

to be made for such interest. This, he took it, was meant to apply to the fact that some interval of time must necessarily elapse between our action here and the action of the Crown Agents in London. He presumed the sole object in view was to make sure that there shall be sufficient funds available for the payment of interest.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. A. P. Hensman) said the words must have some limited meaning. It was clear from the words which followed, "and shall remit that sum to the Crown Agents at such time as will enable them"—to do what? "To pay thereout the then current half year's interest;" showing clearly that provision was only required to be made to meet something which was actually payable.

The clause was then agreed to.

Clauses 11 to 32 were agreed to, *sub silentio*.

Preamble and title :

Agreed to.

Bill reported.

EXCESS BILL, 1883.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser), in moving the second reading of this bill, said he believed hon. members would agree that the Government had brought down their Excess Bill to a sum which might reasonably be accepted by the House, being certainly less than one per cent. of the revenue. Every item contained in the schedule of the bill had been before the Finance Committee appointed under the Audit Act, and it would be seen on reference to the papers that some of the items were actually less than what had been approved by that committee. He was not aware that at the present stage of the bill it was necessary for him to enter into any explanation with regard to these items, beyond what was already in the possession of hon. members. The Minute Book of the Finance Committee was on the table, and subject to the scrutiny of any hon. member.

The motion for the second reading of the bill was agreed to, without discussion.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said he did not know whether, under the circumstances, hon. members wished to follow the practice of past

years and have the bill referred to a select committee—if they did so, he would offer no opposition; but, as a matter of form, he would move that the committal of the bill be made an order of the day for July 22nd.

MR. STEERE thought it would be better to follow the usual practice of referring these bills to a select committee, and he should therefore move, as an amendment, that the bill be referred to a committee consisting of the Colonial Secretary, Mr. Brown, Mr. Shenton, Mr. Carey, and the mover, and, by leave, Mr. Loton and Mr. Venn.

This was agreed to.

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

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Monday, 21st July, 1884.

Natives sentenced to death at Geraldton—Expenditure of School Fees received by Board of Education—Supplementary Estimates, 1884—Federation of Australasia—Premium for Plans of New Government Offices at Perth—Telegraph line from Bunbury to Bridgetown—Adjournment.

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

PRAYERS.

NATIVES SENTENCED TO DEATH AT GERALDTON.

MR. CROWTHER asked the Colonial Secretary whether the Government had arrived at any decision as to what will be done with the two natives condemned to death by Mr. Justice Stone, at Geraldton, about two months ago, for murder? The hon. member said a very unusual course had been adopted towards these natives, who, for seven or eight weeks now, had been left in suspense as to whether they were to live or whether they were to die. Their

position had given rise to a good deal of public feeling in the district, and as this feeling was not unmingled with a little cheap sentiment, it afforded a section of the press a handle for inveighing against a Government that allowed such things to occur. A special warder at 7s. a day had to be kept to look after these two men, and though the amount was not much, still, as he had pointed out on a former occasion, it was the disregard of public feeling in petty matters of this kind that caused people to be dissatisfied with the present constitution and to cry out for Responsible Government.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) replied that the capital sentence passed upon one of the natives (Bob Miller) had been commuted by the Governor to penal servitude for twenty years, and that the death sentence passed upon the other native (Tommy) had been commuted to penal servitude for life. This decision was indicated to the authorities on the 18th of June last (a month ago), and he had been under the impression that the two natives had been removed to Rottneest long before now. Since the hon. member, however, had given notice of his question, full inquiries were being made by the Government into the matter.

EXPENDITURE OF SCHOOL FEES RECEIVED BY BOARD OF EDUCATION.

MR. CAREY, in accordance with notice, asked the Colonial Secretary to lay upon the table a return of all monies received by the Central Board of Education for school fees for the five years ending 1883, and for the half-year ending 30th June, 1884: such return to show the amount from each district up to end of 1883, and from 1st January to 30th June, 1884, from each separate school; also an account of the expenditure of the fee fund for these years, and the balance in hand. The hon. member said it was well known that a large amount of money was received by the Government in this way annually, which might be regarded as so much public revenue; but up to the present no account whatever had been furnished to the House or to the country as to the amount received and how it was expended—information which he thought they had a perfect right to receive.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said he had communicated on the subject with the Secretary of the Central Board of Education, and that gentleman stated that the returns asked for would require a long time to prepare, but that the cash book of the Central Board, which shows every item received and expended, could, if desired, be laid on the Council table. Would that meet the wishes of the hon. member?

MR. CAREY said it would not meet the wishes of the hon. member, by any means, and he should repeat the question another day in another form.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) moved the House into committee to consider certain expenses requisite to be incurred during the current year beyond the amount authorised to be expended by the Appropriation Act.

The motion was agreed to.

IN COMMITTEE.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said he thought hon. members would agree that the Government had mended their ways in certain directions of late; they did not come to the House with the huge Excess Bills of former years, involving the unauthorised expenditure of tens of thousands of pounds. He came before them that evening asking them, it was true, to consider a very large expenditure of money, but it was money that had not yet been spent, and he asked the House to confirm the proposed expenditure with some degree of confidence, for this reason: the mere fact of the Government coming down to the House asking hon. members to agree to this money being spent showed conclusively that the finances of the colony were in a satisfactory condition, otherwise the Government would not have ventured to face the House, and moved it to confirm the proposed expenditure of so large a sum as £24,224 beyond the liberal grant voted by the House last year. Hon. members were aware that at the last session there were many matters in connection with which they wished to see money expended, but the Government at that time did not feel prepared to support the wishes of

hon. members beyond the extent which was covered by the Appropriation Act. It was satisfactory, however, to find that up to the present time our finances had in no way fallen short of our expectations, and that we had prospered to a degree which could not fail to be a source of gratification to all hon. members. Under these circumstances he came before them with every confidence to ask them to confirm these Estimates. Hon. members would notice in the financial statement prefixed to the Estimates that, after providing for the proposed expenditure of £24,000, they still anticipated a credit balance at the end of the year of close upon £40,000. He might add that, as regards one single item of revenue, that of land rents, the receipts for the first half of this year had exceeded the estimate for the whole year, the amount received up to the 30th June last in excess of the whole year's estimate being £656l 3s. 1d. This was apart altogether from the land revenue derived from other sources than rents, which might be received during the second half of the year, and which no doubt would not be inconsiderable. Hon. members might therefore feel that they were treading on safe ground. At the same time he would ask them to co-assist the Government by not exceeding the amount here asked for. His Excellency had taken a very liberal view of all items of proposed expenditure brought before him; he had given his careful consideration to all the local public works and other matters brought under his attention,—some during the last session and some during the recess; and the same thing might be said with regard to increasing the salaries of certain officers of the Government, with respect to which a wish was expressed by the House last session,—a wish which the Government had undertaken to give effect to. As hon. members were aware from the papers laid before them, the Governor had appointed as a commission to assist him in this matter a committee of gentlemen who were nominated by that House as its representatives in financial matters, and His Excellency had delegated to this body, in a certain extent, the consideration of what increases should be asked for. He was sure, speaking in a twofold capacity, first on behalf of the Government and in the next place on his

own individual behalf, they were all indebted to these gentlemen for the serious consideration and the careful manner in which they had entered into the details of every item placed before them, and, individually, he had to thank them for the patient manner in which they had listened to all points which, on behalf of those directly interested, it had been his duty to bring under their consideration. He was sure hon. members would readily acknowledge that there was considerable labor attached to this task, a task in the performance of which they had received the hearty approval of the Governor, and the House was now asked to place the seal of its approval upon their labors. With regard to the other items which appeared on these Supplementary Estimates, some of them had been forced upon the Government by the operation of statutes enacted by the House, such as the Act providing for the abatement of the nuisance caused by wild dogs, which he might say had worked satisfactorily up to this date, and had not only absorbed the available money placed at the disposal of the Government for carrying out the provisions of the Act, but also entitled the necessity of their now coming before the House to ask for another £1000 to meet the claims which they expected would be made upon them between this and the end of the year. It was unnecessary for him at this stage to dwell at any length upon the various items constituting these Supplementary Estimates; he would be prepared to furnish the House with every information as they proceeded with the work. He would therefore now formally move the first item—Governor's Establishment, £100.

MR. STEERE quite agreed with the Colonial Secretary that the Government had amended their ways in not having such large Excess Bills as they were in the habit of having in former years, but, to some extent, this salutary reform appeared to have been brought about at the expense of the introduction of another objectionable practice,—the introduction of Supplementary Estimates. Mr. Gladstone, who was probably the greatest financier of the day, referring to this mode of providing expenditure, once said there was nothing so destructive to economy as having large supplemental

estimates; and in that he quite agreed. If the heads of departments felt that they might in the middle of the year come forward with supplementary requisitions for public funds to enable them to carry on the work of their respective departments, it naturally made them very careless in framing their annual estimates, and this feeling of carelessness led to an increase of expenditure. He therefore hoped the House would not in the future see Supplementary Estimates brought forward representing so large an amount of money as the Estimates now before the committee, and the Estimates which on previous occasions had been brought before them of late years. He quite agreed with the Colonial Secretary that very great care had been exercised by the gentlemen who had assisted the Government in drawing up the revised scheme of increased salaries for the civil servants, but there was no denying the fact that it had not given that satisfaction which it was hoped it would have given to the members of that House, and he might say to the public at large. As he understood it was the desire of many hon. members to have a further opportunity of considering the scheme of proposed increases, he would now move that progress be reported and leave given to the committee to sit again on Wednesday, July 23rd.

Agreed to.

FEDERATION OF AUSTRALASIA.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) rose to move—“(1.) That this House, having had under consideration the following resolutions adopted at the Australasian Convention held at Sydney in November and December, 1883, namely:—

“1. That further acquisition of dominion in the Pacific, south of the equator, by any foreign power would be highly detrimental to the safety and well-being of the British possessions in Australasia, and injurious to the interests of the Empire.

“2. That this Convention refrains from suggesting the action by which effect can best be given to the foregoing resolution, in the confident belief that the Imperial Government will promptly adopt the wisest and most effectual

“measures for securing the safety and contentment of this portion of Her Majesty’s dominions.

“3. That having regard to the geographical position of the island of New Guinea, the rapid extension of British trade and enterprise in Torres Straits, the certainty that the island will shortly be the resort of many adventurous subjects of Great Britain and other nations, and the absence or inadequacy of any existing laws for regulating their relations with the native tribes, this Convention, while fully recognising that the responsibility of extending the boundaries of the empire belongs to the Imperial Government, is emphatically of opinion that such steps should be immediately taken as will most conveniently and effectively secure the incorporation with the British Empire of so much of New Guinea and the small islands adjacent thereto as is not claimed by the Government of the Netherlands.

“4. That although the understanding arrived at in 1878 between Great Britain and France, recognising the independence of the New Hebrides, appears to preclude this Convention from making any recommendation inconsistent with that understanding, the Convention urges upon Her Majesty’s Government that it is extremely desirable that such understanding should give place to some more definite engagement, which shall secure those islands from falling under any foreign dominion; at the same time the Convention trust that Her Majesty’s Government will avail itself of any opportunity that may arise for negotiating with the Government of France, with the object of obtaining the control of those islands in the interests of Australasia.

“5. That the Governments represented at this Convention undertake to submit and recommend to their respective Legislatures measures of permanent appropriation for defraying, in proportion to population, such share of the cost incurred in giving effect to the foregoing resolutions as Her Majesty’s Government, having regard to the relative importance of Imperial and Australasian interests, may deem fair and reasonable.

“6. That the Convention protests in the strongest manner against the declared intention of the Government of France to transport large numbers of relapsed criminals to the French possessions in the Pacific, and urges Her Majesty's Government to use every means in its power to prevent the adoption of a course so disastrous to the interests of Australasia and the Pacific Islands.

“7. That the Convention expresses a confident hope that no penal settlement for the reception of European criminals will long continue to exist in the Pacific, and invites Her Majesty's Government to make to the Government of France such serious representations on this subject as may be deemed expedient.”—

records its entire approval of the said resolutions.

“(ii.) That an Humble Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor, informing him of the foregoing resolution.

“(iii.) That an Humble Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor, conveying the prayer of this House that Her Majesty may be graciously pleased to cause a measure to be submitted to the Imperial Parliament, for the purpose of constituting a Federal Council of Australasia, upon the basis of the draft bill adopted by the Convention held in Sydney in the months of November and December, 1883.

“(iv.) That an Humble Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor, stating the willingness of this House to defray a share, apportioned on the basis of population, of the expense attending the immediate employment of an Imperial Commissioner on the coasts of New Guinea, as suggested in the Earl of Derby's Despatch No. 47, of May 9th last.”

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said he felt that in asking the House to adopt these resolutions he was asking them to enter upon a new sphere of action. What were they asked to do? They were asked that evening to co-operate with the other Australian colonies in building up an Australian dominion, a dominion which they all hoped might in the future become a great

nation and eventually a great empire, of which Western Australia would be a kingdom. If hon. members would cast their minds back only a few years ago to a gathering which took place in the border town of Albury, on the frontier of the two great sister colonies of New South Wales and Victoria, and if they would call to mind a memorable speech delivered on that occasion by that distinguished statesman Sir Hercules Robinson—a speech that found an echo at the time in the breast of every patriotic Australian—they would discover what he might call the germ of this movement in favor of Australian federation. He thought Mr. Service, the respected premier of Victoria, now the prime mover in the matter, might be said to have caught the infection at that gathering, and the movement had gradually spread until, to-day, they found every colony of the group more or less under its influence. Nor was this great question of federation the only question which the resolutions now before the House dealt with. It would still be fresh in the recollection of hon. members that Queensland not long ago, seeing, or imagining that it saw, the prospect of a foreign Power seizing possession of that huge continental island, New Guinea,—situated, as hon. members were aware, almost within sight of our northern shores—took what was considered at the time, and what had since proved to be, rather too precipitate a step in sending a magistrate, a policeman, and a boat's crew to take possession of that continent, and to hoist the Queen's colors there. The attention of the Imperial Government being drawn to this action of the Queensland ministry, and to the fact that it was not wholly supported by the other colonies, suggested that the time had arrived when the colonies should unite and combine in advancing the claims of Australia to the unoccupied islands which were in its immediate neighborhood, and not only to the islands in its immediate vicinity, but also those islands in the sea which washed its eastern shores. A most important consideration, he thought, in prompting the colonies to adopt this step, and in inducing them to combine together for the purpose of self-defence, was the subsequent action of the French Government with reference to the deportation of their

criminals—*récidivistes* as they were called—to some of these islands, and notably to New Caledonia. The danger involved to these colonies in this movement on the part of the French Government would be appreciated when he stated that, a few months ago, it was estimated there were no less than 22,000 criminals, convicts of the worst type, stationed on that island, within a few days' sail of our principal colonies on the eastern coast of this continent, and that most of these men, as had been recently pointed out by a minister of the Crown, had, in pursuance of the French system of conscription, been trained to arms. When these things were borne in mind, the danger, the standing menace which this foreign convict settlement offered to these colonies was apparent. But when it was found that the French Government intended not only to shoot more of its rubbish and moral filth into this settlement, but also to pollute in the same way another island midway between it and New Zealand—he referred now to the New Hebrides—public feeling in Australia became stirred to its very depth, and it was felt on all hands that the time had arrived when the various colonies should join together, and present a solid and united front against this dangerous aggression. The French Government, it appeared, laid some sort of claim to the New Hebrides, they regarded these islands as being in some degree—he spoke with caution—under their protection, and these colonies felt, as he had already said, that there was serious ground for apprehension on the score that these islands were going to be made the receptacle for the lowest class of criminals belonging to the French Republic. These considerations had naturally moved the Australian colonies to action, and to united action, and the hon. gentleman (Mr. Service) who had been most prominent throughout in this movement, had met, to a certain degree, with great success, in the steps he had taken in the matter. Following upon the Convention, at which these resolutions were adopted, action had been taken by most of the colonies with a view to confirm the proceedings of the Conference, and the position of affairs at present was this: Mr. Service had just telegraphed to him, stating that, as regards Queensland, the Parliament of

that colony was engaged that very evening in considering these resolutions, and the Premier (Mr. Griffith) expected an unanimous vote in their favor. With regard to New South Wales, hon. members were aware that in that colony they were going through the throes of a Land bill,—and the hon. member for the Swan was within the mark when he said the other evening at Guildford that this Land bill had been on the table of the House at Sydney for six months, for, to his (the Colonial Secretary's) own knowledge it had been on the table since November last, and it was on the table still. His telegram from Mr. Service with regard to the action of the New South Wales Parliament was to the effect that they wanted to get through their Land bill before they introduced these resolutions. Sydney, the Victorian Premier added, was lukewarm, but she would have to give in, he thought, if all the other colonies agreed. With regard to South Australia, hon. members were aware that in that colony there had recently been a change of ministry, but Mr. Service informed him that the Chief Secretary (Mr. Colton) proposed to introduce the resolutions this week, and that he expected the result would be as successful as it had been in the Victorian Parliament. Victoria had of course been expected all along to support its Premier who had been the prime mover in the matter, and there, on the 9th inst., these resolutions were adopted unanimously, and the same night the Tasmanian Assembly adopted them. With regard to New Zealand, hon. members were aware that Major Atkinson's ministry in that colony had just been outvoted, and a dissolution had been granted; therefore the New Zealand Parliament could not be expected to move in the matter until after the general election. It would thus be seen that in considering these resolutions that evening they were merely moving with the rest of the colonies, all of which, with the exception of New South Wales and New Zealand—for reasons which he had already explained—having either already adopted them, or intending to do so this week. With regard to the resolutions themselves, if hon. members would refer to the proceedings of the Convention at which the resolutions were formulated, they would see that they were not agreed

to without mature consideration. It took more than a week, in fact, to get them so framed as to meet the susceptibilities of all the delegates. Amendments were brought forward by several of the delegates—Mr. Service, Mr. Griffith, and Sir Frederick Whitaker (the Nestor of the Convention) each brought forward resolutions in an amended form, and, eventually, on the seventh day, the resolutions now before the House were adopted unanimously by the whole Convention. The resolutions might be regarded in a three-fold, or he might say in a four-fold character. In the first place they set forth, in unmistakable language—perhaps a little grandiose, but very unmistakable—that Australasia will not, if it can be prevented, have any foreign power acquiring dominion and holding territory on the shores of this continent. He need hardly point out that it was of great importance to this colony, and especially the northern portion of it, that New Guinea should not fall into other hands than those of the mother country. It would be seen that, in any movement that might be taken in this direction, it was proposed to respect the claims and rights of the Netherlands Government, but, so far as he was aware, these rights do not in any way affect that portion of New Guinea which it was considered desirable by these colonies should remain under the British flag. It would be observed, in the next place, that allusion was also made to an understanding arrived at some years ago between England and France, recognising the independence of the New Hebrides. That was the time when the first settlement at Botany Bay was being established. Hon. members might be rather astonished when he told them that he was informed by Sir Frederick Whitaker at the Convention that in the boundaries of New Zealand, as first given, the whole of these islands (the New Hebrides) and he believed also Fiji were included within the boundaries of that colony. The independence of the New Hebrides, however, was respected, and there was no desire to disturb that independence; all that was aimed at was to prevent the islands being converted into a French possession, and into a penal settlement for foreign criminals. That brought him to the 6th resolution, with regard to

which a very strong feeling existed in the Eastern colonies. He alluded to the French scheme of transportation to New Caledonia, with the probable result of these colonies in time becoming polluted with the scum of a foreign nation. It was proposed at the Convention, as a measure of self-defence against the influx of these foreign criminals, that all the Australian colonies should pass a prevention Act, prohibiting the landing of any criminals on their shores from these islands; but the proposal did not take the form of a resolution, and it was not before them now, though, as he had already said, there was a very strong feeling on the subject in the other colonies, a feeling which had already found vent at public meetings in some of them. It was felt that if Australia was to grow up into a dominion, it should not be polluted by any criminal taint, and that whatever taint did attach to its early history should as far as possible be effaced, and that the dominion should grow up not only into a vigorous confederation but also a dominion fair to look upon. He now passed on to the next resolution, that dealing with the proposal to establish a Federal Council. With that marked consideration which he was pleased to acknowledge had been shown towards him as the representative of this colony at the Sydney Convention, he was asked, as a compliment to the colony which he represented—he could regard it in no other light—to co-operate with the law advisers of the other colonies, who sat as delegates, in drafting this Federal Council bill. He regarded this bill as the foundation stone of that building which, in his opening remarks, he had referred to as our being now engaged in erecting, when he told them that they were asked to co-operate in building up an Australian dominion. This Federal bill was the chief corner-stone of that building, which all the colonies were invited to join in laying, before the Imperial Government proceeded with the grand fabric of which this should be the foundation. The constitution of this Federal Council was felt by the Convention to be a very delicate subject. Every member of the Convention was, figuratively speaking, on thorns when discussing it, and determining what should be its functions, its powers, and

its jurisdiction. As hon. members were aware, it was proposed that the Federal Parliament should be a migratory one; it was not proposed that it should hold its sessions in any one place, or in any particular colony, and Hobart was fixed upon by the Convention as the first capital where the Council should sit. When the discussion on this subject took place at the Convention, he himself had suggested that on the second occasion the Federal Council sat, it should hold its session at Perth. At any rate it was resolved that the Council should first meet in the capital town of Tasmania, and it would be within the province of the Federal Council, before it rose and concluded its deliberations, to decide where its next place of meeting shall be. Each colony would be represented in this Federal Parliament, and the larger colonies would not enjoy any larger voting powers than the others. When Western Australia aspired, or perhaps he should rather say when it attained, to the dignity of a full-blown constitution, it would have the right to send as many members to this Federal Council as New South Wales or Victoria would. At present it was thought that she should be represented by one member,—the other colonies being entitled to two; but, as he understood the voting in the Federal Parliament would be by colonies and not according to the number of their representatives—that was to say, each colony would only have one vote—it would be seen that, even under our present constitution, Western Australia would have an equal voice with her sisters in the proceedings of the Federal Council. That was his present impression. With regard to the legislative powers of the Council, he thought it would be agreed that the subjects which it would have power to deal with were subjects which it would be to the general advantage to entrust to such a body. In fact the powers which it was proposed to vest in this Council were powers to do that which no local Legislature at the present time could do. It would deal with the relations of Australasia with the islands in the Pacific; it would deal with the influx of foreign criminals; it would legislate for the control of fisheries in Australian waters beyond the territorial limits of the respective colonies; it would deal with civil processes, so that a judg-

ment obtained in the courts of one of the colonies would have operation in any of the other colonies. In the same way it would deal with criminal processes, and the extradition of offenders. Then again it would deal with patents of invention, and the law of copyright, so that if a man took out a patent in one colony he would be protected in all of them, and thus secure the due reward of his ingenuity. Then again there was the all-important question of colonial defences and of quarantine—all of which would be dealt with by the Federal Council, and all of which, he might say, were questions peculiarly within the province of such a body. As he had already said, the question of the legislative powers of the Council was a question that had received the most serious consideration of the Convention, and when he stated that out of the fifteen delegates who attended the Convention no less than eight were lawyers, the members felt that they were perfectly safe when they found these eight legal gentlemen unanimous upon a delicate question of this kind. The Federal Council would also deal with the question of naturalisation. At present a person who obtained letters of naturalisation in one colony, if he removed to another colony was still an alien. The incorporation of public companies was another matter which the Federal Council would deal with, extending the powers and also the liabilities, while at the same time improving the status, of corporations and joint stock companies. It was not proposed to interfere with the revenues of any colony, which, as now, would be entirely under the control of the local Legislature. Nor was it proposed at present to attempt a unification of the tariffs of the several colonies. It was not contemplated that we should form a Zollverein like some of the European States, or as had recently been proposed between the United States and Canada. He hoped, however, the day would come when the present conflicting colonial tariffs would be assimilated, and there could be no doubt that federation would be the first step towards that consummation. The last resolution which he would refer to was that in which the House was asked to express its willingness to defray a share, apportioned on the basis of population, of the expense

attending the employment of an Imperial Commissioner on the coasts of New Guinea. When he tabled the resolutions he at the same time laid before the House a despatch on this subject from the Secretary of State for the Colonies, from which it would be seen that the first expense which Australasia was called upon to contribute towards the realisation of their wishes in this respect was the modest sum of £15,000 a year, divided amongst all the colonies of the group, according to their population. When he reminded the House that the total population of the Australasian colonies was now estimated at 3,200,000, and that the population of this colony was not more than one hundredth part of the whole, he did not think anyone would be found to raise a dissentient voice to our contributing our small quota of this £15,000, which certainly would not be more than £200 a year. On the one hand, we were to be admitted to equal rights of citizenship with our more populous neighbors, while on the other hand we were only asked to contribute such a small amount towards the general expense as to be almost unworthy of notice. In conclusion, he could not do better perhaps than read to the House a short extract bearing on federation from an admirable speech delivered by that distinguished nobleman, Lord Rosebery, whom he had the pleasure of meeting in the other colonies, when attending the Convention at Sydney, in December last. "I still believe," Lord Rosebery said, "that when the result of this Conference is known, there will be nothing but unmitigated applause throughout the civilised world. It will cause one broad, universal result in England, one that is sometimes wanted there — an additional interest in the affairs of Australia. I believe that the general result will be that the whole world will join in wishing joy and prosperity to any young community that shows itself anxious to forsake even prosperous celebrity for the substantial attractions of federal matrimony, and that has come to declare its right to protect its own population from wrong." And again, a few days afterwards, speaking at a Parliamentary dinner given to him at Sydney, Lord Rosebery said: "The manifest destiny of Australia is to be the empire of peace, so long as the

"colonies remain true to each other, and so long as they maintain a firm attitude towards the outside world." He was sure hon. members would agree that so intimately was our future progress and prosperity bound up with the remainder of this great continent, that not another word would be required on his part to induce the House to adopt the resolutions now before it. It was only by united action and by integrity of purpose that we could hope to see these fair Australian colonies, this "radiant continent" of ours, develop—as he trusted and believed it was bound to develop, in fulness of time—into a united Australasian dominion, and he thought every hon. member would regard it as a fortunate occurrence in his public life that he was called upon to assist in laying the foundation of that dominion.

MR. STEERE, in seconding the resolutions, said he had listened with very great pleasure indeed to the speech of the mover, in which he gave the House an account of the proceedings of the Sydney Conference; but he must say he was somewhat amused when the hon. gentleman stated that one of the reasons why there was so much unanimity amongst the members of the Conference was because of the presence in their midst of eight members of the legal profession. He should have thought the presence of these eight gentlemen would have prevented any decision whatever from being arrived at. There could be no doubt that the adoption of these resolutions by our Legislature and the Legislatures of the other colonies would have a most important bearing upon the future of Australia. It was the first link, he might say, in the chain that would hereafter bind the whole of these colonies in one united whole. He did not mean to say that we had already arrived at federation; that day was perhaps somewhat distant yet. But we were now taking a step in that direction, which was a great thing. They must all sympathise very much with the colonies on the Eastern side of the continent, with regard to the action of the French Government in deporting their criminals to the Pacific, for it was those colonies—New South Wales, Queensland, and also New Zealand—which would be more particularly affected by the determination of that Government

to send their convicts to New Caledonia. We could quite understand what indignation and dread we ourselves would feel if such an influx threatened our own shores, for there could be no doubt that most of these men would eventually escape from their island prison, or be liberated—in fact, he believed there was very little endeavor made on the part of the French Government to restrain them. The only condition imposed was that they should not return to France: all that was sought was that their own country might be rid of them, it mattered not where else they found their way to. He did not suppose we should be very much affected by them here; it was a long way round; at the same time he was sure the other colonies had our full sympathy. He thought there was one thing particularly upon which the Australian colonies ought to congratulate themselves as a result of the Federal Convention, and of this action of the French Government, and that was the sympathy that had been evinced towards Australia in the mother country. He thought Australia had become better known to a great many people in England in consequence of the proceedings of the Intercolonial Conference than it ever was before. The recent movement had gained for us the sympathy of the public press of Great Britain, and of the British public generally. More questions had been asked about Australia in the Imperial Parliament, and especially in the House of Lords, within the last few months than, possibly, had been asked during the previous fifty years, and he thought it must be gratifying to these colonies to find so much interest and so much sympathy aroused, in regard to their endeavor to bring about federation, and to unite for the common purpose of protecting themselves against French aggression. The Colonial Secretary had stated, and he thought very correctly, that so far even as this colony was concerned the object of the Convention was of very great importance, for, next to Queensland, the northern part of this colony would be more affected by the establishment of a British protectorate over New Guinea than any of the other colonies. As that island became populated and settled, it would be a matter of great consequence to us that it should be under the protec-

tion of great Britain. He was sorry to find from the tenor of late telegrams—though these telegrams were not always to be depended upon—that the Secretary of State had intimated that it was not intended the proposed protectorate should last for any length of time, that it was only a temporary arrangement. But he thought, once we put our foot there, it would be a difficult matter to recede from that position, and he only hoped the British Government never would recede. He quite agreed with what the Colonial Secretary had stated with reference to the bill for the establishment of a Federal Council. He did not think this Federal Parliament would interfere at all with the independence of the local Legislature of any colony,—though, he believed, apprehensions that it would interfere with their privileges and prerogatives had been felt in some of the other colonies. It seemed to be imagined that the Federal Council would destroy the independence and curtail the powers of the local Parliaments, which it was feared would become subordinate bodies to the Federal Parliament, and that local interests would be very injuriously affected thereby. For his own part he entertained no such apprehensions. He thought the independence and autonomy of the various Governments would be completely protected by this bill. He thought the bill when it became law, as he hoped it would, and as he had no doubt it would, would be a most useful measure. He believed that when this Federal Council was established, it would prove a most useful body, in the settlement of many of those intercolonial questions that are now, in the absence of such a federal body, referred to conventions and conferences. Under these circumstances, he had very much pleasure indeed in supporting these resolutions, and in seconding the motion before the House.

MR. BROWN said he was sure hon. members felt indebted to the Colonial Secretary and to the hon. member for the Swan for the very interesting addresses which the House had just heard from them on this very interesting subject. He believed there were several hon. members who would like to have a further opportunity of looking over the report of the proceedings of the Conven-

tion, and at the draft bill referred to, and, for his own part, he should very much like to do so, by the additional light thrown on the subject by the Colonial Secretary, who was present as the representative of this colony at the Conference. It would be a very great pity if there should be one dissentient voice to the passing of these resolutions, if possible; and, in the hope that a further consideration of the subject might tend to induce that unanimity of feeling, he begged to move the adjournment of the debate until Friday evening.

SIR T. COCKBURN-CAMPBELL, in seconding the motion for the adjournment of the debate, said he thought it would be a pity if this great question of Federation were not treated in the manner worthy of its importance; but he should not have supported the motion for adjourning the discussion upon it had he not been aware there was no immediate hurry for their adopting the resolutions, inasmuch as the Government of Victoria had already guaranteed the contribution asked for by the Imperial Government from these colonies towards the cost of establishing and maintaining a Protectorate over New Guinea.

The motion for the adjournment of the debate was agreed to.

PREMIUM FOR PLANS OF NEW GOVERNMENT OFFICES AT PERTH.

MR. SHENTON moved, "That an humble address be presented to His Excellency the Governor, praying that he will be pleased to place the sum of £100 on the Supplementary Estimates, such sum to be awarded as a premium for the most suitable plans for the completion of the new Government Offices, at Perth." The hon. member said he was induced to make this proposition by the experience they had gained from the result of the same course followed by the Fremantle municipality, in offering a premium for the best design for a town hall. The result had been that they were likely to have a building erected at Fremantle that would be a credit to the town. The new Government Offices at Perth, though a substantial building enough, could lay no claims to any architectural beauty, and as the front yet remained to be erected he

thought they ought to endeavor to get a style of building as would be a credit to the city. The same thing was mooted last year, but they were then told by the Public Works Department that it would be impossible for any architects to work in a suitable front to harmonise with the other parts of the building. Since then, however, they had had several professional architects here from the other colonies, all of whom said it would be easy enough to work in an appropriate design for the central portion if they were provided with a photograph of the two wings already erected and with a copy of the ground plan. If hon. members thought £100 was too large a premium to offer he would be prepared to reduce it, say to £50, which he believed was the amount offered by the Fremantle municipality for their town hall design.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) suggested that the hon. member should amend his motion, and have the matter referred in the first place to a select committee, who could inspect and examine the drawings which had been prepared by the Works Department.

MR. SHENTON said he would do so, next day.

TELEGRAPH LINE FROM BUNBURY TO BRIDGETOWN.

MR. VENN moved, "That an humble address be presented to His Excellency the Governor, praying that he would be pleased to place upon the Supplementary Estimates a sufficient sum to defray the cost of a line of Telegraph between Bunbury and Bridgetown." Six or seven years ago, the hon. member said, this question came before the House, and the Government of the day obtained a report on the subject from the Superintendent of Telegraphs. Since then the subject had again been brought before the House on many occasions, and if the work was considered a necessity six or seven years ago, he thought it must be admitted that it was a work of necessity now. It was certainly a work of very great importance to the district more immediately concerned, and, when the House divided on the question last year, it did so with a sort of promise from the Government and from the House itself that the work

would certainly be undertaken this year. Under these circumstances, he did not apprehend any opposition to the presentation of this address.

MR. CAREY said he had much pleasure in supporting the motion, which he hoped would be unanimously adopted. The necessity which existed for this line of telegraph was well known to all who lived in that part of the Southern districts, and, as the hon. member for Wellington had pointed out, it was, he thought, distinctly understood last year that if the matter were allowed to stand over until this session the necessary funds would be voted for carrying out the work.

MR. SHENTON hoped the House would have some further information than it yet had as to the probable cost of the undertaking.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said he understood the desire of the hon. member for Wellington to be that provision should be made for the work on next year's Estimates. If the hon. member would content himself, he would not say with a promise but with an assurance that when next year's Estimates came to be framed, should there be a margin that would admit of this work being undertaken it should be done. He thought himself there was a fair prospect that there would be a sufficient margin. As to the cost of the work, although not prepared at the moment to state exactly what the estimated cost was, an estimate had been framed not only of the cost of construction but also of the cost of maintenance. Probably, when the hon. member came to consider the matter, in the light of what he had just said, he would content himself with letting this address remain in abeyance for the present, on the understanding that if it should be found there was a sufficient margin on next year's Estimates to provide for this very desirable work it would be undertaken.

MR. VENN regretted very much he could not adopt the course suggested. He had every faith of course in the assurance of the Government, but he felt he should not be doing his duty toward the district which he represented were he to let the matter drop entirely. He was prepared to go this far—and it might meet the views of the hon. gentleman

(the Colonial Secretary), and possibly of other hon. members—he was prepared to amend his motion by striking out the word "Supplementary," and request the amount required to be placed on the Estimates for 1885. The Colonial Secretary admitted that the work was a very desirable work, and that it would be carried out if there were funds available, as it was conceded that the district was entitled to this expenditure. As to the cost, if the hon. member who had asked for more information on that subject would look at the published proceedings of the House, he would find that an estimate of the cost had already been made by the Superintendent of Telegraphs, years ago, and there was no likelihood that the estimate then made would now be exceeded. On the contrary, it was very probable that the line could be constructed at a much lower rate. When the subject was before the House last year, he then suggested that a tree line would answer every purpose for the present, but the Colonial Secretary said the Government would prefer to construct a more permanent line rather than resort to a temporary expedient of a tree line. Personally, he was not inclined to fall out with the Government on this point. The Government might construct any sort of line they thought proper. His object in suggesting a tree line was simply on the score of economy. He had since visited the locality, and he still thought it would be quite practicable to have a tree line, and that it would be the most sensible sort of line to adopt. But if the Government insisted upon putting up sawn posts, he should be quite content himself, and he was sure the district would, too. After hearing what the Colonial Secretary had said, he presumed if he pushed the matter to a division the hon. gentleman would himself divide the House. He had no wish, however, to go to that extremity, but would ask leave to amend the motion by striking out the word "Supplementary," and, in doing so, he hoped he should secure the unanimous support of the House to the motion.

(The resolution was amended as proposed.)

MR. BROWN said the hon. member seemed still to be fighting shy of the cost of the work. He should be sorry to see

it thrown aside on the ground of the absence of information as to the probable cost, but he must protest against pledging the revenue of the colony to any large works. This line might cost £2000 or £3000, and, in his opinion, the work was one which unquestionably ought to come out of loan.

MR. MARMION said the cost of the line had been estimated at £2550. He thought it would be desirable to defer the further consideration of this work until other works of much greater importance, which would come before them during the session, had been dealt with.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said he quite concurred in the suggestion that telegraph construction was a work that ought to be provided for by loan. There were other country lines besides this which were much required—a branch line from Swan to Gingin for instance, all of which he thought might fairly be included in a loan.

MR. STEERE was sorry to see an indisposition on the part of the House to agree to this address, for he considered there was an implied promise at any rate on the part of the House last year that the amount required for this work should be voted this year. While not disagreeing at all with the principle laid down that these works were works that should be paid for out of loan, still he must remark that the principle had only been laid down for the first time that evening, and he did not think the hon. member for Wellington was at all to blame for asking that a sum be placed on the Estimates to carry out the work. Taken in connection with other lines required it could not be regarded as coming within the category of "Minor Works," but taken by itself he looked upon it as a minor work, which might be undertaken out of current revenue. He agreed, however, with the principle laid down that our telegraph lines ought to be constructed out of loan money, and on the understanding that the House would be favorably inclined to include this line in the loan which it was proposed to raise this session, he thought the hon. member might withdraw his motion for the present.

MR. BURT thought they were very far off yet from having anything in the shape of a promise that the work would

be carried out. He considered there were other telegraph lines which were quite as necessary as this, and he would be very much surprised if the Government would not be called upon, in view of the continual blocking up of the present line, to duplicate the line to Albany. There was also a branch line wanted to Mandurah. He quite agreed as to the desirability of making provision in the next loan for the extension of telegraph communication, and he should advise the hon. member for Wellington to postpone his motion, rather than withdraw it, otherwise the hon. member might hear no more about it.

MR. LOTON: I rather regret that on this, the very first occasion I have had the honor of addressing this House, I should apparently be opposed—apparently, I say—to the progress of public works; and I say "apparently" because on the notice paper the original motion of the hon. member for Wellington contemplated an address to His Excellency with the view of putting a certain sum of money, without specifying any amount, upon the Supplementary Estimates, and the few words I shall have to say will be chiefly on the subject of the undesirability of hon. members, on either side of the House, asking for sums of money to be placed on the Supplementary Estimates. If this motion was, as had been suggested it should be, a motion to have this work constructed out of loan, I should not be for a moment inclined to oppose it, but when a motion is made to place such sums as these on the Supplementary Estimates, I should like hon. members to consider whether it is politic or wise to do so. My own opinion is—I cannot speak from any long experience—but my own opinion is that votes added to the Estimates after a portion of the year has expired tend to embarrass the Government financially; and I think now that our finances are in a fair condition we should endeavor to let them remain so. I understand it is intended to move this session in the direction of carrying out public works on a large scale, involving a very large expenditure; and I think it is very desirable, when we come before the public to raise this money, that we should be in a position to show that we are able to pay the interest upon it. But if we are

going to vote large sums of money out of general revenue, in addition to what has already been provided on the Estimates, it will very considerably reduce the balance we expect to have on hand at the end of the year. Bearing in mind the amount of the liability we are likely to incur in connection with the other public works, some of them of considerable magnitude, I think it is very desirable we should have a decent nest-egg, by way of a balance, to show our creditors that there is a sound probability of our being able to pay the interest on our loans.

MR. CROWTHER said he quite agreed with what had fallen from the hon. member, Mr. Loton. He thought it was a mistake to put these large amounts—or indeed any amounts—upon the Supplementary Estimates, unless in cases of urgent or immediate necessity. As to the implied promise which it had been stated the Government and the House had made last year that this work should be undertaken if brought forward again this session, all the implied promise he could find on record was that the Colonial Secretary appeared to have said that he hoped this year our finances might be in such a condition as to warrant us in carrying out the work properly and not in a mere make-shift way. That the line was a desirable one he agreed, but he did not think this was the proper way to get it, namely, out of general revenue. This amount would pay the interest on a very large sum of money, and as there were other branch telegraph lines required, and more particularly a line to Kimberley, he thought the best thing to be done would be to provide for these works in the new loan.

MR. VENN said he agreed with the principle which had been laid down for the first time that night, that our telegraph lines should be constructed out of loan; and had he been aware that such was the wish of the House he should probably have framed his motion differently, or deferred it until a later period of the session. Under the circumstances, and having heard the views expressed by hon. members, and the principle now for the first time laid down in that House, he thought the best thing he could do was to follow the advice of the hon. member for the

Murray, and postpone the question until the Estimates came before them. He would, therefore, move that progress be reported, and leave given the committee to sit again on August 4th.

This was agreed to.

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

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Tuesday, 22nd July, 1884.

Rolling Stock for 3rd Section Eastern Railway—Wharf at Carnarvon—Goods Shed and Moorings and Buoys at Bunbury—Presentation of the Address in Reply—Building Bill: first reading—Wines, Beer, and Spirits Sale Act, 1880, Amendment Bill: first reading—Plans for New Government Offices—Naval Deserters Bill: in committee—Regulation of Whipping Bill: in committee—Designs and Trade Marks Bill: in committee—General Loan and Inscribed Stock Bill: third reading—Adjournment.

THE SPEAKER took the Chair at noon.

PRAYERS.

ROLLING STOCK FOR 3RD SECTION EASTERN RAILWAY.

MR. STEERE asked the Commissioner of Railways whether the rolling stock for the third section of the Eastern Railway had yet been ordered from the Crown Agents; and, if so, when such indent was forwarded, and when the requisite rolling stock may be expected to arrive?

THE COMMISSIONER OF RAILWAYS (Mr. C. T. Mason) replied that the indent is ready, but could not be forwarded in advance of the Loan Estimates for 1885, which had yet to be passed by that House.

WHARF AT CARNARVON.

MR. BROWN asked the Director of Public Works what steps had been taken to provide at Carnarvon the