

bill had been drawn on a wrong principle altogether.

**THE ATTORNEY GENERAL** (Hon. C. N. Warton) was sorry to hear such a word as "obstruction" introduced into that House. He had seen obstruction in other places. He thought, however, there was no room and no necessity for it here. With regard to the bill, it was not so much the outcome of his own experience as that of the Crown Solicitor and of the Judges, who, of course, had had more experience than he had.

The amendment submitted by the hon. member for the Greenough—that the bill be read a second time that day six months—was agreed to on the voices.

#### ROADS BILL.

**THE ATTORNEY GENERAL** (Hon. C. N. Warton) formally moved the second reading of this bill, introduced by Mr. Burt last year. The honorable and learned gentleman made no comment upon the bill, which, having been read a second time, was referred to a select committee, consisting of Mr. Marmion, Mr. E. R. Brockman, Mr. Harper, Mr. Speaker, and the Attorney General.

#### CLASSIFICATION OF CLERKS (MESSAGE No. 4).

The Draft Scheme for the Classification of the Clerical Staff of the Civil Service, prepared by His Excellency the Governor, and submitted to the House by message, was referred to a select committee, consisting of the Colonial Secretary, Mr. Scott, Mr. Sholl, Mr. Venn, and Mr. Loton.

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

### LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

*Monday, 4th July, 1887.*

Material for Telephone Exchange: When indented for—Immigrants introduced by the W.A. Land Co.—Residence for Medical Officer at Greenough—Residence for Medical Officer at Northam—Medical Examination of Immigrants—Survey of line of Railway from Geraldton to Mullewa—Message (No. 6): Reports of Commission on Vegetable Products—Message (No. 7): Prohibition of importation of trees, shrubs, and plants—Message (No. 8): Representation of the Colony at the Centennial Exhibition, Melbourne—Supplementary Estimates, 1887—Small Debts Bill: first reading—Inquiries into Wrecks Bill: first reading—Prisoners Employment Bill: in committee—Life Policy Protection Bill: second reading—Adjournment.

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

#### PRAYERS.

#### MATERIAL FOR TELEPHONE EXCHANGE.

**MR. SHENTON**, in accordance with notice, asked the Director of Public Works:

1st. The date on which the indent for the wire and insulators for the Telephone Exchange was forwarded to the Crown Agents.

2nd. What has caused the delay in obtaining possession of the house, in Perth, for the Exchange.

**THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS** (Hon. J. A. Wright) replied:

1. The date of this indent was the 8th September, 1886. The Inspector of Telephones having been employed in laying the Breaksea Telephone Cable, this indent was prepared immediately on the return of that officer to Perth. The materials arrived in the colony a fortnight ago.

2. The difficulty of arranging for the removal of the late occupant has been the cause of the delay in obtaining possession of the house required for the Telephone Exchange.

#### IMMIGRANTS INTRODUCED BY THE W.A. LAND CO.

**MR. PARKER**, in accordance with notice, asked the Colonial Secretary to lay on the table of the House a return showing:

a. The total number of Immigrants introduced to the colony by the W. A. Land Company, Limited.

b. The number that has left the colony.

c. The number (if any) now out of employment or maintained by the Government.

d. The average cost per head of such Immigrants to the Government.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) replied as follows:

a. 1,165 statute adults.

b. Accurate information on this point cannot, at present, be given. Further inquiries are being made. There is no doubt that a considerable number of good men have left the colony.

c. Ten men who arrived by the "Yeoman" are out of employment as yet. They are not maintained by the Government. Three women are receiving rations at the Dépôt. A few have been receiving temporary relief.

d. The average cost to the Government has been about £11 7s. per statute adult, or £1 7s. in addition to the £10 paid to the Company under their contract.

#### IMMIGRANTS INTRODUCED INTO THE COLONY UNDER THE HORDERN CONTRACT.

MR. HENSMAN, in rising to ask the questions standing in his name, said he observed—in fact, the senior and learned member for Perth had himself drawn his attention to it—that his questions had been placed upon the notice paper after those of the hon. and learned member, although he (Mr. Hensman) gave notice of his questions prior to the hon. and learned member doing so. He drew attention to this because he thought the questions ought to have been put down in the order in which they were given to the House. The first question he had to ask was, whether the immigrants who had been introduced into the colony under the Hordern contract had been selected and approved in accordance with the provisions of that contract. With regard to that question, there was a clause in the contract that expressly said that the immigrants shall be selected and approved in the manner agreed upon between the Government and the contractors. The next question he had to ask was, if the immigrants had been selected and approved as provided under the contract, by whom had they been so selected and approved, and in what manner, and when was the manner in which they should be selected and approved agreed upon,

and was such agreement in writing? It would be seen that this second question was very precise; and he wanted to know whether the agreement, if there was one, was in writing, in order that the House might, if necessary, be in possession of the terms of that agreement. He wanted to know, in the third place, how many immigrants had been introduced into the colony up to the present time under that contract? He was quite aware that they had laid on the table of the House a statement of the number of immigrants introduced during last year; but he wanted to know whether the Government would tell them how many had been introduced up to the present time. He also desired to know how many of these immigrants had since left the colony; and he asked this question because it was a matter of common talk that many of the immigrants who had been brought here had since left the colony, and he thought it was very important they should know how many. Lastly, he wished to ask what amount of money had been paid by the Government to the contractor under that contract, in respect of the introduction of immigrants. He asked that question because by the contract three months was given before the payment of any money. The hon. member then formally put the questions standing in his name, as follows:—

1. Have the Immigrants who have been introduced into the Colony under the Hordern Contract been selected and approved in accordance with the provisions of that Contract? 2. If so, by whom have they been selected and approved, and in what manner; and when was the manner in which they should be selected and approved agreed upon; and was such agreement in writing? 3. How many Immigrants have been introduced into the Colony up to the present time under that Contract? 4. How many Immigrants introduced under the Hordern Contract have since left the Colony? 5. What amount of money has been paid by the Government to the "Contractor" under that Contract, in respect of the introduction of Immigrants?

THE COMMISSIONER OF RAILWAYS (Hon. J. A. Wright) replied as follows:—

1 & 2. The Immigrants have been

selected by the Company and approved by the Crown Agents, who are the Immigration Agents for this Government in London. The Crown Agents received written instructions from this Government early last year on the whole subject. 3 & 4. These questions have been already answered by the returns laid on the table of the House by the Honorable the Colonial Secretary, in reply to the previous question—(Mr. Parker's question). 5. £5,675 has been included for payment in this month's schedule, and £5,975 is still due for the Immigrants introduced to date, some of which is not payable for three months.

#### RESIDENCE FOR MEDICAL OFFICER, GREENOUGH DISTRICT.

MR. HENSMAN, in accordance with notice, asked the Director of Public Works whether it was the intention of the Government to provide a residence for the medical officer of the Greenough District? He thought the hon. gentleman would agree with him that this district was one which had a number of colonists settled upon it who were amongst the most desirable in this colony,—that was to say, they were agriculturists; and they had a medical officer who appeared to receive £100 a year—certainly not a large salary; and it was of importance to them that he should have a decent residence. He had no residence at present, and therefore he (Mr. Hensman) now desired to ask whether the Government intended to provide him with a residence.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright) said it was not the intention of the Government to provide a residence for the medical officer of the Greenough district.

#### QUARTERS FOR MEDICAL OFFICER, NORTHAM.

MR. SHENTON, in accordance with notice, asked the Colonial Secretary whether it was the intention of the Government to provide quarters for the medical officer at Northam; or, in lieu thereof, a lodging allowance? In asking this question, the hon. member said that in a country district like Northam, where no lodging allowance was granted to the resident medical officer, it placed that officer at a disadvantage, as compared with medical officers in the larger centres

of population. In the towns, such as Champion Bay, York, etc., where these doctors had a good practice, they were provided with quarters; but in less populous districts they were not. He thought it was the duty of the Government either to provide quarters for the country doctors, or give them a lodging allowance.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) said it was not the intention of the Government to take the action indicated by the question of the hon. member. The hon. member was aware that quarters were only provided in those districts where the medical officers were in charge of convict depôts.

#### MEDICAL EXAMINATION OF IMMI- GRANTS.

MR. SCOTT, in accordance with notice, asked the Colonial Secretary:—1. Whether the Immigrants on arrival in this colony are subjected to a Medical examination with a view of ascertaining that they be physically sound? 2. Whether any means be taken to ascertain whether the Immigrants have really followed the callings they are supposed to have followed? The hon. member said he asked the questions for this reason: it had come under his own observation that in (he might say) several instances, persons had been sent out here that to his knowledge were anything but physically sound when they left home, and, to his knowledge, these individuals had simply gone from service to the hospital. He did not think that was a desirable state of things. If we wanted immigrants, we wanted them in a healthy and sound condition, mentally and physically. It had also been brought to his notice that immigrants had been introduced as laborers, whereas, in reality, they were artisans.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) replied: Immigrants are not medically examined on arrival in this colony. Before being accepted in England, each immigrant furnishes a medical certificate, and is vouched for by two respectable householders, and by the local agents of the company, as to his trade or calling and other points.

#### SURVEY OF LINE OF RAILWAY FROM GERALDTON TO MULLEWA.

MR. KEANE, 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 1888 a sufficient sum of money to defray the cost of a survey for a light railway or tramway from Geraldton to Mullewa,—a distance of about sixty miles. The hon. member said that a similar resolution was submitted to the House by the then representative of the district (Mr. Wittenoom) last session; and it was unnecessary for him on the present occasion to occupy the time of the House by travelling over the grounds, and arguments, and statistics of his predecessor. At the same time he thought every hon. member would agree with him that the settlers of the northern portions of the colony had equally as much right to have a portion of the public funds expended for their benefit as any other part of the colony. There could be no doubt that the best method that could be adopted for developing the northern portions of the colony would be the construction of light railways, which would give the settlers a cheap means of transit for their wool, and also a cheap means of transporting back to their stations the necessary requisites for improving their property. On referring to *Hansard* for last year he found the Commissioner stating that the cost of constructing a line from Geraldton to Mullewa would be no less than about £200,000. He was not going to combat the hon. gentleman's authority on that subject; but he did think that a class of light railways that would suit that portion of the country would cost a much less sum than that. However, the question before them that evening was not the class or description of railway required, but that a survey be made. The Commissioner at the same time stated that it was useless to have a survey made unless that House decided to construct the railway afterwards. He must say that he failed to follow the hon. gentleman in that argument, because he was perfectly certain that the majority of the members of that House would agree with him that if surveys and proper estimates of the various lines already constructed in this colony had been laid on the table of that House before the lines had been authorised, they would have found that not only would the direction of the lines have been altered,

but that the cost of construction would have been much less than it had been. Considerable sums of money had been spent upon surveys in the South, and why should not the North have their surveys? It was not for him to say what the result of this survey might be, but possibly it might eventuate in largely developing the country, and in increasing the value of property to an extent which would be appreciable throughout the colony. He thought the present time was very opportune for making this survey, for the Resident Engineer at Geraldton could carry out the work at very little additional expense to his other emoluments. The information would be of great value whenever the time came to decide what class of railway we ought to go in for, in order to develop our Northern territory. He thought, in view of the telegrams received that day from the Kimberley goldfields, it was very desirable that the House should take into consideration what class of railway we should have in that part of the country. Under the circumstances, he hoped the House would be inclined to support the motion. He thought the settlers at the North really deserved this slight return for the considerable contributions which they made to the revenue of the colony.

THE COMMISSIONER OF RAILWAYS (Hon. J. A. Wright) said he still adhered to what he had stated last session as to the probable cost of this line of railway sixty miles in length, from Geraldton to Mullewa, being about £200,000. Of course if they were going to adopt a 2-foot gauge—which perhaps was what the hon. member was prepared to recommend—it would make a small difference in the cost; but not very much, and he should say that even then the cost would be close upon £150,000. And this railway they were told last session was to bring down two thousand bales of wool annually. The hon. member that evening had not shown them that the traffic would be more. Therefore they were to make a railway sixty miles in length to meet a traffic of about one train per month. It was true the hon. member only asked now that a survey should be made; but he doubted whether even that could be done for less than £1,500 to £1,800; and, unless the House decided that the

line should be constructed, he considered that the money would be thrown away.

MR. SHENTON moved, that the consideration of the address be postponed until the Estimates for 1888 were laid on the table.

This was agreed to, and the debate was adjourned until July 18.

MESSAGE (No. 6): REPORTS OF COMMISSION ON VEGETABLE PRODUCTS.

THE SPEAKER announced the receipt of the following Message from His Excellency the Governor:

"In reply to Address No. 2, dated the 29th ultimo, the Governor has the honor to inform the Honorable the Legislative Council that he has taken steps to obtain, for distribution in this colony, 500 copies of the reports of the Victoria Royal Commission on Vegetable Products.

"Government House, Perth, 4th July, 1887."

MESSAGE (No. 7): IMPORTATION OF TREES, SHRUBS, AND PLANTS.

THE SPEAKER notified the receipt of the following Message from His Excellency the Governor:

"Referring to Address No. 26 of last session, dated the 30th of August, 1886, the Governor has the honor to state that, before prohibiting the importation of trees, shrubs, and plants in the manner suggested in the Address, he thought it might be advantageous to communicate with the Governments of the other Australian Colonies, and of Tasmania and New Zealand, on the subject.

"2. Copy of the correspondence is enclosed for the information and consideration of the Council, whose further views the Governor would be glad to receive.

"Government House, Perth, 4th July, 1887."

MESSAGE (No. 8): MELBOURNE CENTENNIAL EXHIBITION, 1888.

THE SPEAKER further announced the receipt of the following Message from His Excellency the Governor:

"The Governor has the honor to enclose, herewith, for the information and consideration of the Honorable the

"Legislative Council, copy of two communications received from the Government of Victoria with reference to the representation of this Colony at the 'Centennial International Exhibition,' to be opened at Melbourne on the 1st of August, 1888.

"2. The Governor will be glad if the Legislative Council will favor him with their views on the matter.

"Government House, Perth, 4th July, 1887."

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATE, 1887.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser), in moving that the House resolve itself into a committee to consider certain expenses requisite to be incurred during the current year beyond the amount authorised by the Appropriation Act, said it had not been his practice in the past to speak at any great length in introducing the Supplementary Estimates; but, he felt that on this occasion he should offer some remarks as to the financial position of the colony. Perhaps he could not do better to start with than quote his concluding remarks in his report upon the Blue Book for the past year. In that report he said: "The foregoing review of the principal statistics contained in the Blue Book for 1886 may, I think, give great encouragement, for it certainly may be read as indicating a sure and material progress throughout the colony in many directions, despite the depressed state of trade which has been general in the British dominions for a considerable period, but more especially during the past year or so. With its now rapidly expanding trade and better markets, the returns at the end of this year, the fiftieth of Her Majesty's reign, and the fifty-eighth since the foundation of the colony, should mark the commencement of an epoch which a future historian may regard as the beginning of the more real and extended development of Western Australia." He took that as his text on the present occasion, believing as he did that the colony was on the verge of a more successful epoch in its history than at any period in its past. It was unnecessary that in introducing these Supplementary Estimates he should

deal generally with matters on which hereafter it might be his duty to speak at some length to the House—amongst these the tariff, and the expenditure in the Northern district, which had not been that golden egg for the colony, so far, which some of them had been led to imagine it would. He did not refer to recent discoveries of which hon. members had probably seen an account. He was referring now to the fact that the expenditure in the Kimberley districts had exceeded the revenue last year by something over £1,000. Whereas the revenue, including the land revenue, amounted to something over £50,000, the expenditure for the same period exceeded £51,000. He did not here include some portion of Customs duties which were collected in the Southern ports; nor did he refer, on the other hand, to what might be found to be the just share of the contribution of the Northern districts towards the sinking fund and the interest on loan money. It had been said in that House, and said quite recently, that the revenue of the colony during the last few years had gone up by leaps and bounds. There was no doubt as to that. He did not at present intend to traverse back beyond last year, in illustration of their financial position; hon. members were well aware of the progress previously made. But whilst on the one hand the revenue of the colony had gone up by leaps and bounds, it was his duty to remind the committee that the expenditure had gone up in the same way, and threatened to surpass the revenue in agility. This of course was incidental to the opening up of new territory and the extension and expansion of Government supervision. The revenue at present of this colony might be taken as amounting to a sum equal to about £10 per head of the population—accepting the estimated revenue this year as close upon £402,000, and the population as something slightly over 40,000. Whilst alluding to this *pro rata* amount of the revenue, he might say that he had ascertained that the mean revenue of all the Australian colonies during 1885, including Western Australia, amounted to £7 8s. per head of the population. He thought if anything were wanted to demonstrate the elasticity of the revenue of this colony it would be found in the fact he had just stated, that the revenue per head of the population at the present time might be accepted for the current year as equal to £10 per head. Turning to the question of expenditure, the mean gross expenditure of the whole of the Australian colonies during 1885 was at the rate of about £7 15s. per head of the population—which included interest and other public debt charges, whereas in this colony they found that the public expenditure for the past year and the estimated expenditure for the current year would probably reach nearly £11 per head. This showed what the colony was capable of. Therefore when he spoke cheerily of the condition and prospects of the country in his report on the Blue Book, he thought he was justified in doing so. Further on it would be his duty to bring before them facts and figures, which, however, showed the necessity now, as there always had been, of exercising caution. With regard to the public debt of the colony, hon. members were aware that our public debt at present was equal to about 3 $\frac{1}{4}$  years' income. He found that the public debts of all the Australian colonies, as a group, amounted to about 6 years' income—the debt of New Zealand running up as high as about 10 years' income. Here, again, he thought he was justified in speaking cheerily of the condition of the colony. It could not be said that the colony, at any rate had either exceeded or reached the extent of its borrowing powers. Referring to the imports and exports, the figures last year showed the existence of a vigorous trade, very considerably in advance of the previous year, the imports in 1885 being valued at £650,391, whereas last year they were estimated at £758,012, showing an increase of £107,621. Our exports showed a still more satisfactory increase, the figures in 1885 being £446,691, whereas last year the exports of the colony were estimated at £630,393—or an increase of £183,702. Referring to these figures in his report on the Blue Book, he said:—"The fact "is disclosed that our total trade was "about £34 a head for an European "population of 40,000,—being for ex- "ports nearly £16, and for imports over "£18. However, considerable allowance "must be made for the native aboriginal "population now largely employed, and

“contributing to swell both exports and imports, as well as other nationalities, including Malays, engaged in pearling and other industries in the Northern division of the colony.” Taking, however, the mean of the exports and imports of the other colonies as a criterion, he found that here again Western Australia came out favorably; for he noticed that the mean imports of all the colonies was £19 per head, and the mean exports £13 per head, or a total trade of £32 per head of the total population. It afforded a further proof of the remarkable elasticity of our resources, and very good ground for taking a cheerful view of the position and prospects of the colony. Coming on to the question of revenue, and in order to show that however cheering the position of affairs was there still existed the necessity for the exercise of caution, he might here proceed to show the House plainly what our financial position was likely to be at the close of the current year. The total revenue for 1886 was £388,564; the revenue for the first half of the year having amounted to £202,783. The revenue for the first half of the present year amounted to £215,001. The revenue for the second half of last year realised £185,781; and the question now was what the revenue for the second half of the current year would amount to. The principal items in our receipts were the Customs, lands, and the railways; in fact these three items represented about four-fifths of the whole revenue of the colony. He found that the estimated receipts from Customs for 1887 was £177,650. The receipts from the same source for 1886 realised £164,048. During the first half of this year the Customs revenue amounted to £79,102; and the total estimate for the year was £13,602 over and above the receipts for 1886, to make up which we should require during the second half of the year to receive from Customs a sum of £98,548. Coming to our territorial revenue, the total estimated revenue for 1887 was £105,000. The actual receipts from the same source last year was £104,447. The land revenue for the first half of the present year was £71,104; but, as hon. members were aware, the major portion of our territorial revenue—at any rate as regards rents—was received during the first half

of the year; so that we could not calculate upon any very large sum from this particular source during the next half year. The receipts from land sales last year were very considerable; but on inquiry from the acting head of the department, now, he found that there was a doubt whether our receipts from this source during the last half of this year would come near the receipts from the same source during the last half of 1886. Under the circumstances, he expressed a doubt whether our estimated land revenue this year would be realised. Here then became apparent at once the necessity for caution. With regard to their third principal source of revenue—the railways, he was glad to say that we had there a better aspect of affairs. The estimated revenue from our railways for the present year was £45,000, and he found that the receipts during the first six months of the year amounted to £20,726, or very nearly one half of the estimated receipts for the whole year; and he had no doubt his hon. friend, the Commissioner of Railways, would inform them that the traffic was a growing one, and there was every probability that the receipts from this department would fully reach the estimate. Accepting the figures he had referred to in connection with our three main sources of revenue, and accepting as a fact that there is reason to believe that the receipts from all sources, collectively, during the last half year may equal the receipts for the corresponding period last year, what did they find? They found that if they added the total receipts for the last half year (£185,781) to the total receipts for the first half of this year (£215,001), they should get a total revenue for the whole year of £400,782; and, as he had already said, the total estimated revenue was £401,990. Therefore, all they could reasonably have a right to expect, was that the estimate should be reached. Though the figures he had just given showed a deficit of £1,208; and he thought even the hon. member for Fremantle, who, he knew, was a great financier, and nobody in the House probably understood the finances of the colony better than the hon. member, would allow, that they could not under all the circumstances reasonably hope that the total revenue this year would more than suffice to cover the

amount estimated. What then would be their position? They had a credit balance at the end of 1886 of £83,418, and the original estimate of revenue for the current year was £401,990, which would give them a sum total of £485,508. Out of that sum there had been already appropriated by statute—the Appropriation Act of last year—a sum of £428,204, leaving an under appropriation of £57,304. Before quitting the subject of revenue, it occurred to him that he had as yet only dealt with the three main items of Customs, land, and railways. With regard to the minor items, which amounted to £74,340, he thought the receipts from these subsidiary sources of income would fully cover the estimated receipts,—in fact, will probably show a slight advance. But it must be borne in mind that the whole of these minor items amounted to about one fifth of the whole revenue. He had now brought hon. members down to our present position; and if they would turn to the Supplementary Estimates now before them they would see how the colony stood. With regard to expenditure there was a sum of £4,560 which by inadvertence had not been provided last year to meet the sinking fund, and for which provision had to be made in these Supplementary Estimates. The amount which in addition to this he now asked the House to vote amounted to no less a sum than £54,601 11s. 10d., which was mostly for public buildings and other necessary works and constructions. Perhaps it might not be out of place—although he should of course be prepared to give every information with regard to all these items, to the fullest extent in his power when in committee—perhaps it would not be out of place if he explained a few of these items at this stage, which might possibly obviate the necessity of further questions being put with regard to them. With regard to the item of surveys, he might say that the energy shown by the Survey Department was such that last year surveys were so pushed that it was found that by the end of the year the earnings of surveyors had exceeded the estimate by between £1,300 and £1,400; therefore the acting head of the department was hampered this year by this first charge, and he now asked the committee, which, he was sure, was desirous of seeing these surveys pushed on—they were

not speculative surveys—to sanction a further expenditure of £1,500. For the Postal and Telegraph department, the Police department, and the Judicial department, certain sums were required for salaries; and the explanation of this requirement was that heretofore, in the Northern districts, salaries were only provided for up to the end of October; and the consequence had been that the provision made for this year would only carry them up to that date. But the Treasury now thought it would be better to ask for two months more on these Supplementary Estimates so as to carry them to the end of the year, and that in future the returns from these Northern districts, with which there was now more frequent communication, should be made up, and the accounts balanced to the end of each year. He regretted to say that the Poor Relief department had to ask the Committee for the large supplementary sum of £2,000. Although the position of the colony was, as he had already said, cheering, there was no denying the fact that a considerable amount of distress prevailed in the colony, caused by the improvidence of many men who were now in their old age thrown on the charity of the State, or of those who had made no provision for their families, and whose widows and children had to be maintained at the public expense. The Aboriginal Department asked for a sum of £250; and the short explanation of that was a shipment of 1,000 blankets on board the *Kapunda* were lost when that vessel went down, and another supply had been ordered. But as the department required them this year they had borrowed the blankets from the Gaol Department, which would give them 1,000 blankets in stock for next year. He was sure the House would agree with him that it was very desirable that provision should have been made to provide these natives with blankets, and that the necessary expenditure would be cheerfully assented to. The item of Works and Buildings was a very large one, the amount asked for being over £20,000. He should leave his hon. friend the Director of Public Works to explain these items in detail. The next item asked for was a sum of £1,000 for the Blackwood bridge. Hon. members would be aware that the money had been voted before; but the fact was, the



amount had been allowed to lapse. Pensions had to be provided as set forth in the vote under the head,—for Mr. Cowan, the late Resident Magistrate at York; for Mr. Helmich, the late Postmaster General; and for the Government Resident at Geraldton, a further sum,—making a total supplementary provision under this head of £425 8s. 9d. Coming to the item "Miscellaneous," a large sum of £2,500 was required in connection with quarantine stations. The amount voted last year was so small that summary provision had to be made to meet the expenditure incurred consequent upon the arrival of a vessel with disease on board. Many of the items embraced in these Estimates had already been considered and sanctioned by the Finance Committee, and their acts must receive the ratification of that House. In the schedule attached to the Estimates, hon. members would see certain sums which he had ventured to put down as under-drafts. There was no guarantee that the figures would be exactly as set forth—the sums were speculative; at the same time there were reasonable grounds for believing that the greater portion of these under-drafts would not be required. They amounted in the aggregate to a sum of £3,140, including the grant towards the Admiralty and Colonial Survey and the vote for the Geological Survey. He was not aware that he need at this stage dwell at any further length upon these Estimates. When the House came to consider them in Committee, all proper information at command would be afforded hon. members. There were other matters in connection with the annual Estimates upon which he hoped to have the honor of addressing the House; and he would conclude his present remarks by drawing the attention of hon. members to the probable credit balance at the end of the current year,—£4,395 7s. 10d. He thought that estimate would be realised; but he could not go beyond it. Under these circumstances he thought hon. members would agree with him as to the necessity of exercising circumspection in proceeding with their finances. He hoped hon. members would not fear to launch out when the occasion required it; he was not aware that there was any necessity for a timid policy; at the same

time, they must not run away with the idea that they had a nest of golden eggs which they could always go to. The Government had no wish to hoard the public funds. Their noble surplus had been reduced to ninepence—he thought that was demonstrated by the fact of their asking the House to sanction a supplementary expenditure of £54,600, which, with other provisions, would reduce the credit balance with which they started the year (£83,418) to the sum he had already mentioned (£4,395) at the end of the year. With these remarks he begged to move the first item—"Audit Department, £10."

MR. PARKER said as these Estimates had only been placed in their hands that evening, and, in order to give hon. members an opportunity of reading, marking, and inwardly digesting them, and to give their financier on that side of the House an opportunity of criticising the speech of the hon. gentleman opposite, he moved that progress be reported, until Friday, July 8.

The motion was agreed to.

#### SMALL DEBTS BILL.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. C. N. Warton) moved the first reading of a bill to amend "The Small Debts Ordinance, 1863."

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

#### INQUIRIES INTO WRECKS BILL.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. C. N. Warton) moved the first reading of a bill to amend and extend "The Inquiries into Wrecks Ordinance, 1864."

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

#### PRISONERS EMPLOYMENT BILL.

The House went into committee for the consideration of this bill in detail.

Clause 1.—Short title:

MR. HENSMAN said, as he intended to oppose every clause of the bill, he must remind the committee that the second reading of the bill was opposed and a division taken, the numbers being 13 to 8 in favor of the second reading; and he desired to remind the committee that those eight members who voted

against the second reading formed a majority of elected members.

**THE CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES:** The hon. member is not in order in referring to the second reading of the bill. The question before the committee is the short title of the bill.

**MR. HENSMAN** said he objected to the bill having any title at all. He thought the committee should pause before it allowed the Government bench to sit there and vote, according to the order given to them. [The ATTORNEY GENERAL: No, no.] He said vote according to the order given to them. The committee should consider whether they should allow that solid vote to overpower the vote of the elected members of the House. If the committee thought fit to pass this title, they would be passing a title which might turn out to be nothing more than a head, without a body; because he thought when the committee came to consider the after clauses of the bill they would reject them as being contrary to any enlightened policy. They already had an old Act, made in the 12th year of the present reign, which old Act had lasted and answered every purpose up to the present time, under which certain prisoners had been allowed in the past to work in chains; and he said now what he had said before—that there was hardly anything that had done more harm to this colony than the working of prisoners in chains, before the eyes of the public.

**THE CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES:** The hon. member must really confine himself to the clause before the committee, and not to the subject matter of the bill generally.

**MR. HENSMAN:** Then I must ask that the title be put off until we consider the chains clause. What title do we want, when we have an Act that has already worked its day, and is doing its work in the colony—

**THE ATTORNEY GENERAL** (Hon. C. N. Warton): I rise to order, Sir Thomas: I submit the hon. member is not entitled to address himself to a subsequent clause.

**THE CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES:** I have already called him twice to order. The only question before the committee is the short title of the bill, and the hon. member cannot speak to the

bill generally. The hon. gentleman can move to strike it out.

**MR. HENSMAN:** That is what I am proceeding to do. Do I understand you to rule that I can only use the words "That this clause be struck out?" If so, it appears to me that this committee is reduced to a ridiculous position.

**THE CHAIRMAN:** The speech which the hon. gentleman is making is one that ought to have been made on the second reading of the bill, or that he should reserve for the third clause of the bill.

**MR. HENSMAN:** I do not wish to go against your ruling; at the same time I shall oppose each of the clauses as they come before us. I shall oppose the present clause as the title of a very bad bill—a bill which we do not want at all. Under the law as at present in this colony,—

**THE ATTORNEY GENERAL** (Hon. C. N. Warton): I really must call the attention of the Chairman to the standing orders of the House.

**THE CHAIRMAN:** I must once more really ask the hon. gentleman to confine himself to the clause before the committee.

**MR. HENSMAN:** Then I move that the clause be struck out.

Motion negatived on the voices.

Clause put and passed.

Clause 2—Repeal of Section 24 of 12th Victoria, No. 7:

**MR. HENSMAN** said he rose to oppose this clause. Although he was not very fond of the section it was proposed to repeal, still he thought it was far better than the present amendment. The clause which they were asked to repeal was passed in the year 1849, under circumstances which they all knew, and it enacted that all male prisoners sentenced to hard labor, for felony, might, by order of the Governor, be set to work on the public roads, and, if considered expedient, so to work in chains. For his own part he thought it was a very bad thing to put men in chains at all; he thought they would get very little work out of them, and he thought the spectacle itself had a very prejudicial effect upon the colony. This bill gave power to any gaoler, in any part of the colony, to put any man in chains, according to his discretion.

**THE CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES:** The hon. gentleman is now referring to the third clause.

**MR. HENSMAN** said he was simply pointing out that the old clause which this section repealed was far better than the clause which it was proposed to put in its place. He thought, if they were going to do anything at all with the old clause, they ought to do away with chains altogether. If the Government did that, he thought it would meet with some consideration at the hands of the committee. But to do away with the old clause and to introduce one much more stringent, to enable a different and an inferior class of people to put prisoners in chains, and to put them in chains for offences of a minor degree—that was a proposition which he for one should oppose, with his utmost endeavor. It seemed to him that we were trying to go back instead of go forward. Were we in an English colony, or in Russia, that we should place power in the hands of any common gaoler to put people in chains? Hon. members might do what they liked: he should vote against every clause of this bill, even if he stood alone, and he should be ashamed of himself if he did not do so.

**THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. C. N. Warton)** said the hon. member for the Greenough was very warm—whether naturally or artificially he could not say, whether actuated by hostility to the members of the Government, or to the bill, or to chains, he could not say. This clause was to repeal a clause which enabled prisoners to be put in chains, and was in reality an amelioration of the present law. They knew the hon. and learned member was a most brilliant opponent to sentimentality, or to anything in the shape of “canting humbug”; but this was not a question of sentimentality, but of practical common sense. There was no “canting humbug” about it. Supposing a hardened prisoner, who had done all he could to injure the community, were put in prison, and the gaoler should think fit he should be set to work on the roads, and supposing he did not work, supposing he would not work, would the hon. member prefer he should be flogged, and, if he refused to work again to-morrow, that he should be flogged again? He thought the least that the public might expect was that these men should be made to work a

little bit at all events; and, if they would not work without chains, it seemed to him there was no reason whatever why such men should not be worked in chains. Practically, it had been found that the clause now in force was inoperative, in consequence of the difficulty of drafting out any general order applicable to every prisoner, and it was considered it would be better to leave the question in the hands of the gaoler, who must necessarily be acquainted with the state of health of his prisoners, and the nature of the work they were fitted for. Practically, the clause now in force had broken down, and if the committee rejected this bill altogether there would be no proper authority for setting these prisoners to work in the way here proposed, or to punish them for escaping. Rather than have one prisoner, no matter how desperate a ruffian he might be, put in chains, the hon. member would prefer to let them all escape,—which was the practical effect of his violent opposition to the bill. Probably that was one way of gaining popularity amongst certain sections of the electors. In the hon. and learned member’s sentimental horror of chains, the effect might be, if this bill did not become law, that the sick and dying might be put to work in chains.

**CAPTAIN FAWCETT** said he was anxious to oppose not only this particular clause, but also the whole of the bill. He did so conscientiously. It seemed to him that the Attorney General was not so accustomed to chains as the people of this colony were. He should like to point out that there were a great many other ways of punishing prisoners without putting them in chains, and far more efficacious. For instance, let them be deprived of their salt for three days, or put them in solitary confinement. Chains he objected to altogether. The hon. member for Greenough had opposed it very warmly, and he (Captain Fawcett) did so conscientiously. He thought warders and gaolers had quite enough power over prisoners at present, without giving them this monstrous power.

**MR. HENSMAN** said he would be quite content to repeal the old clause, but not to repeal it in order to introduce a more severe measure. They had already taken about 48 years to find out that no proper order could be made under the

existing statute. If so, all he could say was that a great many prisoners had been in chains illegally, and there must be a great many causes of action against the Government, or against the gaolers who had put them in chains. As to the Attorney General's reference to "canting humbug," if the hon. and learned gentleman intended it to apply to him, it was very impertinent; and he had no right to come there with his impertinences. He was quite prepared to meet the hon. and learned gentleman before any tribunal to know whether Mr. Attorney General Warton was justified in applying such a term to him. He treated it with contempt. He did not regard this as a sentimental question at all. The bill sought to increase the power of putting prisoners in chains. He did not say that gaolers would abuse this power, but they might do so. He had never suggested that the Governor before making an order should inquire individually into these cases. The Governor of course would go upon information received from the proper quarter. He was quite willing to vote for this clause, if the next clause were abandoned. He was opposed to this meddling with old Acts, which, for some reason or other—which he supposed they should find out sooner or later—had been introduced into the House this session.

MR. PARKER said as the question might go to a division he desired to say a few words. The second clause of the bill merely sought to repeal the 24th section of the old Act. By that section power was given to the Governor to order a certain class of prisoners to be worked outside the precincts of a gaol. It was necessary, of course, if prisoners accumulated in our gaols, or if there was no remunerative work for them to do inside the gaol, that they should be set to work out of doors; and he understood that the object of the bill was to give power to gaolers to work prisoners outside the gaol. The gaoler already had power to work these men inside the gaol, and he could not help thinking that the gaoler was a more proper person to decide whether a prisoner should work inside the gaol or outside than the Governor was. But he should only vote for the repeal of the old section and the adoption of this new clause, in view of the amendment which he proposed

to introduce, limiting the power to work prisoners in chains, in the same way as under the clause which it was proposed to repeal.

The clause was then put and passed.

Clause 3—"That any prisoner sentenced to penal servitude or to imprisonment with hard labor for any felony or misdemeanor for which he is legally liable to be sentenced to such imprisonment without the alternative of a fine, may be ordered by the keeper of the prison in which he shall be then confined to be set to work, and may be set to work on the roads or any public work beyond the precincts of the said prison. Any such prisoner so ordered to work as aforesaid who, whether in charge of any gaoler or not, shall abscond, whether on the way from the prison to the place of work, or at the place of work, or on the way from the place of work to the prison, shall be liable to the penalties of an escape. Any such prisoner so set to work as aforesaid, either alone or with any other prisoner or prisoners, may be kept at such work in chains or otherwise secured as may be deemed expedient."

MR. PARKER said it had been pointed out by the hon. member for the Greenough that under the section of the old Act, which they had now repealed, prisoners might be worked outside a gaol by order of the Governor; and the object of the present bill was to enable gaolers themselves to do so, without an order from the Governor in the case of every individual prisoner. Under the law already, when a prisoner was sentenced to hard labor the gaoler might put him to hard labor within the precincts of the prison; but it was now proposed that the same power might be extended to gaolers to put these prisoners to work outside the precincts of the prison; and, he must confess, it seemed to him a desirable alteration. He could quite see great difficulty in the way of the Governor having to make a general order to have individual prisoners working outside, and unless such a general order had been made, it appeared that if a prisoner working outside escaped he could not be punished. Although he should go with the hon. member for the Greenough in opposing anything which he considered unnecessary, he was not prepared to

oppose every bill because it was a Government bill. Nor was he prepared to say that the members on the opposite side of the House, occupying nominated seats, were not quite as independent as they (the elected) members were. He did not refer to the official members.

**MR. HENSMAN** (interrupting): I hope the hon. member will allow me to explain. I spoke of the Government bench.

**MR. PARKER** said, speaking of the nominees, he thought they were, apparently, even more independent than the elected members. They had no constituents to keep in good humor, or to ask them to bring forward motions for votes of money, for bridges and jetties, and wells, and quarters, and all those things. They were free from all such influences, and it appeared to him that the Governor left them to exercise their voting powers according to their own discretion.

**MR. RANDELL**: Our constituents are the whole colony.

**MR. PARKER**: Quite so. I shall in future refer to the hon. gentleman as the member for Western Australia. As to the official members, I think when the hon. member for the Greenough occupied a seat on that bench he showed himself a most independent member.

**MR. HENSMAN**: Is the hon. member in order?

**THE CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES**: I do not think the hon. member is strictly confining himself to the question.

**MR. PARKER** said he would only remark that when the hon. and learned gentleman himself sat on that bench he did not apparently vote according to any orders. And he thought they would find that the Commissioner of Titles would not have accepted a seat on that bench unless he found he would be at liberty to do what he thought was best for the country, and not be compelled to vote under orders from the Governor. Returning to the clause, he did not see why the working of prisoners in chains should be altered. The present bill sought to make it more stringent than the old law, and he proposed to alter the clause so as to make it the same in this respect as the law stood at present. He was not prepared to go any further in the

way of chains than what prevailed under the old law. He therefore moved, as an amendment, that the words "either alone or with any other prisoner or prisoners," in the 21st and 22nd lines, be struck out, and these words be inserted in lieu thereof, "who shall have been convicted of felony or who shall have been detected in an attempt to escape."

**MR. HENSMAN** thought it was very desirable that the amendment should be printed before they proceeded to discuss it, so that they might clearly see the effect of it.

**THE ATTORNEY GENERAL** (Hon. C. N. Warton) said that so far as the amendment was concerned there could be no necessity for delay, because the hon. member for Perth had clearly explained his ground for opposing the clause as it stood; and the hon. member for Greenough must be aware that the real gist of the bill was the substitution of the gaoler for the Governor. Therefore there was nothing in the amendment which affected the fundamental principle of the bill. For his own part he felt deeply indebted to the hon. member for Perth for his clear, straightforward, and intelligent opposition to the bill, as opposed to the indiscriminate opposition of the hon. and learned member for Greenough. He gave credit to the hon. and gallant member for Pinjarrah for his conscientious motives, and he appreciated the intelligent opposition of the hon. and learned member for Perth, which was in striking contrast to the indiscriminate opposition of the hon. and learned member for the Greenough. He thought that the hon. member for Perth, by taking a moderate course, had solved the difficulty, by retaining what was valuable in the clause, and altering the last portion of it, in accordance with the old clause.

**MR. VENN** thought that the hon. member for the Greenough had suggested a very reasonable course when he suggested that they should see the amendment in print, and he would now move that progress be reported for that purpose.

Motion agreed to.

Progress reported, and leave given to sit again.

#### LIFE POLICY PROTECTION BILL.

**THE COMMISSIONER OF TITLES** (Mr. J. C. H. James), in moving the second

reading of a bill to protect certain policies of life assurance from creditors, said he would first wish to make a few observations upon the provisions and scope of the bill. The title of the bill thoroughly well indicated the provisions which followed upon that title, and, before going through those provisions, it would be well that hon. members should remind themselves—that they should all remind themselves—of the present condition of the law as regards life policies, in respect of the position of creditors towards such policies. According to the law as it stood at present, the proceeds of life policies formed part of the general assets of a man's estate; and it was now proposed to make a change in this respect, and he might briefly indicate the provisions of that change. The first section of the bill enacted that the property and interest of any person to the extent of £1,000 in the whole of the sum or sums assured, together with bonus additions, in any policy or policies of insurance on his own life, issued after the passing of this Act, shall not be subject to be seized or taken in execution under the process of any court. The bill, it would be seen, only directed itself against those cases where the person assured was the holder of a policy upon his own life; and it enacted that in such cases, with certain exceptions, which he would presently enumerate, a life policy shall not form part of the assets against the estate of a debtor. A policy had two values, one of which was its value during its currency, and the other was its value at the death of the person assured, which was a liquidated and exact value; for life policies differed from other policies in this respect, that death followed life with absolute certainty. A building that was insured might escape fire, or a ship that was insured might escape the perils of the sea; but in life policies there was always a certainty. The first section of the bill divided itself naturally into two portions,—one relating to the operation of a policy during the life of the assured, protecting it in the event of bankruptcy, and the other aiming at the policy as against creditors in the event of the death of the assured. He thought the measure would commend itself from the outset to the favorable consideration of the House, for the point

of view at which life policies were looked at by the bill was that the proceeds of a policy should be an indemnification to a man's family for the loss of income at his death. He thought such a bill must commend itself to everyone, in the interest of the State and of the community. The bill might further be described as a bill to encourage thrift on the part of persons who were earning an income. It might be said it was not a creditors' bill. His answer to that was that it was not intended to be a creditors' bill. Creditors had their remedies against debtors, and these remedies they could put into action. There were remedies which might be enforced during the life of a debtor, and there were remedies which might be enforced against his estate after the death of a debtor. It might be objected that after the termination of a policy creditors would not be sufficiently protected. In answer to that he would point out that the Act if it became law would not be retrospective in its operation. It was only intended to apply to policies which might come into operation after the bill became law. Creditors were also protected in other ways. A policy had to run two years before the proceeds of it ceased to be an asset against the debtor's estate. He took it that one of the most important provisions of the bill was to see that the money invested by an assured person, not with the view of insolvency, should not be lost to his family at his death. The measure was no innovation in point of law. It had been tried with some success in several other colonies of the group. Victoria was the first to take up the question; and, if he might be allowed to say so, he thought it was not inappropriate that that colony which first inaugurated and identified itself with the policy of protection should also have been the first to have interested itself in the protection of policies. Tasmania soon adopted a similar Act, and he believed with certain limitations the principle obtained in New South Wales. There was a provision in the bill, in the event of a person's life being assured in a greater amount than £1,000, or the holder of two or more policies assuring a greater amount than that sum,—there was a provision in the bill enabling the assured to elect which of such policies or what part thereof (up to

the sum of £1,000) shall be protected under the bill. The creditor, in certain events, had equal power of protection. The third clause of the bill provided for the registration of policies necessitated by the clause he had just referred to—dealing with the protection of policies amounting to a greater sum than £1,000; which, as he had already said, was the maximum amount protected under the bill. He hoped he had explained the objects of the bill clearly; and he sincerely hoped it would become law, with perhaps some slight modifications which might be considered desirable in committee. It was a law, he took it, essentially of a domestic character. It was a law which encouraged the keeping together of the family and the home; and a law which he thought every sincere member of the community should uphold, whether in the present exact form of the bill, or somewhat modified if necessary. If the bill did become law, as he sincerely hoped it would, the colony would be enriched by the addition of a measure which would confer a very great boon upon this community. With these few words he begged to move the second reading of the bill.

MR. HENSMAN thought the House was to be congratulated upon the presence of the hon. gentleman who had introduced the bill, and who undoubtedly had addressed the House in very clear and lucid terms, and shown that he would be a considerable addition to the powers of the Government bench. At the same time he would ask the hon. gentleman to allow the debate upon the question to be adjourned; for it must be admitted by everyone that the bill contemplated a very great change in the law at present existing in this colony, and it was altogether opposed to the principle of the English law. It was undoubtedly a considerable interference with the present rights of creditors. The hon. member who introduced the bill said it was a domestic little bill; and, no doubt it was a bill whereby domestic felicity might be secured for the widow, or whoever might be the holder of the policy, at the death of the assured. No doubt, too, it was very desirable that men should be thrifty and look after their wives and families. At the same time he thought they ought to have a strong reason before they

legislated against a principle of the English law, and provide that life policies, to the extent of £1,000, should be protected as against all creditors. At the present moment the bill appeared to him to contain an important and rather startling proposition, namely, that a man should become possessed of property which his creditors could not touch. Nor could he understand the meaning of the bill, when it proposed to protect smaller policies any more than large policies. He saw no difference in the principle, and, if it was good in one case, it ought to be good in the other. The bill was not altogether for the protection of a man's widow and children; it also proposed to protect the assured himself during his life time against having his policy seized in execution for debt. Furthermore, in the event of the bankruptcy of such person, his life policy could not vest in the trustee unless such bankruptcy occurred within two years after the date of the policy. The hon. member in charge of the bill said that a similar law was in force in several of the other colonies. He should like to know for how long it had been in force.

THE COMMISSIONER OF TITLES (Mr. J. C. H. James) said it had been introduced upwards of twelve years in Victoria, and about twelve years in Tasmania.

MR. HENSMAN, continuing, said perhaps the hon. and learned member would be able to put before them the Acts in force in those colonies. He did not know whether the bill was an original production or a copy of another bill; but, from what he knew of the hon. member, he should imagine that it was an entirely original bill, and that they were not indebted for it to the suggestion of the Postmaster General or any other officer of forty years standing, as they were told they were for another bill. It certainly contained a startling provision, and was altogether new as regards the law of England, and certainly opposed to the general policy of the bankruptcy law. At this stage he had no desire to speak further. It appeared to him to be an important measure, and he thought the House would agree that it was a bill which they were not prepared to discuss at that moment. It was possible, when the bill reached its committee stage, that some hon. member

might desire to refer it to a select committee; but, before that was done, he hoped they should have an opportunity of further discussing it. It dealt with very technical matters, and he thought the legal and non-legal members of the House would desire some little time to consider it.

MR. MARMION thought the bill would prove a most useful measure; and, as to the necessity for it, he might say that, having been for some years connected with insurance companies, he was aware there had been a desire on the part of the companies and of many others that a bill of this kind should be introduced. He would suggest, however, that the bill should be referred to a select committee, so that its provisions might receive the consideration which their importance demanded. The hon. member for Greenough said it would interfere with the rights of creditors. It might have done so if its provisions were retrospective; but they were not so, and in future no one would look at a policy of life assurance as an available asset. With reference to the statement that it only dealt with small policies, he would draw attention to the fact that no matter how large the amount of a policy might be—if a man's life were assured to the extent of £10,000—only £1,000 would be available for the family of the deceased, according to this bill, so that the remainder would not be protected in any way, as against creditors, or anyone else who had a claim upon it. If the bill were referred to a select committee, possibly its provisions might be extended considerably, and the bill prove correspondingly beneficial in the interests of the general community.

MR. PARKER thought the measure would prove a very useful measure in promoting thrift amongst those who were well able to pay for the insurance of their lives, but who perhaps did not do so now, because their policies were not protected as against their creditors. He thought the bill would also tend to promote the business of insurance companies largely, if they were in a position to point out to persons in moderate circumstances that in the event of their becoming bankrupt, or their property being seized in execution, their policies would be reserved for the benefit of their widows or families. At the same time he thought with the

hon. member for the Greenough that it would be a considerable interference with the right of creditors. But he had had some experience in bankruptcy matters; and, so far as he remembered, creditors had seldom or ever gained very much from a man's life policy. Debtors as a rule, he thought, were very long-lived people, and he did not recollect a solitary instance of a policy bringing any profit to a creditor. As a rule they were allowed to lapse through non-payment of the premiums, and were of no use or benefit to the family or anybody else. In any case the bill would only affect the rights of creditors to the extent of the surrender value of a policy of £1,000; and he thought the benefit to the community at large, by the increased business which it would give rise to as regards life insurance, would more than counterbalance any hardship it might inflict on creditors.

The motion for the second reading was then put and carried, on the voices; and, upon the motion of Mr. Randell, the bill was referred to a select committee, consisting of Mr. J. C. H. James, Mr. Hensman, Mr. A. Forrest, Mr. Marmion, and the mover.

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

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## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

*Wednesday, 6th July, 1887.*

Construction of Road from Front Flats to Railway line—Lodging Allowance for Medical Officers in country districts—Bunbury Railway Bill: first reading—Table allowance for Public Officers residing in the Tropics—Responsible Government: motion for adoption of—Pearl Shell Fishery Regulation Acts Amendment Bill: first reading—Adjournment.

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

PRAYERS.