

INQUIRIES INTO WRECKS BILL.
Read a third time and passed.

DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE BILL.
Read a third time and passed.

The House adjourned at a quarter to eleven o'clock, p.m.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Tuesday, 2nd August, 1887.

Existence of Rabbits at Cheyne's Beach—Proposed Telegraph Station at Yule River—Message (No. 26): Protection of the Fruit-growing Industry—Innkeepers Relief Bill: first reading—Supplementary Estimates, 1887: further considered in committee—Adjournment.

THE SPEAKER took the Chair at noon.

PRAYERS.

EXISTENCE OF RABBITS AT CHEYNE'S BEACH.

MR. RICHARDSON, in accordance with notice, asked the Colonial Secretary if the steps taken for the destruction of rabbits in the vicinity of Cheyne's Beach, near Albany, had completed the eradication of those pests; and also if sufficient measures had been adopted for effecting the destruction of the rabbits known to exist in considerable numbers on the islands on the southern coast of the colony.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) replied that Mr. Inspector Hare believed that the rabbits had all been exterminated in the vicinity of Cheyne's Beach, and the same officer reported that Rabbit Island was now clear, that Breaksea Island still contained a few, and that Bald Head Island abounded with them, as did many of the islands on the coast eastward. Mr. Hare considered it would be very expensive to get these islands cleared, that a

large sum would be required to do the thing systematically, and that unless the work were done systematically it would only be throwing money away.

TELEGRAPH STATION AT YULE RIVER.

MR. McRAE moved an address to the Governor, praying that a sufficient sum be placed on the Estimates for next year to provide the salary of a telegraph operator to be stationed at Messrs. McRae Bros.' station, Yule River, on the Derby and Roebourne telegraph line. The hon. member said that the first station on the Derby line was 150 miles from Roebourne, and between the two stations there were a great many settlers living, at or near the Yule River, who, in order to be able to utilise the telegraph at all, would have to travel to the DeGrey or into Roebourne. The number of settlers' stations who would be benefited by this proposed telegraph office was about ten, and there were two ports of call for pearling vessels within a few miles. It would not be a great tax upon the Government, because the owners of Yule station had offered to lend a building free of cost, close to the line, and also to board the telegraph operator at a very reasonable cost; so that it might be said it would cost the Government nothing for the upkeep of the station, as the receipts would be sufficient to pay the operator's salary.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) said the multiplication of telegraph offices was of course only a question of expense, and the hon. member had put the matter in a different form from that in which it had been placed before the Government, who, when the application was made to them, replied that there were no funds available, at the time. He was afraid the receipts would be very small. Of course it was a good thing to popularise these telegraph lines and to utilise them as much as possible, and give as many facilities as they reasonably could to the settlers and also to those engaged in the pearling industry; and although the revenue derived might not be sufficient to meet the cost, or anything like it, still it might be considered desirable, in the interests of the settlers, that this additional station should be established. But he thought the hon.

member might defer it until the line was opened, and they saw what the traffic was likely to be. There was to be a station at Condon—a well-known spot frequented by pearl-ers; and he thought the House should hesitate before it pledged itself to establish this intermediate station. Next year the Government would have to ask for very considerable sums to enable them to work the numerous extensions which were being carried out in various parts of the colony.

MR. SHENTON suggested that the motion be postponed until the Estimates were laid on the table, when the House would have to take into consideration the whole vote for the upkeep of the Derby and Roebourne line, which would then be completed.

MR. VENN always thought these things should be taken by the forelock, and the only question to his mind was whether it was desirable that this station should be established. The station at Condon would be of no earthly use for the settlers of the Yule district. The advantage of bringing this matter forward at an early stage was so that the Government, while the line was in course of construction, might know what was likely to be required. A telegraph line running through a district like a fence was of no use to the settlers, and the question was whether the station now proposed would be a source of convenience to a considerable number of settlers.

MR. RICHARDSON thought they must not always look upon the postal and telegraph service as a reproductive work, but as the means of providing facilities for the public. The distance between Condon and the Yule was about 170 or 180 miles; and, for the settlers of the intervening country, the stations at the DeGrey and at Roebourne would be of very little use to them. The amount that it would cost for the upkeep of this station, in view of the liberal offer made by the Messrs. McRae, was so trifling that it was hardly worth considering, when they looked at the facilities and convenience it would afford. He did not know that it would be well to restrict the Director of Public Works to this particular station as the site of the proposed telegraph office: he thought it would be better to give him some latitude of action in the matter.

MR. MARMION, while agreeing as to the desirability of affording every reasonable facility for the settlers along this telegraph line, said the question to his mind was whether there was any stipulation between the Government and the contractor that the line should be opened by a certain date, between any intermediate stations, and also as to the completion of the line. It might be time enough to consider this motion when the Estimates came before them. He presumed it would be necessary to have a similar staff at this station as at all other country stations, and also a line repairer. He did not think it would be in the interests of the public that there should be one link in the chain of communication weaker than another. He did not intend to oppose the motion, but he could see that there might be circumstances which would increase the expense beyond their anticipations.

MR. SHOLL, while agreeing with the hon. member for the North that a station between Condon and Roebourne was necessary, at the same time could not help thinking it would be better that no telegraph office, if it could be avoided, should be located in a private dwelling-house. He thought the public would have more confidence in the service if the stations were removed from the homesteads of individual settlers. His own opinion was that Bulla-bulla would be the most convenient spot for this office; but he thought the Government might be guided in that matter by their own constructing engineer. As for the pearl-ers, he did not think they were very likely to use this station much, as they were not working now on that particular part of the coast. He thought, after all, this was more of a departmental question, which might be left to the Public Works officials to decide, as to the locality of the station.

MR. SCOTT agreed with the suggestion that the station, if established at all, should be entirely under the control of the Government, under a Government official, responsible to the Government. He thought it was most objectionable that these telegraph offices should be in private hands.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright) said that according to contract there were to be

four stations on this line, one at Condon, one at Legrage Bay, one at Roebuck Bay, and one at Derby; and no provision whatever had been made for any intermediate station between those places. Although he believed it would be necessary to have an intermediate station, he thought it would be better to wait until the present contract was completed and the line opened. He himself was averse to locating a station on a public line of telegraph in a private house, even although the expense might be less. He thought it would be a very unpleasant position for an operator to be dependent upon a private individual, not only for his office but also his board and lodging; and, if he happened to make himself disagreeable, he might find himself turned out into the wilderness, neck and crop. If a station was required, he thought it would be much better for the Government themselves to establish it there, and keep it in their own hands entirely. But, until they knew what it would cost, and what funds there would be available, he thought it would be better to defer the consideration of the matter.

MR. McRAE explained that the building offered for a telegraph office was some hundreds of yards from the home-stead, and altogether apart. He believed himself that the station, if established, would be self-supporting.

The motion, upon being put, was negatived.

MESSAGE (No. 26): PROTECTION OF THE FRUIT-GROWING INDUSTRY.

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

"Referring to his Message No. 7, of the 4th ultimo, the Governor has the honor to enclose, herewith, for the information and consideration of the Honorable the Legislative Council, further papers relative to the proposed protection of the fruit growing industry against insect-pests and diseases liable to be introduced into the Colony.

"2. These papers have been placed in the Governor's hands by a committee of gentlemen who have been giving attention to the subject.

"Government House, Perth, 2nd August, 1837."

INNKEEPERS RELIEF BILL.

MR. PARKER obtained leave to introduce a bill for the relief of innkeepers. Bill read a first time.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES, 1837.

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

Immigration, £2,000 (reverted to):

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) said that since this item was under discussion the other evening he had placed himself in communication with the secretary of the Board of Immigration to find exactly how we stood in regard to this vote. He found that on the 30th June there was a credit balance in favor of the Board of £6,162 12s. 7d., but that there were prospective liabilities which would have to be met amounting to £6,531 2s., which would leave a debit balance of £368 9s. 5d. He further found that before the end of the year we should have claims on account of a batch of 150 immigrants on board the s.s. "Angerton," on account of the W.A. Land Company, which, at the contract rate of £10 per head, amounted to £1,500. There were also some charges in connection with the nominated immigrants on board the "Helena Mena," shortly expected. The Board having taken into consideration the claims which they might reasonably expect to have to meet between this and the end of the year, came to the conclusion that they could not do with less than £2,000, which was the amount now placed on the Supplementary Estimates.

The vote was then put and passed.

Works and Buildings, £20,540:

MR. SHENTON asked for some explanation as to the vote "Additional accommodation, Rottnest Hospital, £600."

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright) said that additional accommodation was required for about forty native prisoners, in the event of an epidemic breaking out on the island. At present it would be impossible to provide hospital accommodation should any serious outbreak of disease take place, such as the measles.

MR. SHENTON did not think this was a work of such pressing necessity as to call for a special vote on these Estim-

ates. They hoped that the number of native prisoners would decrease rather than increase. The vote at any rate might well stand over until the Estimates for next year were under consideration. He moved that the item be struck out.

MR. LOTON said unless the work was so urgently required that it was absolutely necessary to come to that House at this stage for an emergency vote, he thought the Government ought not to press it. The same remark applied to other votes. It was obvious that it would be necessary to keep expenditure down as much as possible during the current half year, and he trusted the Government would keep that in view.

MR. RANDELL said he found that the Superintendent in his annual report urged the necessity of increased hospital accommodation, the present makeshift arrangement being very inconvenient; so that the Government appeared to have had good grounds for putting the item on these Estimates. But, in view of the position of our finances, perhaps it would be as well to withdraw it for the present; but he would point out that the responsibility would rest upon that House in the event of any untoward event that might happen in the meantime, in the shape of an epidemic or an outbreak of disease among the natives on the island.

MR. SCOTT suggested that temporary buildings might be put up, in the event of the outbreak of any epidemic, as was done elsewhere under similar circumstances. There was no necessity for erecting a building of a permanent character to meet a contingency of that kind.

The motion to omit the vote was agreed to.

MR. A. FORREST asked for some explanation as to the item, "Repairs to the Albany Court House, £500."

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright) said the retaining wall of the court-house was cracking from top to bottom, and unless something was done at once they would have the whole building down.

The vote was agreed to.

MR. SHENTON, referring to the item "Fremantle old bonded store, £300," moved that the item be struck out. It could not be regarded as a work of such urgent necessity that it could not wait until the end of the year.

The motion to strike out the vote was agreed to.

MR. SHENTON asked for some explanation as to the item, "Greenough police quarters, £300."

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright) said the whole of the roof was in a leaky condition, including that of the court-house and the police station, and also the sergeant's quarters.

MR. MARMION said it was very curious, if these buildings were in such a bad state of repair, the matter had not been brought to the notice of the Government in time to have included the vote in the annual Estimates last year. The same remark, he thought, applied to many other items in the Supplementary Estimates. It looked as if all the departments had been specially looked up to see if anything was wanted that could be included in these supplemental votes. He thought it would be a great saving of time to strike out all the items, except those already expended, and those for which contracts had been entered into. Out of the amount voted last year for repairs, under the head of "Works and Buildings" (£4,800), only £1,748 had been expended up to the 30th June last, leaving over £2,000 unspent. Out of the vote for the erection of public buildings (£27,650), only £2,132 had been expended at the end of June, leaving a balance of about £5,000; and out of the vote for "Minor Works" (£5,100), only about £3,000 had been expended. The department, therefore, had nearly £10,000 on hand out of last year's votes to carry it to the end of this year.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. C. N. Warton) said the committee would probably like to hear what the hon. and learned member for the district had to say with regard to the item.

MR. HENSMAN said if the hon. and learned gentleman thought he was going to "draw him out," the hon. and learned gentleman would find himself disappointed. The bait was too open. With regard to the particular item before the committee, he had not yet had the pleasure of seeing his constituents or any of their buildings; but he should imagine from what he had heard of the Greenough district, that the police there were required more in the light of a guard of

honor than as guardians of the peace. He agreed with the principle which had been laid down that these Supplementary Estimates should only contain items of the most pressing necessity, and items which could not have been foreseen when the main Estimates for the year were prepared; and as it had not been shown that this particular item came within that category, he was not going to vote for it simply because it was required for the Greenough or any other district. If they laid down a principle they should adhere to it.

MR. A. FORREST moved that the item be omitted.

Agreed to.

MR. SHENTON moved that the next item, "Materials for additions 'Light-keeper's quarters, coxswain's quarters, and prison buildings, Rottmest,' £350," be struck out. There could be no immediate necessity for these additions.

The motion was agreed to.

MR. SHOLL asked for an explanation as to the vote "Repairs, York Residency, £265."

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright) said the residency was now vacant, and before it could be occupied by the new Resident Magistrate, whoever he might be, it was absolutely necessary that the house should be put in thorough repair. The arrangement now with regard to these residencies was that the Government should, when a new tenant entered into possession, put the house once for all in thorough repair; and that any further repairs required during the occupancy of the same officer should be defrayed out of his own pocket.

MR. SHOLL thought that what was good enough for the old Resident Magistrate (Mr. Cowan) was quite good enough for the new Resident Magistrate (Mr. Hare). He thought it would be a good thing if these residencies were done away with altogether, and a lodging allowance granted in lieu of them. He believed it would be found to be a great saving to the colony. They were for everlasting called upon to vote something for repairs and additions to these buildings.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright) said he believed nothing had been done to the

York residency since the hon. member for the Gascoyne was a little boy.

MR. SHOLL: How can you say that?

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. C. N. Warton): Order.

MR. SHOLL: I wish the hon. gentleman himself would keep order.

MR. KEANE said if it was a matter of principle the striking out of these votes, he thought there was as much principle involved in striking out the vote for providing a decent shelter for an unfortunate policeman at the Greenough as there was in providing additions to the residence of the magistrate at York. Neither of the items could be regarded as a work of the most urgent necessity; and, on the same principle, if one was struck out, the other ought to be.

MR. PARKER said if we appointed Resident Magistrates on the understanding that they were to have quarters, surely we must see that their quarters were tenatable. It was virtually part of their salary, and the rental value of the residence entered as a factor into the computation of these officers' pensions.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) said they had heard more twaddle, and bunkum, and bosh, about "principle" and such like, in connection with this and other questions this year, than they had ever heard in that House before. What were the facts? A residence formed part and parcel of these magistrates' salaries and emoluments, and, so long as that system prevailed, the Government were bound to keep these residencies in decent repair. He believed that, hereafter, in this colony as in the other colonies, the salary of a public officer would be all the emolument he would be entitled to; but, so long as the present practice obtained, of providing quarters as part of an officer's emoluments, they were in duty bound to make these quarters tenatable.

MR. SHENTON said that talking about "twaddle, bunkum, and bosh," he thought he had never heard so much "twaddle, bunkum, and bosh" in that House as they had heard this session from the Government benches. The hon. gentleman himself, the other day, drew a most dreadful picture of the state of the colony,—of there being no work to be had, of the revenue dwindling away—one would have imagined he was read-

ing a chapter from the Lamentations of Jeremiah. As to the question of principle, the only principle which the committee were contending for was, that no expenditure should be sanctioned in connection with these Supplementary Estimates that was not absolutely necessary, especially when there was a large unexpended balance upon last year's votes in connection with this very department.

MR. HENSMAN said if the House or the committee chose to allow such language as that which they had just heard from the leader of the Government, it was, of course, open for the House or the committee to do so. He himself treated it with contempt.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. C. N. Warton): Order.

MR. HENSMAN: The hon. gentleman did not call "order" when his leader made those remarks. It may be foreign to the Colonial Secretary to indulge in principle; but this committee is inclined to take its stand upon a principle. All I can say is, it is an insult, or an attempt to insult this House by the leader of the Government, to characterise the arguments used in the House as "twaddle, bunkum, and bosh;" and I submit it is unparliamentary language.

THE CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES: The hon. gentleman did not apply it to any particular member.

MR. HENSMAN: I submit it is unparliamentary language, generally, to say that the arguments of hon. members are "twaddle, bunkum, and bosh;" and, if the hon. gentleman had made use of such a remark as a Responsible Minister, he would have had to account for his language and to justify it, or suffer the consequences. But in his present position the hon. gentleman is in what is called "Coward Castle."

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. C. N. Warton): Order! Withdraw!

THE CHAIRMAN: The hon. member must not say anything personally offensive.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser): I insist upon the hon. member withdrawing what he said.

THE CHAIRMAN: I must call upon him to withdraw.

MR. HENSMAN: Then I must call upon him (the Colonial Secretary) to withdraw his words.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. C. N. Warton) (to Mr. Hensman): Withdraw at once!

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser): I insist upon the hon. member withdrawing.

THE CHAIRMAN: The hon. member has applied a most offensive expression to the Colonial Secretary, and he must withdraw it.

MR. HENSMAN: Then I must have the words "twaddle, bunkum, and bosh" withdrawn.

THE CHAIRMAN: Those words were not applied to any particular member; the hon. member's words were.

MR. HENSMAN: Then I will withdraw the particular words, and explain what I meant by them. I meant that the hon. gentleman knows that, sitting there as he now does, he may use expressions offensive to this House, because he knows he may do so and still retain his seat. I say they were words offensive, and that ought not to have been used, even generally, to members of this House. For myself, I can afford to pass them in silence; but I protest against such language being indulged in, in this House. It is contrary to the practice of this House, and never do I remember hearing such language used in the House before.

MR. SHENTON moved that the item (York residency) be struck out—

The committee divided, the numbers being—

Ayes	12
Noes	11
Majority for			1

AYES.
Mr. Hensman
Mr. Keane
Mr. Layman
Mr. Loton
Mr. Marmion
Mr. McRae
Mr. Pearse
Mr. Richardson
Mr. Scott
Mr. Sholl
Mr. Venn
Mr. Shenton (Teller.)

NOES.
Mr. H. Brockman
Mr. E. H. Brockman
Mr. Congdon
Mr. Forrest
Hon. Sir M. Fraser
Mr. Harper
Mr. James
Mr. Parker
Mr. Randall
Hon. C. N. Warton
Hon. J. A. Wright
(Teller.)

MR. McRAE asked for some information as to the item, "Roebourne, Resident Medical Officer's quarters, repairs, £225."

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright) said the medical officer had been obliged to give up one of his own rooms for a surgery,

and what accommodation was left was utterly insufficient, consisting only of three rooms.

MR. McRAE said a new residency was recently built for the medical officer, at a cost of £700 or £800, and now they were asked for an additional sum of £225 for repairs. The building, so far from consisting only of three rooms, contained five rooms; and the Government were erecting a hospital close by, at a cost of about £2,000, and he was sure there would be sufficient room there for a surgery. He moved that the item be struck out.

Agreed to, and vote expunged.

MR. PARKER asked for some explanation of the next item, "Photographic and Lithographic offices, Survey Department—alterations, £200."

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright) said it had been found necessary to lease the old Girls' School for this purpose, until such time as the necessary offices could be finished in the new block of public buildings; and the present vote was required to make the necessary alterations in the schoolroom to enable it to be used for the purposes of photo-lithography.

MR. MARMION said it seemed to him this was only the first step towards creating a new department, to be followed no doubt by an increase of salaries, next year. The Surveyor General, who was now in England, had never brought this matter prominently before the House, and he should imagine there could be no pressing necessity for it.

MR. SHENTON moved that the item be struck out.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright) said all he could say was, if the committee struck out this item the responsibility would rest upon the committee, if the photo-lithographic operations were delayed, or were put a stop to altogether. The work could not be carried on where it had been.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) said he knew the Surveyor General was impressed with the absolute necessity of improved accommodation for this branch of his department; and a photo-lithographer had been brought out from England, and, if his services could not be utilised, it would be so much loss to the department and to the public.

MR. A. FORREST considered this one of the most important departments in the service, but he would oppose the present vote because it appeared to him that the shifting of the office from its present building to this schoolroom would be no improvement at all.

The committee then divided upon the motion to strike out the item—

Ayes	10
Noes	18

Majority against ... 3

Ayes.	Noes.
Mr. Forrest	Mr. H. Brockman
Mr. Heusman	Mr. E. E. Brockman
Mr. Keane	Mr. Congdon
Mr. Layman	Hon. Sir M. Fraser
Mr. Larnion	Mr. Harper
Mr. McLae	Mr. James
Mr. Fausse	Mr. L'eton
Mr. Sholl	Mr. Randall
Mr. Venn	Mr. Richardson
Mr. Shenton (Teller.)	Mr. Scott
	Hon. J. G. Lee Steere
	Hon. C. N. Warton
	Hon. J. A. Wright (Teller.)

MR. SHOLL asked for some information with reference to the item "Gascoyne, police station cells, £500."

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright) said that additional accommodation was required for native prisoners, and quarters for the police, together with some other necessary improvements.

MR. A. FORREST said, although he was as much interested in the Gascoyne as any member, he must oppose the vote. The present accommodation had served the district up to now. He did not suppose there was one white man a week locked up in the whole district, and, as for natives, they all knew that native prisoners were chained up.

MR. KEANE moved that the item be struck out.

Agreed to, and vote omitted.

MR. SCOTT, referring to the item "Government House, gas fittings, and purchase of glass and cutlery, £170," asked how glass and cutlery appeared under the head of "Works and Buildings?"

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright): Because the whole of Government House furniture, cutlery, etc., are supposed to be in charge of the Works Department. Of this item, £107 5s. is for gas fittings.

MR. KEANE said that on the same principle as he had opposed the other

votes, as not being works of urgent necessity, he would oppose this; and, if the item went to a division, he would vote against it, as he had done against other items.

Mr. SHOLL said that, as a matter of principle, on this occasion, he must vote with the Government. He hardly thought it was creditable that when a ball or other entertainment was given at Government House they should have to send round, borrowing glass and cutlery from private people.

The vote was confirmed.

Mr. MARMION asked how it was that such a large sum as £1,655 was required for the Albany Hospital?

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright) said the total contract sum was £2,300. The House last year voted £800, and there was a sum of £1,200 to the credit of the building, being the value of the land sold to the W. A. Land Company for railway purposes, but, as that money had been paid into the Treasury, he was unable to make use of it, and, therefore, he had to come to the House for a vote in lieu of it; and it was found that a further sum was required to complete the building. The contract had been let.

Mr. SHOLL said it had no business to have been let before the money had been voted. It was illegal expenditure, and all the more reason why they should strike out the vote.

The item, upon being put, was passed.

Mr. McRAE, referring to the item "Roebourne, new post office and telegraph buildings, £700," said he thought this item ought to be charged to loan account and deducted out of the loan for the construction of the Northampton and Roebourne telegraph line.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) said there were several items on the Estimates which the Government asked the House to agree to, on the distinct understanding that they should be recouped out of the next loan. This was one of them. The others were: Fremantle, railway workshops, £2,500; Fremantle, railway carriage shed, £4,500; reservoir at Clackline and water supply, £1,200; cottages for men, Beverley, £1,300; alteration to railway station grounds, Clackline, Spencer's Brook and Chidlow's Well, £1,250; Busselton jetty

extension, £250; and additional rolling stock, Eastern Railway, £5,500.

Mr. A. FORREST: Supposing we don't have a loan? Has the Government any idea of bringing down a Loan Bill?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser): A very great idea. But I cannot say it as a certainty.

Mr. FORREST: This session?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser): Not this session.

Mr. SHENTON moved to strike out the item "Roebourne post office and telegraph buildings, £700," on the understanding that the necessary funds shall be provided next year, out of loan money.

Carried.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser), referring to the next item "Quarantine Station, Woodman's Point, £500," said the desire of the Government was to increase the accommodation at this quarantine station, so as to avoid the necessity of chartering a vessel for the reception of immigrants, in the event of a ship coming in with disease on board, as in the case of the *Elderslie*, which put the colony to a very large expenditure.

Mr. A. FORREST did not see that the money would be required this year. The only immigrants due between now and the end of the year would be here in a few weeks, before anything could be done in the way of increasing the accommodation at this quarantine station. He moved that the item be struck out. His opinion about these Supplementary Estimates was that items had been put on them simply in order to reduce the surplus balance available at the end of the year, as an excuse for saying that we could not have another loan.

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

The motion to strike out the item was confirmed.

Mr. SHENTON thought the committee would like some information as to the item, "Fremantle railway workshops, £2,500."

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright) said he was sorry to say this was in consequence of the vote for this work having been exceeded.

Mr. SHENTON said that £2,000 was placed on the Loan Estimates for this building. The original tender was for £5,493 6s., and since then the contractor had been paid another £450, bringing it up to about £6,000; and he understood there was still an amount due to the contractor, of about £2,000, which would make the cost of these workshops about £8,000. The question he wanted to know was—when this tender was accepted, where was the authority obtained for the expenditure of so large an amount over and above the amount voted?

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright) said he had already frankly acknowledged that the original vote had been exceeded, and very considerably exceeded. It was found that £2,000 was totally insufficient, and it was anticipated that the balance would have been available out of the £15,000 voted for the completion of the Eastern Railway. But, instead of there being £15,000 available, it was found that there would not be more than £9,000, which was required for other purposes in connection with that railway; and he had now to ask the House to confirm the present vote. This was the first item that he had exceeded out of all the contracts he had entered into since he assumed charge of the department,—contracts involving in the aggregate a sum of £750,000; and he very much regretted the error that had been made in this instance.

Mr. LOTON thought the explanation offered was a straightforward one, and to him it was a satisfactory one.

Mr. A. FORREST said the votes required for works and buildings were becoming very serious items. On these Estimates alone, they had a sum of about £30,000 asked for; and, if the House did not take care, this colony would be ruined yet by its public buildings,—works which did not bring in sixpence to the revenue. He was not blaming the Director of Public Works, but he asked the House to pause.

Mr. SHOLL believed the "extras" in connection with these railway workshops amounted to fifty per cent. of the amount of the original tender. There must be something rotten somewhere.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright): Probably in the state of Denmark.

The vote was confirmed.

Mr. A. FORREST would like some information as to the item "Fremantle railway carriage shed, £4,500."

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright) said this expenditure was advised by the Finance Committee at a time when there was a great outcry about want of employment amongst artisans. The hon. member himself formed one of the deputation that waited upon him, urging the necessity of finding work for the unemployed, and this work was consequently put in hand, the men being employed on it by the day, instead of the work being let by contract.

The vote was agreed to.

Progress was then reported, and leave given to sit again next day.

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

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Wednesday, 3rd August, 1887.

Albany Jetty: Increased accommodation—Reduction of Royalty on Pearl Shells—Message (No. 27): Victoria Public Library—Vote for eradication of Rabbits at Cheyne's Beach—Reorganisation of Colonial Hospital—Supplementary Estimates, 1887: further considered in committee—Adjournment.

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

PRAYERS.

INCREASED ACCOMMODATION, ALBANY JETTY.

SIR T. COCKBURN-CAMPBELL, in accordance with notice, asked the Director of Public Works how soon the Government proposed to carry out the work of increasing the accommodation afforded by the Albany jetty, funds