

that the bill be now read a second time was put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. A. P. Hensman) then moved that the bill be referred to a select committee, consisting of the Commissioner of Crown Lands, Mr. Brown, the Hon. J. G. Lee Steere, Mr. Grant, Mr. Davis, Mr. Venn, and the mover.

This was agreed to.

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

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Tuesday, 19th August, 1885.

Telegraph Line, Roebourne to Cossack—Report of Immigration Board—Increase of Salary to His Excellency the Governor—Reply to Message (No. 2) respecting Diseases in Imported Stock—Land Quarantine Bill: in committee—Adjournment.

THE SPEAKER took the Chair at noon.

PRAYERS.

TELEGRAPH LINE FROM ROEBOURNE TO COSSACK.

MR. McRAE asked the Director of Public Works if the amount of £250 placed on the Estimates of 1884, for the purpose of constructing a Telegraph Line between Roebourne and Cossack, was still available for that purpose, and if the Government had any intention of proceeding with the work at once?

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Mr. C. T. Mason) said the money was still available, and that the Government intended proceeding with the work. The hon. member must be aware of the difficulty in the way of carrying it out hitherto, there being no vote available for building the necessary offices for working the line. But as he (Mr. Mason) would probably be visiting the district

next month, possibly some temporary arrangements might be made for providing these offices. The Government had every intention of proceeding with the work as soon as possible.

REPORT OF IMMIGRATION BOARD.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser), in moving that the papers presented to the House regarding immigration be taken into consideration, said hon. members would observe from the papers that the Board appointed by His Excellency for superintending and promoting immigration had made a progress report, showing the proceedings and transactions of the Board up to the 30th June last. The Board had gone to work very carefully, and, in his opinion, very judiciously. Before recommending the Government to embark in any large system of immigration, they were desirous of trying what could be done by encouraging the nominated system as far as possible, and the result so far had not been unfavorable. The Board proposed, if practicable, that 500 immigrants (statute adults) should be introduced into the colony during the present year, and there was no reason to believe now that the full number would not be obtained. The Board had worked cordially with the public in the colony and with the Crown Agents at home in encouraging the nomination system, and he thought the House would be with him when he stated that it would not be well, as yet, to disturb the present arrangement. Hon. members would perhaps want to know why action had not been taken to appoint an Immigration Agent in England, as was meditated when the question was before the House last year, but he thought it would be admitted that, looking at the scope and class and the extent of the immigration at present proposed, and in view of the contemplated land grant railway schemes, under which the promoters would probably introduce immigrants on a large scale, it would neither have been prudent nor advantageous to have appointed a special agent in London, which would greatly have added to the expense of working the present system, without any corresponding advantages. Probably, in the future, it might be necessary to appoint

such an agent, and he hoped the time would come when it would be necessary to do so, and when our immigration would be conducted on such a scale as to warrant us in incurring this increased expenditure. But, under existing circumstances, and until it was seen what would be the outcome of the public works proposals before the House, he thought hon. members would agree that the Board had acted wisely and judiciously in proceeding to work cautiously and without launching the colony into any unnecessary expense. He had now to move, That the House, having had before it the scheme of immigration adopted by the Board and the regulations under which the scheme has been worked, and also the estimated expenditure for the current year (£10,000), approves of the same.

THE HON. J. G. LEE STEERE said he was very glad to hear the chairman of the Board (the Colonial Secretary) stating there was a probability of the number of immigrants provided for this year being introduced. He was not so hopeful as the hon. gentleman on that point. He noticed that up to the present only 140 adults had been introduced, and that the number known to be now on the way was 121, so that little more than one half the proposed number had yet been arranged for. For his own part he doubted very much whether the full number would be obtained, if we were going to depend solely on the nomination system. He noticed some pertinent remarks on that system in the Crown Agents' correspondence. Among other things it was asked, for how long does a nomination stand good? He believed that at present not one fourth of those who were nominated ever came out, and the result had been that a great many other persons were debarred from coming out, as it had been the practice for these nominations to hold good for an almost unlimited time, and the agents were not in a position to treat with others who might apply for passages.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser): The hon. member will observe that the Board have instructed the Crown Agents that in future the time during which nominations may be taken advantage of should be twelve months from the date of advice from the colony.

THE HON. J. G. LEE STEERE thought twelve months was a great deal too long. Six months, in his opinion, would be quite long enough for these nominations to hold good. If the persons nominated were not prepared to come out within six months, he thought that the nominations should be considered null and void for the time being, and that some provision should be made by the Crown Agents for selecting other immigrants to make up the complement required. He noticed that some of the recommendations made by the select committee to which this question of immigration was referred last year had not been carried out by the Board, and that the recommendations had been departed from, in some respects, in a manner that he did not himself approve. One of the recommendations referred to was that immigrants on their arrival at Fremantle should be forwarded to their destination free of expense, the cost of their transport being charged to the immigration fund. He thought that was a very fair proposal. He failed to see why those residing a long distance from Fremantle, who nominated immigrants—people living at Geraldton, Roebourne, Bunbury, Vasse, and Albany, for instance—should not have their friends forwarded to them, and not be placed at any greater expense in this respect than the residents of Fremantle or Perth. He regretted the Board had thought it desirable to depart from that recommendation. Another recommendation which he was sorry had not been acted upon was that relating to the appointment in country districts of corresponding members of the Board. He was aware that every publicity was given to the circulars of the Board, telling people what to do if they wished to nominate friends at home; but they all knew that in country districts people wanted these things explained to them, before they could be brought to make use of the machinery placed at their disposal, and he could not help thinking, if these country corresponding members had been appointed, their services in this way would have been of considerable practical value. He noticed on reference to the Board's estimates that £250 was provided for the salary of their secretary, but he observed that His Excellency said that provision to the extent of £150

would only be required—which he (Mr. Steere) thought was ample. Perhaps the Colonial Secretary would explain why £250 was placed on the Estimates.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser): Simply that when the Board submitted their estimates it was not known who would be appointed to the position of secretary, and the Board after careful consideration thought that £250 a year was the lowest amount that should be offered to an officer who devoted himself solely to these duties. But the Inspector of Volunteers, who was appointed secretary provisionally, took the office at a salary of £150; and a sum of £25 a year was provided for Mr. Dale, as a subordinate officer of the Board; so that only £175 out of the £250 will be required. And I think that so long as the present holders of these positions retain office, there will be no increase. At the same time, it is as well that the amount placed on the estimates should remain; hon. members may rest assured the money will not be expended under present arrangements.

MR. BROWN said that, as a member of the Immigration Board, he might explain why the recommendations referred to had not been carried out by the Board. As to defraying the cost of sending immigrants to their friends in the country or to the outports, the Board had been influenced by a consideration of the expense which this would involve. When it was borne in mind that this was the only colony of the Australian group that provided entirely free passages for immigrants, and that the cost of introduction amounted to £17 or £18 per head—to say nothing of office and agency expenses, which would probably bring the amount up to £20—he thought it would be admitted that the colony dealt pretty liberally with its immigrants. The extra cost of sending them from Fremantle to their destination would probably amount to about £2 per head more, and, under all the circumstances, the Board thought it wiser to adhere to the practice previously in force. He did not think anyone had much cause for complaint, if they did not get their passage paid from Fremantle to the outports, after having had a free passage all the way from England to the colony. The matter, however, was in the hands of the House. If hon.

members thought we could afford to deal more liberally with our immigrants than our neighbors did, as regards giving them free passages, and afterwards send them to their destination at public expense, of course it was for the House to say so. As to the appointment of corresponding members, for his own part he saw no reason why they should not be appointed. At first, before the Board had a paid secretary, every member of the Board had quite enough work thrown upon him without creating further work by opening up correspondence with country members; but now that there was a duly paid secretary, he did not see why this recommendation should not be carried out. With regard to the doubt expressed by the hon. member for the Swan as to the likelihood of our obtaining five hundred immigrants during the year, without giving the Crown Agents the right to select other immigrants than those who had been nominated, and who were prepared to come out, hon. members would see on reference to the Board's report that, if the number of immigrants proposed to be introduced could not be obtained amongst those nominated, the Crown Agents were empowered to select a number of other immigrants, of a suitable class, to make up the full complement.

The motion approving of the Board's proceedings was then agreed to.

INCREASE OF THE GOVERNOR'S SALARY.

MR. McRAE (in the absence of Mr. Grant, through illness) moved the following resolution—"That in the opinion of this Council the time has arrived when a salary somewhat more commensurate with the increased importance, duties, and responsibilities of governing this colony should be granted to His Excellency the Governor; and as the financial prosperity and advancement of the colony are in a great measure due to the revenues derived from the North and Kimberley Districts, while the administration of these distant parts must have greatly added to His Excellency's labors, it is deemed desirable that the Government should place on the Estimates for 1885 the sum of £400

“for special appropriation, as an increase to the amount paid by the colony towards His Excellency’s salary.” He understood that an amendment was going to be proposed to the resolution, and he had been informed by his hon. colleague that he was prepared to accept the amendment. Under these circumstances he need not say anything in support of the resolution.

THE HON. J. G. LEE STEERE was glad to hear that the hon. member was prepared to accept the amendment, as he thought it was one that would be more in accord with the general feeling of the House. He was sure there was not a member in the House who was not of opinion that the time had arrived when an increase of salary should be given to the Governor of the colony, or the officer administering the Government. Since the salary was fixed at the present amount—£2500, of which £1800 was provided out of Imperial funds and £700 out of colonial funds—he thought it would be generally admitted that not only had the colony advanced greatly in material prosperity but also that the duties and responsibilities of the Head of the Executive had likewise increased. It was not the northern part of the colony alone that had caused this financial prosperity, and added to the Governor’s labors, but the general progress and development of the country at large. Hon. members were aware that there was an Act now in force which provided that a sum of £700 should be paid out of colonial funds to the Governor annually, towards his salary, and as it was now proposed to increase this sum by £500 it would be necessary to repeal the Act, and to introduce another Act appropriating a sum of £1200 annually for that purpose, which, with the Imperial contribution, would make the Governor’s salary £3000 a year. No hon. member he thought would consider that more than adequate to maintain the position of the Governor of what might now be looked upon as a prosperous colony, growing almost daily in importance. He therefore had to move the following amendment upon the resolution of the hon. member for the North: “That all the ‘words after ‘Governor,’ in the seventh ‘line, be struck out and the following ‘words inserted in lieu thereof—‘and

“that an humble address be presented to His Excellency, requesting that he will be pleased to cause a bill to be introduced, repealing the Ordinance ‘33rd Vict., No. 2, and appropriating ‘out of the general revenue the sum of ‘£1200 to be paid by the colony towards the salary of the Governor, or ‘Officer Administering the Government.’”

MR. SHENTON said he had much pleasure in supporting the amendment. He thought the time had now arrived when the Governor of Western Australia should receive a higher salary than £2500. He believed he was correct in stating that some three years ago this question was mooted by the Secretary of State, but owing to the then financial depression, it was not considered advisable to put forward the proposal. But now that the state of our finances had improved and the colony was progressing in every way, and taking also into consideration the increased labors devolving upon the Governor in consequence of the extension of settlement and the increased importance of the colony’s affairs, he thought it would be generally conceded that the time had come for making this increase, and he had much pleasure in supporting the proposal.

The amendment was then put, and agreed to unanimously.

DISEASES IN IMPORTED STOCK: (MESSAGE No. 2).

THE HON. J. G. LEE STEERE, in bringing under the notice of the House the report of the select committee appointed to consider certain draft regulations referring to the importation of live stock, transmitted for the consideration of the Council by His Excellency the Governor, said the regulations referred to were drafted by a committee of gentlemen (the Colonial Secretary, the Colonial Treasurer, and Mr. Charles Harper), to whom His Excellency had some time ago referred the subject. The attention of our Government, it appeared, had been called by the Premier of Victoria to the desirability of this colony following the example of most of the other colonies, including Victoria itself, in prohibiting the importation of cattle, sheep, or swine from places out-

side the Australian continent. Subsidiary to this general question of the importation of stock from beyond seas, there was the question, as pointed out in His Excellency's message, of preventing the introduction of stock diseases across our own border from the neighboring colonies, and more especially with reference to the Kimberley district, across the eastern boundary of which large numbers of cattle and sheep might be expected to be driven from South Australia. These questions, as he had already said, were referred by His Excellency in the first place to the committee of gentlemen named, who had drafted a series of regulations dealing with the subject. These regulations His Excellency had transmitted to the Council for their consideration, and the House in its turn had referred them to a select committee. It was the recommendations embodied in the report of that committee which he now asked the House to endorse. The first regulation, prohibiting the importation of stock from any country beyond the limits of the Australian colonies, a majority of the select committee, after careful consideration, did not consider expedient to adopt, and consequently they recommended that it should not be confirmed. It was felt by the committee that this regulation would not protect this colony from the introduction of diseases in stock, seeing that pleuro-pneumonia, tuberculosis, and other diseases were known to be prevalent in the other colonies. It had been urged by breeders in those colonies, and the opinion had been expressed by the Minister of Agriculture in Victoria, "that the change wrought by the introduction of blood stock from climates dissimilar to ours is an obstacle instead of an aid to perfection." If that was the case, he should like to ask how it was that in Victoria and the other colonies they still permitted the introduction of horse stock from England? The opinion, too, was at variance with the fact that the perfection at which sheep and other stock had arrived in those very colonies was attributable to the introduction, in the first instance, of stud animals from Europe. It seemed very much like a combination among the breeders of the other colonies to compel owners of stock to recruit their studs

from colonial herds and flocks, instead of leaving them open to go where they chose. Under all the circumstances, therefore, the select committee, or, he should rather say, a majority of the select committee, did not recommend the adoption of this proposed regulation, so far as this colony was concerned. A minority of the committee, consisting of the Colonial Secretary, Mr. Grant, and Mr. Parker, agreed with the regulation. The other draft regulations were, in the main, approved, with the exception of those relating to the introduction of stock across our eastern boundary to the Kimberley district. These regulations proposed that no stock should be so introduced without notice being forwarded beforehand to the Colonial Secretary, at Perth, and the Government Resident at Kimberley, and without a certificate of health from an inspector of stock, issued within seven days of the arrival of the stock at our boundary. The select committee regarded these regulations as very good in themselves, but it appeared to the committee it would be impracticable to carry them into effect. The notices to be sent to the Colonial Secretary and the Government Resident would be no safeguard whatever against the introduction of diseased stock, as the notices would not enable these officers, one at Perth and the other at Kimberley, to exercise any control over the introduction of stock across the South Australian border. Then, again, there was no inspector of stock either across the boundary or within the boundary so situated as to be able to give a certificate of health within seven days of the arrival of the stock in this colony. Under these circumstances the select committee were unable to recommend the adoption of this proposed regulation. With regard to the others, they considered they would be very advantageous. He now begged to move the following resolution: "That an humble address be presented to His Excellency the Governor, respectfully informing His Excellency that the Council, having had under its consideration the report of the select committee appointed to consider and report upon certain regulations referring to the importation of live stock, transmitted to the Council in His Excellency's Message No. 2, is of opinion that the recommendations of

"the select committee would prove advantageous to the colony, and that regulations drawn up in accordance therewith should be at once promulgated."

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said he could not agree with the recommendation of the select committee admitting the importation of stock from countries beyond the limits of the Australian Colonies. He thought that, following the example of our sister colonies, we would act wisely in prohibiting such importations. There was ample range for supplying all our wants in the way of new stock from the Eastern colonies, and he thought that both expediency and policy pointed to the desirability of our laws being in unison with those of our neighbors in this matter. To differ from them, and to set up a law for ourselves, would only be a piece of petty independence on our part, and placing ourselves on a pinnacle of insignificance. There was a magnificent field open to us for selection among the flocks and herds of our neighbours—flocks which he was assured on good authority had improved rather than deteriorated, as compared with the parent stock imported from Europe. They would come here acclimatised, and where their habits of life and their surroundings would be similar to those which they had been used to. He hoped the House would refrain from adopting the recommendation of the select committee, embodied in the first paragraph of their report. The other amendments suggested by the committee were, he thought, such as might be accepted with advantage.

MR. BROWN said he was pleased to find that all hon. members appeared to be in accord with reference to the report of the select committee, with the exception of one paragraph. He quite agreed with the Colonial Secretary that where it was possible for us to co-operate with the neighboring colonies it was desirable we should do so; but at the same time he thought we ought to consider our own interests, and also consider what the result would be of our not co-operating. He thought that in this case the application made to us by the colony of Victoria was a mere formal application—it they simply asked us to follow their lead

in prohibiting the introduction of stock from abroad, or, in other words, from any country outside the limits of Australasia. But what might be injurious to Victoria in the way of the importation of stock might also be injurious to other colonies of the group, while at the same time it might not be injurious to Western Australia. If a dire disease broke out in Victoria, which did not exist in New South Wales or South Australia, an exchange of stock would be extremely detrimental to each of those colonies, as well as Victoria, owing to the facilities for removing stock. But such would not be the case if we imported any dire disease here, for there was no such thing as an interchange of stock between this colony and the others. That, he thought, was an indisputable fact, and, such being the case, our non-coöperation in this instance could not have any injurious effect; and there remained therefore nothing but sentiment to induce this colony to join Victoria in this request. What was the case as regards our own position? That we had a great deal more to fear by the introduction of disease across our border from the other colonies than from the outside world; and, if we barred ourselves from the outside world we should be forced to go to the other colonies for fresh blood, although we knew they had pleuro-pneumonia, tuberculosis, and other diseases there. He thought the regulations now in force were quite sufficient to protect this colony from any danger of importing fresh disease, if we decided to get our fresh blood from Great Britain or other countries than the Australian colonies. He was satisfied that the reason why—the chief reason why—the other colonies had adopted this regulation was because those colonies had been free from scab for some considerable time past. They knew perfectly well, although they posed as having the finest sheep in the world—and possibly they were as fine—that still there were strains in America which it would be desirable to import to improve their own stock. But there they found scab; and hence this regulation. We had scab in this colony already, so that the reason which actuated them did not hold good here. If this colony were free from scab, he should himself join with the sister colonies in this matter, and

say 'Although I disagree with those who think it would be unwise to go to any part of the world except the Australian colonies for blood stock to improve our local strains, still, the curse of scab being so great, and, knowing as we do that it exists throughout Great Britain and America, where we would be sure to go to, I would myself join with the neighboring colonies in wishing to exclude stock from those countries.' But at present, and under existing circumstances, he looked upon the matter as one of sentiment only, seeing that there was no such thing as a regular traffic in stock between this colony and the others, and he did hope that the breeders of stock here would not be confined solely to the sister colonies for obtaining any fresh blood which they might desire.

MR. McRAE said he was in accord with the Colonial Secretary as to the first paragraph of the committee's report, and the proposition as to the introduction of stock into our Northern territory. He did not think it was desirable that this colony should stand apart from the other colonies in attempting to prevent the introduction of some dire disease. The benefit derived from the introduction of English stock into Western Australia was very little indeed. He thought there were very few cases in which stock was imported from England with the idea of improving the herds of the colony. As a rule it was merely some hobby of persons visiting home and coming out here again. And, seeing that diseases among stock were known to exist in the mother country, he thought those who imported stock from there ran a great risk, and might do the colony a great deal of harm, as in this way some direful disease might be introduced which might commit serious ravages among our stock.

MR. VENN hoped the House would follow the lines laid down by the committee entirely. He had listened patiently to what had fallen from the Colonial Secretary, and he must say he did not agree with the hon. gentleman. The hon. member for the Swan and the hon. member for the Gascoyne had explained the sentiments of the committee very fully, but he felt strongly on this point. He thought we would be acting wisely, and as the other colonies would do if they were in our peculiar position,

by accepting the recommendations of the committee.

MR. SHENTON said the report of the select committee would have his cordial support. It appeared to him that the objection raised to it by the Colonial Secretary was based upon mere sentiment, and that this was a question which ought to be looked upon from a practical point of view, rather than from a sentimental point of view.

MR. LOTON said he also intended to support the recommendations of the committee in their entirety. He had listened attentively to what had fallen from the Colonial Secretary, in opposition to the first paragraph, but he failed to see that the hon. gentleman had adduced any argument at all in support of his position. He thought the hon. gentleman's objection to the paragraph was simply one of sentiment. The regulations in force were, he thought, quite sufficiently stringent to prevent the introduction from England or America of any of those dire diseases which the hon. member for the Gascoyne had referred to. No doubt the stock of the other Australian colonies were of a very superior description, but how had this superiority been attained? Simply by introducing still better blood from other countries; and why should we not have the same opportunity? Our Eastern neighbors were no doubt very anxious to get a high price for their high class stock, and to his mind there was a little combination among the owners of this high class stock to confine the sales to their own stocks. But he thought, if we had the money to pay for it, we ought to be at liberty to go into the very best markets in the world for our fresh blood. He knew from his own knowledge that there was valuable stock now on the way here from the United Kingdom, and he hoped it would be allowed to be introduced here, under the very proper and stringent quarantine regulations already in force.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Mr. C. T. Mason) said he had listened carefully to all the "pros" and "cons" of the discussion, and he could not help thinking that having regard to the very small quantity of stock which had been introduced from England in the past, or was likely to be introduced in the future, we should sink sentiment,

and work hand in hand with our neighbors in this matter. It was one of very little consideration to this colony, and one with regard to which we could well afford to act in unison with the sister colonies. He would therefore move, as an amendment upon the motion of the hon. member for the Swan, that all the words after "opinion," in the 11th line, be struck out, and the following be inserted in lieu thereof—"That the report "of the committee, with the exception of "paragraph 1, be adopted."

MR. S. S. PARKER said he had much pleasure in seconding the amendment. He thought now that stock in the other colonies had arrived at such a high state of perfection, we might well be content with importing the small lots we occasionally required from those colonies. But, with regard to stock already on its way from England, he thought arrangements might be made for allowing that to be landed. He was afraid the chances were that by permitting the introduction of stock from other countries, where diseases among stock were known to exist, we would be running a great risk of having our own stock ravaged, and he thought we ought to take every precaution in our power to prevent such a calamity.

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

Ayes	6
Noes	11
Majority against				5

AYES.	NOES.
Hon. J. Forrest	Mr. Brown
Mr. Mason	Mr. Burt
Mr. Marnion	Sir T. C. Campbell
Mr. McRae	Mr. Davis
Mr. S. S. Parker	Mr. Glyde
Hon. M. Fraser (Teller)	Mr. Loton
	Mr. S. H. Parker
	Mr. Randell
	Mr. Shenton
	Mr. Venn
	Hon. J. G. Lee Steere (Teller)

The original motion was then put and passed.

LAND QUARANTINE BILL.

The House then went into committee for the consideration of the bill to amend "The Land Quarantine Act, 1878."

MR. BURT asked the Colonial Secretary if the Government were aware that cases of scarlatina had lately been brought to

Perth, and whether it was proposed to take any steps to prevent the disease spreading? He understood the matter had been brought to the notice of the medical officers some days ago, and he thought prompt precautionary measures ought to have been taken.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said the Government were fully alive to the necessity of taking steps to prevent the spread of the disease referred to, and, in fact, had already done so. In view of the possible necessity of putting the provisions of the bill now before the House in force, it was the intention of the Government to ask the House to pass it through all its remaining stages without delay—though the case referred to had had nothing to do with its introduction. The facts of the case, so far as they were known, only came to the knowledge of the Government within the last forty-eight hours. It occurred among the inmates of a cottage in Perth, occupied by a family consisting of two children, who, from all appearances, were suffering from what was commonly known as scarlatina. He was informed by the Colonial Surgeon that this disease, although it had not manifested itself of late, had been thought to be in existence within the colony for months past, there having been another case, not in Perth, but at Fremantle some time ago. The Government had taken immediate steps to have the cottage referred to guarded, and the patients isolated, and every precaution was being taken to prevent the disease spreading. It was reported to be of a very mild type indeed, and he trusted it would be found to have ended where it began.

Clause 1.—Short title :

Agreed to.

Clause 2. — Power of Governor in Council :

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. A. P. Hensman) moved several verbal amendments in this clause, all of which were agreed to, *sub silentio*, and the clause as amended was ordered to stand part of the bill.

The remaining clauses were agreed to without comment, and the bill reported.

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