour after midnight.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Saturday, 1st September, 1883.

Correspondence relative to Water-boring operations in the Eucla District—District Revenue and Responsible Government—Personal Explanation (Mr. Carey)—Estimates: further consideration of—Land Grant Railway Schemes: Consideration of Report of Second Select Committee—Adjournment.

THE SPEAKER took the Chair at eleven o'clock, a.m.

PRAYERS.

CORRESPONDENCE RELATIVE TO WATER BORING OPERATIONS, EUCLA DISTRICT.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) laid on the table some correspondence received through Mr. Canning, of the Bank of New South Wales, relative to water-boring operations carried on in the Eucla district by the Western Australian Association and the Eucla Land and Pastoral Associations, and containing an application for a grant in aid of the operations of these companies.

DISTRICT REVENUE AND RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT.

Mr. GRANT, in accordance with notice, asked if it was the intention of the Government to keep a separate account of the revenue raised and expended in each district of the colony, as recommended by the Secretary of State in his despatch relating to the terms and conditions upon which Her Majesty's Government would grant to this colony the right of self-government?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said it was the intention of the Government to do so, as far as practicable.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION.

On the order of the day for going into committee of supply,

Mr. CAREY said he availed himself of the opportunity of referring to a matter with regard to which he should like to put himself straight with the House. He referred to the discussion which took place on Thursday with respect to the land regulations; he thought that hon. members had misunderstood him, and he should like to explain that he had

not intended in any way to reflect upon those hon. members who had taken advantage of the present land regulations,—what he blamed was the regulations themselves, which admitted of such enormous areas of land being taken up without being turned to some good account. The hon. member for Geraldton had accused him of stating that he was the holder of a great deal more land than the hon. member actually held. All he could say was he had obtained his figures at the Survey Office, and the quantity of land he had mentioned was there represented as having been taken up by "E. & F. Wittenoom," and, as he believed the hon. member was one of these, he thought he had been perfectly justified in stating what he had stated. He also wished to point out that, with the exception of the hon. member for the Swan, every hon. member who spoke on that occasion was entirely out of order, as they had previously spoken to the amendment before the House. But what he wished particularly to refer to was the action of the hon. member for Toodyay, who, with those gentlemanly instincts which were characteristic of him, had charged him (Mr. Carey) with shamming illness. Whether he had pretended illness or not was a matter which had nothing to do with the question at issue,—his illness, he thought, must be apparent to everyone, and for the hon. member to have attacked him as he did was altogether uncalled for. It was, however, only in keeping with those peculiarly gentlemanly instincts for which the hon. member was so well known. This was not the first occasion on which the hon. member for Toodyay had shown his gentlemanly instincts in that House, and in dealing with this very same question. The hon. member referred, in the course of his remarks on Thursday, to the attack which he (Mr. Carey) had made once upon the present Commissioner of Crown Lands, and how he had had the debate adjourned on that occasion on the same plea, that of illness; but, in justice to himself, he thought he was bound to state that when that matter was brought forward in that House, some years ago now, the very person who first drew his attention to the large area of land held by that officer was the hon. member for Toodyay himself. It was

he who suggested to him to go to the Survey Office and ascertain what amount of land was held by the Messrs. Forrest, and who urged him over and over again to bring the matter before the House. The hon. member came to him one evening, before the notice of motion referring to Mr. Forrest was given, and asked how it was he had not brought the matter forward, that the session was drawing to a close, and that there was no time to lose. He (Mr. Carey) there and then wrote out the notice, at the instigation of the hon. member himself, but, finding afterwards that he (Mr. Carey) had not a majority to carry the motion, the hon. member had not the courage of his convictions, and voted against a motion introduced at his own suggestion. Yet the hon. member had the effrontery now to accuse him of having attacked the Commissioner of Crown Lands—an attack made at the hon. member's own instigation. This, however, as he had already said, was only in keeping with that hon. member's gentlemanly instincts. The then member for York would bear him (Mr. Carey) out in all he had now stated, which, in justice to himself, he thought he had a right to state.

MR. SHENTON said it was well known to all hon. members that he always had objected to any officer employed in the Survey Department holding large areas of land, and, as to voting against the motion referred to, he had done so simply because of the obnoxious and offensive manner in which the hon. member brought it forward.

MR. CAREY: And yet it was you who suggested I should bring it forward.

ESTIMATES, 1884.

The House then went into committee for the further consideration of the Estimates.

Survey Department, £14,197:

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. J. Forrest) offered some information with reference to a few items in connection with this vote. As it was not considered advisable to continue the office of Deputy Surveyor General, no provision had been made on the Estimates in connection with that office, but it was proposed to increase the number of staff surveyors from two to three, at

a salary of £300 per annum. With reference to surveys, it was proposed to expend £3,000 in the central districts, £1,700 to connect the Upper Murchison and Gascoyne, £3,000 in the Kimberley, and £1000 between the Robe and the DeGrey rivers. Of course as settlement increased the votes for surveys must also increase. Up to 1873 the whole staff of the department was engaged in marking small lots throughout the Central Districts of the colony, and prior to that date there were scarcely any territorial surveys undertaken. From 1873, however, up to the present time, nearly the whole strength of the department had been engaged in adding to these surveys, and as a result we now had a very good triangulation almost from one end of the colony to the other. There were still some gaps in it, but if those votes were acceded to the gap between the Murchison and the Gascoyne would be filled up and the only remaining gap between Fremantle and the DeGrey would be that between the head of the Lyons river and the Ashburton, a distance of about 100 miles, a vote for which he should have been glad to have seen on the Estimates,—though perhaps the work was not so pressing as the survey now proposed. He might state, for the information of the committee, that between the years 1873 and 1883 the total sum expended in surveys outside the limits of the Central districts was £15,400, distributed as follows: In 1873, when these surveys first commenced, £1,100 was spent in the Tallyering and towards the Murchison country; in 1875, about £900 was expended in the Nickol Bay district; in 1876, a sum of £1,900 between the Murchison and the Sandford; in 1878, £2,500 at Nickol Bay, the DeGrey, and the Ashburton; in 1882, £2,800 was expended at the Gascoyne and the Lyons river country, and last session a sum of £5,500 was voted for surveys this year in the Kimberley district, and £700 at the Gascoyne. The revenue received from Crown Lands in 1863, was £14,000, which had increased in 1873 to £20,000, while this year our territorial revenue would very nearly reach £80,000. Hon. members therefore must expect that as our revenue from this source increased, so also must our expenditure increase, and he thought all would agree with him that money expended in

surveys was money spent in the best interests of the colony, and was a reproductive expenditure in every sense.

Mr. CAREY said he had intended opposing the large vote proposed for surveys at the North, but he had since ascertained that some of these surveys had already been done, and he found they were very badly wanted. He should have been glad, however, to have seen a larger appropriation for surveys in the more settled districts, which were very much required.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said no doubt it was very desirable that surveys should be prosecuted with vigour in the Central Districts of the colony, and he should be happy to see the vote for these surveys largely increased. At present, however, they must be content to work with the means at their command. In view of the high rate of wages now ruling, he found it would be necessary to make more liberal provision than £750 for survey labor, etc. He had therefore to move that the item "Survey labor, advertising, instruments, stationery, &c., £750," be increased by £250, which would give £200 more to be expended in labor and other assistance.

This was agreed to.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said hon. members were aware the Government had a Geologist who was doing good work, it was hoped, in our Northern territory. The present vote for the services of this gentleman would last until the end of the present year, when his engagement with the Government expired; but it was considered very desirable by the Surveyor General that his services should be continued for another year, in order that he might accompany the exploring party which it was proposed to despatch into the Ord River country—that part of our territory nearest to the South Australian boundary—which there was some reason to believe would prove to be in the very heart of the mineral portion of the Kimberley country. Seeing that we had the money available he thought we should unhesitatingly adopt the suggestion of the Surveyor General, for the information to be obtained from a geological examination of this part of the colony could not fail to be a great benefit to us. He had therefore much pleasure in

moving that the new item be added to the Estimates: "Geological survey, £800."

Mr. STEERE could not of course say whether all these surveys were necessary, but, regard being had to the flourishing condition of our revenue, it might be desirable to make as liberal a provision as possible for these services. At the same time, he was informed that the vote for the Kimberley surveys would not be necessary, and, if so, the vote for this geological survey would not be necessary.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. J. Forrest) said the more he considered the more absolutely necessary did he think it was to go on expending money upon surveys in the Kimberley District, chiefly in the valleys of the Lennard and the Fitzroys, so that the settlers there might hope to have their boundaries defined. He was afraid, if we postponed the surveys of the Kimberley district, it would be tantamount to telling the outside world that we do not think much of this country. The whole country eastward of the Leopold range, which was considered the most fertile part of the district, and the valley of the Ord, were altogether unknown, although we were receiving large revenues from people who had taken up lands there, and although we did not know for certain whether these lands were in Western Australia or not. He certainly thought it was our bounden duty to map this country. Two surveys, he supposed, and a dozen men, would be as far as this vote would carry them, as the work would have to be carried on so far from a port of shipment for supplies. Another reason which had decided him to ask for this vote was the fact that we had horses already in the district, and the equipments necessary to prosecute the work, at the least possible expense. It was a very small amount for the work to be performed, but he supposed they must cut their coat according to their cloth. The same arguments would hold good as to the further employment of the Government Geologist. He thought it would be a pity, after the colony going to the expense of £1000, a considerable portion of which was for the passage of this gentleman to and from England, and the purchase of equipments

for his outfit—he thought it would be a great pity not to continue his services, even on the score of economy. It was absolutely necessary we should have a geological survey of this part of our territory, and it was only a question of time when it should be undertaken. It appeared to him it would be most opportune to continue the present arrangement, both in the interest of scientific discovery and in the interests of the colony itself. Personally, he had the highest opinion of this gentleman's abilities; he was undoubtedly a highly competent man, and a most zealous and painstaking officer, and if we could secure his services for another year it would be well we should do so.

Mr. McRAE said he had intended opposing the Kimberley vote, but after the explanation of the Commissioner of Crown Lands, he would refrain from doing so, though it seemed a very large amount to expend on surveys in a district containing only eight settlers.

Mr. VENN also thought the amount was large, and asked whether it would not be as well, and more economical in the end, to permanently retain these survey parties in the district, until the work is done? A great deal of expense was now incurred in the transport of the parties backward and forward. He thought it would be a very good thing to station them in the district until the surveys were completed.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. J. Forrest) said he differed in opinion from the hon. member for Wellington. It was very trying work, surveying in this district,—very injurious to the eyesight, and it would be no use attempting to prosecute the surveys all the year round. The cost of transport, after all, was not so great, and, on the return of the officer in charge, he was able to plot his work at the Survey Office, which involved a good deal of work, occupying quite as long a time as the surveys in the field. It would be next to impossible—in fact, it would be absolutely impossible—for any one to lay down his surveys on paper, in the precise way necessary in dealing with a large territory like this, without returning to head quarters. He thought the present plan had worked well.

Mr. CAREY, referring to the officers

placed on the permanent staff, thought it would be only fair that their appointments should date from last November, when the promise was made to them. He was informed that some of them had since then been charged for medical attendance, as if they were still only temporarily employed.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. J. Forrest) understood these officers were to be placed on the Estimates for 1884, as being on the permanent staff. He could not say now whether the date of their appointment would commence at the time mentioned, but he would do his best to see that they received every consideration, and, for his own part, he should be pleased if their appointments were made to date from the time referred to.

MR. GRANT said he must oppose the proposed vote for a Geologist, on the same grounds as he opposed the vote last session. No practical information had been received from this scientific gentleman as yet—just as he had expected. The scientific researches of these men were not worth a straw, so far as being of any practical utility went. What we wanted was to employ some practical miners, if we wanted any practical information. He thought the retention of this gentleman's services would be money thrown away.

The motion to add the item "Geological survey, £800" was then put and carried, and the vote for the Survey Department agreed to.

Customs Department, Item £3,115:

Agreed to, without discussion.

Works and Railways Department, Item £19,673 7s.:

MR. STEERE said it would be necessary to have fuller estimates prepared in connection with works and buildings for the information of the House in future, but he saw no provision made for it here. He presumed the officers of the department were at present fully employed. He also noticed it was proposed to reduce the hours of labor among the workmen employed on the railways: he thought it was very bad policy for the Government to set a precedent for reducing the hours of work among laborers, while at the same time giving them higher rates of wages than ordinary employers of labor could afford.

THE COMMISSIONER OF RAILWAYS (Hon. J. H. Thomas) said, with regard to his own office, no doubt it required an increase in the staff, and he had already recommended His Excellency to increase it. As to the hours of labor, they were the same in England, and in the other Australian colonies.

MR. WITTENOOM called attention to the management of the Northern Railway, which, he said, was simply disgraceful. Where the fault lay he did not know, whether with the men who worked the engines, or with the officers—the latter seemed a very careful painstaking lot; but the fact remained that a line of railway only 30 miles long, with two engines, costing thousands a year to work it, could not do this distance within three hours. This was a painful state of affairs.

THE COMMISSIONER OF RAILWAYS (Hon. J. H. Thomas) said it must be remembered that this line was merely laid down as a mineral line, and was not intended for passengers at all. It was a mere tramroad.

MR. CROWTHER said it was a tramroad that had turned out to be a very expensive luxury. He endorsed all that was said by the hon. member for Geraldton as to the management and general conduct of the line, which was simply a disgrace, and a most humiliating disgrace, whenever strangers visited the district. He believed a great deal of the present evils might be redressed if some responsible officer paid a visit of inspection occasionally. The present state of affairs was lamentable. The fuel, which ought to cost about 5s. per trip, for weeks together cost 12s. or more. He believed the officer in charge did his utmost, but the working of the line loudly called for reform.

MR. SHENTON said what was wanted was more direct supervision from headquarters. He did not think it was the fault of the officers on the spot.

MR. STEERE thought the Commissioner of Railways ought to visit the district at least twice a year. He believed that a great deal of the present dissatisfaction with the working of the line was caused by his never visiting the district to inquire into the state of affairs.

MR. RANDELL called attention to

the salary of the station master at Perth. The duties of this officer had very largely increased of late, and he was a most obliging and indefatigable officer—quite a model station master. He hoped his claims to an increase of salary would not be overlooked by the Government when they came to deal with the question of salaries.

The vote was then passed as printed.

Postal and Telegraph Department, Item £27,107:

MR. STEERE moved that the item "Third Clerk and Accountant, £250" be reduced by £30. He saw no reason why this officer should have an increase of £30, any more than other officers whose claims had been deferred until next year.

Motion agreed to.

MR. MARMION asked what steps the Government proposed to take with reference to altering the hours of the telegraph offices. He hoped some alteration would be made. He had fully intended moving an amendment to the reply to the Governor's Message on the subject the other day, but the question was put and passed so quickly that he missed the opportunity of doing so.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser): I take it that it is the wish of the House for the hours to remain as at present. The Governor made a proposal to alter the hours, but the House did not accept it, and from that I gather there is no desire on the part of the majority of hon. members in favor of a change.

MR. STEERE thought the House would be satisfied if the Perth and Fremantle offices were opened from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. He believed this would meet the wishes of almost every member of the House, if the Government would accept that proposal.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser): Then I understand it to be the wish of the House, and, provided these extra hours necessitate any extra remuneration that the claims of the officers be recognised. I will bring the wishes of hon. members to the notice of His Excellency, and probably what is desired may be effected.

MR. CROWTHER thought the proposed alteration would be very unpopular in country districts. He could not help thinking that the best change

that could be made, if any change was wanted, was to keep the Perth and Fremantle offices open night and day, leaving the country offices as they were.

MR. STEERE said no doubt if any little extra expense were incurred in carrying out the proposed alteration the Council would gladly vote it. They could not expect these officers to work extra hours without being paid for it.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser): As there still seems to be a divergence of opinion among hon. members I think the best thing we can do is to leave the hours as they are.

MR. BROWN thought the hours suggested by the hon. member for the Swan would certainly not suit country districts. For his own part, he would prefer to continue the present arrangement than alter the hours as now suggested.

MR. VENN said he quite concurred in the views expressed by the hon. member for the Gascoyne,—that the present hours would suit the country districts better than to have the offices opened from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

MR. SHENTON was inclined to agree with the hon. member for the Greenough,—keep the Perth and Fremantle offices open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m., without intermission. A couple of junior operators would be all the extra staff required; and leave the country districts as they are.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said he would mention the subject to His Excellency.

The matter then dropped.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) moved several alterations in the minor votes, which were agreed to, without discussion. ("Votes and Proceedings," p. 146.)

MR. SHENTON referred to the item "Mail from Geraldton to Roebourne, £2500." He said he had strongly objected to this service when it was proposed, at an early period of the session by the hon. member for Geraldton, and he was still as strongly opposed to it. He would move that the item be struck out. He did so because the House had, last night, agreed to a resolution offering a subsidy of £1000 a year for a steam service to Singapore, which would also serve our Northern settlements. He did

not think the country could afford to pay for this overland service as well, until at any rate the permanency of our present revenue was established, when he should be the last to oppose it, for he was one of those who thought it was the duty of the Government to afford every facility it could to the country settlers, in the way of mail communication.

MR. WITTENOOM said it seemed to him a most unprecedented and inconvenient and unsatisfactory thing for the House, after addressing the Governor and praying him to put this vote on the Estimates, to turn round now and move that it be struck out. Hon. members must be prepared to eat their own words, if they were prepared to do this. He never heard of such a thing.

MR. STFFERE said he was one of those who had supported the motion asking that this sum should be placed on the Estimates, but there was nothing irregular in the House re-considering the question when the vote came before it, in this form. The hon. member was in error in stating that such a course was unprecedented. The hon. member should read Todd's "Constitutional History of England." Since the subject was first before the House he had been informed on very good authority that this overland service would not give any very great advantages to the settlers on the line of road proposed to traverse. He did not agree at all with the hon. member for Toodyay's argument—that the steam service to Singapore would in any way benefit these settlers; and it was not on that account, but because he had been informed, on what he considered very good authority, that this overland mail would not go near the homesteads of many of the settlers, and therefore would not be productive of those advantages which he had been led to believe it would when he supported the address to the Governor, that he now supported this motion to strike out the vote.

MR. BROWN said he had supported the hon. member for Geraldton on the ground that the hon. member assured the House that this mail service could be and would be carried out for the sum named (£2,500). He himself had always doubted it. He did not think the amount in question was anything like sufficient; but he considered that if it

would, it would be money well spent, if the colony could afford it. He thought, when the matter was first brought forward, there would have been a large surplus available for expenditure upon this and other services, but as he understood now that the mail service from Carnarvon would be jeopardised—would in fact depend upon whether the House agreed to incur this large sum for the overland mail to Roebourne—he was not prepared to jeopardise the Carnarvon service, by voting for this service.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said the simplest way would be for the hon. member for Toodyay to move that the vote for the conveyance of mails be reduced by this amount, minus the amount required for the Carnarvon service.

MR. SHENTON said he would so, and moved that the item "Conveyance of Mails, £12,350," be reduced by £2,115.

This was agreed to.

MR. CAREY called attention to an offer made by the director of the Lockeville Timber Co. to establish a telegraph office on the company's station, on the same terms as the office at the Jarrahdale Timber Co.'s station had been established.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said he could not assist the hon. member now. The subject had been under the consideration of the Government, but His Excellency did not see his way clear at present to ask the Council to assist a private company in the way proposed.

MR. SHENTON asked whether the vote under the head of "Repairs to Telegraph Lines" would be sufficient to cover the cost of what was necessary to be done between Perth and Fremantle—a necessity to which he had already called the attention of the Government.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said he had consulted the Superintendent of Telegraphs as to this item, and he seemed to think it would be enough. He could not say, however, whether the Superintendent had taken into consideration the question of renewing the posts along the Fremantle road. He had no reason at any rate to believe that the vote would be insufficient. Hon. members would observe it had been increased from £135 to £300.

The vote for the Postal and Telegraph Department was then put and passed.

Progress was then reported, and leave given to sit again on Monday, Sept. 3.

LAND FOR RAILWAY SCHEMES: REPORT OF SECOND SELECT COMMITTEE.

MR. STEERE, in moving the consideration of the report of the second select committee appointed to re-draft sub-section 5 of Resolution I, submitted on the subject of Land Grant Railways, and to consider Mr. Hordern's letter, said the committee had adopted the amendment proposed by him the other day (*vide p. 392 ante*). The committee had also considered Mr. Hordern's letter of the 27th July, and recommended that sub-section 4 of Resolution I be modified. The hon. member then moved the House into committee of the whole, to consider the report of the select committee.

IN COMMITTEE.

Resolution I; sub-section 5 (as amended):

MR. STEERE said this amendment was considered necessary, as the Syndicate might only leave a very narrow frontage for the Government, which might render the Crown Lands almost worthless, the Government having nothing left but back country.

MR. VENN was rather in favor of the original sub-section. The amendment only tended to hedge round the conditions more and more, when, he thought, we ought to deal as liberally as we could with these Syndicates. The Crown hitherto had not made much out of these lands, but the Syndicates would, in their own interests, turn them to some good account. He should not offer any opposition, however, to the amendment.

MR. BROWN said he concurred in a great measure with what had fallen from the hon. member for Wellington. He certainly should not go further than to secure for the Crown one half the frontage. He should be sorry to see these projects jeopardised by reason of the conditions imposed being too illiberal.

MR. CAREY thought we could not deal too liberally with these companies. It appeared to him it would be a mistake to confine them as was here proposed.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. J. Forrest) could not agree with the hon. member. He knew the country between here and Albany very well, and he thought these conditions would be just as acceptable to the Syndicate as the original proposal would have been. He was sure they would get the best of the land by this arrangement and leave the Crown all the worst of it, even with the conditions now imposed.

The amended sub-section was then put and passed.

MR. STEERE said the select committee had considered Mr. Hordern's objection (as stated in his letter of the 27th July) to the wording of the paragraph relating to the tenure upon which the Syndicate should hold the land on which they had erected their stations, workshops, sidings, etc. Mr. Hordern objected to these lands being merely "in the occupancy" of the Syndicate, which it was said appeared somewhat vague, if (Mr. Hordern said) by these words it was intended that the Syndicate should be considered merely as tenants at will. The select committee agreed that the words were somewhat ambiguous, and that probably the Syndicate might require a greater security for their outlay, and they therefore proposed to modify them as suggested by Mr. Hordern, but subject, however, to this condition—that the lands should be forfeited to the Crown if the Syndicate ceased to work the line. He therefore begged to move that sub-section 4 of Resolution I be amended, by striking out all the words after "be" in the seventh line, and inserting in lieu thereof the words "the property of such Syndicate, subject to forfeiture to the Crown on breach of the conditions for the continuous working of the railway. Any question of compensation arising in connection with the lands so reserved should be a matter for arrangement between the Government and the Syndicate."

This was agreed to, and the sub-section as amended adopted.

MR. STEERE said that Mr. Hordern, in his letter referred to the select committee, expressed his readiness to run the line into deep water at Albany—a condition which appeared to the select committee very desirable to insist upon. It had also been pointed out to the com-

mittee by the Commissioner of Railways that it was necessary to empower the Government to effect a junction of branch lines with the Syndicate's lines, with running power over them,—a suggestion which had met with the entire approval of the committee, and which must commend itself to the House. He would therefore move that the following sub-sections be added to Resolution I:

"13. That the proposed Beverley-Albany line should terminate at deep water in Princess Royal Harbor, at a spot to be approved by the Government."

"14. That the Government should be entitled to effect a junction of branch lines with the Syndicate's lines of railway, and should have running powers over those lines upon terms and conditions to be agreed upon."

This was agreed to; and Resolution I, as amended, was then put and passed.

Resolution IV (reverted to)—"This House while expressing the opinion that the proposals of Sir Julius Vogel and Mr. Audley Coote more nearly approach the terms for land grant railway construction embodied in the foregoing resolutions than those either of Colonel McMurdo or of Mr. Anthony Hordern, and that they present an opportunity which it would regret to see lost for entering upon the large and important projects in view without delay, is nevertheless willing to accept His Excellency the Governor's suggestion, that the negotiations with the promoters should be concluded by his Government. Provided that in the event of any material departure from the basis recommended by this House being found necessary, a final ratification of the agreement, by the Legislature, should be obtained, with the least possible delay:"

MR. STEERE said that the modified terms proposed by Mr. Hordern, in his letter of the 27th July, were such as to render it necessary to alter the wording of this resolution, which expressed the opinion that the proposals of Sir Julius Vogel more nearly approached the views of the Legislature than the other proposals. Mr. Hordern's present proposals, however, had put another complexion upon the matter, and he therefore had to move, "That all the words between the word 'Vogel,' in the 1st line, and

"the words 'His Excellency,' in the 6th line, be struck out, and the following words inserted in lieu thereof: and of Mr. Anthony Hordern closely approach the terms for land grant railway construction embodied in the foregoing Resolutions, and apparently present opportunities which it would regret to see lost for entering upon the large and important projects in view without delay, nevertheless accepts."

This was agreed to.

MR. VENN thought the amendments made by Mr. Hordern in the terms which his Syndicate were prepared to offer were such as, under the circumstances, perhaps justified the House in altering this paragraph, as it had been altered, and he was so far in accord with the select committee that he thought the words which had just been added ought to be inserted. But he thought the time had now arrived for the House to express a definite opinion as to the relative importance of the two projects—that which proposed to connect Beverley and Albany, and that which proposed to connect this colony with South Australia. He would therefore move, as indicating his own opinion at any rate, and, he believed, the opinion of many more, that the following words be added to the resolution: "It would also express its opinion that, of the two lines referred, that from York to Eucla is of primary importance."

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) thought the select committee had done their work honestly and well, and he hoped the House would adhere to their recommendations, as they stood.

MR. STEERE thought it would be a good thing for the colony if the two schemes were not undertaken by the one Syndicate. He should be sorry to see them both monopolised by one company, and he saw no good in adding an expression of opinion as to which line was of the greatest importance. The only justification for adopting the land grant system was in order to promote settlement, and, considering there would be a great deal more settlement on the line between here and Albany than on the line from York to Eucla, he failed to see how hon. members could accept this amendment. They knew there was a great deal of agricultural land on the route of the former line, but they did

not know there was any between York and Eucla. Therefore he could not agree that the Eucla line was of primary importance: it was of very great importance no doubt, but he was not prepared to say that it was of primary importance.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. J. Forrest) said the select committee, in wording their report had particularly refrained from expressing any opinion as to the relative importance of the two lines, and he thought had acted wisely in doing so. In the present stage of the question he thought it was altogether unnecessary to express any opinion as to our preference for one line more than another.

MR. MARMION said the question at present was whether we should undertake a work of national importance or one of local importance. His own feeling, throughout, had been in favor of the former; but in order not to create any element of discord among the members of the select committee, he had refrained from obtruding his opinions upon the committee. Now, however, that the question had cropped up in the House, he had no hesitation in saying that, in his opinion, the proposed intercolonial scheme, connecting Fremantle with the South Australian boundary, was a much more important work than the connection of the Eastern Districts with Albany. The former would benefit all the more populous parts of the colony, while as regards Fremantle it would make that port the Brindisi of Australia. These advantages would not be obtained from the other line. It was true the select committee recommended that, in any case, harbor works should be constructed at Fremantle, but how great would be the relative importance of these works if the trans-continental line were undertaken, as compared with the line from Beverley to Albany. If therefore the former was of primary importance, why not say so? He had no wish to throw cold water on the other line, because he thought it was a very desirable undertaking, but that the other was by far more so. He believed the colony at large, if appealed to, would declare in favor of the national undertaking rather than the local one.

SIR T. COCKBURN-CAMPBELL thought all the members of the select

committee would agree with him when he said they had endeavored all along to avoid all contentions: they frequently had marked differences of opinion, but he thought they had honestly and generously tried to meet one another and endeavored to frame a report which would cause no contentious discussion. But this amendment at once raised a contentious point, there being a considerable difference of opinion as to the relative importance of the two lines. The Albany line might be a smaller "idea" than the other, but, personally, he considered it was far more likely to promote agricultural settlement than the other line. So far as they were aware, from York to Port Augusta there was no country available for anything but pastoral settlement, whereas along the other line there was country which they hoped and believed was well adapted for agriculture. Seeing, moreover, that, so far as the House was concerned, it was a matter of absolute indifference whether these words were inserted or not, and as they were sure to lead to contention and possibly to a division, he hoped that the hon. member would not press them. It would be a graceful act on his part to withdraw them, and, like the committee, avoid all contention.

MR. RANDELL said he was in accord with the hon. baronet as to the desirability of eschewing all contention, as far as possible, in dealing with this important question; at the same time, considering as he did that the intercolonial line was of far greater importance to the colony at large than the Albany line, if the matter should be pushed to a division he should give his adhesion to the amendment.

MR. CAREY said he also must express his conviction that the line to Eucla was of primary importance, especially in view of the development of the port of Fremantle, and of the centres of population generally.

The question was then put—That the words proposed to be added to the resolution be inserted; and the committee divided, with the following result:

Ayes	11
Noes	9
Majority for	2

AYES.

Mr. Brown
Mr. Burges
Mr. Carey
Mr. Crowther
Mr. Grant
Mr. Higham
Mr. Marmion
Mr. McEae
Mr. Randell
Mr. Wittencoom
Mr. Venn (*Teller*).

NOES.

Hon. M. Fraser
Hon. A. P. Hensman
Hon. J. H. Thomas
Hon. J. Forrest
Sir T. C. Campbell
Mr. Glyde
Mr. S. S. Parker
Mr. Shenton
Mr. Steere (*Teller*).

The amendment was therefore carried. Resolution IV, as amended, agreed to.

On the motion of Mr. STEERE, the report of the committee, as amended, was agreed to.

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

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Tuesday, 3rd September, 1883.

Vote for Geraldton Hospital—Wild Cattle Nuisance Act, 1871. Amendment Bill: first reading—Intestate Estates Bill: second reading—Swan River Regulations Repeal Bill: in committee—Totalisator Bill: third reading—District Roads Act Amendment Bill: second reading—Puisne Judge's Salary Bill: second reading—Shipping and Pilotage Acts Amendment Bill: second reading—Rabbits Bill: in committee—Eastern Railway Terminus Bill: third reading—Dog Bill: re-committed—Aboriginal Native Offenders Bill: re-committed—Private Bonded Warehouses Bill: second reading—Imported Labor Registry Bill: further considered in committee—Adjournment.

THE SPEAKER took the Chair at noon.

PRAYERS.

VOTE FOR GERALDTON HOSPITAL.

MR. WITTENOOM, in accordance with notice, asked the Honorable the Colonial Secretary whether the sum of £300 had been placed on the Estimates for 1884, to make the sum of £1,700 for a Hospital at Geraldton up to the original vote (£2,000) appropriated for that purpose; if not, whether the Government proposed devoting such a sum as was at first voted (£2,000) for the Hospital. Hon. members would remember that, in reply

to a question asked the other day, it transpired that a sum of £300 out of this vote had been expended upon the medical officer's quarters, and what he wished to know was whether the Government intended making up this amount.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said there was no sum placed on the Estimates for 1884, for a hospital at Geraldton. The money now available it was proposed to expend in the erection of a portion of a building which, when completed, it was estimated would cost £4,000.

WILD CATTLE NUISANCE ACT, 1871,
AMENDMENT BILL.

MR. CAREY, with leave, without notice, moved the first reading of a Bill to amend "The Wild Cattle Nuisance Act, 1871."

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

INTESTATE ESTATES BILL.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. A. P. Hensman), in moving the second reading of a Bill for the better administration of the estates of deceased persons, said it would be unnecessary for him to do more than say a very few words upon its provisions. It happened from time to time that people died in this colony, and, so far as was known, they left no relatives to administer their estate or to claim an interest in it, and the result had been, in some cases, that the small effects left behind—for generally in these cases the effects were small—had been misappropriated by persons who really had no right to take possession of the intestate estate. In 1861, when the Supreme Court Act was passed, a portion of one of the clauses of that Act provided that, when an executor of any will neglected to take out probate, or where the next of kin should be absent, and the effects of the deceased should appear to be liable to waste, the Court might empower the Registrar to collect the effects and to hold them until an order was made by the Court for their disposal. To a certain extent this had worked usefully, but it only applied to personal estates and did not touch real property. Land had been left and no one to claim it, and, there being nobody to protect it,