

ing the necessary authorisation for the construction of the line.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

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

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Monday, 11th July, 1887.

As to the existence of Scab in Sheep—Alleged discovery of Gold in the Eastern Districts—Contracts and Agreements respecting Guano Islands—Mail service, Northampton to Nookawarra—Railway Servants Bill: first reading—Building Act Amendment Bill: first reading—Inspection of Stock crossing to Kimberley from South Australia—Message (No. 10): Forwarding papers and correspondence re establishment of a Federal Quarantine Station at or near Albany—Point of Procedure—Pearl Shell Fishery Regulation Acts Amendment Bill: second reading—Bunbury Railway Bill: in committee—Adjournment.

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

PRAYERS.

EXISTENCE OF SCAB IN SHEEP, AND ITS ERADICATION.

MR. VENN, in accordance with notice, asked the Colonial Secretary how long it was since scab had been known to exist in the colony; and what reason was there to believe that the disease had been eradicated?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) said that, with every desire to give the hon. member and the House the fullest information, he had consulted the chairman of the Board of Advice under the Scab Act, with reference to the hon. member's question. He had been unable to consult the hon. member for York, who, probably, was better informed on the subject than any other member of the Board; but, from the information he had been able to gather, his reply was that scab had existed in the colony since the year 1843, and still

existed. Several districts, however, were now free from it, and had been so for some years, but there were other districts in which it still existed, and every effort was being made to eradicate it. Inspector Mills reported scab as being present in flocks on one station on the Murchison river in January last. These sheep had been dipped twice since, under that officer's supervision, and were finally released on May 17. This was the last instance reported of scab existing in the colony.

ALLEGED DISCOVERY OF GOLD IN THE EASTERN DISTRICTS.

MR. PARKER, with leave, without notice, asked the Colonial Secretary whether he had any information which he could furnish the House with, with reference to the reported discovery of gold in the Eastern districts of this colony? For some time past it had been rumored that the precious metal had been discovered, in small quantities, in that part of the country; and, if the hon. gentleman could give them any information on the subject he was sure it would be acceptable to the House and to the country at large.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) said the hon. member having spoken to him on the subject outside, he had prepared himself with the information which he sought, and which he had much pleasure in giving him. Some while since, in the month of March last, some metallic substance was found by one Charles Glass, sen., about two feet from the surface, whilst digging a well at his place, about one hundred miles to the eastward of Newcastle. This specimen, which was a very small one—what miners called a "speck"—was sent down to the Government in May last, together with a small portion of the soil in which it was embedded. This was forwarded by him to a gentleman who took great interest in these matters, the Rev. Mr. Nicolay, at Fremantle. He refrained from expressing any opinion himself,—although he might say it was favorable to the specimen; but Mr. Nicolay pronounced it to be gold. Some correspondence had since taken place on the subject between Mr. Nicolay and Mr. Adam, the Resident Magistrate at

Newcastle, through whom the specimen had been sent down; and Mr. Adam had communicated with Mr. Glass, inquiring, at the instance of Mr. Nicolay, what description of country it was where the specimen was found, and seeking further information. This information, he believed, had now been obtained, and, upon its receipt, would be communicated to Mr. Nicolay. No other discovery had been reported.

CONTRACTS AND AGREEMENTS RESPECTING GUANO ISLANDS.

MR. HARPER, in accordance with notice, asked the Colonial Secretary to lay upon the table of the House a copy of all contracts and agreements existing between the Government and any person or persons, with respect to the various Guano Islands on the coast of this colony.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) said there was only one agreement (properly so called) of the nature referred to, now in existence, copy of which he laid upon the table; but there was a kind of agreement with Mr. F. L. Von Bibra, as set forth in letter $\frac{4}{34}$, of the 9th February, 1884, copy of which also he laid on the table.

MAIL COMMUNICATION BETWEEN NORTHAMPTON AND NOOKAWARRA.

MR. KEANE, in accordance with notice, moved that an address be presented to His Excellency the Governor praying that he will be pleased to place on the Estimates for 1888 a sufficient sum of money to provide a mail to run once monthly from Northampton up the Murchison to Nookawarra, *via* Geraldine Mine, and back. He was sure that every hon. member would agree with him that it was a somewhat unpleasant task for any member, and especially for a new member, to have to bring forward a motion which had been discussed in that House last session, and which, on a division, resulted in a defeat. At the same time he considered it was the duty of every member to look after the interests of his constituents, so long as those interests were not at variance with the welfare of the whole colony. The same motion, together with a unanimously signed petition, was presented to that House last session by his

predecessor, Mr. Wittenoom, who placed the matter very clearly before the House,—so much so that his hon. friend the senior member for Perth acknowledged that a very strong case had been made out for these pioneers, squatters, and settlers, living on the west side of the Murchison. At the same time the House was told by the Government that they had no funds. It seemed to him they never had any funds, whenever they were asked in that House for anything,—no matter what. Whenever a country member asked for any assistance out of the public treasury, it was always the same old story—no funds. He thought it was immensely unfair to the pioneer settlers of these outlying districts—the people who really developed the country and discovered its resources—that they should be denied, every time that they came to that House to ask for a small sum of money for such a service as this. It was very hard that they should be told: “Oh, no; if you choose to go 300 or 400 miles into the country, that is your own profit and aggrandisement, and you must put up with the consequences.” That was virtually what the Government told them, and he thought it was too bad. The result was, that these outlying settlers were left without any means of postal communication at all with the settled portions of the colony; and, even such a momentous subject as that recently discussed in that House, discussed until the early hours of the morning, might be finally decided without their having any knowledge of it. For his own part, he could not agree with all this cheese-paring. He considered it was very weak policy indeed. They were quite prepared to spend thousands of pounds upon Jubilee institutes and such things; but when these pioneers and settlers came before them and asked for a few pounds, they were told by the Government they had no funds—none whatever. At the same time our revenue and credit balances were allowed to be frittered away, by thousands, on works which should be defrayed out of loan. He thought that was not the way in which a paternal Government should treat its pioneers. He thought they might spare a few pounds out of their surpluses and credit balances to enable these outlying settlers to get their news-

papers and letters within a reasonable distance of their homesteads. He hoped the House would give the motion its cordial support. He calculated at any rate upon receiving the support of those who voted for the motion last year. Whichever way it went, it would show these Murchison settlers who were their friends. The cost of the proposed service would not be much,—probably from £100 to £150 a year; certainly not more than £200; and he thought they might well spare that amount.

MR. SCOTT said he was not going to address himself to the subject before the House, but inasmuch as the hon. member said he hoped that those who voted for the motion of his predecessor last year would vote now for his motion, he wished to state that in the division last year he himself voted on the wrong side of the House, and he believed others did the same.

MR. SHOLL said he was one of the minority who voted last year in support of a similar motion, and he intended doing so again that evening. He thought it was the duty of the Government to bring these outlying settlers, residing hundreds of miles from the centres of civilisation, into regular communication with the settled districts of the colony. He thought the least these settlers could expect was that they should be provided with a mail service; and, seeing that it was only a matter of £150, he should imagine there would be no opposition to it, seeing, as the hon. member himself had pointed out, that they were ready to spend thousands of pounds in the settled parts of the colony for less useful purposes.

MR. SHENTON said that on looking at the Estimates for the current year he saw that the vote for mail and telegraph services amounted to £40,000, and they were asked for an additional £3,000 on the Supplementary Estimates, bringing the vote up to £43,000. He thought hon. members must admit that the expenditure in connection with our Postal and Telegraph Department was becoming a very serious matter altogether; and, before any fresh postal charges were incurred—even although involving an expenditure of only £150 or £200 a year—the House ought to pause. He thought it was found on the previous occasion

when this motion was before them that the district referred to already had a mail service to and from Geraldton, not perhaps by a very direct route, but still affording the settlers a means of communication. He did not agree with the hon. member when he said he thought that those who went out to these distant stations, and settled there, were entitled to have a Government mail service provided for them, simply because they were pioneer settlers. These stations were formed solely for the benefit and profit of the owners, and not for the benefit of the colony; and if people chose to go to these outlying places to serve their own purposes, and to benefit themselves, he thought they ought to be content with the mail arrangements provided for them by that Council, and not come there year after year asking for these additional facilities. If they went on like this they would soon find that one-half the revenue of the colony would soon be swallowed up in connection with the Postal and Telegraph Department.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) said he might state that on looking at the wording of the address, and from his knowledge of the country, the two extremes mentioned were already supplied with a postal service; and therefore it was only for the purpose of supplying the intervening settlers—and the population was very scattered—that this service was asked for. *Apropos* to these motions for fresh mail services, he thought it would be a very good thing if they had a Postal Map prepared, showing all the existing mail services throughout the colony, and have it hung up in the House, so that members might have an opportunity of studying it, and seeing the number of mail services already provided all over the colony. Such a map might be got ready in a few days.

MR. PARKER hoped the hon. member who had brought forward the motion would not object to the debate being adjourned until this Postal Map was prepared.

MR. KEANE consenting, the debate was adjourned for a week.

RAILWAY SERVANTS BILL.

THE COMMISSIONER OF RAILWAYS (Hon. J. A. Wright), in accord-

ance with notice, moved the first reading of a bill to give the Commissioner of Railways power to appoint and dismiss certain classes of railway servants.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

BUILDING ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright), pursuant to notice, moved the first reading of a bill to amend "The Building Act, 1884."

Motion adopted.

Bill read a first time.

INSPECTION OF STOCK CROSSING THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN BORDER TO KIMBERLEY.

MR. A. FORREST, in accordance with notice, moved that an humble address be presented to His Excellency the Governor, praying that he will be pleased to take into consideration the appointment of one or more Inspectors, to inspect all stock before allowing them to cross the border of South Australia into the Kimberley District; and further that the said Inspectors be supplied with sufficient virus and needles; also the passing of an Act enforcing compulsory inoculation, and giving power to the Inspectors to quarantine for such time as they may think necessary. The hon. member said the address was in the terms of a resolution adopted at a public meeting of Kimberley settlers held at Derby some time ago; and it had been sent down to him with a request that he would bring the matter under the consideration of the Government. He thought it was most desirable himself, and indeed absolutely necessary, that the stockowners of that district should be protected from the introduction of disease amongst their stock. He did not think it would be necessary that the inspectors should be paid, but honorary inspectors; and the appointments might be conferred upon the settlers living near the border. He hoped no opposition would be offered to the address, which the settlers regarded as one of the utmost importance to the district.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) failed to see how it would be possible to give practical effect to the

hon. member's proposal. In the first place, how were they going to define the exact boundary dividing our own from South Australian territory, where it adjoined the Kimberley district? When that was done, were they going to fence in some 500 miles of this boundary line, and only allow stock to enter through certain avenues? Or were these inspectors to patrol the whole boundary line, night and day, to see that no stock crossed the border from South Australian territory? The object which the hon. member had in view might be accomplished by prohibiting the importation of stock across the border; but he was afraid the present proposal was an impracticable one.

MR. A. FORREST was surprised to hear the Colonial Secretary, of all people—a gentleman who had been at the head of the Survey Department—speaking in the way he did. The hon. gentleman knew probably more about this boundary line than anybody else. Years ago, surveys of the district had been made, and the boundary of the colony was known within he might say a hundred yards. The hon. gentleman must also be aware that if they went a certain distance south of our boundary, they would get into the Great Desert, where there was no chance of any stock crossing.

MR. MARMION thought, if the proposal could be carried into effect, it certainly would be most desirable. [THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: Hear, hear.] They had not many cattle in the Kimberley district at present, and it would be better to keep that small number, free from disease, than to have a larger number at the risk of introducing infection. Of course, he was aware there were difficulties in the way; but, probably, if the Colonial Secretary and Government would think over the matter, the difficulties might be surmounted. As to the boundary question, he thought that might easily be adjusted for the purpose of this Act; and that there might be certain penalties imposed for crossing the boundary with cattle or stock unless they had been inspected. With regard to the appointment of honorary inspectors, if two were not sufficient, more might be named. If it were made known in the other colonies that legislation of this character had been adopted, he

thought the difficulties in the way of carrying out the proposal would be found to be more imaginary than real. It undoubtedly was a most desirable thing that we should prevent the introduction of disease amongst our stock in this Northern portion of the colony.

MR. VENN thought they might get over the difficulty without much trouble, and still not hinder the introduction of stock into the district, if they were to legislate that all stock introduced into the district shall be inoculated, before being allowed to enter. That was what was done in Queensland, and, he believed, some of the other colonies. He thought it might be done here, without any prejudice or detriment to the stocking of the district, by giving due notice to that effect.

THE COMMISSIONER OF RAILWAYS (Hon. J. A. Wright) thought the whole question was surrounded with a vast amount of difficulties. The first difficulty would be to determine the frontier boundary, and the next difficulty would be to ascertain whether stock crossing had been inoculated or not. Supposing cattle were driven over this imaginary boundary line—which could be very easily done if there were only one or two inspectors—and they were afterwards driven for some distance into our own territory, it would be a very difficult thing he should say to find out which of these cattle had been inoculated and which were not inoculated. It appeared to him that the much easier plan would be to require those introducing stock into the district to bring certificates with them.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) said he would be happy to meet any gentlemen connected with the North, and interested in this question, and see whether they could not devise some scheme to get over the difficulty.

The address upon being put was adopted.

MESSAGE (No. 10): FEDERAL QUARANTINE STATION AT OR NEAR ALBANY.

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

"The Governor has the honor to transmit, herewith, papers and correspond-

ence connected with the question of the establishment of a Federal Quarantine Station at or near Albany.

"2. Referring to paragraph 18 of the Speech with which he opened the Session, the Governor suggests that Your Honorable House should approve of this proposal, on the understanding that the cost of the Quarantine Station should be defrayed, on the basis of population, by the several Australian Colonies, but that the administration and management of the station should remain in the hands of this Government.

"Government House, Perth, 11th July, 1887."

POINT OF PROCEDURE.

On the order of the day for the second reading of the Pearl Shell Fishery Regulation Acts Amendment Bill being read,

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. C. N. Warton) called attention to the form of an amendment placed on the notice paper by the hon. member for Greenough with reference to the bill, as follows: Mr. Hensman to move—when the bill is reported to the House—"That the bill be recommitted, with the view of moving that the 3rd clause be amended by striking out all the words after the word 'escape,' in the 11th line." He (the Attorney General) submitted that the form of notice was unusual, and—with great submission to the Chair—he thought it was somewhat incorrect. A bill could be recommitted generally, or in respect of one or more of its clauses; but he thought that to have a bill recommitted in respect of a particular amendment to a clause was, he thought, without precedent. If his hon. and learned friend would alter his notice, so as to have the bill recommitted generally or as regards any particular clause, it would be more in order; and he was sure it would not place his hon. friend at a disadvantage in any way, as he would still be able to move his amendment. Other hon. members might wish to move amendments, when the bill came to be recommitted, in some particular clause; but they would be shut out from doing so if the amendment on the Notice Paper passed; and his hon. friend himself would be limited to this particular amendment.

THE SPEAKER said if the notice were given as suggested by the Attorney General—a mere general notice to recommit the bill—the particular amendment which the hon. member giving the notice wished to make would not appear on the Notice Paper at all. The hon. member wished to give notice beforehand of the particular amendment which he wished to move, upon the bill being re-committed—which appeared to His Honor a very desirable and convenient course to follow.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. C. N. Warton): Why should he not give notice that, upon the bill being reported to the House, he will move that it be re-committed for the purpose of submitting an amendment, or of amending a particular clause? I think the present notice is utterly irregular.

THE SPEAKER: I cannot say that I think it is irregular. Of course a bill may be committed with reference to the bill generally, or with reference to a particular clause. Notice here has been given to recommit a bill for the purpose of amending a particular clause, and the hon. member has restricted himself still further by limiting his amendment to a particular line of the clause. Therefore I do not see that the notice is at all out of order.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. C. N. Warton): There is no precedent for it.

PEARL SHELL FISHERIES REGULATION ACTS AMENDMENT BILL.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. C. N. Warton), in moving the second reading of a bill to further amend the Pearl Shell Fishery Regulation Acts, 1873 and 1875, said the tendency of legislation in the present day was to protect, and ameliorate the condition of the aborigines; and this colony probably had done as much in this direction, if not more than most other countries. He need not now refer to the law passed last session, under which a board was appointed for the protection of these natives; or to former legislation on the subject. The object of the present bill was to go still further in the direction of taking care that no undue advantage shall be taken of native laborers employed in the pearl shell fisheries. The bill, together

with the Acts already on the statute book, went to show how baseless were the slanderous statements which formed the subject of a recent inquiry in the Supreme Court, and how anxious the Government of the colony are to provide for the security and welfare of the aboriginal race. The bill revived, or partially revived, and re-enacted the 3rd section of the Act of 1873, which was repealed by the Act of 1875; and it revived it for this reason: certain words in the section referred to (which words had since been repealed) related to an agreement to be entered into between the employers of natives and their laborers, but, strange to say, although the portion of the clause relating to these agreements had been struck out, the subsequent clauses referring to these same agreements had been allowed to remain in the statute book. The peg upon which these clauses hung had been removed, and the hanging matter left; and one object of the present bill was to restore the peg to its proper place; otherwise they would have the singular spectacle of the subsequent clauses of an Act referring to an agreement in a previous section, which section had been repealed. It was also proposed that, in future, the officers who endorse these agreements with natives employed in pearl fishing shall be the Inspector of Pearl Fisheries, or the Resident Magistrate, or a Protector of Aborigines, in lieu of (as at present) a justice of the peace, a police constable, or one of the persons appointed to ensure the carrying out of "The Pearl Shell Fishery Regulation Act, 1873." He thought hon. members would agree with him that the officers whom it was proposed to substitute for these persons were, in every respect, fit and proper persons to witness and endorse these agreements. He also proposed to make the 9th section of the Act of 1873 a little more stringent, as regards conveying natives back at the termination of their engagement, to the place or district to which they belonged. He proposed that in addition to any fine or penalty imposed upon an employer for neglecting to convey a native back to his district, the employer may, at the discretion of the justices, be ordered to pay the expense of conveying such native back. Power was also given to the Inspector of Pearl Fisheries, a Resident

Magistrate, or a Protector of Aborigines, to exercise the powers vested in certain other persons under the Act of 1873, of entering on board and searching any vessel or boat employed in the pearl fishery, in order to see that there were no abuses practised upon the natives. The bill had not been brought forward in any spirit of hostility towards the employers of natives, or of suspicion as regards their treatment of the natives; for, he thought, recent litigation had abundantly shown that these natives were treated very well indeed by their employers. But, of course, there were sometimes extreme cases, and it was necessary to render the law stringent where it was possible that an abuse might exist. He was very glad indeed that the colony had been cleared, as it had by the recent trial, of those gross imputations cast upon it by that most unworthy person who had recently left the colony. In adding the present bill to the legislation already on the Statute Book for the amelioration and protection of the natives, that House would again show how anxious it was, as he believed it always had been, to do all in its power to prevent the possibility of anything in the shape of the gross abuses alleged against the colony, its Government and its settlers, by the slanderer who had recently slunk away from our shores.

MR. SHOLL did not rise to offer any objection to the second reading of the bill, for he thought there was very little in it. What he objected to was this continual tinkering with these Acts. They had Acts repealed, and Acts re-enacted, and Acts amended; so that really no ordinary person, without legal assistance, could ever hope of interpreting the law. He thought it was most undesirable to be constantly tinkering with these bills. With regard to the present bill, he saw nothing very objectionable about it; but, when the House went into committee, he would move an amendment in the 4th clause, so as to limit the expense which an employer could be put to, in connection with returning a native to his own district. Under the clause as it stood, there was no limit at all.

MR. HENSMAN said the hon. member for the Gascoyne had forestalled what he had to say. Like him, he saw no objection to the bill itself, for it appeared that the intention of the bill was to give

some further protection to the natives. He quite agreed with the hon. member that it appeared very objectionable to keep on amending these Acts. The hon. member said it required a lawyer to understand them now. He was bound to say, for his own part, that it almost made one's head ache to read them; and he could foresee great difficulty, if they went on this way. He felt it would be better to take the whole subject in hand, and produce some complete measure, which they could all understand. There was the Act of 1873, the Act of 1875, the Act of last session, and now here was another Act. He did not know whether it was too late now, but it did appear to him it would be much better if the Government were to take a little trouble and incorporate all of them in one Act. It would involve a certain amount of trouble no doubt, but still it ought to be taken in hand, so that they might really know where they were. He had no opposition to offer to the second reading, in the sense of opposing the bill; but he hoped the Government might yet take the suggestions of the hon. member for the Gascoyne into consideration, or they might find in committee such difficulty in making the Act clear that eventually it may have to be thrown up altogether.

MR. McRAE concurred with what had fallen from the two hon. members who had last spoken. When he first saw the bill he endeavored to compare it with the previous Acts in force, and, he must confess, he found himself altogether at sea. It would be much better to have all these Acts consolidated. There were a great number of people now in the Northern District who were affected by these Acts, and it was a very serious matter for these persons. He thought it would be wise if the Government, even at this late hour, would try and bring in some measure that could be understood by those who were most deeply interested in this legislation—those engaged in the pearl fisheries.

The second reading of the bill was then agreed to.

BUNBURY RAILWAY BILL.

The House went into committee on this bill.

Clauses 1 and 2—Short title; and power to construct railway:

Agreed to, *sub silentio*.

Schedule (description of line):

MR. PARKER: Before the bill is adopted—I have not had an opportunity of looking at the schedule myself—I would ask the Commissioner of Railways whether he is satisfied with the schedule, and that the line runs through where it is intended—whether the hon. gentleman is satisfied with the description of the lands through which the line passes? For instance, "S.O.L." is popularly understood to represent a Special Occupation Lease; but I do not think it is the correct thing in an Act of Parliament; nor do I think it the correct thing to use the abbreviation "loc.," when it should be "location."

THE COMMISSIONER OF RAILWAYS (Hon. J. A. Wright): In all previous Railway Bills the same abbreviations have been adopted in the schedules. If the hon. and learned member really wishes to have the amendment made, no doubt it could be done by the Government Printer; at the same time, it appears to me an expenditure that may very well be spared.

The schedule was then agreed to.

Preamble and title agreed to.

Bill reported.

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

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Wednesday, 13th July, 1887.

Completion of New Public Buildings, Perth: When tenders to be called for—The vote for Tramway and Harbor Accommodation at Cossack—Prohibition of Sheep imported for Slaughtering purposes—Postage Stamp Ordinance Amendment Bill: first reading—Fire Inquiry Bill: first reading—Quarantine Bill: first reading—Documentary Evidence Bill: first reading—Mail service from Finjarrah to Mouradong—Gold Duty Repeal Bill: further consideration in committee—Point of Order—Prisoners Employment Bill: further consideration in committee—Railway Servants Bill: second reading—Bunbury Railway Bill: third reading—Adjournment.

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

PRAYERS.

TENDERS FOR COMPLETION OF NEW PUBLIC OFFICES, PERTH.

MR. SHENTON, in accordance with notice, asked the Honorable the Director of Public Works when it was proposed to call tenders for the completion of the new Public Offices, Perth?

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright) replied that the detailed drawings would be completed by the end of the month; but that the calling for tenders would have to be delayed until the sum of £12,000, appropriated by a resolution of the House last year, shall be voted.

EXPENDITURE OF LOAN MONEY ON COSSACK TRAMWAY AND HARBOR.

MR. McRAE, in accordance with notice, asked the Commissioner of Railways:—

1st. What amount has been expended out of the £20,000 appropriated to Tramway and Harbor Accommodation, Cossack and Roebourne, under "The Loan Act, 1884;" and upon what works expended?

2nd. What amount will be required to complete works now in course of construction, the nature of such works, and the estimated available balance after their completion?

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

1. The total amount expended on the works under "The Loan Act, 1884," for Tramway and Harbor Accommodation, Cossack and Roebourne, up to date, is £15,967 18s. 10d.

2. The amount required to complete the works in construction is £4,000, which will include the new Lighthouse on Jarman Island, the rolling stock, &c.; leaving therefore an estimated available balance of £32 1s. 10d.

IMPORTATION OF SHEEP FOR SLAUGHTERING PURPOSES.

MR. PARKER asked the Colonial Secretary whether the Government were aware that sheep for slaughtering purposes were being imported into the colony in considerable numbers, and, if so, whether the Government proposed to take any steps to prohibit such importation? He was informed that a considerable number of sheep were being