

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Friday, 22nd July, 1887.

Terminus of Clackline-Newcastle line—Water supply for stock route between Ashburton and Murchison—Message (No. 17): Inspector of Accounts' report on Store accounts—Message (No. 18): Petition for abolition of export duty on pearl shells—Message (No. 19): Assenting to Bills—Joint Stock Companies Fees Bill: first reading—Bonus for Discovery of Coalfield—Commission paid to Crown Agents—Supplementary Estimates, 1887: further consideration in committee—Adjournment.

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

PRAYERS.

THE CLACKLINE-NEWCASTLE RAILWAY.

MR. SHENTON asked the Commissioner of Railways whether the amount of compensation that will have to be paid to the owner of Newcastle Sub. Lot 15 would not cost as much as the extension of the Clackline-Newcastle line to the Pound Reserve in the town of Newcastle?

THE COMMISSIONER OF RAILWAYS (Hon. J. A. Wright) replied that he regretted he was unable to answer the question until he knew something more as to what amount of compensation would be demanded by the owners of land if the railway were carried from the present terminus to where it was asked the terminus should be—a distance of twenty-one chains. His experience, he was sorry to say, of what was done in the district was that when a railway was only a project the owners of land asked one price, and when the railway was being realised, they asked another. If the hon. member told him what would be the amount of compensation that would be required if the railway were extended from the present terminus to the Pound Reserve he would be able to give an answer. The cost of making the extra length of railway would be about £650.

WATER SUPPLY FOR STOCK ROUTE BETWEEN ASHBURTON AND THE MURCHISON.

MR. McRAE, 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 the

sum of £2,000 for the purpose of providing a water supply along a stock route between the Ashburton River and the Murchison, by way of the Lower Gascoyne.

MR. SHENTON said he thought the notice of motion was out of order, as there would be no Estimates placed before them that session.

THE SPEAKER said it would be better to proceed with the motion, so that His Excellency might know what money was required when the Estimates were prepared for the later session.

MR. McRAE, speaking to his motion, said his object in bringing forward this motion was to procure a permanent stock route between the Northern settlements of this colony and the Southern, so that the producers of stock in the Northern districts might be enabled to get their stock into the Southern market, and thus, while benefiting themselves, supply a serious and much-felt want in the Southern portions of this colony—that was, a cheap meat supply. It must be obvious to the members of that House that the prices paid for meat in the Southern portions of the colony were quite out of proportion to the price of the producers in the Northern districts. For instance, a sheep that could be purchased from the producer at 10s. a head in the North, or 2d. per lb., was sold by the Southern butchers at 25s., or 6d. per lb. This was a state of things which should not prevail in a colony like this where there were large producers. If the amount named in his motion was voted, so that a good water supply could be got on an overland route, stock could be purchased at any season of the year. It was impossible now to get stock overland except in certain good seasons. During the present season as many as 700 head of cattle and thousands of sheep had passed the Ashburton, bound for the South, but owing to want of water on the route they had to turn back. Again, he would point out that to keep up open communication along the telegraph line between Ashburton and the Gascoyne, it was almost necessary that this work of providing a water supply should be undertaken. At present, in dry seasons it was almost impossible to travel along the line. During last summer, several people lost their lives in trying to get

over. The man sent out to repair the line nearly lost his life through want of water, and would certainly have lost it but for a providential thunderstorm. He thought the route should keep along the line as far as the Gascoyne, up that river, and across to the Murchison. He thought he could safely leave this matter in the hands of the House, as their good sense would enable them to see that the carrying out of his proposal would benefit not only the Northern producer, but also the Southern consumer.

MR. A. FORREST seconded the motion. The proposal, he said, could not fail to secure the support of the House. The present stock route from the North was almost impracticable except in good seasons. The telegraph line passed through a country which was almost entirely uninhabited, so that there were no settlers' wells for travelling stock to visit. At the present time there were enough cattle and sheep on the route to the market to considerably reduce the price of meat, but owing to the want of proper facilities for the storage of water, the owners of stock were put to a great loss, and in consequence the people of Perth were paying 25 per cent. more than they ought to do for their meat. Although the amount asked for might seem large to some hon. members to grant, he still hoped the House would not be deterred from voting it. The route would be useful not only to settlers, but also to Government in attending to the upkeep of the telegraph line. By the stock route, sheep could be brought down at 2s. per head, whereas by steamer the rate was 6s. per head, and often there were great losses. If the route were made, a 60lb. sheep could be sold for 14s. a head, and the consumer would thus reap a big benefit.

MR. RICHARDSON said he hoped the House would not treat this as a local question. Hon. members should not look upon it as a vote to the Northern district, but as a national question. It was really a question whether or not the consumer was to have cheap meat. If they went to the expense of making costly railways to bring down produce to market, it was certainly necessary that they should open up a route by which stock could reach the consumer. During that session one member had suggested that a tax should be put upon imported

live stock coming here from the Eastern colonies. He hoped the House would not do that, but the way out of the difficulty was to open up a good route by which stock from the Northern stations could reach the Southern markets and be sold at a price which would place beef and mutton within reach of all. He thought that the South would benefit even more than the North from the carrying out of the proposed change.

MR. MARMION supported the motion but thought the amount asked for was large. Would it not be well, he said, to go scientifically into this matter. A party should be sent over the route to inspect it, using a small borer, and selecting the best localities for obtaining the water supplies. However, if the mover could explain why he had asked for such a large sum of money as £2,000, he should be happy to support the motion.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) said that on the last Loan Bill money had been spent in boring for water, and it was a question whether the sum mentioned should not be made supplementary to a loan. There was no reason why a sum should not be placed on the Estimates, but it would be for hon. members to consider whether it might not be well to alter the motion so as to make it read to the effect that provision should be made for this purpose either on the Estimates or on loan. It was a very good proposal that there should be a stock route between North and South, but there was a question whether on this route water could be found. They might spend large sums of money and then find they had thrown it away. He thought that an effort should be made in the direction indicated, and the cost, he thought, might very well be charged against loan. He asked hon. members to accept that view.

MR. SHOLL said he cordially supported the motion before the House. He did so because he considered the proposed stock route a necessity. Last session, he had brought forward a similar motion, but the matter was then put off because the House had not sufficient information on which to act. He at that time was unable to give sufficient information to the House, and he understood that the Government promised to inquire into the matter during the recess. He was glad

to hear the hon. the Colonial Secretary say that he thought such a route was necessary. Stock owners could not send their stock down by steamer and make profit. Only the other day twenty bullocks were consigned to Perth by steamer, and they cost something like £6 per head, and three of them died on the way. There was no inducement, therefore, to station-holders in the North to ship their stock. As to the suggestion of the hon. member for Fremantle as to the necessity for first testing this country, before providing the water supply, he thought that before the boring machines were got along this route, and the boring operations carried out, it would cost more than the £2,000 named in the motion. The sum seemed large, but when they came to consider that the route would benefit not only the North but also the South—that it would benefit both grazier and consumer by providing an outlet for the surplus stock of the district—they could not say that the advantages to be derived were not worth the expenditure. The Government would, sooner or later, be forced to make this route, and the sooner it was undertaken the better. This water route would be useful also to the linemen. It was impossible for a man to go without water for more than eighteen hours on this line, and on some of the long stretches, if the lineman were to lose his horse, he would certainly die from the effects of thirst. The country he believed was suitable for stock, and a very good route might be made.

MR. H. BROCKMAN said he had much pleasure, as a producer in the Southern districts and as one who knew a good deal about the supply of meat, in supporting the resolution. The fact had been very forcibly brought before him in the course of the last three years, that the Southern Districts could not produce stock for the consumption of even the present population. They should require to get stock from outside the Southern Districts, and was it not better to get it from the Northern portion of the colony than to import it? The sum asked for seemed a large one, but he would not be at all surprised if the House were asked for more to carry out the proposal. They must remember that it was a very long stretch of country they were speaking of, and that in places it might be necessary

to sink wells to a considerable depth. He had been a producer of stock for many years, and he had had to go down as far as Esperance Bay to purchase stock. It was time, therefore, that they were able to get stock through from the Ashburton.

MR. VENN said he hoped hon. members would not take the suggestion of the Colonial Secretary. This matter should not be made an item for a Loan Bill, as of all charges this was one which ought to come out of general revenue. The length of the route was considerable, and it was likely that it might be necessary to sink wells to a great depth. He had been on the route twice, and had, therefore, a pretty fair idea of the country it passed through. He did not suppose that any sum that the House might agree to expend would do anything towards making reservoirs along the route, and operations would be confined entirely to well-sinking. They should not consider this a question of North and South. It was a Northern question, and Southern members would be glad to support it. That was the first time the question of North and South had been brought forward this session. All he could say was that he felt sure that the Southern members would always be willing to vote to the North any money for public works to which it was entitled. He would again urge the hon. member not to alter his motion so as to make it possible to put the sum required on a loan. If he did so, the carrying out of this very important and necessary work would be very much delayed.

MR. LAYMAN opposed the motion on the ground that this was a matter that ought to be left to private enterprise. Settlers might just as well ask to be supplied with grass as water. It was a very inopportune time, also, for the bringing forward such a vote, as the House had not yet seen the Estimates for 1888, and hon. members, therefore, knew very little about the state of the finances.

MR. LOTON, while supporting the proposal, thought the House should have more detailed information before agreeing to the motion. In making a stock route, the question of feed as well as water would have to be considered. Stock routes were provided in the Eastern colonies.

MR. SHENTON supported the resolution, but thought the consideration of the matter might be postponed for a week, when, perhaps, they might have more information at their disposal. He moved the adjournment of the debate.

MR. SCOTT seconded the adjournment of the debate. They should before they acted in this important matter have more information. In making this stock route they were moving in the right direction, even if the cost were £5,000 instead of £2,000.

MR. MARMION thought the cost of a permanent work of this sort should, as the Colonial Secretary had suggested, be placed on a loan. To make the scheme perfect, the Government would have to declare a reserve right along the route, and the route should be made as short as possible, and taken through localities where water could be got.

MR. RICHARDSON thought that they need not trouble themselves about the details. They might simply vote the money, and leave it to the Director of Works to carry out the scheme in the best possible way.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright) said that unfortunately this was rather a difficult subject. He quite agreed with what had been said by hon. members in favor of taking the necessary steps to provide a route, but from experiments that had been made they found that water was a thing they could not call for. They had tried, in vain, in several places. In one place at 300 feet nothing but salt water had been found. It was a difficult thing to find water at all along this route, and to limit the amount on the Estimates to £2,000 might involve them in a difficulty. He should much prefer to see the sum of £2,000 or £2,500 put on as a supplement to the loan money the department had for boring for water, and of which there was a balance, on which they were working. So far as the telegraph line was concerned, they must have a water supply, or they should have some serious accident.

MR. HENSMAN thought that a motion asking the Governor to place a sum on the Estimates was rather premature. He did not know when this motion was put down—probably at a time when it was

thought that in the ordinary course, subject to convulsions which occasionally happened in the political world, the Estimates would be laid before the House. Instead of that, they were informed two or three nights ago that it had pleased the Governor to say that he would not bring on the Estimates now, but that he would bring them forward somewhere towards the close of the present year. There was therefore plenty of time given to consider the question of a water supply on this stock route. The Estimates might possibly be kept back for the object of telling them there was no money to spend, and, therefore, it was rather premature to suggest the placing of £2,000 upon the expenditure for next year.

MR. PARKER supported the resolution. It was desirable, he said, that they should do all they could to open up communication with all the districts in the colony, especially so if it was found necessary for the purpose of enabling residents in the country to send their produce to market. The opening up of communications with the various districts would very much tend to cement the union which was so desirable in this colony. They were told that the people of the towns were paying 25 per cent. too much for their meat, and, further, the opening of this stock route would tend to keep in the colony the money which was now going away to benefit the graziers in the Eastern colonies. He saw no reason for the postponement of this question because the Estimates were not coming on this session. The proposal was to ask His Excellency to put this sum on the Estimates for 1888. He thought himself that when inquiries were made into the subject, it would be found that a larger sum would be required.

MR. McRAE having intimated that he would not oppose it,

Mr. SHENTON's motion for the adjournment of the debate was carried.

MESSAGE (No. 17) : INSPECTOR OF ACCOUNTS' REPORT ON STORE ACCOUNTS.

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

"In reply to Address of the Honorable the Legislative Council, No. 9, of the

"19th instant, the Governor has the honor to enclose, herewith, copy of the report, dated the 19th of May last, received from the Auditor General respecting the stock-taking and audit of store accounts to the close of 1886, together with the report of the Inspector of Accounts referred to by the Auditor General.

"2. The several suggestions made by the Audit Department have been acted upon, or are in course of being carried out. Provision for the salary of a properly qualified Railway Auditor, who will be an officer of the Audit Department, will be made upon the Estimates of 1888.

"Government House, Perth, 22nd July, 1887."

MESSAGE (No. 18): PETITION FOR ABOLITION OF EXPORT DUTY ON PEARL SHELLS.

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

"In reply to Address No. 10, dated the 19th instant, the Governor has the honor to transmit to the Honorable the Legislative Council, herewith, the petition recently received praying for the abolition of the export duty or royalty on Pearl Shells raised on the Northern coasts, together with copy of the reply which, after careful consideration, was sent to the petitioners, stating that it was not possible to comply with their request.

"Government House, Perth, 22nd July, 1887."

MESSAGE (No. 19): ASSENTING TO BILLS.

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

"The Governor has the honor to inform the Honorable the Legislative Council that he has this day assented, in Her Majesty's name, to the undermentioned Bills:—

"1. *An Act to give the Commissioner of Railways power to appoint and dismiss certain classes of Railway Servants.*

"2. *An Act to repeal the 50th Victoria, No. 21, being an Act which imposed a Duty upon Gold.*

"3. *An Act for the establishment of a Copyright Register.*

"4. *An Act to authorise the Construction of the Bunbury Railway.*

"2. The authenticated copies of the Acts are returned herewith.

"Government House, Perth, 22nd July, 1887."

JOINT STOCK COMPANIES REGISTRATION FEES.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. C. N. Warton) introduced and moved the first reading of a bill to provide for the payment to the Colonial Treasurer of fees received by the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

BONUS FOR DISCOVERY OF A COALFIELD.

MR. A. FORREST, pursuant to notice, moved that an humble address be presented to His Excellency the Governor, praying that he will be pleased to offer a reward of £5,000 for the discovery of a payable coalfield within 100 miles from a known port in the colony; such reward to be paid when 5,000 tons are ready for shipment. In support of the motion the hon. member said that the discovery of a coalfield was a most important matter to the colony. At a meeting held a short time ago, it was unanimously agreed that a vote should be asked of that House for a payable coalfield—hence the humble address which he was now moving. He had altered the terms of the motion so as to make it apply to the whole of the colony, because he did not see why the reward should be limited to any particular portion of the colony. They all knew that a coalfield was better even than a goldfield. He had stated it in the address that the coalfield should be within one hundred miles of a known port; because a coalfield might be found in the interior, and be useless so far as this colony was concerned. He trusted that hon. members would pass this address without opposition, for if 5,000 tons of coal were trucked and ready for shipment, the colony would not refuse to pay £5,000 for it.

MR. McRAE seconded the resolution. He thought that £5,000 would be a

cheap price to pay for a payable coalfield in this colony, especially in the Northern Districts, where coal would soon be in demand for working the goldfield.

MR. MARMION said that if hon. members cared to pass a motion of this kind, the mere fact of a reward being offered would do no harm, and if it resulted in the discovery of a coalfield it must do good. It had already been stated that the sum of £5,000 might very well be expended over the discovery of a coalfield. He thought, however, that the motion should have been worded so as to deal with coal of a marketable value. There had been rumors for some time past of the likelihood of the discovery of a coalfield in the Kimberley District. Of course, so far as those in the Southern portion of the colony were concerned, it would suit them better if the coalfield was nearer at hand; but still, in whatever part of the colony it was found, it must result in good. In the hope, therefore, that something might arise from this offer of a reward, he had much pleasure in supporting the motion.

MR. RICHARDSON said that the sum seemed a large one for the discovery of a coalfield. He would point out that it would be scarcely wise to restrict the reward to the discovery of a coalfield within one hundred miles of any declared port. As far as present prospects went, there seemed to be a great probability that wonderfully rich reefs were likely to be found in the Kimberley district, and in order to make these reefs payable, coal was needed. It appeared to him that a coalfield would be vastly more valuable to the whole colony if it were discovered near the Kimberley gold reefs, than within one hundred miles of a port. These reefs were more than three hundred miles from a port. A coalfield might be discovered within a hundred miles of a port and yet be valueless for working these reefs. He thought that the motion might be altered so as to make the reward payable for the discovery of a coalfield within one hundred miles of a seaport or within one hundred miles of a payable goldfield.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) said he was much in favor of such a reward being offered. New Zealand had been remarkably successful in offering similar rewards. Fifteen

years ago he had drafted a notice which appeared in the *Gazette* dealing with a similar reward. It was not likely, he thought, that this reward would be claimed while he occupied that seat, and speaking on behalf of those who would follow him, he felt bound to say that the reward was too large for what was required. With regard to the reward for the discovery of payable gold, it was true they offered £5,000, but look at the value of the gold that had to be found before the reward could be claimed. He would suggest that £1,000, or 4s. per ton for the quantity named, taken from a coalfield within one hundred miles of a port, within twelve months of its discovery, would be a sufficient reward to offer. If they gave a reward of £1,000 for the discovery of a coalfield from which 5,000 tons of merchantable coal was shipped, they would be doing very well. The motion for offering £5,000 was, he thought, extravagant, especially when no limit was placed upon the period within which the 5,000 tons were to be obtained. They would not be going too far if they fixed the period within which the five thousand tons were to be got to twelve months, especially when they remembered that the daily output of many mines was almost equal that quantity. The address as it stood was too extravagant—it offered too large a reward for the discovery of a somewhat small quantity of coal, and that within an indefinite period.

MR. LAYMAN said he was in accord with the views of the mover, and did not think that £5,000 was too large a sum to offer for the discovery of a coalfield. Coal, if discovered within a hundred miles of a goldfield, would be much more valuable than coal discovered within a hundred miles of Perth or any seaport. He would, therefore, prefer to see the hon. member for Kimberley alter his motion in accordance with the suggestion of the hon. member for the North (Mr. Richardson). If coal were found within one hundred miles of a port it might be so situated that it would require the making of a railway to it, and, in that case, its cost to the consumer must be very great.

MR. A. FORREST said that, with the leave of the House, he would like to reduce the amount of the reward from £5,000 to £2,000.

MR. SHOLL said he would like to support the motion but he could not, for the reason that he really did not see what use coal would be one hundred miles from a port.

MR. A. FORREST: Why?

MR. SHOLL: Because the coalfield might be situated in a place not in the central districts—in a place to which it would not pay to build a railway to—in a place not already possessing railway communication, or a place not likely to become entitled to a railway. It might be found on the South Australian border, where it would be of no earthly use to the colony. If a coalfield were found, it might still be cheaper to import coal from Newcastle, New South Wales; and yet they were asked to grant the large reward of £5,000 for the discovery of a coalfield. The scope of the reward should be limited to districts where the discovery of coal would benefit the colony. As the motion stood, he could not support it.

THE SPEAKER said that Mr. Forrest had asked for leave to amend his motion. The proper course would be for some other member to propose an amendment on the resolution, or for the hon. member to withdraw his resolution and introduce it again, after ascertaining what were the views of the House.

MR. PARKER moved the adjournment of the debate. He did so, he said, for this reason: that, although there was a desire to encourage the discovery of a coalfield, yet hon. members differed as to the terms on which a reward should be offered. There was a great deal of force in what the hon. member for the North (Mr. Richardson) had said as to the value a coalfield would be to the goldfield. According to the terms of the motion, the reward would be paid only when five thousand tons were ready for shipment. This would not apply to coal found at Kimberley, for there it would be used in the working of the reefs. He proposed the adjournment of the debate in order to enable some hon. member, in conjunction with the mover, to amend the resolution and place it before the House in a more comprehensive form. It ought to be made to embrace the goldfields, and the areas to which the reward would apply should be limited, so that the money should not be thrown away. He moved this amend-

ment from no spirit of opposition to the motion but rather to assist the mover.

MR. SCOTT seconded the motion for adjournment of the debate.

Agreed to.

Debate adjourned.

COMMISSIONS AND CHARGES OF THE CROWN AGENTS.

MR. SHOLL, in accordance with notice, moved that an humble address be presented to His Excellency the Governor, praying that he would be pleased to cause to be laid on the table of the House a list of all moneys paid to (or claimed by) the Crown Agents of the colony from the year 1884 to date, either as commissions or charges in connection with this colony; such list showing the amounts, and the purposes for which such amounts were paid or intended. He asked for this return not out of curiosity, but for information. There was a question coming forward as to making a Southern railway on the guarantee system. It was a question with honorable members whether it would not be better to have this line built out of loan money, instead of on the guarantee system. His object in moving this resolution was that they might arrive at some estimate of the cost of raising loans for making lines, as a guide to hon. members in deciding whether it would be cheaper to accept Mr. Dobson's proposals or to obtain a loan for building the railway.

MR. McRAE seconded the resolution. The time, he said, had arrived when they should take into consideration whether it would not be cheaper for them to have an Agent-General of their own instead of paying these commissions to the Crown Agents.

The motion was agreed to.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES, 1887.

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

Harbor and Light Department, £989:

In reply to MR. SHENTON,

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) said that the item "Beacons and Buoys, £750," was for the purpose of replacing the wooden buoys laid down in Cambridge Gulf and King

Sound by iron buoys. The wooden buoys had sunk, and were quite unsuitable for the climate.

MR. SHOLL called attention to the item "Carnarvon, light on hulk, £50," and said it was his impression that it was not kept burning every night, but only when steamers were expected.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) promised that the light should be kept burning every night, if that were not done, but it was his impression that it was lighted regularly like the lighthouse.

MR. SHENTON, referring to the item "Uniform for pilots and boat's crew, £100," pointed out that already £200 for this purpose had been provided in the general Estimates for the year, making altogether £300.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) explained that the uniforms formed part of the emoluments of the office, and the amount to be spent on uniforms this year was the same as last year. In the Estimates-in-chief for 1887 only £200 was asked for, and it was afterwards found that £100 more was necessary, making the expenditure on these uniforms equal to that of 1886.

MR. HENSMAN said that fortunately one of the powers that the House had was to vote supplies. They had that power left to them. It was the pleasure of the Governor not to put the Estimates for 1888 before them on that occasion. [An hon. member: "Order."] He did not know what the hon. member meant by calling out order. Was he not referring to facts? They were told that that House was shortly to be prorogued. As soon as the Supplementary Estimates were passed, the House might be prorogued at any moment. They were asked to vote something on the Supplementary Estimates and then told that the Estimates-in-chief would not be before the House until late in the year. If the Supplementary Estimates were passed, then the Government would have got what they wanted—a vote of money. Happily the House had yet the power over that money. He should, therefore, himself oppose the voting of these Supplementary Estimates at that stage of the session—until they had discussed all the business which hon. members thought ought to be disposed of, keeping the

Supplementary Estimates back until they were in a position to say, "Now we can be dissolved without injury to the business of the country." He should, therefore, oppose the vote before the House.

THE CHAIRMAN: If the hon. member wishes to oppose the Supplementary Estimates, he should move to report progress.

MR. HENSMAN said he had no objection to moving to report progress. He had great pleasure in doing so.

MR. PARKER said it had been his intention to move to report progress, and to do so at the request of the hon. members sitting on that side of the House. He had received a written request signed by those hon. members, including the hon. member for Greenough, that he should move to report progress. It was his pleasure as well as his duty to support the motion. Hon. members thought it advisable that the other business before the House should be proceeded with before the Supplementary Estimates were passed. Under these circumstances he hoped the Government would accede to the request made that the consideration of the Supplementary Estimates should be further postponed.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser): With what object should we postpone the Supplementary Estimates?

MR. PARKER said the object was this: it had been pointed out in the Message delivered by His Excellency the Governor that so soon as the Estimates were passed and other necessary business done, the House would be prorogued. Hon. members deemed it advisable that the passing of the Supplementary Estimates should be the last thing done. They took this step so that other business they thought necessary should be first performed and passed through the House before the House was prorogued. In fact, hon. members were desirous of keeping in their own hands the power of sitting until they deemed what they considered necessary business was done. He could not see why the Government should object to this delay with the Estimates, or to the House sitting so long as it considered it had business of sufficient importance to occupy its time.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) said, in reply to the hon.

member, he would ask whether it had ever been known in late years that the Government had attempted to carry on the business of the Council without the full consent and approval of hon. members. He failed to understand what could be the objection to going on now with the Supplementary Estimates. Why should they not continue business as on the order paper. The committee was merely considering the Estimates, and would report the result to the House. Now, that consideration was of no advantage at all to the Government until an Appropriation Act was passed. The practice in the past had been never to place an Appropriation Bill before the House until the close of the session. There was no intention in this session to bring forward an Appropriation Bill dealing with the committee's report on the Supplementary Estimates, or if it were read a first time to press for the second reading, until the other business had been properly concluded—really until the last day of the session. He failed to see, therefore, what was the reason for this action on the part of hon. members, unless it was taken in a spirit which he hoped was not in that House—the spirit of factious opposition. (“No.”) If hon. members would believe him, they had the matter entirely in their own hands. Let them, therefore, proceed with the business in its proper order, passing the Estimates through committee, and then dealing with other necessary business as they thought well, and taking the Appropriation Bill at the close of the session. He hoped that his appeal—unless the action was taken for the purposes of obstruction, and factious opposition—would induce hon. members to see this matter in the right light, and that they would take the assurance he had given as to the business being carried on in the ordinary way until it had all been disposed of.

The committee divided upon the motion to report progress, with the following result:

Ayes	11
Noes	11

AYES.
 Captain Fawcett
 Mr. Hensman
 Mr. Layman
 Mr. Marmion
 Mr. McRae
 Mr. Parker
 Mr. Pearse
 Mr. Scott
 Mr. Shenton
 Mr. Sholl
 Mr. Forrest (Teller.)

NOES.
 Mr. E. R. Brockman
 Mr. Congdou
 Mr. Harper
 Mr. James
 Mr. Loton
 Mr. Randell
 Mr. Richardson
 Mr. Venn
 Hon. C. N. Warton
 Hon. J. A. Wright
 Hon. Sir M. Fraser
 (Teller.)

The voting being equal, the Chairman gave his casting vote with the “Noes,” so that, at a later stage, hon. members, if they wished, could move again to report progress.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) said as there seemed to be a spirit of factious opposition in the House he felt unable to continue business. He would, therefore, move that progress be reported.

THE CHAIRMAN said that to report progress could not be moved for a quarter of an hour, and the motion was not introduced again.

The item £989, for the Harbor and Light Department, was then passed.

Judicial Department, £287 10s. :

In reply to Mr. McRAE,

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) said that the item “Registrar, £6 13s. 4d.,” was a sum of money due to the Registrar as a third of the salary of £20 a year, which he had agreed to take in lieu of the fees due to him under the Joint Stock Companies Act. The fees were now paid into General Revenue. By this change the Registrar's income from this source would be reduced. The sums £79 3s. 4d., for the Stipendiary Magistrate, Roebourne, and £29 3s. 4d., for the Clerk at Roebourne, were asked for, for the convenience of the Treasury, in order to bring the salaries up to the end of the year, instead of, as in the past, October.

MR. McRAE: “Second clerk, Roebourne, 5 months, £41 13s. 4d.” I think we recognise an old friend here.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) said that an application was made to the House last session for a second clerk. The request was made in consequence of the increase of business at Roebourne. He believed that the gentleman lately relieved from duty at Roebourne found the work most arduous, and although the clerk there now was most

energetic, complaint was still made. The Resident had over and over again asked for an assistant. It was proposed that a junior clerk should be appointed at £100 a year.

MR. McRAE moved that the sum £41 13s. 4d. for a second clerk at Roebourne be struck out. Last year they were told that the item was put on at the recommendation of the Resident Magistrate. At that time he (Mr. McRae) had the assurance of the then acting clerk that he was quite competent to do all the work of the office. It was notorious that this clerk was doing his own work and that of the Resident Magistrate as well. The country, he thought, was only being fleeced by these items being placed on the Estimates.

MR. LAYMAN failed to see why there should be so much work to do at Roebourne in the Magistrate's office as to require that a second clerk should be appointed.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) said that a Resident Magistrate had numerous and multifarious duties to perform. As at Geraldton, the Magistrate required clerical assistance. At Roebourne there was only one clerk, and he was quite convinced that it was desirable that additional assistance should be given.

MR. SHOLL said that prior to the completion of the telegraph line between Roebourne and Cossack, the whole of the Post Office work was carried on, in addition to his proper duties, by the Magistrate's clerk. The time of that clerk was chiefly occupied in this Post Office work, and yet he found time enough to do the work of the Resident Magistrate. He could, so he informed him (Mr. Sholl), do all the work of the Resident Magistrate in two hours each day.

MR. HENSMAN said he should like to have further information as to why this sum was being asked for. Nor should they proceed to the voting of any sum for extra clerks until they knew something about the financial state of the colony. It was evident that the Government did not wish that session to let them know what was the financial state of the colony, and, until they saw the Estimates-in-chief, they should decide not to vote any money involving extra expenditure.

MR. PARKER said that the fullest information had been given as to the financial state of the colony by the Government; and even if it had been intended to present the Estimates-in-chief this session, they would not have been laid before the House until after the Supplementary Estimates had been disposed of. The financial information they had been given was sufficient to satisfy him as to the way in which he should vote.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser), in reply, said that he asked for this sum on the assurance of the Resident Magistrate at Roebourne that an extra clerk was required.

The amendment of Mr. McRAE was carried on the voices, and the sum of £41 13s. 4d. was struck out.

In reply to Mr. PARKER,

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) said that the sum of "Re-arranging Records, £50," was asked for by the Registrar of the Supreme Court in order to enable him to do certain work in connection with the re-arrangement of the records of the Court. These records, he believed, had never been arranged, and it was the opinion of the Registrar that this should be done.

MR. PARKER said that, if he was correctly informed, what the Supreme Court particularly wanted was a strong room in which to keep these records, and keeping them from rats and mice. If he had understood the Registrar, there was no such place as this, and these most important records belonging to the Court were being destroyed by vermin. It seemed to him that it would be useless to vote a sum for re-arranging these records until a strong room was provided for them.

MR. SHOLL: Has this money not been spent?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser): Not that I know of.

MR. A. FORREST moved that the sum of £50 for re-arranging the Supreme Court records be struck out. The Registrar, he said, had a clerk, and neither of them was overburdened with work.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) said that in making this demand the Registrar had the support of His Honor the Chief Justice; and he was sure that support would not have

been given had the expenditure not been necessary.

Mr. SHOLL said that he knew of a case in which the clerk had done extra work and had been paid for it; and if he could find time in which to do extra work, he could do this.

Mr. McRAE said as it did not appear that the Registrar and the clerk were overburdened with work, and as this was not a time when a single penny should be spent unnecessarily, he should support the amendment.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) said that this work would not be done by the clerk of the Supreme Court.

Mr. SHENTON supported the amendment, and said that the arrangement of the records was part of the duty of the Registrar and his clerk, and should be done by them in office hours.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. C. N. Warton) supported the vote on the grounds that the records needed re-arrangement and placing in safety, that the present officers, though industrious, could not overtake the work. The fact that the Chief Justice supported the demand was, he said, sufficient authority for their voting the sum without further question.

Mr. PARKER said that the Registrar filled several offices. He was Registrar of the Supreme Court, Registrar in Bankruptcy, and Registrar of the Admiralty Court, as well as Registrar under the Joint Stock Companies Act. He had many accounts to keep, and had many duties to perform. He had not therefore much time to give to the re-arrangement of records. The clerk was most industrious, and, though he spent every moment of the day at his work, was unable to overtake all his duties. He thought that this sum of money should be voted in order that the records of the Court might be properly arranged.

Mr. MARMION thought such work as the re-arrangement of important documents such as the Supreme Court records should be entrusted to officials rather than to strangers.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) said he must press this matter, and take the sense of the House upon it.

The committee divided on the amendment, as follows:—

Ayes	15
Noes	8
Majority for ...	7

AYES.	NOES.
Mr. H. Brockman	Mr. E. R. Brockman
Captain Fawcett	Mr. Congdon
Mr. Harper	Hon. Sir M. Fraser
Mr. Hensman	Mr. Layman
Mr. Loton	Mr. James
Mr. Marmion	Mr. Parker
Mr. McRae	Hon. J. A. Wright
Mr. Pearse	Hon. C. N. Warton
Mr. Randell	(Teller.)
Mr. Richardson	
Mr. Scott	
Mr. Shenton	
Mr. Sholl	
Mr. Venn	
Mr. Forrest (Teller.)	

The item was therefore struck out.

Police Department, £2,566 4s. 6d.:

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) having stated the meaning of each demand under this head,

Mr. MARMION said the cost of the Police Department was assuming gigantic proportions; the cost was enormous. Last year the House voted on the original Estimates for 1887 no less than £14,000 more than the original Estimates for 1886, and now they were asked to vote an extra £2,500, making a total of £16,500 over the original vote for 1886, or about 50 per cent. above the vote for 1886. At the first glance, he could not see how this enormous expenditure had arisen. He was aware of the increased expenditure caused by the opening up of the Kimberley district, and by the necessity for sending a number of police on to the goldfield. Still, remembering these facts, he was unable to see why there should have been an increase of 50 per cent. upon the previous year. It seemed to him that it was time that steps should be taken to reduce the expenditure upon this department. The cost of the maintenance of the department had now reached the large sum of £47,000 for the year. He hoped that when the House met during the next session, hon. members would scrutinise the Estimates closely with regard to the Police Department, in order to ascertain how so large a sum as £47,000 could be expended upon it in one year.

Mr. SHENTON said it would come to this,—that they should have to vote a sum of money to the Police Department, and leave it to the Government to spend

it in the best way they could. That was the only plan they could adopt to stop the enormous expenditure going on. Unforeseen causes had, doubtless, caused the expenditure of last year, but surely a saving might be made in other directions, so as to bring down the expenses of the department to something within reason.

MR. LOTON said that the time for retrenchment would very soon be here. Perhaps the hon. member for Fremantle (Mr. Marmion) would excuse him if he corrected him. The sum voted for the Police Department in 1886 was £41,000 and the actual expenditure for the year about £39,900. For 1887, £44,000 was voted, and this with the £2,500 now asked for would bring the cost of the department for this year up to £47,500. On the original Estimates, the increase was £3,000, and this £2,500 would make it up to £5,500. He was quite in accord with the hon. member for Fremantle (Mr. Marmion) when he said that the House should take steps to reduce the expenditure upon the Police Department. That department at the present time cost about 25s. per year per head of the population, even including women and children.

MR. MARMION explained that when he said that, he had made no mistake in his figures. What he said was that the original vote for this department for 1887 exceeded the original vote for 1886 by the sum of £14,000. The original vote for 1886 was £30,000, and on the Supplementary Estimates £10,700 was voted.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) said that the increase had largely arisen from the need for police protection in the Kimberley District, and generally in the tropical portions of the colony. Hon. members would be aware of the great expense arising from the establishment of a force in the Kimberley District. The men expected superior pay and emoluments, and everything needed by the force cost more there than down in the South. The increase had also partly arisen from the demands for increased police protection in the Southern portions of the colony. He did not see how they could blame the head of the department for this, as it had almost in every case been at the instance of hon. members that these extra appointments had been made. When they came to consider the vote for the following year,

they must consider if they could not reduce it to such limits as were reasonable. A reduction in the expenditure could not be effected in a moment.

MR. VENN said that it was time that retrenchment was effected in the Police Department. He did not see, however, that the House was doing much beyond wasting time by discussing all these sums on the Supplementary Estimates. They might strike out a small sum here and another there, but that was all. With regard to this department or any other department, the best plan was to give a lump sum and leave it to those having control over the expenditure to make that lump sum suffice. There was at the present time at the head of the Police Department a gentleman who had distinguished himself as a financier and administrator, and if he were voted £30,000 for a year and asked to re-organise the force in order to bring the expenditure within that sum, he would, no doubt, effect the change.

The vote for the Police Department was then put and passed as it stood.

Gaol Department, £36 13s. 4d. :

Agreed to.

Rottneft Prison Department (Contingencies), £40 :

Agreed to.

Printing Department, £645 :

MR. SHENTON said that in the Estimates for 1887 the House voted the large sum of £3,888 for this Department, and now £500 was demanded for extra labor. The Printing Department was becoming an enormous drain upon the revenue. £120 was asked for, for type, and last year they had voted £520 for new machinery and type. He would like some explanation.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) said that he had a memorandum from the Government Printer to the effect that unless £500 was provided for extra labor, the work could not be done. Besides current work, a large amount of arrears had to be made up. With regard to the sum of £120 for new type, the Government Printer had asked for this in order to purchase type suitable for the setting up of the lengthy returns to be published under the Land Regulations. By getting this type the labor of setting these returns would be greatly reduced.

Mr. SHENTON complained that they were always voting money for new machinery and type. The character of the work was no doubt a credit to the colony. The official printing of the other colonies could not be compared with it. His complaint was that the work was done too well. They could not afford to have the work done in such a style. They should "cut the cloth according to their pocket."

Mr. A. FORREST said that the expenditure on this department was heavy and increasing. It would be cheaper, he thought, to give the work out to private firms. The work turned out by the Government Printer was, no doubt, very good, but the cost of the department should be reduced.

Mr. VENN thought that the quality of the paper used was generally too high. Such expensive paper was not used in the other colonies.

Mr. PARKER said that a considerable amount of printing would be necessary in connection with the printing of the new Rules of the Supreme Court.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. C. N. Warton) hoped it would not be necessary to print the volume; he did not approve of the new Rules.

Mr. RANDELL thought that the use of cheaper paper would not effect any great saving, and it would not be worth while to make any change in this direction.

Mr. MARMION thought they had no need to find fault with the expenditure in this department, because they had a really able man at the head of it. The Government Printer would, no doubt, save any expenditure that was possible. He would oppose any economy which would reduce the quality of the work turned out by the department. He did not think it worth while to raise a quibble over this item, as, had it not been required, it would not have been asked for.

The vote for the Printing Department was then passed as it stood.

Educational Department, £150 :

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) moved that this item be increased by £100.

Mr. HENSMAN said that, while not opposing this vote, he would on a future occasion call attention to certain matters

dealt with in letters to the newspapers, by a gentleman who was in a position to speak with some authority, with regard to the school system.

The increased vote for £250 was then passed.

Progress reported.

The House adjourned at forty-five minutes past ten o'clock, p.m.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Monday, 25th July, 1887.

Rule to be observed in voting upon a Division—Discontinued meat sold at Dongara—Vote for gold-prospecting at DeGrey and Fortescue—Report of Select Committee on Message (No. 4): Classification of Clerks—Fire Inquiry Bill: in committee—Clackline-Newcastle Railway Bill: second reading—Report of Select Committee on "Hansard" reports—Adjournment.

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

PRAYERS.

RULE TO BE OBSERVED IN VOTING UPON A DIVISION.

THE SPEAKER called attention to the order to be observed when a division takes place. Once or twice some little difficulty and inconvenience had arisen in consequence of members finding themselves on a side of the House opposite to that where they intended to vote; and he thought some rule should be laid down to prevent any confusion in future. The rule which he proposed to adhere to was this: after the division bell rang, hon. members should cross to that side of the House on which they intended to vote, before the tellers were nominated. After the tellers were appointed, no member could pass the gangway; he must record his vote on the side on which he should then find himself. If he moved from one side of the House to the other after the tellers had been appointed, his vote would still be counted with the side on which he was when the tellers were nominated.