

The departmental vote was then put and passed.

Progress reported.

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

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Wednesday, 25th August, 1886.

Kimberley District Quarter Sessions Bill: first reading—Reappropriation Bill, 1886: in committee—Guildford and Greenough Railway Confirmation Contract Bill: in committee—Wines, Beer, and Spirits Sale Act, 1880, Amendment Bill: in committee—Estimates, 1887—Adjournment.

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

PRAYERS.

KIMBERLEY DISTRICT QUARTER SESSIONS BILL.

THE ACTING ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt) moved the first reading of a bill to provide for the constitution of Courts of General Sessions of the Peace in the districts of East Kimberley and West Kimberley, and to amend the law relating to the qualification of jurors and the constitution of juries in such Courts.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

REAPPROPRIATION BILL, 1886.

The House went into committee on this bill.

Clauses 1 and 2 were agreed to, *sub silentio*.

SCHEDULE.

	£	s.	d.
Extension of the Telegraph System to Kimberley Goldfield, Wyndham, and South Australian Border, in the East Kimberley District	60000	0	0
Extension and enlargement of Fremantle Jetty	12500	0	0
Water Works and Supply at Fremantle	7000	0	0
	79500	0	0

MR. VENN moved that the words "Wyndham and South Australian Border" be struck out. He understood the hon. member for York had intended moving that the words "South Australian Border" be struck out, and, in the hon. member's absence, he would do so for him, without saying much more on the subject, beyond that if we took our line to join the South Australian line we should be going considerably out of our way to divert a considerable amount of traffic from this colony to the other colonies. The great object of this bill was the development of the Kimberley goldfields, and he thought they might as well confine themselves to that object, and leave this question of the duplication of the South Australian line for future consideration. When he attempted to address the House before on the subject of having two lines to the goldfields, one from Derby and the other from Wyndham, an attempt was made to stifle discussion, as he thought. He had simply wanted to explain what he considered was not "hostile" action on his part. One hon. member spoke of the hostility of some hon. members; but, for his own part, he did not think there had been any exhibition of hostility, but simply to impress upon the Government that the matter was one that required the exercise of a certain amount of caution. It was an attempt to fatter upon those who desired discussion a feeling of hostility which they did not possess, and who, as a matter of fact, had as much at heart the development of the Northern District as the hon. member Mr. Grant, or the hon. member for Fremantle (Mr. Marmion). Nor had those who were anxious to have this matter discussed any idea of being able hereafter to put their finger upon the pages of *Hansard*, and say "Didn't I tell you so," as the hon. member for Fremantle the other evening seemed to think. There was no one in that House so fond of quoting *Hansard* as the hon. member himself. With regard to the way in which it was proposed to construct these telegraph lines, he must say it did appear to be rather an out-of-the-way proceeding for the Government to undertake the work themselves rather than call for tenders. No doubt the item of transport would be an exceedingly heavy one—

possibly far beyond what the Director of Public Works contemplated; and, supposing that this £60,000 should not be sufficient to complete the work, what position would they be in then? If they started two lines, one from Derby and the other from Wyndham, and they had to stop half way, what good would either of the two lines be to them, so far as communication with the goldfields went? They might as well be without them. He thought it would be far better policy to commence at Derby and go straight to the goldfields at once, and thus establish direct communication with the goldfields, which was their great object, and which would be doing a great deal more than any other colony had done for the development of their goldfields. He knew of no case where a Government had ever established telegraphic communication with a goldfield before the existence of a payable goldfield had been definitely ascertained. According to that day's papers, these fields were a complete failure. It struck him again that their best course was to open up direct communication with the goldfields from Derby, leaving Wyndham and the South Australian border alone. The latter he considered premature altogether. He therefore moved that these words be struck out.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. S. Smith) pointed out that they had already passed the appropriation clause of the bill, which provided that it shall be lawful for the Governor to appropriate and expend certain sums for the public works enumerated in the schedule, and the total amount to be appropriated had been sanctioned.

MR. VENN: I do not propose to reduce the amount.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. S. Smith): Then, I hardly think it is advisable to make the proposed alteration in the schedule. As I have stated already, the Government certainly are not likely to go hastily to work upon this line to the South Australian border. Nothing will be done without the co-operation of the South Australian Government.

MR. MARMION said that in spite of the remarks which he made on a previous occasion, he felt, on reconsideration, very much inclined to support the amendment.

The more he considered this South Australian line the less did its advantages seem to him for this colony, and he believed it would have the effect of diverting a great deal of traffic from our own line. He did not see why we should sacrifice our own interests in any way,—especially when we were not asked to do so by South Australia. He thought it was a mistake on the part of the Government to have come forward voluntarily and made these overtures. For financial reasons, and in the interests of the colony, he felt inclined to support the amendment.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. J. Forrest) said he could not agree with the hon. member at all. The hon. member said that the trade and traffic would be diverted from our own lines; but it appeared to him that if we altered our tariff we could get as much for our telegrams from Wyndham to Port Darwin as if they came this way. At any rate, whatever the charge was, it could be regulated so that this colony would not lose. The same applied to trade.

CAPTAIN FAWCETT could not understand the opposition to the South Australian line when the Government stated clearly that the line would not be taken in hand unless the South Australian Government joined with us.

MR. LAYMAN thought the hon. member for Fremantle was somewhat inconsistent, after supporting the proposal of the Government the other day, in its entirety, to turn round now and support the amendment of the hon. member for Wellington.

THE COMMISSIONER OF RAILWAYS (Hon. J. A. Wright) was afraid some hon. members were inclined to take a somewhat narrow and selfish view of this intercolonial line. Such a line, by duplicating the present means of communication, would be a benefit to all these colonies, as it would obviate the present interruptions in the transmission of European telegrams from Port Darwin. Surely if the South Australian Government came 300 miles to meet us on the border, we might go sixty or eighty miles to join them.

MR. LOTON thought that so far as the advantages went they were entirely in favor of carrying this line to the South

Australian border. The main question was: were the funds available sufficient to carry out both works? Our first duty must be to establish communication with the goldfields and with Wyndham, and, should there be a balance available for extending the line to the South Australian boundary, he should say it ought to be done,—that was, if the South Australians were prepared to join us.

MR. GRANT thought there was everything to commend the Government project. They talked a great deal about Federation, and it appeared to him we had an opportunity here of showing whether all this talk was genuine, or whether it was simply humbug. All the colonies were interested in having a duplicate line, and, if the South Australian people were willing to come hundreds of miles to meet us, surely the least we could do was to go sixty or seventy miles to shake hands with them.

The amendment submitted by Mr. VENN was then put and negatived.

Schedule agreed to.

Title and preamble agreed to.

Bill reported.

GUILDFORD AND GREENOUGH RAILWAY, CONFIRMATION CONTRACT BILL.

The House went into committee on this bill.

Clauses 1 to 5 were agreed to, *sub silentio*.

Clause 6—“Subject to the terms and conditions of the said contract, it shall be lawful for the contractor, during the construction and after the completion of the said contract, and in addition to the lands by the said contract authorised to be taken by him, in like manner, and subject to the same liability as to payment of compensation, to enter upon and take in such places and to such extent as he, with the consent in writing of the said Commissioner, shall think fit, or as the said Commissioner in writing shall direct, such quantities of land at Perth, Fremantle, and Geraldton as shall be necessary and sufficient for the erection and construction of workshops, stations, sidings, goods and carriage sheds, warehouses, depots, wharves, station yards, and approaches thereto respectively, and such lands so taken shall, on the completion of the

“railway, vest in and be granted to the contractor in fee simple, and such lands shall be used for railway purposes and no other.”

MR. WITTENOOM asked whether the words “subject to the same liability as to payment of compensation,” meant the same as the liability on the York and Beverley line?

THE COMMISSIONER OF RAILWAYS (Hon. J. A. Wright): Precisely the same. If the land is not within a townsite or is suburban land there will be no right to compensation.

MR. MARMION: I see nothing in the contract empowering the contractor to take these lands at Perth, Fremantle, and Geraldton, as contemplated in this clause. I also see by the contract that the line is to become the property of the Government, and to be worked by the Government; therefore I fail to see what right the contractor has, under his agreement, to take these lands at all.

THE COMMISSIONER OF RAILWAYS (Hon. J. A. Wright): The fact of the matter is, that when Mr. Price-Williams came out here as agent for the Waddington syndicate, he asked that they should have running powers over the Government railways, from Guildford to Fremantle, and from Geraldton to Greenough. This was refused him. He then asked, whether, in the event of a glut of traffic, we would agree to duplicate the line between Guildford and Fremantle, and we agreed to do so on certain conditions. The question then arose as to station and workshop accommodation, sidings, and so on. It was obvious that the present station accommodation would be insufficient, and the Syndicate asked whether they could get sufficient land for their stations, etc. We had no objection to that, for we saw it would save the Government a large expenditure. The same principle was applied in many cases in England. The Government will have no responsibility, whereas, on the other hand, we might have been called upon, on our own responsibility, to provide all this extra accommodation. The selection of the land is to be subject to the approval of the Commissioner, and it was the best bargain we could possibly have made, in the interests of the colony.

MR. LOTON said it appeared to him there would still be conflicting interests

at work, though he could see that it was necessary the Syndicate should have facilities at the termini in the shape of stations and workshops, and, of course, before they went to the expense of erecting these buildings it was necessary they should have some security of tenure.

The clause was then agreed to.

Clause 7—Repealing the Eastern Railway Extension Act, 1881 (relating to Stirling Square, Guildford):

Agreed to, *sub silentio*.

Title and preamble, agreed to.

Bill reported.

WINES, BEER, AND SPIRITS SALE ACT, 1880, AMENDMENT BILL.

The House went into committee on this bill.

Clauses 1 to 11—agreed to *sub silentio*.

Clause 12.—“If any licensed person shall sell, supply, or give any spirituous liquor, or mixed liquor part whereof is spirituous, in any quantity whatsoever, or fermented liquor or any mixed liquor part whereof is fermented, in any quantity whatsoever, to any person under the age of fourteen years for himself or for any other person, the licensed person so selling, supplying, or giving the same shall for every such offence forfeit and pay a penalty of five pounds, to be recovered before any one or more Justice or Justices of the Peace in Petty Sessions.”

MR. MARMION was afraid there were difficulties in the way of carrying out this clause. He believed this was not the first time they had had a similar clause brought in, but on a former occasion it was thrown out. He did not mean to say that it was a proper practice, but they knew that very often the younger branches of a man's family were sent for the family beer, at dinner time, or for supper, as the case might be; but this clause would subject a publican to a penalty for supplying liquor to any messenger under fourteen years old. He thought, although in theory it might appear a very desirable thing to do, it would be found that in practice the clause would prove inoperative. How was a publican to know whether a youngster was under fourteen or just turned fourteen? Would every juvenile messenger sent for a pint of beer for the family dinner have to take

his baptismal register with him? Why should the age be fixed at fourteen? Of course he could understand the object of the clause, which was to prevent publicans from serving these youngsters with liquor for their own consumption; but this seemed a very clumsy way of going about it.

The clause was then put and passed.

Clause 13.—Penalty for supplying liquor to aboriginal natives increased from £5 to £20:

MR. PARKER said he should like to hear some explanation why it was proposed to increase the penalty. He had not heard of any abuses of the clause, or of convictions under it. He could not help thinking that if anyone—and the clause applied to unlicensed persons as well as to publicans—inadvertently gave a native a glass of beer it was rather a heavy penalty to subject him to a penalty of £20.

THE ACTING ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt) thought the fact was notorious that convictions hardly ever took place—he thought he would be correct in saying none whatever—under this clause, as it stood, not because a certain class of persons were not in the habit of supplying natives with liquor, as was seen by the records of the police courts, but because of the difficulty of sheeting the offence home to the guilty parties; and, he thought, when they did find the guilty parties they ought to be subjected to a very severe penalty. It was notorious that these natives not only got supplied with liquor, but frequently got drunk on it; scarcely a week passed but one or more of them were brought up at the police court. But it was hardly ever known that a native could be got to divulge where he got the drink. These blackfellows were very cute indeed upon that point; and, in view of the difficulty of tracing the offender, it was considered that £5 was a very small penalty indeed. It would be admitted that it was a most reprehensible and dangerous practice to give these natives alcoholic liquors. He might remind the committee that this clause did not prevent a master from giving his native servant a glass of beer occasionally. As a rule it was the sly-grog seller and public house loafer who supplied these blackfellows with drink, and not the respectable publican, and

hence the difficulty of sheeting home the offence.

MR. MARMION said if it was a reprehensible thing—and no doubt it was a reprehensible thing—to give these natives any intoxicating liquor, it was equally reprehensible on the part of an employer as upon the part of anybody else. It appeared to him that this practice of allowing masters to supply their native servants with drink was that which very often created a taste and a craving for drink amongst these blacks. He would prefer himself seeing this power on the part of employers to supply their natives with drink struck out.

MR. GRANT was quite in accord with the hon. member for Fremantle. It was not desirable that these natives should have liquor given to them at all; nor was it necessary. A native under the influence of alcohol became a demon, and he knew of a case where a native murdered a girl because she would not give him some grog.

MR. WITTENOOM said it was occasionally necessary to administer alcohol in the shape of medicine. There were very few employers who would give their native servants liquor, even in their own interests, if they thought it would do them harm. It must be remembered there were two classes of natives—one who was still but a savage, while the other was semi-civilised. The latter was as much used to drink as Europeans were. He thought the penalty now proposed was a very high one. A man would have to sell a good quantity of liquor to natives even to make up a £5 penalty.

MR. GRANT instanced a case that occurred at the North where a man was fined £5 five times for supplying natives with drink; so that it seemed that the present penalty was not a deterrent one. If he had his own way he would make the penalty still more severe, and make it imprisonment.

MR. SHENTON said it was not the publicans who supplied these natives with drink, and the difficulty was to find out who did so. They often read of natives being had up at the police court for being drunk—he was sorry to say that a native in his own employ figured there pretty often; and he always tried to find out from him where he got his

drink, but he could never ascertain. He had found this much out, however,—it was not at the public houses that these men got their liquor; he believed they obtained it from illicit grog sellers, or through public house loafers, who would do anything to get hold of a shilling.

THE HON. J. G. LEE-STEERE said he had always taken a great interest in the natives about his own place, where a good many of them assembled. A few years ago it was an unknown thing to see a drunken native; they never knew what it was to touch drink. But, since there had been a public house in the neighborhood, they had nearly all become drunkards. It was almost impossible to keep them away from the public house—he did not say they were encouraged there by the publican, for he was a very decent man—they were enticed there by sly grog men and loafers, who, by getting the drink for them, made something out of the transaction for themselves. As to preventing masters from supplying their natives with liquor, he should not object to that, for he did not think they could offer a greater benefit to the natives themselves than to debar them from touching it.

MR. HARPER would gladly see the clause go further. Not only did drink demoralise these natives, but also encouraged them to pilfer for the sake of getting the liquor.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. J. Forrest) was afraid it would be very little use to make it penal upon masters to supply their natives with a glass of grog, for very few of them would observe the law in that respect. It seemed somewhat inconsistent that we should be so severe in the case of natives, when we knew that whites themselves gave way to drink. There was a great difference between the man who, after a hard day's work, gave his native a glass of colonial beer or wine, and the man who sold him drink for the sake of profit, regardless of the consequences.

The clause was then put and passed.

Clause 14—"The prohibition of the sale of liquor by a licensed person on a Sunday, Good Friday, or Christmas Day, in the 61st Section of the principal Act contained, shall not extend to a sale by a person holding a publican's

"general license, wine and beer license, "or a wayside house license to a *bonâ fide* traveller or lodger."

MR. MARMION asked whether this clause applied to the holders of hotel licenses?

THE ACTING ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt) said the 61st section of the principal Act enacted that "no person licensed under this Act shall sell or retail any liquor" on the days in question. A hotel keeper was a "person licensed under the Act." It had been recently held by the Supreme Court that the prohibition was an absolute prohibition under this section of the Act, and that was the reason why this clause was introduced in the present bill.

MR. PARKER thought the clause hardly went far enough. It only applied to a prohibition of the "sale" of liquor. According to the 61st section of the principal Act, not only was the selling of liquor prohibited, but also the supplying and the drinking of liquor.

THE ACTING ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt) said the words of the section were "sell or retail." He took it that the word "sell" applied to publicans, and the word "retail" to gallon license holders or spirit merchants. He moved that progress be reported, and leave given to sit again.

Agreed to.

Progress reported.

ESTIMATES, 1887.

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

Gaol Department, £15,232 5s.:

MR. PARKER said that last year he mentioned that he hoped the Government would reorganise this department, so as to have one gaol instead of two. He thought it would be a good thing for the colony if that big barrack of a convict prison at Fremantle—the first object to catch a stranger's eye on arriving in the colony—were blown up or demolished in some way. He could not help thinking that it was very prejudicial to the colony, and unnecessarily perpetuating a stain upon its past history, that the very first building of any prominence to attract the attention of strangers was this old Con-

vict Establishment, and he thought it would be an excellent thing if it were put out of sight altogether. Not that he wished to see all these prisoners located at Perth, but that the Government might consider some scheme under which they might be removed from both Perth and Fremantle. There was another thing which he thought was calculated to create a very bad impression upon strangers, and that was to see gangs of prisoners marched through the streets, going to their work or from their work. If a visitor went to Government House itself, the probability was that he would come across a convict party. Everywhere he went the first thing to attract his attention was a gang of convicts. He thought nothing did so much to deteriorate us in the eyes of strangers as these relics of convictism, and of a penal settlement. He should think it would be good policy to conceal these things from the eyes of new comers rather than parade them before their eyes in this way. For his own part, he should like to see these prisoners placed in charge of the Director of Public Works, and let him see what work he could get out of them. Let the Director of Public Works be the one big gaoler of the colony, so far as working the prisoners went. He believed, from the hon. gentleman's experience and energy, he would get more out of them than was got out of them under the present system. These convicts formerly used to work on the roads, and he did not see why we should not resume that system, or, at any rate, get rid of them from the centres of population. He hoped this would be the last time they would see these items of prison superintendents, prison warders, and all these prison officials on these Estimates.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. S. Smith) said he quite agreed with the hon. member as to the desirability of removing prisoners from Perth and Fremantle, but he was afraid they should not be able to do so by this time next year. At some future period it might be possible to do so, and he thought it would be a very desirable thing indeed to concentrate these men somewhere away from Perth or Fremantle, and he hoped the day might arrive—and not before very long—when we should be able to do so.

MR. MARMION asked what number of prisoners there were now at Perth and Fremantle?

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. S. Smith): About 200; or between 200 and 300.

MR. MARMION said this appeared a very large staff for such a small number; but possibly that was because we had to keep up two establishments. There were no less than sixteen warders employed, in addition to which there were two separate staffs required for purposes of supervision. He certainly thought we might effect a considerable economy and saving, if all these prisoners could be concentrated at some one point. He understood that a Commission had recommended it, and that the Government had promised to do so.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. S. Smith) pointed out that there was a considerable reduction in the number of warders at Perth, in consequence of several prisoners having been removed to Fremantle, and it was proposed to draft more of them; but they must keep a few in Perth, and therefore it was necessary to keep a staff here.

MR. SCOTT thought that £15,000 was an enormous sum to cover the expense of keeping 200 or 300 prisoners, and he should think the Government might be able to reduce it materially. He should imagine that £10,000 would be ample.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. S. Smith) pointed out that provision was made on these Estimates for all the gaols in the colony, and not for Perth and Fremantle alone. It must also be borne in mind that we were receiving £45 per head from the Imperial Government for all Imperial prisoners.

MR. CROWTHER thought it was a very excellent idea to place these men under the Director of Public Works. We should then have some value for our money, as we used to do in Governor Hampton's time, when some of the best roads and bridges in the colony were made by prisoners.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright) said he would have no objection to be appointed Gaoler General, but they could not expect him to act as a warder, as well. He thought himself it would be much better if these men were concentrated, say at York

Green Mount, or some such locality, where their labor might be profitably utilised.

MR. SHENTON said there no doubt was room for economising as regards this vote, and he thought the suggestion of the Director of Public Works was a very good one. He knew the Municipalities of Perth and Fremantle would only be too glad to obtain their stone and gravel for the streets, from York Green Mount. These prisoners if employed in that way would be contributing something towards their maintenance.

MR. MARMION said that in order to effect any economy or any good at all, we must either concentrate these men in one establishment, or remove them in a body elsewhere, and let their labor be turned to some useful account. He hoped the Government would take some notice of the views expressed by hon. members that evening. There was a general idea that a great deal more money was expended on our Gaol Department than was necessary, and he hoped that, at as early a date as possible, there would be a reorganisation of the whole department.

The vote was then put and passed.

Rottneest Prison Department, £4,062 10s.:

MR. SCOTT thought the amount granted to the Superintendent for table allowance was scarcely enough, seeing that this officer was expected to entertain all who visited the island,—far more so than the other functionary at Albany who was allowed a much larger table allowance. He was not speaking in the interests of the individual, but because he knew that the claims upon the Superintendent's hospitality were very large.

MR. SHOLL would prefer to do away with these allowances, and increase the salaries of these officers. He did not think there were many visitors to Rottneest.

MR. GRANT thought the day had come when this Rottneest Establishment should be done away with, and they should revert to the old system, and have the labor of all the natives utilised for the good of the colony, by employing them upon the roads. He thought it would be beneficial all round.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. J. Forrest) was not quite of the same opinion as the hon. member for the North, for this reason: he thought the day had gone by when they wished to see gangs of natives working in chains

about the country—which we should have to do, if we worked them on the mainland. When this matter was considered by the Commission, the members were unanimously of opinion that it would be impolitic to revert to the old system. He thought himself, although Rottneest had some disadvantages as regards climate, that the advantages which it offered more than counterbalanced that drawback. He believed these natives went back much better and more useful in every way to the settlers. He thought we owed a duty towards these natives, to try and improve their condition, morally, as well as trying to get as much labor as we could out of them. We should endeavor to train them up in the way in which we wished them to go, and think of something else besides how much work we could get out of them.

MR. GRANT could not agree with the Commissioner of Crown Lands that natives returned from Rottneest better men than when they went there. His experience of these Rottneest natives was altogether the other way, so far as those sent back to the North went. These converted natives sometimes turned out to be murderers in disguise, and he was not at all satisfied that a visit to Rottneest had any reformative effect upon them.

MR. SHOLL said his experience went to show that these Rottneest natives came out more cunning, more lazy, and greater rogues than when they went in.

The vote was then put and passed.

*Printing Department, £3,555 3s. 10d. ;
Inspection of Sheep Department, £1,762 ;
Educational Department, £10,695 :*

Agreed to, without comment.

Registry Department, £360 :

MR. MARMION asked how it was that the salary of the Registrar General was increased from £150 to £250?

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. S. Smith): Because of his additional duties as Registrar of Patents.

MR. PARKER said that up to last year they had a gentleman who discharged the duties of Registrar General, Registrar of Brands, Registrar of Births, Deaths, and Marriages, and Secretary to the Board of Education, all for about £200 a year; but now it appeared they found it necessary to give the Registrar General £250. The work probably did not

occupy more than about an hour a day, and a boy clerk would do it. He thought it was a great pity the Government did not give the work to some deserving officer who had other work to do, and give him an extra £100 a year, which would have been quite sufficient for all there was to do.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. S. Smith) said there had been four hundred patents already registered. In addition to the work formerly to be done, there was the additional work connected with patents, trade marks, and designs.

MR. MARMION thought £50 would have been quite sufficient for any additional duties imposed.

MR. SHENTON: Is it not a fact that the duties of Registrar of Deeds have been transferred to the Land Titles office?

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. S. Smith): I believe so.

MR. SHENTON: Then we are increasing the salary and reducing the work.

MR. RANDELL did not know that it was his duty to defend the appointment or the salary; but, in all the other colonies, very great importance was attached to statistics, and he believed that a great deal depended upon the Registrar General in compiling these statistics. He believed that under the former arrangement it was found impossible for the Registrar General to do what he trusted in future would be done, in the way of compiling statistical returns showing the progress of the colony. Great pains and great care were shown by our neighbors in the preparation of these returns, and he thought the time had arrived when we ought to have them published more frequently here, and more perfect and elaborate than heretofore. He thought we might reasonably expect this. With regard to the late Registrar General, he thought that gentleman deserved some consideration on the part of that House. He had saved the colony some £800 during the time he held the office, because he was drawing Imperial pay; and he was now suffering in health.

MR. MARMION said of course if it was expected that all this additional statistical information was to be prepared

by the Registrar General in future, his objection to the proposed increase of salary was removed. But they had no official information to that effect.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. S. Smith) said the present Registrar General would certainly have to perform additional duties, as regards trade marks, patents, etc., and there was a great deal to be done.

The vote was then put and passed.

Poor Relief Department, £7,651 :

Agreed to, without discussion.

Aboriginal Department, £2,933 :

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. S. Smith) moved that the item "Board and clothing of children at Perth and Busselton, £683," be increased by £67. There had been an increase of native half-castes admitted into these institutions lately, and the managers had to provide additional funds. There were more applications for admission, and they did not like to refuse these applications, and they appealed to the Government to increase the allowance made out of public funds.

MR. PARKER: Is there no report furnished by the managers of these two institutions?

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. S. Smith): There is no report this year.

MR. PARKER thought they ought to get some returns or information as to the number of children, what they did, what became of them, and so on. The House had been voting money year after year for these two institutions, and they never heard of any of these children growing up into manhood, or what became of them. Did they all die before they attained maturity, or what? The House had a right to have some information on these points.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. S. Smith) said it had been customary for the Bishop to furnish reports, but it had not been done this year. There were forty children, native and half-caste, in the two institutions,—24 at Perth and 16 at the Vasse. The Government paid 1s. for each child; but, in consequence of the number that had recently been admitted there was a deficiency of about £3 a month, which the manager had been endeavoring to ob-

tain through private subscriptions; and the Government proposed to give them this small additional grant.

The motion was agreed to.

MR. SCOTT, referring to the item "Provisions and other necessaries, including clothing, blankets, and rewards for good conduct, £2,000," asked for some explanation as to the cause of the increase in this vote, from £1,500 to £2,000.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. S. Smith) said there had been a considerably increased demand for blankets and clothing, and also for provisions, from various parts of the colony; and it had been deemed advisable, in order to meet the increasing demand that might arise, under the Aborigines Protection Act, to add £500 to this vote.

MR. SHENTON thought it was a very small sum indeed to contribute by the Government towards the natives of the colony, and he should be sorry to see it reduced.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. J. Forrest) thought the vote ought to be very considerably increased. When it was borne in mind that we received £100,000 a year from the land of which we had deprived these natives, he thought we gave them a very small return indeed.

THE HON. J. G. LEE-STEERE thought, if native protectors were appointed, as contemplated by the Act passed this session, they would find a great many more natives who would require to be provided with blankets and provisions. There would also be some expense in connection with the Native Board, who would probably want a secretary. He thought it was a wise provision to increase this vote as proposed, in the event of more funds being required.

MR. SHOLL moved that the item "Aid to Protestant Mission, North District, £100," be struck out. He believed the Gascoyne mission had been closed, and, even if it had not been closed, he thought if the Mission committee could not make better use of this money than they had done by importing the Rev. J. B. Gribble—a man who had most grossly libelled the colony, and sought to

degrade it in the eyes of the world—it would be better if this vote were returned to the Colonial Treasurer, until it could be more wisely and advantageously spent. He should be very willing, in the event of a proper missionary being appointed to take charge of the mission, even to increase the vote, but, under existing circumstances, he moved that it be struck out.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. S. Smith) sincerely trusted that the committee would not be of the same opinion as the hon. member. This vote was not for Mr. Gribble but for the Mission. The sum was not a large one, and the object was a good and praiseworthy one, though at present perhaps in bad odour. The Mission at the Gascoyne had only been temporarily closed, and the disturbing spirit had left; and it was hoped the Church would be able to make some better arrangement for carrying on the work in the future than they had been able to do in the past, and that greater success would attend their efforts.

MR. CROWTHER: Has the "disturbing spirit" resigned? Has he thrown over the society or has the society thrown him over?

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. S. Smith): He has ceased to be connected with the Mission altogether.

MR. CROWTHER hoped the hon. member for the Gascoyne would press his amendment, if only as a protest against Gribbleism. No one could get over the fact that this scandal-monger had brought more disgrace upon the colony and upon his Church than anything ever done since the colony was founded. If a really good man for this missionary work were found, he would have no objection to trebling the vote, but it was a hard thing that this colony should be called to contribute towards the support of a Mission, whose missionary had done nothing but basely libel the colony with his tissue of mendacious twaddle. He should strongly advise the hon. member to divide the House upon his motion to strike out the vote, in order to see whether we were to have Gribbleism or no Gribbleism.

Upon the question being put, that the

item be struck out, the committee divided, the numbers being—

Ayes	8
Noes	9

Majority against ... 1

AYES.	NOES.
Mr. Crowther	Hon. J. Forrest
Mr. Grant	Mr. Barges
Mr. Loton	Capt. Fawcett
Mr. McAfee	Mr. Layman
Mr. Pearce	Mr. Parker
Mr. Scott	Mr. Randell
Hon. J. G. Lee-Steere	Mr. Venn
Mr. Sholl (Teller.)	Mr. Wittenoom
	Hon. M. S. Smith (Teller.)

The motion was therefore negatived.

MR. MARMION, referring to the item "Aid to Protestant Mission, North District," asked if any of this vote for native missions was expended in connection with any other denomination than the Church of England? He believed another denomination had expended their means in sending a missionary to the North. Was there not an application for assistance from the heads of that denomination, and, if so, were they not refused that assistance?

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. S. Smith) said he was not aware of any application for assistance having been made, by any other denomination.

MR. SCOTT said he knew that an application for assistance was made, and, if it was not granted, it was virtually promised, and it was a source of grievance to the applicants that the promised assistance was not forthcoming. The Roman Catholics had sent a missionary to the North at considerable expense, and the Government promised them some assistance; but he understood it had never been given.

MR. MARMION said he felt inclined to move the postponement of this item, in order that the facts of the case might be inquired into, and an explanation afforded as to why the assistance was refused or withheld. He thought it must strike hon. members that it was desirable, in the interests of the natives, that missionary enterprise should be encouraged, irrespective of denomination. We had no State Church in this colony, and if assistance out of public funds was granted to one denomination it ought to be granted to another.

MR. SHENTON believed that the missionary sent up by the Roman Catho-

lies (Father McNab) had gone up not only at the expense of his own Church but also at his own expense, and that he had spent a considerable amount out of his own private means, in his missionary efforts. He certainly thought these efforts should be supported out of public funds, as well as the efforts of the Church of England Mission.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. S. Smith) could not fancy that any application for assistance had been made, otherwise it would have been granted. He could not conceive upon what grounds it could be refused. He would certainly inquire into the matter.

The vote was then put and passed.

Government Storekeeper, £1,024 10s.:

MR. PARKER said he noticed it was proposed to give the Government Storekeeper an increase of salary, and also give him a storeman, although he believed it was proposed to relieve him of charge of the railway stores.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. S. Smith) said, as to increase of salary, the office of Government Storekeeper was a very responsible office, and the work he had to discharge was very considerable, as he had now to look after and be responsible for the stores that formerly belonged to the Convict Department. The storeman was required to be in attendance at Fremantle, to obviate the necessity of the Government Storekeeper running up and down to issue and to receive stores.

MR. SHENTON asked the Government if they had taken into consideration the report of the Commission that sat to inquire into this department, which contained some valuable recommendations?

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. S. Smith) said the Government had taken the report into consideration. The Commission recommended, amongst other things, that the Government Storekeeper be allowed an additional clerk at £5 a month, and a laborer at 6s. a day. It was impossible to reorganise the department at present.

MR. SHENTON said it appeared the only attempt made at reorganising it was by increasing the salary of the Government Storekeeper and increasing his staff. He would move that the item

"Storeman, Fremantle, £60," be struck out.

Question—put and passed.

The departmental vote, as reduced, was then agreed to.

Government Garden Department, £619:

THE HON. J. G. LEE-STEERE asked whether there was any rule as to the admission of the public into this garden? It was now closed about 5 o'clock in the afternoon—just the time when people would care to go in and enjoy a walk.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. S. Smith) said the management of the garden was entrusted to a committee, who framed certain regulations for the admission of the public.

MR. RANDELL said the rules were passed after careful consideration, and were sanctioned by the Governor. The hours of admission varied according to the season of the year, and the rule as regards that was, he believed, the same as generally obtained in connection with public gardens in other countries.

MR. SHOLL said this appeared a very heavy annual expenditure for such a garden as this.

MR. LOTON said it was the only recreation ground to which the residents of Perth could send their children to walk about; and, so far as he was concerned, he would not object to see the vote multiplied by five, and he believed the colony would lose nothing by it. We had not got half enough public reserves about Perth. But he thought this garden was treated too much as a flower garden.

MR. RANDELL explained the action of the committee of management at length, and the improvements in contemplation. As to the vote being a large one, he might say the whole of the vote did not go to the public garden; some portion of it, under the head of "Incidental," last year went to Government House garden.

MR. SHOLL: A scandalous shame.

MR. GRANT: So it is.

MR. PARKER said it was no use calling it a public garden and shutting out the public, as they were now shut out. He thought the garden ought to be called an experimental garden rather than a public garden.

The vote was agreed to,

Volunteer Department, £3,796 5s.:

MR. SCOTT called attention to the following paragraph in the report of the Inspecting Field Officer, last year: "The companies and battery at Perth feel the want of a large hall or shed, where drill might be carried on at night, as that is the only time to secure good attendances. Moreover, there is no store-room whatever, except the gunshed, into which all sorts of military stores of an expensive nature have to be crammed, for want of other accommodation. I would take the opportunity, therefore, to urge the necessity for a drillshed being provided for the Volunteers at Perth, and to this end a sum will, I hope, be entered upon the proposed estimate for 1885." He understood that the Volunteers were still without a drillshed, or a gunshed, and that they were greatly inconvenienced by having to go all the way to the Pensioners' Barracks for their rifles. It would be a great boon to them if only some temporary arrangement could be made, whereby some better accommodation were provided for them.

MR. WITTENOOM asked that the Northampton Rifles might be supplied with Martini-Henry rifles.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. S. Smith) said it was the intention of the Government, as soon as they could, to arm all the Volunteer companies with the Martini-Henry.

Vote agreed to.

Item: *Special Coast Survey, £2,500:*

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. S. Smith) explained that this vote had been increased by £500, the Admiralty—as he had already informed the House—having promised to send out a steamer for the use of the Survey, instead of the sailing ship *Meda*, conditionally upon this colony increasing its annual vote from £2,000 to £3,000. The present addition to the vote (£500) was only for a portion of the ensuing year, as it was not expected that the steamer would be out here before the middle of the year.

MR. SHOLL: Unless there is a little more energy thrown into the work, and a little more willingness to do more when this steamer comes than there is now, it will be of very little use. The excuse hitherto has been the unfitness of the vessel; and possibly that is the reason

why the Admiralty are going to send out a steamer. I think myself a great deal more might be done with the *Meda* than there has been. A great deal of time is wasted. I think, when we bear in mind what was done in the earlier days of this Survey, it must be admitted that a lot of this money is frittered away. Captain Archdeacon with his boats used to do more than the *Meda* does. She gets into quiet nooks and corners, and not in the tracks of vessels, seeking for dangerous places. A place like King Sound is too far away from home. It is the common talk of the Northern people and of many other people the way the thing is managed.

MR. GRANT: I quite agree with what the hon. member for the Gascoyne has said. These "quiet nooks and corners" he refers to are about Rottneest and Fremantle. The duties performed now are nothing compared to what was done in former years. As to the *Meda* being only a sailing vessel, some of the most important surveys in the world were done by sailing ships. How did Cook and Flinders do their surveys? This money is thrown away, to my mind. The officers are simply killing time, and it would be far better to engage men to do the work by contract, who would do it for half the money. I believe these Navy men are not responsible to our Government in any way, and they have no masters whatever. There are many places, important places, on this coast they have been asked to go and examine. They go and look at them, but don't put a line down, and return to their "quiet nooks and corners." This state of things ought not to be allowed to exist any longer. We are here to protect the public purse; and, if better work is not performed, let us do our own surveys, or report their action to the Home Government. They are not working at all now to the advantage of the colony.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright) thought it would be much better and more manly on the part of the two hon. members who had just spoken if they had simply moved a vote of censure upon Capt. Coghlan and—

MR. SHOLL: I am quite prepared to do that.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright), continuing,

said: It is simply absurd to hear the hon. member for the North talking about Cook and Flinders, and the surveys done in those days. The hon. member might as well compare what was done in the days before steam and the electric telegraph were utilised with what had been done since. As for King Sound, it would be simply exposing the lives of gallant British officers and sailors to expect them to undertake surveys there, in a sailing vessel like the *Meda*. It seems to me that hon. members ought to be thankful for what has been done for the colony by the officers connected with this Survey, rather than assail them behind their backs in this way.

MR. VENN said he knew a great deal more about King Sound than the Director of Public Works did, and he knew that vessels might work there if they liked. In his opinion it was a waste of the public funds of the colony, these surveys. It had cost the colony thousands and thousands, and what did we get for it? A bit of a report. The Government did not know whether the work was done or not; and the Admiralty were not likely to do anything in the matter. They would naturally say, "There is no complaint from the people on the spot, and things must be going on all right."

MR. MARMION: I think the Director of Public Works has somewhat misunderstood the remarks of the hon. member for the Gascoyne and of the hon. member for the North. I did not understand those hon. members to complain of the desire of the Government to get a steamer instead of a sailing vessel, but that the amount of work done with the vessel at their command has not been what it might have been. As to this, I think that when hon. members rise to speak out as to what they know or what they hear, they ought not to be allowed to stand alone, if there are others in the House who know something of the opinions expressed outside. I think hon. members should not sit quiet on such occasions. I have heard a very great deal said outside about this matter—I don't disguise the fact that I myself have said a great deal: there is a general impression that as much work has not been done as might have been done with the means at their command. I know that a great deal of very useful

work has been done, and done thoroughly—I have great pleasure in expressing that opinion. But what the public complain of is that the *Meda* has been for about nine months every year laying up in harbor instead of being at work. I have heard, in conversation with some of the officers themselves, that the funds at their disposal are only sufficient for them to work a certain time. If so, I think the Admiralty should have been made acquainted with the fact, and that we ought to get six months a year of actual surveying. Whether it is right or whether it is wrong, I can assure the Government that there is an impression abroad that there is not as much work performed by the *Meda* as might have been performed; and I think that practically what has been said by the hon. member for the Gascoyne and the hon. member for the North is what I say myself. If the same views have not been expressed publicly within this House before, I think probably it is because most members have a dislike to refer to the matter, and entertain very great personal respect for the gentlemen connected with this survey, and do not care in fact to do an act which after all is not a pleasant one. Still there are times when it is necessary that the representatives of the people should perform a duty although it may be an unpleasant one, and possibly be distasteful to those they speak of.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. S. Smith): I rise to say that I regret very much that hon. members should have felt justified in speaking as they have done of the Admiralty Surveyors. I really think hon. members must be ignorant of the duties and of the work done by these officers. Hon. members must be aware that last year, during the Russian war scare, these officers were unable to leave Fremantle, being under instructions from Admiral Tryon, in connection with the naval defences of the colony; and no doubt the *Meda* is not a fit vessel to go everywhere where surveys are necessary, especially on our North-West coast. At the same time it must be known to hon. members that some very valuable work has been done. It was only recently that a report was laid on the table of this House of the work carried out by the Admiralty Survey, under Captain Coghlan, and a very excel-

lent and exhaustive report it was. I am sorry if there should be any rumor abroad that the officers have in any way failed in their duty, or been remiss in discharging their duty. If the public knew what they have done and what they are doing, they would not form such an opinion, or entertain it for a moment.

MR. PARKER: I think the impression is mainly formed from this fact—that, for six or eight months a year, the officers of the surveying staff are stationed at Perth. The truth of the matter is—the Admiralty, owing to some rule of the service I believe, insist upon sending us three naval officers for this work, when two, if not one, would be sufficient. With a small vessel like the “*Meda*” we have at least two officers of high rank, each drawing very high pay; and the result is, there is not much left to commission the ship, and they only remain out until the vote is expended. I know that for years past the Government have been urged to provide a steamer for this service, both by the Admiralty and by this House. As far back as 1883 a strong expression of opinion in favor of employing a steam cutter was expressed in this House; and, in 1884, the matter was brought under the notice of the Government again, by myself; and I am glad to find that the Government are at last prepared to carry the recommendation into effect. We shall then have no excuses as to “unavoidable delays.”

CAPTAIN FAWCETT said the newspaper press had stated that the *Meda* was largely devoted to the use of His Excellency the Governor as a pleasure yacht. [AN HON. MEMBER: Name.] He could not think of the name of the paper at that moment, but he held an extract, cut out of it, in his hand, which he would read. It said: “The courteous commander of H.M.S. *Meda* places his vessel at the constant disposal of His Excellency, and the trim little schooner for three months in the year is converted into a pleasure yacht.” He thought the members of that House should have an occasional excursion in the *Meda*, as well as the Governor.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. J. Forrest) said: Whatever opinion some members may have of the value of the services of the Admiralty surveyors, I have a despatch here

from His Excellency the Governor to the Secretary of State, in which His Excellency says: “I feel much indebted to “Commander Coghlan for the able and “zealous manner in which he carried out “my wish that Cambridge Gulf should “be examined, and I should be glad if “the sense which this Government entertain of Commander Coghlan’s important services in this and other “matters during his charge of the Marine “Survey should be conveyed to the Admiralty.” Hon. members should bear in mind that we are only paying one half the cost of this survey; and I am afraid if we do anything discourteous towards the Admiralty they would possibly withdraw the assistance which they now give us. I think so long as the Admiralty authorities are satisfied with the way their officers conduct the work, we should not complain. Wherever the *Meda* goes she is taking soundings and doing useful work. The hon. member for Perth says he thinks one officer would be sufficient for a boat like the *Meda*. I am afraid the hon. member is not quite right there, for, in a surveying ship, one officer could not always be on duty. If hon. members are not satisfied with the way the work is done, of course they are quite right in expressing their opinions; at the same time, I think we should not forget that we are under considerable obligation to the Admiralty. If as much work has not been done as we would like, I think we are all satisfied that it has been well done, and carefully done, and that valuable additions are being made to the hydrographical charts of the colony.

MR. LOTON thought the thanks of the House were due to those hon. members who had brought the matter so prominently before the House. It appeared to him that the chief drawback had been insufficiency of funds. He believed that a larger amount of work might have been done if the vote were larger; and he understood this had been mentioned by the officers themselves. There was no doubt in his mind, from his own observation, that a considerable portion of the time of these officers had been spent in the vicinity of Perth and Fremantle instead of upon the water—seven or eight months in the year. But, if the fault lay in the insufficiency of funds, that was not the fault of the officers, especially

bearing in mind that the officers themselves had brought this fact under the notice of the Government. As to Capt. Archdeacon, no doubt he did some excellent work with his open boats; but the greater portion of his work was done in the vicinity of Fremantle. [Mr. SHOLL: He went to the North, too.] At any rate the present officers had to go much farther. He only hoped that greater progress would be made when they got a steam vessel for the service.

MR. MARMION said that was doubtful, unless they also increased the vote. The expense of working a steamer was pretty near double the expense of a sailing vessel; and if the *Meda* can only be employed for a very short time in the year out of the present vote (£4,000), we should certainly not be able to employ a steamer for any longer time for £6,000. He was afraid we should find that out—though he hoped not.

The vote was then put and passed.
Progress reported.

The House adjourned at midnight.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Thursday, 26th August, 1886.

Steam communication with Wyndham and Derby—Fremantle Gas and Coke Company Bill: second reading—Benevolent Institution, Freshwater Bay (Message No. 10)—Perth Gas Company Bill: in committee—Colonial Hospital—Barristers Admission Bill: third reading—Reappropriation Bill, 1886: third reading—Guildford and Greenough Railway, Confirmation of Contract Bill—Estimates, 1887: further consideration of, in committee—Adjournment.

THE SPEAKER took the Chair at noon.

PRAYERS.

STEAM COMMUNICATION WITH DERBY AND WYNDHAM.

MR. GRANT, in accordance with notice, moved, "That an humble address

"be presented to His Excellency the Governor, informing him that in the opinion of that House it was desirable that steam communication with the northern ports of Wyndham and Derby be increased." The hon. member said he was impelled to move in this matter by the fact that every week they learnt that there was an addition to our population in the Kimberley district, from the other colonies; but, owing to the infrequent means of communication between this part of the colony and Derby we did not know what was going on there, and it was almost impossible for us to pay that attention to that portion of our territory which we ought to do, with our present means of communication, which was only once about every three months with Wyndham. He thought the same arguments might be put forward in favor of this address as were used for the telegraph line, namely, that increased or more frequent steam communication was absolutely necessary for the more efficient administration of the settlement. Besides, by providing more frequent means of communication, we had a chance of bringing more people this way, to see this part of the colony, and probably in some instances induce them to settle down here. Unless something was done to divert the trade of the settlement in this direction, we should find it monopolised by the other colonies. If we were going to take Kimberley in hand, in earnest, it was necessary we should be up and doing, and provide more frequent means of communication; otherwise we had better throw up the district at once.

MR. SHOLL thought this extra steam communication asked for meant an extra subsidy; and it struck him—and he thought it must strike other members—that the time was not far distant when we should do away with subsidies altogether. Anyone noticing the steamers leaving Fremantle for these Northern ports must have observed how heavily—in fact, excessively—they were laden. If we were going to continue subsidising steamers to run in this trade, where the freights were heavy, the traffic large, and the rates high, we were likely to defeat the very object we had in view, of providing this extra steam communication, for it was unreasonable to expect other companies to come here handicapped.