

he thought we ought to agree to the proposal, and to join the other colonies to the fullest extent we could afford.

MR. PARKER said as the subject was an important one, and as they had only just seen His Excellency's message in print, he begged to move that progress be reported, and leave given to sit again.

Agreed to.

Progress reported.

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

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Monday, 17th August, 1885.

Land Grant Railway Concessions—School Buildings at York and Newcastle—Removal of East Fremantle railway platform—Establishment of Geological Department—Dog Act Amendment Bill—Volunteer Foreign Service Bill: first reading—Freight Charges on Northern Railway—Concessions towards establishment of the Sugar Industry (Message No. 8)—Adjournment.

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

PRAYERS.

LAND GRANT RAILWAY CONCESSIONS.

MR. GRANT asked the Colonial Secretary whether the Government intended taking any steps to limit land grant concessions for railway construction, and in what way tenants dispossessed by land grant concessions were to be compensated.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said the Government intended to take no action in the matter of land grant concessions for railway construction, except such as shall be approved on the recommendation of the Legislature. Lessees would be always entitled to the rights secured to them by the terms of their leases.

SCHOOL BUILDINGS, YORK AND NEWCASTLE.

MR. HARPER asked the Director of Public Works to inform the House which department it was that was responsible for the tedious delay in proceeding with the proposed school buildings at York and Newcastle?

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright) said he regretted there should have been any delay in the erection of these buildings. It arose, in the first place, from the stress of work in the Public Works Department, which was undermanned at the time; in consequence of which the Central Board had to get designs made outside. These designs and specifications had been revised by the department and returned to the Board, and, so soon as they were received again, tenders would be invited for the buildings.

MR. VENN: Will the hon. gentleman say whether the same applies to Bunbury?

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright): Exactly the same.

EAST FREMANTLE RAILWAY STATION.

In reply to MR. PEARSE, THE COMMISSIONER OF RAILWAYS (Hon. J. A. Wright) said the cost of removing East Fremantle railway station to a line with Edward Street would be included in this year's Estimates. He did not know whether the inhabitants of the town would prefer to have the street metalled to the station or the station removed; the cost would be about the same, and the people of Fremantle could have which they chose.

MR. PEARSE said he thought they would prefer having the station removed.

ESTABLISHMENT OF A GEOLOGICAL DEPARTMENT.

SIR T. COCKBURN-CAMPBELL, in accordance with notice, moved, "That an humble address be presented to His Excellency the Governor, praying that he would be pleased, if the finances of the colony justified the step, to propose the establishment of a permanent geological department for the colony, the geologist in charge of such depart-

"ment to combine with the duties of his "primary office those of public analyst." The hon. baronet said the question now brought forward was one which, he thought, was, in the interests of the colony, as important as any that was likely to be brought before them during the session. Some two or three years ago he had the honor to propose for the acceptance of the House the policy of the construction of railways on the land grant system, in the hope that it would lead to the development of the country and an increase of population. He did that with some diffidence, because, although it was considered that the adoption of the land grant policy would lead to useful results, still there were certain acknowledged objections to that policy; but, in moving for the establishment of a geological department, he trusted and believed he was moving in a matter that would do much good to the colony, and he had confidence it would do no harm. It was unnecessary for him to dwell upon the causes that had retarded the progress of the colony—hon. members knew what they were as well as he did: the poverty of the land in that portion of the colony which was first settled, the difficulties which the early settlers had to contend with, the isolation we had suffered, and other causes. But if they looked at the history of the other colonies they must come to the conclusion that not these causes alone but the non-discovery of minerals had done as much as anything to keep this colony back. If they looked at the history of their sister provinces—of any of them in which great progress had been made—they could trace that progress to the discovery of minerals. In South Australia, as they all knew, it was the discovery of the Burra mines which had enabled that colony to develop the rich agricultural territory she possessed. The progress and prosperity of Victoria, it was needless to point out, was founded upon its valuable gold discoveries; while, as to New South Wales, it was perhaps not so well known what wonderful effect the discovery of minerals had had upon the progress of that colony. Hon. members, however, were doubtless aware that it was only within the last fifteen years that she had made any rapid progress, notwithstanding her immense natural

advantages; and that progress was mainly due to the discovery of coal and other mineral deposits. With regard to Queensland, he had had some little experience himself of the value of her minerals to that colony; and, as to Tasmania, they found that colony, for years and years, notwithstanding an immense amount of Imperial expenditure, languishing and going back rather than forward, until, not long ago, tin-fields were discovered there, since which that colony too had made rapid progress. What he desired in urging the establishment of this department here was that we should endeavor to do for Western Australia what had been done by our neighbors, in developing the mineral wealth we possess. We had attempted to do a little in this direction, but fitfully and hastily, with the exception of the work done lately by Mr. Hardman, and he should have very much liked, before this resolution came on, that they should have had the report of that gentleman before them. He thought there was very little doubt, from all they had heard, that his work at the North would be likely to lead to the introduction of a large number of people and the production of a considerable amount of wealth; and what he desired, in bringing forward this resolution, was that the remainder of the colony might be tested in the same way as the Kimberley district, and that what mineral resources we possess may be brought to light and worked. His hon. friend the member for Roebourne had often spoken of the value of the practical man in these matters; he quite agreed with the hon. member as to the value of the practical man who had at his back scientific knowledge. The other colonies had found that the value of the practical man alone, without scientific knowledge to guide him, was not so great as the value of the practical man assisted by the man of science; and those colonies were all forming geological departments the same as he proposed to have established here. Not only were these departments doing most useful work as regards mineral discoveries, in Queensland they were also going in largely for water-boring, upon which a great deal of the future prosperity of Australia depends. The departmental reports in Queensland

dealt largely with this subject, and, by indicating where water was likely to be found, the Geological Department had saved that colony thousands of pounds. Moreover a geologist was always a practical chemist, and he need not occupy the time of the House in pointing out how desirable it was we should have a public analyst. He did not know whether there was likely to be any opposition to the motion; but he had worded it in such a way that it did not bind the House to entertain it, if it should be found that the finances of the colony did not make it prudent to do so. He believed from what he had heard that the cost of such a department would not be more than from £1,500 to £2,000 a year, which he could not but think would be money very well spent.

Mr. GRANT denied that scientific men had contributed in any way to the important mineral discoveries which had made the fortunes of the other colonies; those discoveries were due to accident or to the labors of practical men, of the pick-and-shovel persuasion. The hon. baronet had put his motion forward with a great deal of eloquence—the hon. baronet himself might think so; but to his mind, it amounted to nothing. The hon. member had referred to the progress made by the other colonies, including South Australia. What any geologist had ever done for that colony, he (Mr. Grant) had never been able to learn. He had paid much interest to this question of mineral discoveries, for years past, and such a thing had never happened as a geologist discovering any minerals in South Australia at any rate. With regard to the Burra copper mines, they were found by shepherds, and the same again with regard to the Moonta mines,—they were discovered by a happy chance, and not through any scientific information imparted by geologists. In Victoria, the richest mineral colony of the lot, the richest and most successful mines had been discovered by chance or good luck, by shepherds or pick-and-shovel men. In New South Wales, they all knew that a blackfellow was the first discoverer of the valuable metal there; and, as to the coal fields of Newcastle, their discovery was not referable to geologists at all. In Queensland, the Rev. Mr. Clarke did a little in a vague way towards mineral discovery in that colony, but her valuable

tin mines were attributable not to the geologist but to practical miners. In this colony, we had a geologist named Brown, some years ago, but what good did he do? Or what good had any geologist ever done to Western Australia? Mr. Hardman certainly said that he had found gold, but it was not forthcoming. If he found any he took good care to take it away with him. They knew there was gold to be found in the Kimberley district before ever Mr. Hardman was sent there, and for all the real good he had ever done to the colony he might as well have stopped away. He may have made an elaborate map, which perhaps would see the light of day hereafter; but it was very easy to make a map, and color it with auriferous indications. But they wanted something more than that for their money. Give him the practical man any day before all their scientific gentlemen.

Mr. MARMION said it was not his intention now to say anything with regard to the policy of establishing a geological department, as proposed, but it struck him that a geologist and a public analyst would not go very well together. He did not know whether every geologist was necessarily a chemist or an analyst, but he doubted very much whether the two offices could be combined. The geologist would be away during a great portion of the year exploring the country, and what was to become of the analysing business then? He did not see at all how the two departments could be worked together by one and the same person. Though agreeing to some extent with the hon. member for the North as to the value of the practical man, still he had a certain amount of belief in science and theory, and he thought it would be a very good thing if we had a geological department, providing we could obtain the services of a thoroughly good man, who would work earnestly and zealously in the interests of science and in the interests of the colony. But he must say again he did not see how the duties of geologist and of public analyst could be satisfactorily performed by one and the same individual.

Mr. WITTENOOM said he had much pleasure in supporting the motion. He felt sure that the future of this colony depended entirely upon the development

of its mineral resources, and he felt confident that a department like this would be of immense benefit. But he thought if we did establish a permanent department, our geologists should go to work on a different principle from what they had done hitherto. So far, our geologists had been hurriedly inspecting immense areas of country, and no time was given them to make a regular and systematic search, so as to practically test the country. What he should like would be for this geologist to have a working party, small or large, to go out with him, and when they came to a spot which the man of science believed afforded favorable indications the pick-and-shovel men should put that belief to a practical test. He thought if we went to work in that way, even if this department should cost us £10,000 a year, instead of £2,000, and resulted in a discovery that would induce a rush into the colony, and prove the existence of a really good deposit, it would be an excellent investment for the country.

MR. PARKER said the necessity for a public analyst must he thought be patent to everyone. During the last session of Council they passed an Act providing for such an appointment, in connection with our licensing laws, but, up to the present time, although the House had recognised the necessity for a public analyst, the Act in that respect had virtually remained a dead letter. Whether, however, a geologist could also perform the duties of a public analyst was more than he could say. It certainly would surprise him if they could manage to get one and the same person to discharge the combined duties of the two offices. The geologist might be hundreds of miles away when his services as public analyst were required; and it was obvious there would be great difficulties in his performing the duties of the dual appointment, even if he were qualified to do so. He intended, so far as the formation of a geological department was concerned, to reserve his vote, for or against the proposition, until the item appeared on the Estimates. He thought if it were to be established on the basis suggested by the hon. member for Geraldton, and by the hon. baronet himself, it would cost a great deal more than £2,000 a year, if this geologist was to go about the country with a working party at his

back. The probability is that £10,000 a year would be nearer the mark, if that was the principle they were going to work upon.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said, presuming that the address met with the approval of the House, it was not for him at the present time to say whether it would be practicable to provide the necessary funds for the establishment of a permanent geological department. There were many branches of science which it was desirable we should see introduced here, and have scientific observations made, but, unfortunately, we were debarred from carrying out our desires through the want of funds. Hon. members were aware that the geologists whom we had temporarily employed in the past had merely accompanied exploring or survey parties, rapidly travelling over territory more or less unknown, and reporting upon what came under their observation in this cursory examination of the country. The latest reports so furnished certainly pointed to the desirability of further prosecuting our researches. He knew that a geologist to the hon. member for the North was almost like a red rag to a bull and no one appreciated the value of the practical digger more than himself (the Colonial Secretary), having had considerable experience on the gold fields of New Zealand. At the same time it could not be denied that scientific geological research had done a great deal for the other colonies. As to water-boring, he thought that was one of the most important subjects for our consideration,—whether, by systematic sinking, we may not obtain water throughout the whole colony. This was a subject which was commanding the earnest attention of the Governments of the other colonies, and he thought there was every reason to trust that in this colony we may yet discover a water stratum running the whole breadth of it. No doubt science would have much to do with such a discovery, and he yet hoped to be able to convert even the hon. member for the North to a belief that science, operating with the practical man, may yet secure for this colony that premier position which they all looked forward to see it enjoy. As to the feasibility of amalga-

mating the duties of geologist with those of public analyst, he might say with regard to the professional training of a geologist—and especially of the gentleman we had lately amongst us—that the training of a geologist in fact forced him to become an analyst. But of course no man could be in two places at once. He could not be exploring localities hundreds of miles away, and at the same time conducting a chemical analysis in Perth. But he understood that if a department were organised it would be necessary to have an assistant, besides the head of the department, and no doubt an arrangement might be made by which such an officer would be able to properly conduct analyses in the absence of his chief. Of course it was a matter of some difficulty, but he thought it might be overcome. The hon. member for Perth jocosely said it would cost £10,000 a year,—

MR. PARKER: Pardon me, I was neither jocose, nor did I say that it would cost £10,000 a year. What I said was that if we carried out the system suggested by the hon. member for Geraldton, having search parties in attendance upon the geologist, all over the country, it would be more likely to cost £10,000 a year than £2,000.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said he would not dissent from the hon. member in his conclusions on that point. But it would not be necessary, he presumed, to dig or delve beyond whatever sum was voted for the upkeep of the department. He had merely risen to say that if the House agreed to this address, he could not give hon. members any assurance at the present moment that any action could be taken in the matter by the Government immediately, or during the present session.

MR. BROWN trusted that hon. members would see fit to pass this address. He was one of those who had long wished to see a geologist on the permanent staff of the colony. He did not go quite so far as the hon. member for Geraldton, in thinking that it was desirable that we should have a geologist here who should not only make a geological survey of our vast territory—of course it would take him a long time to do that—but also to have associated with him a party of practical diggers. The great value of a

geologist, he thought, was that he was able to point out where the practical man had a chance of success, and, he thought, a geologist would be much better employed in examining and indicating where gold and other minerals were likely to be found, than in superintending working parties of diggers. That would be vastly too expensive, and a waste of time. He did not think it was probable we should derive much benefit from the appointment of a geologist and analyst combined. If hon. members were prepared to go on with the work commenced last session, and provide a public analyst, whose duties shall be disconnected altogether with those of a geologist, he should be inclined himself to go with them, for he thought that a geologist, if he carried out the duties which they would expect of him, would have very little time indeed to devote to the duties of a public analyst. But he thought that was a matter of detail that might be settled when the Estimates were before them, and, so far as he was concerned, although he intended to support this resolution, still when the Estimates were brought forward he should reserve to himself the right to vote for a separation of these two offices.

MR. BURT thought the House should hesitate before pledging itself to the establishment of a perfectly new department, the cost of which might be a great deal more than they contemplated. He thought for his own part the cost would be much nearer the estimate of the hon. member for Perth than £2,000. They had already had some little experience of these geological men, and, for his own part, he had very much faith in what the hon. member for Roebourne said, that we could not point to much good that they had ever done for this colony. That was a point that could not be contradicted. First of all they had Mr. Hargraves, running all over the colony, feasting on eggs and bacon.

SIR T. COCKBURN-CAMPBELL: He was a practical man.

MR. BURT: Well, we tried to get a geologist and paid for a geologist, but after all it seemed we only got a practical man. Then we had "Geology Brown," who made maps, which Hargraves didn't, and that was about the only difference

between the two. Neither of them did anything of practical value to the colony. Nobody ever dug where "Geology Brown" had colored his maps. Then we had a third geologist, a gentleman who had lately left us, and he thought the hon. member for the North put a very pertinent question when he asked where this gentleman's report was, and where his specimens of gold were? He had challenged the Government to produce them, but they were not forthcoming. Where were they? Where was the practical value of the work this gentleman had done? He had not even made a map like "Geology Brown" did, and covered it with all the colors of the rainbow. Seriously, he did not think the finances of the colony were in a position to justify them in creating a new department such as this. If we had a permanent geologist at £1,000 a year tomorrow, what more could he do than "Geology Brown" did,—only instead of one map we should have an annual map. For his own part he would prefer to see the money spent in introducing practical miners, men with picks and shovels; and he would move, as an amendment upon the address, "That in the opinion of this House, in the present state of the finances of the colony, it is inadvisable to establish a Geological Department."

MR. CROWTHER had great pleasure in seconding the amendment, because he confessed that from his little knowledge of the subject he had greater faith in your practical man than in your scientist. As stated by the hon. member for the Murray, we had already had several geologists, and undoubtedly the last had been the most successful of the lot; but unfortunately he had lost his specimens—the specimens that would have borne out his assertion that the quartz was gold-bearing quartz. Even this scientific gentleman only followed on the heels of practical men, who had already found indications of gold, and who moreover did not lose their specimens. At present he had no faith in these scientific gentry at all. As a rule they were like the newspapers—very wise after the event. A geological department at present was a luxury which the colony could ill afford.

MR. BROWN said he wished the opponents of the resolution before the

House had the courage of their opinion, and exhibited that courage in a more decided way than in putting forward the amendment which had been put forward, and which simply begged the question. They said that scientific research had done nothing for other parts of the world and therefore it would do nothing for Western Australia. But they would not place those views on record; they had not the courage to put forward an amendment to that effect; they preferred begging the question as to the value of geological research, and putting forward a vague resolution to the effect that it was not advisable to establish a geological department at present, because—so they said—the finances of the colony did not justify it. What was the present financial condition of the colony?

MR. CROWTHER: Bankruptcy.

MR. BROWN said no doubt it was possible even for Western Australia to find itself in a state of bankruptcy; but he did not think it had come to that yet, or within measurable distance of it. Hon. members talked of the financial position of the colony, but he did not think they had yet obtained a sufficient insight into the financial position of the colony to enable them to say that the colony could not afford £2,000 a year for the maintenance of a Geological Department. Therefore he was sorry hon. members had not the courage of their opinions, and met the hon. baronet's resolution with a direct negative. He was sure that public opinion—if he was not debarred from expressing his views as to what public opinion might be—he felt satisfied that public opinion in Western Australia was largely in favor of the appointment of a Government Geologist, and that such an officer would do much good and useful work. Whether that was public opinion or not, it was his own opinion, and distinctly his own opinion; and he was ready to record his vote upon that issue. But the issue raised by the opponents of the resolution was not the question of the value of geological research, not the question of the desirability and the utility of appointing a Geologist, but whether the colony could afford it or not. As to the value of Mr. Hardman's researches, time alone would show that. He thought Mr. Hardman's reports alone

had attracted more attention to Western Australia than had the researches of the so-called practical men put together. It had been insinuated that because no specimens of the gold discovered by Mr. Hardman were forthcoming when it was asked for, his discoveries were a myth. But he was not aware that it had been officially announced that any specimens would be forthcoming. Whether they were forthcoming or not, he did not think the value of Mr. Hardman's report was likely to be depreciated by any insinuations of this kind, and he was sorry they should have been put forward.

THE SURVEYOR GENERAL (Hon. J. Forrest) said he did not wish to enter into the controversy as to the relative value of the scientific man and the practical man. He rose simply in defence of a gentleman who had just left us. He thought some of the remarks made were very unfair towards Mr. Hardman. (Mr. GRANT: Show us his specimens.) He could assure the hon. member that Mr. Hardman was a gentleman whose word would be believed elsewhere, even if some people in Western Australia did not believe him. He did not think they would find that the scientific men of Europe and of the other colonies would sneer at Mr. Hardman in the way he had been sneered at in that House that evening. He thought that, as a general rule, it was the people who knew very little of a subject who sneered at it. He would not have been surprised if it had been some ignorant boy out of the street, but he was surprised that any man like the hon. member for the Murray, himself a member of a learned profession, should have thought fit to sneer at the labors of a man occupying the position which Mr. Hardman occupies amongst the scientific societies of Europe. His map and his report would be before the House in a few days, and, with regard to his specimens, he hoped to be able to give the House every information about the specimens when he received Mr. Hardman's letter by the incoming mail. He could only characterise the remarks of some hon. members as ungenerous and unfair towards a gentleman with whom he had been proud to have been associated for over two years.

SIR T. COCKBURN-CAMPBELL said with regard to the question whether

a geologist would be able to perform the duties of analyst as well, although he had not Mr. Hardman definitely in his mind as the gentleman to be appointed, he might say that before Mr. Hardman went away he had some conversation with him, and he himself suggested that if we got a Government Geologist he would be able to undertake those duties. Mr. Hardman also told him he did not think the expense of the department would be more than about £1,600 a year. He thought we could get a fully qualified man, recommended by the Royal School of Mines, for £700, and that for his field work he would probably only want a couple of men, and a small equipment.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said he felt rather in a difficulty. There were many demands upon the revenue for next year; and he was fearful, even if the resolution were carried, they would not be able to act upon it. Perhaps it would more expedient at this stage if he were to move the previous question.

SIR T. COCKBURN-CAMPBELL pointed out that his resolution only involved a principle. It did not pledge the House to any expenditure, unless the finances of the colony justified the step.

Mr. MARMION said he had not heard enough to satisfy him that the duties of the two offices—Government Geologist and Public Analyst—could be satisfactorily performed by one and the same person; and, even if that were possible, he should not be disposed to vote so large a sum as £2,000 for the formation of this department at the present time. But he felt positive, in his own mind, that the duties of the two offices could not be combined, and properly performed; so that it would be necessary to have two distinct departments, which he was afraid would cost a considerable amount of money to keep up. Therefore, unless the question was postponed, or more information furnished with reference to it, he should feel bound to vote for the amendment.

The amendment was then put, and, upon a division, the numbers were,—

Ayes	...	...	12
Noes	...	...	5
			—
Majority for	...		7

AYES.
 Mr. Crowther
 Mr. Grant
 Mr. Layman
 Mr. Loton
 Mr. Marmion
 Mr. McRae
 Mr. Pearse
 Mr. Randell
 Mr. Shenton
 Mr. Steere
 Mr. Venn
 Mr. Burt (Teller.)

NOES.
 Mr. Brockman
 Mr. Brown
 Mr. Harper
 Mr. Wittencoom
 Sir T. C. Campbell
 (Teller.)

The amendment was therefore carried.

DOG ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

On the order of the day for the further consideration of this bill in committee,

MR. WITTENOOM said that, since the bill was before the House last, it had been referred to a select committee, of which he had the honor to be chairman; and the committee, after carefully considering the whole matter, recommended that those portions of the existing Act relating to natives' dogs should be repealed; also that the proviso clause in the 11th section of the Act be struck out, so that the registered dogs of aboriginals shall be dealt with in the same manner as any other registered dogs. The committee had further endeavored to prepare a new clause that would meet the several objections which had been raised as regards natives keeping an unlimited number of dogs, and at the same time to make the bill as agreeable as possible to the natives themselves. It was now proposed that every native, man, woman, and child, should be allowed to keep one unregistered dog, and, in order that the police might be able to distinguish such dogs, it was proposed that a collar should be provided by the Government for each dog which a native was allowed to keep without having it registered. This provision would only apply to the Central District of the colony, where the natives would soon become aware of the regulation, being pretty well civilised by constant intercourse with the whites. He thought this would meet the difficulty, and that the recommendations of the committee would commend themselves to the House. In accordance with the committee's report, he now moved the following new clause be added to the bill, to stand as Clause 4: "It shall be lawful for any aboriginal native to keep one unregistered dog, which dog shall be distinguished by a collar to be provided

"by the Government. All dogs found in the possession of any aboriginal without the aforesaid collar shall be liable to be destroyed, and all con-stables are hereby authorised to destroy every such dog so found."

MR. SHENTON said that since the previous discussion upon the bill he had received a communication from the Settlers' Association of the Eastern Districts, pointing out that the dogs of the natives were becoming an intolerable nuisance, owing to the large number of useless curs which they now kept, and suggesting that the natives be limited to one dog each, and that the police be instructed to destroy all other dogs found in their possession. There might be some difficulty in carrying out the recommendation of the committee as to providing a collar for these dogs, but probably the difficulty might be got over.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said he had to move an amendment upon the new clause, introduced by the hon. member for Geraldton, but he thought it was an amendment that would generally meet with approval, and that it would also meet the views of the settlers. He thought the collar regulation would be a very troublesome matter and also rather expensive, and that they might attain the same object without having resort to collars, or any other distinguishing badge. The amendment he had to move would read as follows:—"It shall be lawful for any aboriginal native to keep one unregistered dog; provided, always, that whenever the number of dogs found in the possession of one or more natives shall be in excess of the number of the party of such natives, including men, women, and children, such dog or dogs in excess shall be liable to be destroyed." He thought this would meet the object which hon. members had in view. The police would destroy all dogs in excess of the number of the natives accompanying such dogs,—unless they were registered. He saw no reason why a native should not keep as many registered dogs as he liked, so long as he paid for them. Stringent instructions would be given to the police to carry out the provisions of the Act, and unless a native could satisfy them that any dog in excess of the one he was

entitled to keep was registered, that dog would be immediately destroyed.

MR. SHENTON thought there ought to be some restriction as to the age at which native children should be entitled to keep a dog, otherwise infants-in-arms would have the right to keep a dog. A child under twelve years of age would hardly want a dog at all.

MR. BROWN said that provision would have to be made to prohibit the police from destroying any registered dogs which might be in excess of the number of natives. He did not himself see any practical difficulty in the way of providing collars. So far as the settled districts of the colony were concerned—and the bill, he understood, was only to apply to the Central District—he was satisfied that the objections as to providing collars were merely theoretical. He was certain that as soon as the natives found that these collars would protect their dogs, they would lose no time in procuring this badge of privilege. This question of the natives and their dogs had been a vexed question for years, and it was considered both by the Government and by members generally as an important one. It had been brought before the House time after time without the desired result being accomplished; and, if the Government would not give them collars, he supposed they must take the next best thing they could get. He thought the amendment of the Colonial Secretary would, perhaps, so far as the settlers were concerned, meet the object which they (the settlers) had in view; but he thought the clause as amended would require to be made more explicit.

MR. MARMION: Supposing there was a camp of natives, numbering say twenty all told, who would be entitled to keep that number of dogs between them; and supposing ten of these natives went out hunting, taking with them all the dogs belonging to the party, the ten dogs which accompanied them in excess of their own number would be liable to be destroyed, although they were not in excess of the number which the whole party had a right to keep. That seems to be another difficulty.

MR. WITTENOOM said it would be impossible to meet every difficulty, and, for his own part, he was ready to accept the amendment. He felt that, holding

the views which the Government did with regard to these natives—views which to a certain extent they were bound to hold—he felt that they had shown they were willing to do what they could to meet the wishes of the settlers in the matter; and he thought it would be very ungracious on their part if they did not meet the Government in the same spirit.

MR. BURT said this dog question might appear a very small matter, but it had always been a vexed question in that House, and taken up a large amount of time, and he was glad to find the Government at last prepared to do something in the matter. But, of all the amendments ever proposed, he thought this was the most impractical one. It would be really no protection at all to the natives, and would tend to the utter destruction of all their dogs. Five natives might start from a camp, with five dogs, and three or four of these natives might happen to linger behind, while their dogs went on with the rest; but, if a policeman came across these dogs, he would destroy three or four of them, and as a rule it would be found that it was the really useful dogs that would be destroyed. The worthless curs would escape destruction, as these generally accompanied the old women of the party. As to the objection to collars, it seemed to him that supplying these collars would be about the simplest thing possible. The regulation would be ample protection to the natives on the one hand, and to the settlers on the other.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) thought they had made a considerable advance towards the settlement of this vexed question, in having agreed generally upon a principle, though there might be some difference of opinion upon points of detail.

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

Ayes	...	...	10
Noes	..	...	10

AYES.		NOES.	
Hon. A. P. Hensman		Mr. Brockman	
Hon. J. Forrest		Mr. Burt	
Hon. J. A. Wright		Mr. Crowther	
Mr. Marmion		Mr. Grant	
Mr. Pearse		Mr. Harper	
Mr. Randell		Mr. Layman	
Mr. Shenton		Mr. Loton	
Mr. Venn		Mr. McRae	
Mr. Wittenoom		Mr. Steere	
Hon. M. Fraser (Teller.)		Mr. Brown (Teller.)	

THE CHAIRMAN gave his casting vote with the Noes, so that another opportunity might be afforded of amending the original resolution.

The new clause was then put and passed, and progress was reported.

VOLUNTEER FOREIGN SERVICE BILL.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. A. P. Hensman) moved the first reading of a bill to provide for the government and discipline of the Volunteer Force when serving without the limits of the colony.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

FREIGHT CHARGES ON NORTHERN RAILWAY.

THE COMMISSIONER OF RAILWAYS (Hon. J. A. Wright), in moving the House into committee for the consideration of the question of the advisability of assimilating the freight charges on the Northern Railway with those of the Eastern Railway, said this question was one that had been before him ever since he arrived in the colony. It was referred to by His Excellency the Governor (amongst other grievances of the northern settlers) at the banquet given to him, in the Town Hall, on his return to the colony, when His Excellency, it might be remembered, expressed his intention of recommending the Legislature, when it assembled, to meet the wishes of the inhabitants of the district, so far as possible in this matter; and it was in pursuance of that promise that he now brought the question under the consideration of the House. As they were aware, this Northern line was anything but a paying speculation, and, although the traffic on it had been reduced to three trains a week, even that small amount of traffic resulted last year in a loss of £504 2s. 7d.; and it was estimated that if the freight charges were reduced, and assimilated to those of the Eastern Railway, this would entail an extra annual loss of about 35 per cent., which, last year, would have made the loss of working the line about £700. The question resolved itself into this—whether it would be better to shut up the line altogether, or, by reducing the charges, give greater facilities and greater inducements,

with a view if possible to increase the traffic. For his own part, he thought our railway policy, in a new country like this, should be framed not upon the question of whether this line or that line actually yielded a profit, but whether it served a public purpose, whether it tended to open up settlement, and to develop the country's resources. Glad as he would be to see our railways paying a good dividend, he thought that the primary consideration to be thought of was whether they subserved the public convenience, and whether they contributed to the development of the country. He was afraid this had not been the policy of the department so far, but it was the policy which he himself should advocate. He looked upon our railways much in the same light as he did the telegraph and the post office. No one expected those departments to yield a large dividend to the State: they were established for the public convenience and maintained at public expense, and so long as the public were prepared to pay for such conveniences he thought they were entitled to the full benefit of them, and to all the facilities which the department could provide them with for their money. These were simply his own views of the matter. After all, it was a question of policy—not only as regards this Northern but all the lines in the colony—and having enunciated his own views on the subject, he should be happy to hear hon. members express their opinions, for, after all, this was a question which the representatives of the people, those who held the purse-strings, should be consulted upon. With a view to elicit that expression of opinion, he would formally move, That the freight rates on the Northern line be assimilated with the rates on the Eastern line.

MR. WITTENOOM supported the motion, which he hoped would meet with no opposition. This railway when it was started was looked upon as a national undertaking rather than a work of local advantage, and he thought it was very mean on the part of some hon. members, because the line had not turned out such a profitable investment as was anticipated, that they should seek to make the people of the district, rather than the public at large, suffer for it. Local interests were not taken into consideration

when it was decided to construct the line, so much as the national advantages which the line was expected to yield in the development of what was then regarded as an important industry, upon the development of which the progress of the whole colony depended. But now it suited hon. members to look upon this railway as a purely local undertaking, and whenever the inhabitants of the district asked for anything, this line was always thrown in their teeth, and they were told that they had got their railway, and what more did they want? But why they should be charged more for the carriage of their goods on this railway than other districts which had also their railways he could not understand. The rates for telegraphic messages were no higher in one part of the colony than in other parts, and this railway was as much the property of the State as the telegraph was. The loss which the assimilation of the charges with the charges on the Eastern Railway would entail was only a paltry few hundreds, while, on the other hand, it would be a great inducement to the owners of mines to keep them going. On the other hand, if the present prohibitive rates were maintained, the result would be that the mines would be abandoned and there would be no traffic on the railway at all. The workmen employed at the mines would leave the district, and the place would practically be deserted. He hoped hon. members would look at this question as a matter of public policy, and not as merely a local matter.

Mr. RANDELL said he had been rather amused to hear the version given by the hon. member for the district as to the origin of this railway. He had heard a very different version of it, and one perhaps not quite so creditable to the parties concerned. He did not rise to oppose the resolution, although he thought, if the principle laid down by the Commissioner at the beginning of his speech were to be driven to its logical conclusion, it would be necessary that he should oppose it. It was well known that when goods were sold in bulk, or in large quantities, they were sold at a lower rate than when sold retail, and he thought the same principle applied to the carriage of goods, and that when there was a large traffic on a railway goods could be carried

at a cheaper rate than when the traffic was very small. It appeared to him that there was one salutary lesson to be drawn from the arguments made use of by the Commissioner of Railways, when he said that our railway policy should be based, not upon the question of whether this or that line yielded a profit, but whether it subserved a public purpose; and that lesson was this,—that we ought to be very careful indeed where we built our railways, if we were going to assimilate the freight rates on every railway constructed in the colony. If that was the principle that was going to guide them, it would soon resolve itself into this—and he doubted whether it had not resolved itself into that in connection with this Northern Railway—that they would very soon have to shut up their railways. He should be sorry to see that heroic measure adopted, but at the same time he should like to know whether this proposed reduction of charges on the Northern line would result in any appreciable increase of traffic. If the Government saw their way to grant this concession to the North, he did not intend to oppose it himself, though he did not think it was founded on good or sound commercial principles; and, if we applied the principle of assimilation to this railway, we must, to be consistent, apply the same principle to any other railways we might construct hereafter. So far as he was aware no industry was directly or indirectly fostered by this railway: the price of lead depended upon the price ruling in the market, over which the residents of the district and those engaged in mining pursuits had no control; though at the same time he admitted they were entitled to a considerable amount of sympathy from the House and from the country at large. But he did not think they could continue to indulge in this generous mood.

Mr. STEERE said he agreed with the Commissioner as to the policy of constructing railways in a new country with a view to the development of its resources rather than as a direct source of revenue. But this unhappy line did not appear to assist in the development of anything, and to him it was a very serious question indeed whether the line ought not to be shut up altogether.

Mr. CROWTHER pointed out that,

small though the traffic was, the railway was of advantage to the district, for without it the mines would be closed altogether, and many families would have to leave the district, and probably leave the colony, which would be so much direct loss. As an instance of the inequality in the rates charged on this line as compared with the flourishing and more fortunate Eastern line, he might say that while a ton of flour could be sent from Fremantle to Northam, a distance of 70 miles, for 15s., on the Northern line, for a ton of flour sent from Geraldton to Northampton, a distance of 33 miles, they had to pay 18s. Was not this enough to exasperate any district? When the Governor, in his Town Hall speech, on his return from England, referred to the grievances of the district, and held out an expectation that when the Council met fair play would be given to them in the matter of these railway rates—when His Excellency made that announcement, a thrill of satisfaction was felt throughout the district, and it was felt that they had gained a good deal when the desirability of assimilating the rates was acknowledged by the head of the Government. As for expecting this or any other railway in the colony to pay, they might as well expect their post office or telegraph department to pay, or for the expenditure upon roads to pay a dividend to the owners of the carts that went over them. The post office and the telegraph and their roads were made for the public convenience, and not for profit; and he looked upon a railway simply as a superior sort of road. There was no railway in the colony that would, for years to come, do more than pay its working expenses. If they took the Eastern Railway itself, and cut it up into sections, keeping an account of the expense and traffic on each section separately, they would find that very few sections really paid their actual working expenses, though the line as a whole might do so. As to developing the industries of the district, if there had been at the head of the Railway Department years ago an officer who recognised the desirability of assimilating the rates on this Northern Railway with the rates current on the Eastern Railway, the result would have been that they would have had mines,

which were now closed, still open and in operation, and ready to take advantage of any rise in the ore markets, instead of having to wait until they were re-opened. When this line was started lead ore was worth over £14 a ton, whereas now it was not worth more than £4 per ton. But that was not the fault of the district nor the fault of the colony,—it was its misfortune. A great deal had been heard about the question of Separation, and it was this constant down-sitting upon the Northern people which gave rise to that feeling. The hon. member, Mr. Steere, he knew, would be glad to see this line shut up altogether; the hon. member would not care a rap if it were shut up tomorrow. No more would his hon. friend the member for Perth. Hon. members seemed to look upon Perth as the colony, and Perth and Fremantle combined as the whole civilised world,—the Alpha and the Omega of their existence. They seemed to imagine that these two towns supported the country; but he ventured to think that unless the country supported the towns, it would be a very poor look-out for the latter. As to what had been said by the hon. member, Mr. Raudell, he was not prepared to say that reduction in the freight rates would increase the traffic on this line very much; but he did say that if the reduction had been made twelve months ago they would have had mines at work now and ore ready to bring down, which was not the case at present, and, instead of people leaving the colony, they would be now at work at Northampton, and contributing their share towards the general revenue and the general prosperity of the colony. He was very glad indeed to find the Government at last throwing a straw on the current of public opinion, in the direction of having justice done to this long-suffering district.

MR. MARMION submitted that there must be some error in the figures upon which the Commissioner of Railways had based his statement that the loss which the proposed reduction in the freight rates would cause would only amount to 35 per cent. and that the extra loss last year would only have been about £200. The traffic on the line last year was 4,532 tons, which, at a shilling per ton reduction, would make up that loss. Surely it would

not be contended that a reduction of one shilling per ton was going to make or mar any industry; and he thought, in order to have the matter further inquired into, it would be desirable to report progress. No one was more desirous than he was to give the North every consideration, even in the matter of this railway. [Mr. CROWTHER: Question.] The hon. member might question it, but it was a fact.

MR. S. H. PARKER said, as to the railway policy enunciated by the Engineer-in-Chief, no one could doubt that the policy of this colony, and of every new country, in building railways was, not that the railways should yield a direct profit, but that they should contribute to the development of the country, and in that way prove a source of indirect profit to the colony at large. The lesson which it appeared to him was to be drawn from this Northern Railway was that care should be taken, in building any new railways, that they should only be built in those parts of the colony where they might be reckoned upon to open up the country and induce settlement. That was not the principle, unfortunately, upon which this Northern line was built. It was built in order to encourage and stimulate a particular industry, and not to induce a settlement of the land and the cultivation of the soil; and he could not help thinking that was a mistaken policy. Certainly things had altered for the worse since the line was built, and, so far as he was concerned, if this assimilation and reduction of rates would promote the production of one single extra ton of lead, he should vote for the proposed reduction.

On the motion of Mr. MARMION progress was then reported, leave being given to sit again another day.

ESTABLISHMENT OF SUGAR INDUSTRY (MESSAGE No. 8).

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. J. Forrest) moved that the recommendations of the select committee appointed to consider and report upon a proposed scheme for the establishment of the sugar industry in our northern territory—submitted to the House by His Excellency the Governor in his Message (No. 8)—be adopted. The committee recommended that the projector of the scheme, Mr. Geo. Smith,

a Queensland planter, be offered a free grant of 100,000 acres of land in the Kimberley district, in one block, on condition that £100,000 be spent in the prosecution of the sugar industry in connection with the land in question within five years, and that one thousand white people be settled on the land within that period. There were other conditions attached, which the committee recommended for adoption.

The recommendations of the committee were agreed to *sub silentio*.

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

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Tuesday, 18th August, 1885.

Petition (No. 5): Concessions under proposed new Land Regulations—Conservation of Pearling Banks—Survey of Telegraph Line to Derby—Removal of Lockeville Post Office—Reports of Debates in Council: motion for select committee—Amendment of Immigration Regulations—Water-boring, Eucla District (Message No. 9): adjourned debate—Adjournment.

THE SPEAKER took the Chair at noon.

PRAYERS.

PETITION (No. 5): PRAYING FOR CONCESSIONS UNDER NEW LAND REGULATIONS.

MR. HARPER presented a petition from certain settlers living eastward of York, praying for certain concessions under the new Land Regulations.

The petition was received and read.

CONSERVATION OF PEARLING BANKS.

MR. McRAE asked the Colonial Secretary whether it is the intention of the Government to close any more pearling banks on the North-West coast? A few years ago several of the banks were closed for shelling, but most of them had