

House to approve of it afterwards. The intention was that any concession made should be made subject to the approval of the Legislature. For instance, if the construction of a railway on the land grant system were proposed, the Government could not enter into any agreement on the subject without reference to the Council. The same with timber concessions. The clause gave the Legislative Council more power than it ever had before in these matters.

The clause was then put and passed.

MR. GRANT moved that the following New Clause be added to the regulations:—"Any pastoral lessee in the Kimberley, North-West, Gascoyne, and Eucla Divisions, who shall have in his possession in any such division ten (10) head of sheep, or one head of large stock, for each one thousand acres leased, may at any time within five years of the coming into operation of these regulations apply to purchase in any of the aforesaid divisions, for the purpose of a homestead, any area in one block not exceeding one per cent. of the total quantity held by such lessee under pastoral lease in such division, on the same terms and subject to the same conditions prescribed for purchase under Clause 41 of these regulations; provided that the minimum area shall not be less than 500 acres."

Hon. members were aware that a similar concession had been made to lessees in other parts of the colony, and he thought the same privilege ought to be extended to the Northern lessees, so that they might get a homestead around them. As special areas were allowed to be declared, he thought this would be a sort of security to the lessees.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. J. Forrest) thought there should be a maximum as well as a minimum area mentioned, otherwise the clause might lead to abuses. He would suggest that the words, "nor more than 5,000 acres" be added to the clause, which seemed to him a reasonable limit.

MR. LOTON did not think the concession should be granted at all, without a limitation as to the maximum area, otherwise a man who took up a million acres would have the right to select 10,000 acres for a homestead—the best portion of his run.

MR. GRANT said he would accept the suggestion of the Commissioner; and the words "nor more than 5,000 acres" were added to the clause.

The clause was then put and passed. Progress reported.

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

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## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

*Wednesday, 18th August, 1886.*

Sidings on Eastern Railway between York and Beverley—Customs Receipts at Derby and Wyndham—Married Women's Property Bill—Burial place of late Pemberton Walcott—Amendment of Standing Orders—Roads Bill: second reading—Estimates, 1887: Financial Statement—Adjournment.

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

PRAYERS.

SIDINGS ON EASTERN RAILWAY BETWEEN YORK AND BEVERLEY.

MR. HARPER asked the Commissioner of Railways whether it was the intention of the Government to put any sidings on the railway line between York and Beverley; if not, why not?

THE COMMISSIONER OF RAILWAYS (Hon. J. A. Wright) said it was the intention of the Government to place a siding or sidings, if required, on the line between York and Beverley, when and where it may hereafter be proved they would be of any practical benefit to the district.

CUSTOMS DUTIES AT DERBY AND WYNDHAM.

MR. MARMION asked the Acting Colonial Secretary to lay on the table of the House—

(1.) A return showing the amount of Customs duties received at Derby and Wyndham during

the months of June and July last.

- (2.) Whether it is true that the Sub-Collector of Customs at Derby has allowed certain goods imported by miners to be passed free of duty?

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. S. Smith) replied:—

- (1.) The amount of Customs duties received at Derby during the months of June and July was as follows:—June, £473 9s. 6d.; July, £876 11s. 5d. No certain information has been received by the Collector of Customs as to the amount received at Wyndham during those months.
- (2.) The entries do not disclose the fact that any goods imported by miners at Derby have been passed free of duty.

#### MARRIED WOMEN'S PROPERTY BILL.

MR. PARKER—who had a notice standing in his name, to move for leave to introduce a Bill to amend the Law of Property and Contract with respect to Married Women—said although he felt the subject was one well deserving of the consideration of the House—in fact, he felt there was no subject which the House ought to regard it as its duty to consider as early as possible more than some measure that would do tardy justice to the class of persons referred to—still, personally, he regretted to say he had no time at present to take the matter in hand; and, as the session was drawing to a close, it was not his intention to proceed any further with the notice standing in his name.

#### PEMBERTON WALCOTT'S BURIAL PLACE.

MR. GRANT, in accordance with notice, moved, “That an humble address be presented to His Excellency the Governor, praying that he will be pleased to place £50 on the Estimates for 1887 to fence in and to mark the last resting place of the late Pemberton

Walcott, at Broome, Roebuck Bay, in the Kimberley District.”

MR. McRAE seconded the motion.

MR. WITTENOOM said he was really at a loss to know why this motion had been placed on the Notice Paper. He was not acquainted himself with the antecedents of the gentleman referred to, and he should be much obliged—and he thought other members would, too—if the hon. member who brought it forward would give the House some of his reasons for asking it to agree to his motion. No doubt the hon. member had very good reasons for doing so, and, for aught he knew, the gentleman referred to may have been a most deserving individual; still he was not aware himself what his antecedents were.

MR. GRANT was very much surprised to hear the hon. member say—he could only attribute it to his downright ignorance—that he had not heard of the late Pemberton Walcott, whose name had been before this country for the past twenty years, a man who had distinguished himself, and who first pointed out the value of one of the principal industries of this colony—the pearl shell industry. Since then, he might state for the hon. member's information, the late Mr. Walcott was engaged by this Government as Inspector of Pearl Shell Fisheries, for years; and how a man who had been living in the colony so long and who had been so prominently before the country should be unknown to any member of that House was past his comprehension. This money was asked for simply to mark the grave of an efficient public officer, who had done his duty well, and who gave general satisfaction. He would leave it to the good sense of the House to say whether his last resting place, in that lonely spot where he died and was buried, should not be marked with some token of respect.

MR. WITTENOOM thought if the deceased gentleman had done so much to develop the pearling industry, those who had since done so well out of that industry might at least have shown their respect for the memory of their benefactor by fencing in his grave.

MR. PARKER said although he was as a rule opposed to such motions, he thought in this instance, if the Government could afford it, they would be

doing what was right and proper, under the circumstances, if they were to do what the hon. member wished to be done in this matter. But he should imagine the necessary funds might come out of the "Incidental" vote, without requesting His Excellency to place a special vote on the Estimates.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. S. Smith) said if the proposal met with the approval of the House, the Government had no desire to oppose it; but, really he did not think there was any necessity for a special vote. If the hon. member's proposal was regarded with favor by the House, he might say, on behalf of the Government, that they would undertake to do what was necessary in the matter.

MR. VENN said he was surprised when he saw the notice on the paper. Allowing that the deceased gentleman was worthy of all that had been said of him, he believed he was well-connected in the colony, and it appeared to him rather an insult to the members of his family that a small sum like this should be asked for from that House to mark his last resting place. If there was nothing to mark his grave, if he had been buried almost as a pauper, it was not the fault of the Government, and he did not think it was a proper object at all for spending any of the public funds upon.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. J. Forrest) said he had not intended to have spoken at all, but, after the remarks that had just fallen from the hon. member for Wellington, he thought it was his duty to say a few words. He thought the hon. member might have withheld his remarks in this case, for this reason: although the late Mr. Walcott was very respectably connected in this colony, he did not know that those who were close relations of his were particularly rich; and it would cost, he should say, about £40 to enclose this grave and to erect any decent sort of a tablet to his memory. He thought they ought not to allow a man like the late Pemberton Walcott to be buried like a dog, and he thought it was only right and proper that the representative of the district should come forward as he had done in this matter.

The motion, upon being put, was agreed to.

#### AMENDMENT OF STANDING ORDERS.

MR. PARKER, in moving the adoption of various alterations in the Standing Orders, said the first alteration which he proposed would virtually have the effect of abolishing the day sitting on Tuesday, leaving Thursday as the only day on which a morning sitting should be held. He thought perhaps there might be some disagreement as to this proposal, but he thought it must be evident to all hon. members that, so far as the members of the Government were concerned, it was very awkward for them to have to come to the House during office hours, and be away from their offices during the principal business portion of the day. This, of course, would be avoided by having an evening sitting; and the inconvenience would be reduced to a minimum if they only had one morning sitting throughout the week. Not only were Government members inconvenienced, but also other members who had business of their own to attend to. For instance, personally it was a great inconvenience to him, and he was sure it was to the Attorney General, and also to others who were interested in outside matters, to have to leave their engagements in order to attend the House, when by having an evening sitting no one would be inconvenienced. If there were any particular reason why they should not meet at night, he should not press hon. members to agree to this alteration. He might point out that this was only a recent innovation, having two morning sittings during the week; and he thought he might say that hon. members, during the evening sittings, went through the business with more spirit and energy than they generally did during a morning sitting. Some hon. members might say that, if a member was inconvenienced, he was not bound to attend. That was true. But, speaking for himself, he might say that he was often absolutely debarred from attending owing to the pressure of professional work. His absence perhaps might not be considered a great loss; but there were other hon. members whose constrained absence might be a serious loss. The next amendment he had to propose was to strike out the words "six members," in the fifth line of Standing Order No. 2, and to insert in lieu thereof

the words "one-third part at least of the members of the said Council." This rule would then read thus: "If half-an-hour subsequent to his (the Speaker) taking the Chair there be not present one-third at least of the members of the said Council, exclusive of the Speaker, the Speaker shall adjourn the Council." The Standing Order as it now stood conflicted with the Imperial statute regulating the conduct of business in the House, which provided that there shall be at least one-third of the members present to constitute a quorum. The number "six" was inserted when there were only eighteen members in the House, but now that they had a larger number of members, the number was opposed to that required by the Imperial statute to constitute a quorum, and it was also in conflict with another of their own Standing Orders which provided that "if notice be taken that there is not present one-third of the members, exclusive of the Speaker, the Speaker shall, on ascertaining such to be the case, by his own authority adjourn the Council." Another alteration which he proposed was to strike out the 49th Standing Order, which was at variance with a new Standing Order adopted last session. The 49th Order provided that the House should not proceed upon any motion for an address to the Governor, praying that any money may be issued or that any expense may be incurred, except in committee. But, according to the new Standing Order adopted last session, these addresses to the Governor could be discussed in the House, without going into committee; which conflicted with the 49th Standing Order, which he therefore now sought to repeal. With regard to his next proposal—that on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays, Government business should take precedence of all other business on the Notice Paper except questions—he was not personally concerned in pressing this upon the House, but he believed it was the rule in all the Legislatures of the other colonies, and elsewhere, that Government business should take precedence on certain days. He proposed here that it should take precedence on three days in the week, which would give private members two days on which Government business should not take precedence. In the

House of Commons, he believed, private members had only one day in the week—Wednesday. He saw no reason himself why this course should not be adopted here as in other Legislatures, especially as it would facilitate the transaction of public business. He would suggest that each of his proposed amendments should be put to the House separately, and considered *seriatim*.

This was agreed to.

Mr. PARKER then formally moved that in Standing Order No. 2, the word "Tuesdays" be inserted between "Mondays and Wednesdays" in the second line, and the words "Tuesdays and" in the third line be struck out.

Mr. SHENTON said he must oppose the proposed alteration. He was rather surprised that the hon. member should have brought it forward, for it was only a short time since that the House, by a large majority, decided that there should be two day sittings in the week. The hon. member had brought forward no serious argument why they should go back to the old practice, and he thought the present practice of two day sittings was more convenient to members generally.

Mr. WITTENOOM said he also should oppose the proposed change. He thought it would be a very inadvisable course to adopt, and one that would interfere greatly with the despatch of business. The hon. member who proposed the change said it interfered with people's business to attend the House in the day-time. He could quite understand that it did interfere with their business; but it interfered with some members' businesses very much to come there at all. He knew, speaking for himself, it was a great inconvenience and a very great sacrifice of individual interests and time. He believed if this proposal were carried out there would be very little work done, and the session would be prolonged, much to the inconvenience of country members; though possibly it might suit one or two members living in town, that they should only meet in the evening. But, if hon. members chose to accept the position of a representative they must be prepared to put up with any little inconveniences which the position might give rise to; and if it interfered with their private affairs they must sacrifice their private

affairs to their public duties. So far as he was concerned he should like to see the House meeting every day from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and again from 7 p.m. until midnight,—except on Saturday.

MR. RANDELL said he also should oppose the proposed alteration. He could understand members of the legal profession finding some difficulty in attending day sittings; at the same time he thought this Standing Order had worked very well indeed. The cause of its introduction a few sessions ago was that a great deal more work, as a rule, was done in the day than in the evening, there being too much temptation in the evening to speak to the galleries. He believed himself that a reference to the record of their proceedings would show that a great deal of the real business of the session was done at the day sittings. He thought they had every right in this matter to consider the claims of members who came down from the country for a long period of the year and at great personal sacrifice to attend the sessions. Possibly it might suggest itself to some hon. members that the reason why they got through more work at the day sittings than at night was because the legal members of the House were absent from the day sittings. There was another objection to the proposed alteration: it would only leave hon. members one night in the week to attend other proceedings that might be going on. He believed one reason why the present Standing Order was adopted was in consequence of the night sittings interfering with the attendance of some hon. members at their respective Church services,—and he hoped there were some hon. members in that House who took their pleasure there as much as in attending the proceedings of Council.

MR. VENN: I presume the hon. member for Perth before bringing this forward consulted his fellow members; though I think the hon. member must have done it on his own responsibility. Still I should imagine he must have conferred with other members of the House. Surely the hon. member would not bring forward a question like this unless he was acting in concert with other hon. members? I cannot think myself that the hon. member is sincere in the matter unless he has done so. I

know, at all events, I have not been consulted, and my own opinion is that we had better leave the Standing Orders as they are.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. S. Smith) said it appeared to him that this was a question concerning unofficial members more than the official members; at the same time he thought that the official members deserved some consideration. The members on the Government benches were, of course, all heads of departments, having their own official duties to perform, daily, and he thought the interests of the public service should receive some consideration. So far as he was personally concerned, and so far as he was able to ascertain the feelings of his colleagues on the subject, they would prefer that this alteration should take place, substituting an evening sitting on Tuesday instead of a morning sitting. But, as he had already said, it was a matter that concerned the unofficial members—and especially country members—rather than the official members. The Government members were ready at any time to attend to their work.

The motion upon being put was negatived.

MR. PARKER then moved that the words "six members," in the 5th line of Standing Order No. 2, be struck out, and the words "one-third part at least of the said Council" inserted in lieu thereof.

Agreed to.

MR. PARKER moved that Standing Order No. 49 be repealed.

Agreed to.

MR. PARKER moved that Standing Order No. 56 be amended by striking out the words "six members" and inserting "one-third part at least of the said Council" in lieu thereof.

Agreed to.

MR. PARKER moved the following new Standing Order, to stand as No. 3: "That on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, Government business shall take precedence of all other business on the Notice Paper except Questions, and shall be entered accordingly."

MR. WITTENOOM said it seemed to him that they should be careful how they dealt with this question. If they passed this Order the probability was that sometimes they would have scarcely any attendance, and it might be difficult to

get a quorum, and there would have to be an adjournment, resulting in more loss of time. By mixing up Government business with other business, as at present, they were pretty sure of a full attendance.

MR. SHENTON said the new Standing Order was only carrying out what was the practice in other Legislative Assemblies,—that Government business should take precedence on certain days, and he thought it was advisable they should adopt the same rule here. On several occasions, during the present session, there had been great loss of time owing to the Government not being able to bring forward their bills until other Orders of the Day had been disposed of.

MR. RANDELL said that under the present form of Government he did not think the alteration would make much difference. All the business at present might be said to be Government business. Possibly they might look upon the introduction of this proposed new order as the fulfilment of the old adage, "Coming events cast their shadows before." Probably the hon. member who had brought it forward had done so in view of the early introduction of a form of Government under which it would be necessary for the Government to have control of three days in the week for their parliamentary business. At present he hardly thought this was necessary.

MR. MARMION said, although he had no objection to the proposal, he did not see the necessity for it. No opposition was ever thrown in the way of the Government whenever they wished to bring forward any measure; every desire was shown to facilitate the public business in every way, and, for his own part, although he did not intend or feel disposed to oppose the new rule, he certainly saw no necessity for it.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. S. Smith): I think myself it would be desirable to adopt this Standing Order. I believe there have been occasions on which, for the want of such a rule, the progress of public business has been blocked; and, although I am inclined to agree with the hon. member Mr. Randell, and the hon. member for Fremantle, that there is no great necessity for its introduction, as almost all the business in this House is really

Government business, still, instances may occur in which a block might ensue, and, in order to prevent it, it would be well, I think, that this new Standing Order should be adopted.

MR. MARMION: It is possible that the business may be blocked under this new rule just as well as under the present Standing Orders.

The motion was then adopted.

#### ROADS BILL.

THE ACTING ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt) said that on the occasion of moving the first reading of this bill he spoke shortly of the effect of the new provisions of the bill, and, again, on moving the second reading, on a more recent occasion, he went more fully into the subject; therefore, it would be simply going over old ground for him to offer any further explanation as to the object and scope of the bill, in again moving that it be read a second time. It would be in the recollection of the House that when the motion for the second reading was put before, some hon. members did not vote as they intended to do, and the result of a subsequent division having been to suspend the progress of the bill altogether, it now became necessary that he should again formally move "That this bill be now read a second time."

MR. SHENTON said he had looked most carefully into the provisions of the bill, and he noticed some very important clauses, which he thought would require some very careful consideration before passing them into law. It was a very voluminous bill too, and, although as stated by the Attorney General the other day a great many of its provisions were similar to those which existed in the present Roads Board Act and Municipalities Act, yet he thought at this late period of the session it would be unwise to take it in hand, and that it would better to postpone it until next session. He would therefore move, as an amendment, to strike out all the words after "That," and to insert the following, "this Bill be considered at the next session of Council."

MR. VENN seconded the amendment.

MR. PARKER said if the bill was a good bill and a bill which the country

wanted—and they were told that it was—he hoped that country members would not be disposed to go away and leave its consideration for another twelve months. On the other hand, if it was not a good bill, he did not see what was the good of bringing it in at all. From what he could gather of the bill, it was a very useful measure and one which the country wanted very much, and which would be a great advantage to them. If so, why should they be kept waiting for it another year?

MR. WITTENOOM said he was absent yesterday, when the Attorney General explained the provisions of the bill, and therefore he had not heard the arguments used in favor of the bill. But he thought they had quite as much in hand as they could get through this session, without this bill. He thought it was a mistake to bring forward important bills like this when the session was about to close. They saw that last session, with the Scab Bill, which was brought in about this time last session, the result being a rubbishy bill, containing lots of provisions that were absurd, inconsistent, and impracticable. He felt sure if the present bill were to be proceeded with now the result would be something similar, and it would require to be put into proper shape again next session, and they would find the Acting Attorney General opposing any interference with the bill on the ground that it was only recently passed.

THE ACTING ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt) said he omitted on purpose making a second speech that evening in again moving the second reading of the bill, for he was one of those few members in that House who did not like to hear his own voice. It seemed to him that every session now, the practice was becoming general, after they arrived at a certain stage, and had sat a certain number of weeks, country members conceived a desire to get away, to go back whence they came. It seemed to dawn upon them suddenly, after they had remained in Perth so many weeks, that their presence was required elsewhere. This year, this idea seemed to have impressed itself upon hon. members earlier than usual. The House had not been in session yet two months. It was the only period of the year when the House did

meet, and it was a matter of surprise to outsiders how they got through so much legislative work in so short a time, looking at all the varied requirements of a large colony like this. As to the Scab Act—to which reference had been made by the hon. member for Geraldton—he had heard the hon. member already that evening accused of ignorance; and he was afraid he must do the same. The hon. member must be utterly ignorant of the fact that the provisions he had referred to were on the statute book in 1882. Last year's bill was only a consolidation bill, with a few slight amendments, which he was sure the hon. member would cordially approve of if he knew what they were. As to the present bill, the Government had no desire to press it upon the House if hon. members did not wish it; but it did seem rather paltry to object to it because it was apparently a big bill. If the country wanted it, let hon. members tackle it, and not be afraid of it. All the Government wanted was to ascertain the wishes of the House, and the sooner a decision was arrived at the more time would there be to devote to the details of the measure in committee.

MR. CROWTHER thought the Government would be doing one of those common sense things which that House had been urging upon it for years if it allowed the country an opportunity of expressing some opinion upon bills of this nature before they became law. It was a most important bill as affecting country districts, and he thought the Government would do well to let the country's voice be heard with reference to it; and not pass it first and then let the country know for the first time what it was all about. As a rule, he must say that the Government business came in too late. During the first few weeks of the session they did little or nothing. It might be that the pressure of business prevented the Government from introducing their bills earlier in the session; but they had all the recess in which to get the work ready. In no other country in the world would an important bill of this kind, containing over a hundred clauses, be brought forward at the fag end of a session. It was once proposed that the bills that were to be brought forward should be published in

the *Government Gazette* some time before the Council met; and to a certain extent that was carried out. But the bills that were published were mere shadows of things that could be dealt with by any village vestry. The main bills, the important measures, were never seen or heard of until members came to the House, and then they were expected to grasp them at a glance. No one could controvert the statement that country members were now anxious to get home, to look after those avocations which provided them with the means of spending a few months in the year in the gay metropolis. He thought the present Acting Attorney General was to be complimented and congratulated upon the way in which he had brought in his bills, considering the short time he had been in office; for he was informed—but on very slight ground—that the hon. gentleman had little or nothing to work upon, and he thought there was no blame attached to the Acting Attorney General in the matter. But he did think it was a mistake to thrust a big bill like this into their hands just as they were thinking of getting away.

MR. MARMION said, if there was no particular wish on the part of the Government to press the bill, he thought possibly it would be wiser it should be postponed. He was afraid it would not receive that amount of attention which its importance deserved. He agreed with the hon. member for the Greenough that—whether it be right or whether it be wrong on their part—many members after sitting there all these weeks, were naturally anxious to seek their homes; and the experience of previous sessions ought to have taught the Government by this time that it was practically useless to bring forward important measures at a very late period of the session. He did not intend to express any blame or to pass any censure upon the Government in this instance. He knew from what he had heard that the Acting Attorney General had had his time taxed to the utmost to bring forward the bill during the present session, and the hon. and learned member deserved to be congratulated rather than censured. But he thought the Government would act wisely in withdrawing the bill for this session.

CAPTAIN FAWCETT said that speaking as a member of a Road Board, he thought it would be better to postpone the consideration of the bill until next session. It would take them during all the recess to read the bill and to consult about it with other members of Roads Boards. It seemed to him that the Government had thrown this tremendous big bill at them just at the close of the session in order to get through it without any consideration. For his own part, he had no wish to desert his post—he would stand to his guns to the last moment, but, at the same time, he thought there was a general desire among country members that the session should not be prolonged much longer.

MR. BURGESS regretted that some hon. members were absent during the Attorney General's speech in explanation of the bill the previous day: had they been present there would have been no necessity for this discussion. To his mind the bill was one that was very much required by the country, and, if it was possible to pass it this session, it ought to be passed. As the Attorney General told them yesterday, though the bill looked a big bill, it contained very little that was new.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. J. Forrest) said as to hon. members taking the bill away to read it to people outside, during the recess, they knew what was done with the Land Regulations, which had been before the country from last session to this. They all knew how many practical suggestions they had obtained on the subject from outside, from the representative institutions connected with agricultural pursuits. The sum of the practical suggestions received was—*nil*; and, if they postponed this bill until next session, in the expectation of any light being thrown upon it from outside, the result would be practically the same.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. S. Smith) said the Government saw no reason why the bill should not be proceeded with; still, if it was the wish of hon. members that it should not be proceeded with, the Government had no intention of going to a division on the matter. He should like to make one remark as to the observations which had been made as to the



late period of the session. He did not know why hon. members should allude to the present as a "late period of the session." They had not spent two months there yet, during which time the Government had introduced no less than 28 bills, and some of them very important bills, so that he did not think the Government could be fairly accused of remissness in bringing forward their bills.

MR. RANDELL said it appeared to him it was the size of the bill that had frightened hon. members. He did not think it was characteristic of Britishers, individually, to be afraid to face a foe because he was a big one,—especially so when the particular Britisher was a gentleman whose profession was that of arms. He was therefore surprised to find the hon. and gallant member for Pinjarrah anxious to avoid coming into close quarters with the bill, because it was a big bill. He did not think it would have been very difficult to have grasped all the new provisions of the bill. He had looked through them, and he certainly did not see anything to object to. It had been very elaborately explained by the Acting Attorney General, and the bill had been brought forward at the desire of the country and of the House. There were some provisions in it which he thought it was very desirable that the Roads Boards should be entrusted with as early as possible. There was another reason why he thought it was very desirable they should proceed with the bill this session: the hon. and learned gentleman who had drafted it, at a considerable cost of time and ability, might not be in the House next session, representing the Government, and a new Attorney General might have to take charge of the bill; and he thought, as an act of courtesy towards the framer of the bill, as well as upon considerations of expediency, hon. members should make up their minds to proceed with the bill. The hon. gentleman who drafted the bill would be much better able to explain its provisions in committee than a new Attorney General could possibly be; and that was worthy of some consideration. He thought it was a confession of weakness on the part of hon. members to refuse to proceed with the bill, and he hoped hon. members would not be willing to remain under

such an imputation as that. Governor Weld, when he administered this Government, introduced a Road Bill for the purpose of educating the people so as to fit them for undertaking the responsible duties that would be cast upon them under another form of Government. He was not prepared to say how far that bill and the institutions which it gave birth to had fulfilled the objects in view; but he thought the present bill was a step in advance, and it appeared to him that all those hon. members who were in favor of the people of this colony taking upon themselves the management of their own affairs were bound to support the principle of this bill, for it was a step in advance in the way of educating the country for undertaking the responsibilities of self-government.

Question put—that the words proposed to be struck out stand part of the bill.

A division being called for, the numbers were—

Ayes ... ..	12
Noes .. .. .	11
	—
Majority ... ..	1

AYES.	NOES.
Hon. S. Burt	Mr. Brockman
Hon. J. Forrest	Mr. Crowther
Hon. J. A. Wright	Capt. Fawcett
Mr. Burges	Mr. Grant
Sir T. C. Campbell, Bart.	Mr. Marmion
Mr. Harper	Mr. McRae
Mr. Layman	Mr. Pearce
Mr. Loton	Mr. Sholl
Mr. Parker	Mr. Venn
Mr. Raudell	Mr. Wittenoom
Mr. Scott	Mr. Shenton (teller.)
Hon. M. S. Smith (teller.)	

Bill read a second time.

THE ACTING ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt) moved that the bill be considered in committee of the whole Council on Thursday, 19th August.

MR. VENN moved, as an amendment, that the bill be referred to a select committee. He thought it would be better in the interests of the colony and of the bill itself that it should be referred to a select committee. He felt sure that by the time it came out of the hands of the committee the House would be in a better position to deal with it. He might say for himself that the bill should receive every possible consideration at his hands. The select committee he would propose were: The Acting Attorney General, Mr. Steere, Mr. Wittenoom, Mr. Brockman, and the mover.

MR. WITTENOOM saw no object to be gained by referring the bill to a select committee. The whole subject had been considered by one of the most able and competent Commissions that could be possibly appointed, and it would be an utter waste of time and perfectly superfluous on the part of any select committee of that House to go through it again.

MR. CROWTHER: Will the hon. member give us one solitary reason that any member of that Commission has ever given for altering the present law?

MR. WITTENOOM: No, but I am sure there must be very good reasons.

MR. MARMION said the mere fact of the measure having been recommended by a Commission outside that House was no reason why hon. members should not give it every consideration within the House; and his experience had been that large bills like this, unless referred to select committees, absorbed a great deal more time, and in the end the conclusions arrived at were often unsatisfactory.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. J. Forrest) said it was not the first time that he had heard that this Commission had given no reasons for the conclusions that they had arrived at; but he should like to ask what reasons did the select committee on the Land Regulations give for arriving at their conclusions? None whatever. The conclusions they arrived at were self-evident on the face of them, and it was the same with regard to the conclusions of the Commission upon whose recommendations this bill was framed.

MR. RANDELL said it was not often in that House that the practice of blocking the progress of any measure was resorted to; but he was afraid that was the object of the hon. member for Wellington in moving to refer this bill to a select committee. [Mr. VENN: Not at all.] He thought that was apparent from the names of the committee, who were all members who were hostile to the bill being considered this session. He distinctly objected to the blocking of a bill, especially after a division had decided that it should be proceeded with. The select committee who sat last session upon the Land Regulations spent a great deal of time over them, with what result? That they had all to be threshed out

again in the House this session; and, although they had been before the country for twelve months, very little attention was paid to them by the country. He felt sure it would be the same with this Road Bill. There was a bill which he himself introduced last year, the Municipalities Act, of even more importance than the present bill, inasmuch as it involved a much more serious departure from the existing law; but hon. members objected to refer it to a select committee, and wisely so, as the result he thought showed. The result of referring the present bill to a select committee would be that in all probability they would not get the committee's report until the session was *in extremis*.

MR. VENN said the hon. member was entirely in error when he said that his object was to block the passage of the bill. It was for no such reason that he had moved to refer it to a select committee, but in order that the bill should receive all the consideration they could possibly give it. As to the names of the members of the committee, he did not care who sat on it.

MR. RANDELL: Of course, if the hon. member says that was not his object I accept his disclaimer.

The question was then put—that the bill be referred to a select committee; and, a division being called for, there appeared—

Ayes ... ..	8
Noes ... ..	14
—	
Majority against ...	6

AYES.	NOES.
Mr. Brockman	Hon. M. S. Smith
Mr. Crowther	Hon. S. Bart
Mr. Grant	Hon. J. Forrest
Mr. Marmion	Mr. Burges
Mr. McRae	Sir T. C. Campbell, Bart.
Mr. Shenton	Capt. Fawcett
Mr. Sholl	Mr. Harper
Mr. Venn (Teller.)	Mr. Layman
	Mr. Loton
	Mr. Pearce
	Mr. Randell
	Mr. Scott
	Mr. Wittenoom
	Hon. J. A. Wright (Teller)

Question—That the consideration of this bill in committee be made an Order of the Day for Thursday, 19th August—put and passed.

## THE ESTIMATES, 1887.

## FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

The House having resolved itself into a committee of the whole, to consider the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for the year 1887,

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. S. Smith) said: Sir Thomas Campbell—I am fully sensible of the importance of the task that I have now to discharge, and I must crave the indulgence of the House while I endeavor, as briefly and succinctly as I can, to explain the financial position of the colony, and our proposals for the future, as regards the estimates of revenue and expenditure for the year 1887. It is always the primary duty of the Government, sir, to watch with care over the finances of the colony; but I consider that at the present juncture it is doubly their duty so to do. During the past twelve months events of a very important nature have taken place. The years 1885 and 1886 will, I feel sure, mark a most momentous epoch in the history of Western Australia, and I think I may venture to assert that the historic saying, "At last she moves," is now nearly an established fact. The opening up of a new district and the establishment of Government thereat, the necessity for carrying out extensive surveys in that district; the necessity also for carrying out various undertakings in different parts of the colony; the extension of our railway system, and the initiation of numerous public works involving, as they do, a large prospective permanent expenditure, in addition to the present heavy outlay,—all these considerations render it doubly necessary that the Government should watch with care and frugality the finances of the colony, with the view of finding ways and means for meeting this additional expenditure without adding to the burdens of the people.

*The present Tariff.*

There is one fact, sir, that must not be lost sight of: while in the past we have been floating loans, we are now in a measure floating on them. The indebtedness of the colony at the present moment amounts to £1,288,100. This necessitates provision being made for an annual sum of £61,280 to meet interest and a sinking fund for the redemption of

debentures. Our present tariff presses heavily on us, and, sooner or later, it is to be hoped that the Government may be in a position to recommend a revision of the Tariff Act. But I hardly think that it would be judicious to do so at the present moment. We have arrived, sir, in Western Australia at what I may term a real turn of the tide, and I think it would be injudicious to commence experimentalising with the Tariff Act at the present juncture. President Lincoln's saying as to the unwisdom of swopping horses while crossing the stream is, I think, somewhat applicable. Then, again, sir, the fall in the price of wool has affected seriously what I may term our greatest industry, the pastoral industry; and I can only hope that the recent rise in the price of that commodity may enable our flockowners to recoup themselves, to some extent, the losses they have sustained. The discovery of gold, sir, has always been considered the one panacea for all our evils,—the one thing needful to start us on the sure road to prosperity. Well, sir, that discovery has been made, and I can only hope that all the good anticipated from it may be realised. How far we in this portion of the colony may be affected by this discovery remains yet to be seen, but it cannot fail to prove of great benefit to the important district in which it has been found.

*A glance at the past.*

It is well, sir, and customary on the occasion of making a financial statement, to glance at the past before judging of the future. It enables us, by ascertaining the flow of our trade and commerce and the working of our various institutions, it enables us to judge whether our expectations as to the future are likely to be realised, and whether those expectations may be great or small. I will therefore ask hon. members to bear with me while I give a few statistics, ranging over the years 1883, 1884, and 1885, illustrative of the progress and development of the colony during those years. I will take the estimated and actual revenue and the estimated and actual expenditure for that period; the revenue from Customs, harbor dues, land, railways, our postal and telegraph service,—the revenue, I may say, from our principal sources. I will also take the value in sterling of our imports and exports

during that period—the quantity and value of our principal articles of export; the tonnage of our vessels entered and cleared out at the various ports of the colony; the acreage of cultivated, alienated, and leased land; the number of our stock; the extent of our railways; the extent of our postal and telegraph services, and the amount of the deposits in our Post Office Savings' Bank. First of all as to the revenue and expenditure: the figures for the three years are as follows:

*Estimated and Actual Revenue and Expenditure.*

	1883	1884	1885
Estimated revenue ...	£255,503	£276,561	£295,666
Actual revenue ...	284,363	290,319	323,213
Estimated expenditure	244,089	312,825	294,891
Actual expenditure	240,566	291,306	308,848
Customs revenue ...	121,269	118,443	134,841

As regards the fall in the revenue from Customs in the year 1884, that was due to the wool ships that season arriving too late to allow the duty being collected before the end of the year. Our harbor dues in 1883 amounted to £4,055; in 1884 to £2,917; and in 1885 to £3,031. I believe this fall was due to the fact of a great deal of cargo that formerly was carried by sailing ships being latterly carried by steamers, which are exempt from harbor dues; also to the circumstance of our wool ships leaving in January instead of December. Our territorial and other receipts during the three years under review were as follows:

	1883	1884	1885
Land revenue	£93,798	£90,471	£100,237
Postages ...	7,760	8,752	10,006
Telegrams ...	3,690	3,762	4,984
Railway receipts	14,515	19,542	27,179
Stamps ...	4,861	4,968	6,574

Hon. members will observe that in all these sources of revenue there is an indication afforded of steady and in some instances marked progress; and the same indications of prosperity will, I think, also be found, on the whole, in the returns dealing with our imports and exports, and our shipping trade:

*Imports and Exports, and Shipping.*

	1883	1884	1885
Imports (value sterling)	£516,845	£521,166	£650,391.
Exports (estimated sterling value)	447,008	405,092	445,207.
Shipping inwards (tonnage) ...	194,273	227,881	231,761.
Shipping outwards (do.)	194,829	215,005	236,274.

So much, sir, for our imports and exports. The latter, it will be observed,

has not kept pace with our imports, but considering generally that trade as regards the staple products of the colony was very depressed, that the price of wool was low, that sandalwood was altogether unsaleable, that lead ore was almost so, and that the take of pearl shells in 1884 was small and the market very low—taking all these things into consideration the returns may, I think, be regarded as satisfactory. I next come to our agricultural statistics for the period under review.

*Agricultural Statistics and Live Stock.*

	1883	1884	1885
	acres.	acres.	acres.
Land cultivated ...	58,111	79,669	77,728
Land alienated ...	30,749	39,894	54,192
Land leased	161,347,734	148,550,986	153,775,473
Live stock—			
Horses ...	32,884	37,111	34,392
Cattle ...	64,558	71,102	70,408
Sheep ...	1,315,155	1,547,061	1,702,719

I next come to the Postal and Telegraph Department, and the Post Office Savings Bank, the deposits in which are gradually increasing, thus affording a gratifying indication of thrift on the part of the community. The balance standing to the credit of depositors on the 31st December last was £26,147.

*Post Office and Telegraph; Railways, &c.*

	1883	1884	1885
Savings Bank deposits	£11,818	£12,839	£13,733
Post Offices ...	61	78	80
Telegraph (do.) ...	29	31	35
Miles of telegraph ...	1,591	1,853	2,288
Government railways (miles open) ...	55	76	124

*Estimated Value of Exports.*

Guano (tons) ...	456	1,163	528
Guano (estimated value)	£2,964	£7,559	£3,432
Copper ore (tons) ...	5	118	119
Copper ore (estimated value) ...	£75	£1,770	£1,792
Lead ore (tons) ...	1,038	696	465
Lead ore (estimated value) ...	£7,266	£4,872	£3,255
Pearls ...	£17,500	£10,000	£15,000
Sandalwood (tons) ...	7,031	2,620	4,527
Sandalwood (estimated value) ...	£56,250	£20,960	£36,216
Timber (loads) ...	19,940	17,234	16,962
Timber (estimated value) ...	£79,760	£68,936	£67,850
Wool (lbs.) ...	3,861,927	4,272,948	4,968,000

With regard to the estimated value of the wool exported, the Blue Book, as hon. members are aware, purports to give us the value, but I am afraid hon. members will consider that the estimate is not a very accurate one, when I say that the value placed upon wool in 1883 was 1s. 3d. per lb.; in 1884, 1s. 2d.; and, last year, 1s. per lb. [Mr. MARMION: Sixpence, more likely.] I may add, sir, that the year 1885 closed with a credit balance

of £89,529. When I remind the committee that these were the transactions of a community numbering in all about 35,000, of whom possibly the bread-winners did not exceed 10,000, spread over an immense extent of country, covering about a million square miles, I think all will admit there is certainly no cause for despondency, but, on the whole, every cause for congratulation. So much for the past.

*Our present Financial Position.*

As regards our present position hon. members are in possession of returns explanatory of that position. As I have already said, we commenced the year with a credit balance of £89,529. Unforeseen events of a very important nature occurred, and necessitated our expending a very large sum of money; but, suffice it to say that after making provision this year for a very liberal expenditure, and also keeping well within bounds, I think, as regards our estimated revenue, we have every reason to believe that we shall close the current year with a credit balance of at least £30,000. I will now turn to the proposed estimates of revenue and expenditure for 1887. Our anticipated revenue amounts to £401,990, exceeding that of last year by £78,777. Our proposed expenditure amounts to £430,307, exceeding last year's expenditure by £121,459. These, sir, are certainly very large sums—the largest, I think, that this House has ever had to deal with. But I can assure hon. members (to use a somewhat hackneyed phrase) that the estimates of revenue and expenditure have been framed with the utmost regard to economy. So far as the estimates of expenditure are concerned, they have been framed under a most careful consideration of the paramount and urgent wants of the various districts of the colony, and of the claims of various officials to an increase of salary.

*Salaries of Public Officers.*

I may remark, sir, as to this last point, what I think hon. members will admit, that, as in the management of a private establishment, so also in the management of the public estate, it will be found true economy to have an adequately paid and contented staff of servants. The cost of living in this colony has of late increased considerably and is still increasing; moreover, the knowledge that is pos-

essed of the other colonies and the facility with which we can reach them has rendered it necessary that the salaries of our public servants should be increased, if we wish to secure and retain the services of really good men. This applies more especially, I may say, to the Railway, Postal, Customs, and Police Departments. I may state for the information of hon. members that, with a view of putting a stop to the practice of solicitations for an increase of salary being made by various officers on the score of length of service, a large family, or other personal grounds, His Excellency the Governor contemplates appointing a committee or commission during the recess to inquire into this matter, with the view of classifying posts and rating salaries. Each post will be rated according to the duty to be performed in connection with it, and not according to the merits of the individual who may happen at the time to hold it. Any suggestions that may be made by the committee will of course be submitted to the Legislative Council for ratification.

*Public Works and Buildings.*

A further large provision has been made for works and buildings in the Kimberley District. The rapid development of this district has rendered it imperative that steps should be immediately taken to construct buildings and other works there. Numerous demands have also been made from various parts of the colony for works of different kinds; and provision has been made, as far as our means will allow, for the most urgent and important. It has also been found necessary to make more liberal provision for roads and surveys. The extension of our Railway, Postal, and Telegraph services, the necessity for establishing a staff of officials on the goldfields, and also to provide additional police protection in various parts of the colony, and to strengthen the Customs department—all these proposals have involved a heavy permanent additional expenditure.

*Re-classification of the Police.*

There are certain items on the Estimates that I wish now to draw the attention of hon. members to. First of all, as to the Police Department. Hon. members will doubtless remark that the demands of the Police Department are ever increasing. I cannot deny it. But the main

cause of this increase is due to the large addition to the force that we have been obliged to make in the Kimberley District. Provision outside that has been made for certain other increases in the force,—to provide a guard, in the first instance, at Government House, as the Enrolled Pensioner Guard ceases to exist next year. It has also been found necessary to increase the police force on certain stations; and provision has also been made for certain additions to meet any necessity that may arise for increasing the force on the goldfield, which I am afraid will be inevitable. Recommendations have also been made by the Acting Superintendent of Police, which I trust will meet with approval, as to a re-classification of the men on the force, and also as to an alteration in the scale of pay.

*Special Coast Survey.*

I now, sir, come to the item Special Coast Survey. As it has been found impossible to carry on the coastal survey in a satisfactory manner with the present sailing vessel, the Admiralty authorities were communicated with on the subject of replacing the *Meda* by a steam vessel, and for this object funds can be obtained if this colony will increase its annual subscription from £2,000 to £3,000. A sum of £500 only has been placed on the Estimates for 1887 for this purpose, simply because if a steamer is sent out there is no probability of its being here before the middle of next year.

*Immigration.*

It will be noticed that a sum of £15,000 has been placed on the Estimates for immigration. As regards this sum, £10,000 of it, I may inform hon. members, has to be provided for payment to Mr. Hordern's syndicate, who, under their contract with the Government, have to introduce 1,000 immigrants a year, for which they are to receive £10 a head. As to the balance of £5,000, as the Board of Immigration will necessarily have to contract their operations—and it is their intention so to do—this sum, together with the credit balance which the Board will probably carry on this year, has been deemed sufficient to place on these Estimates for public immigration purposes.

*Geological Department.*

The sum of £1,000, it will be perceived, has been placed on the Estimates for securing the services of a Government Geologist, and the establishment of a Geological Department. I think hon. members must admit that the time has arrived when such a permanent appointment should be made. I do not intend here to enter into the question of the relative merits of scientific and practical men. That subject has been discussed fully in this House: I will only say in passing that I think it will be generally found that whatever success—I think I may say this without disparaging the merits of practical men—I think it will be generally found that whatever success has attended the efforts of practical men has been due to the little smattering of science which they possessed, however they picked it up. Be that as it may, I feel confident that the establishment of a system of geological survey in this colony would now prove of very great advantage. We are at present, as I think all will admit, reaping the benefit of the efforts and observations of a scientific man.

*Adelaide Exhibition.*

A sum of £3,000 has been placed on the Estimates for the forthcoming Adelaide Exhibition. Hon. members are aware that the South Australian Government intend holding an Exhibition in Adelaide next year to commemorate the jubilee year of Her Majesty's reign and also the jubilee year of the foundation of that province. His Excellency the Governor, on the invitation of the Governor of South Australia, has consented to be appointed one of the vice-presidents of the Exhibition Commission, and this colony has also been invited to co-operate. It will rest with hon. members to decide whether they are of opinion that the colony is in a position at present to do so. Should they declare to that effect, the Governor will be prepared to appoint a committee or commission to carry out the undertaking.

*Jubilee of Her Majesty's Reign.*

Sir, there is another item, of £5,000, placed on these Estimates to enable us to commemorate the jubilee of Her Gracious Majesty's reign. Hon. members are aware that the year 1887 is the jubilee year of Queen Victoria's accession

to the throne, and that a voice has gone forth throughout the length and breadth of the Empire, suggesting that efforts should be made to fitly celebrate this auspicious event, in some form or other. I think we in Western Australia yield to no province of the British Empire in loyalty to the Throne, and I feel confident that the whole colony will be but too ready to adopt some method of celebrating it in a manner that will not only meet the approval of the august Lady whose reign we wish to celebrate, but also in a manner that may prove beneficial to the colony, and be a memorial that we may hand down to posterity, to commemorate the reign of the most constitutional Sovereign that ever presided over the destinies of the British Empire. His Excellency the Governor, as I have already said, has placed on the Estimates a sum of £5,000 for the purpose of carrying out this object, and, should it meet with the approval of this honorable House, His Excellency will be prepared to appoint a committee to consider and report upon the subject, and, if the suggestion of the committee is approved, to carry it into effect. His Excellency intends placing on that committee all the members of the Legislative Council who are in a position conveniently to act upon it. So far, sir, as regards the proposed expenditure; with respect to which I do not think there is any further explanation required from me at present.

*Estimated Revenue.*

With regard to the estimated revenue for 1887 we anticipate realising—and I think with reason—considerable additional sums from the following sources:—Customs, land, postages, telegrams, railway receipts, and stamp revenue. The Customs revenue for 1885 amounted to £134,841, and the estimated revenue for 1886 was £149,614; and, when we consider the large sums that we shall undoubtedly receive from the new district that has been opened up, I think we are within bounds when we estimate that the Customs revenue for 1887, from all sources, will amount to £177,650. Then as to land revenue. Our Territorial revenue for 1885 amounted to £100,237; the estimated revenue for 1886 was £96,250; and for 1887 we have put down the sum of £105,000 from this source. The revenue from Postages during 1885

amounted to £10,006; the estimated receipts from the same source this year is £10,890; and, during 1887, we estimate upon receiving a sum of £13,000. From Telegrams, in 1885, we received £4,984; the estimated revenue for the current year is £7,429; and for 1887 we have placed a sum of £9,000 on the Estimates. Our Railway receipts in 1885 amounted to £27,179; the estimated revenue for the current year is £35,299; and in view of the extension of our railway system, I think we may reasonably expect to receive £45,000 from this source next year. The Stamp revenue for 1885 amounted to £6,574; the estimated receipts for this year are £6,999; and next year we hope to realise £8,000 from this source. I may here point out that I have based my calculations not alone on these figures, representing the actual amounts received last year and the estimated revenue for this year, but also upon the amounts actually realised from these sources up to the present time this year. For instance, our Customs revenue up to the 30th June last amounted to £71,614, and last month (July) we received £13,311 from the same source. Our land revenue for the first half year amounted to £76,559, and in July we received a further sum of £5,789. Postages up to the 30th June last brought in £5,425, and the receipts from the same source last month amounted to £1,040. Telegrams during the first six months of the year realised £3,694, and last month our receipts from telegrams amounted to £486. Our railway receipts up to the 30th June amounted to £16,085, and July gave us a further sum of £3,438. During the first half of the year the stamp revenue realised £3,875, and we received £690 from the same source last month.

*Our Credit Balance.*

Reviewing, then, our estimates of revenue and expenditure for the coming year, we find I am sorry to say that our credit balance is approaching vanishing point. It has been the end and aim of the Government to keep in hand a sufficient sum to meet any unforeseen events that may arise necessitating additional expenditure. These events, sir, have arisen, and I do not think we ought to regret that they have arisen. At any rate, we have been in a position, through having this "nest egg"

(so to speak), to meet these additional demands, without, as I said before, increasing our indebtedness. But our nest egg has been almost consumed. At the same time, there is no course, sir, I consider, for alarm. Our burdens may be heavy, but I feel confident that our backs will be equal to bear them; and I think there is every reason to hope—although we have, prudently I think, limited our expectations—I think there is every reason to hope that we shall close the year 1887 with a substantial balance. Sir, my task is nearly done. As the various items are considered in detail, I shall be prepared to give further and fuller information to hon. members. But, before sitting down, I would desire to make a few further remarks. I would like to allude to the important measure that this House has been considering for some time past, namely—

*The Land Regulations.*

I would again repeat, sir, with regard to these land regulations, that I feel confident the deliberations of this House will result in the passing of a measure that will be a lasting benefit to the colony. As affecting our revenue, I have said, sir, that while engaged in floating loans we have been in a measure also floating on them. But I am no pessimist. I believe in the future of Western Australia, and I believe that, when these loan waters subside, Western Australia will continue to float prosperously on more permanent waters, created by the aid of these land regulations, by the expenditure of money judiciously on reproductive works, by the energy and the ability of her people, and by her affairs being administered with a due admixture of caution and enterprise. Sir, I beg to move the first item on the Estimates—"Governor's Establishment, £673 16s. 8d."

MR. SHENTON congratulated the hon. gentleman on the able and lucid speech which he had just delivered, and which took them back to the old days of Mr. Barlee's celebrated budget speeches. A speech of this exhaustive character required very careful consideration, and hon. members would like to see it in print before proceeding to discuss it. He would therefore move that

the debate be adjourned until Friday evening.

This was agreed to.

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

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LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

*Thursday, 19th August, 1886.*

Report of the Commission on the Government Store Department—Well construction between Ashburton and Wooramool—Recommendations of Heads of Departments as to Increases of Salaries—Grants in Aid to Municipalities—Aborigines Protection Bill: referred to select committee—Mr. Dobson's Railway Proposals, Bayswater to Busselton: adjourned debate—Smelting Works, Victoria District: Mr. Trevenack's Proposal: adjourned debate—Closure of Drummond Street Bill: third reading—Adjournment.

THE SPEAKER took the Chair at noon.

PRAYERS.

GOVERNMENT STORE DEPARTMENT:  
REPORT OF COMMISSION.

MR. SCOTT, in accordance with notice, asked the Acting Colonial Secretary to lay on the table the report of the Commission on the Government Store Department.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. S. Smith) said, as the report alluded to by the hon. member was of a semi-confidential nature, the Government did not think it would be expedient to place it on the table of the House; but if the hon. member would call at his office, he should be glad to show it to him.

WELL-CONSTRUCTION BETWEEN  
ASHBURTON AND WOORAMOO.

MR. SHOLL, in accordance with notice, moved, "That an humble address be presented to His Excellency the Governor, praying that he would be pleased to place on the Estimates for