

intention was to refrain from voting at all.

The House then divided upon the amendment, the numbers being—

Ayes	13
Noes	8

Majority for	...	5
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AYES.

Sir T. C. Campbell, Bart.
 Captain Fawcett
 Mr. A. Forrest
 Mr. Harper
 Mr. Hensman
 Mr. Keane
 Mr. Layman
 Mr. McRae
 Mr. Pease
 Mr. Scott
 Mr. Sholl
 Mr. Vann
 Mr. Parker (Teller.)

NOES.

Mr. E. R. Brockman
 Mr. Congdon
 Hon. Sir M. Fraser
 Mr. James
 Mr. Morrison
 Mr. Richardson
 Hon. J. A. Wright
 Hon. C. N. Warton
 (Teller.)

MR. MARMION, in accordance with notice, then moved the following amendment, as an addition to the 5th paragraph of the Address-in-Reply:—"We regret that we cannot agree with Your Excellency in the course suggested by you to restore the financial equilibrium for the year 1888, and are of opinion that it would not be politic nor in the interests of the colony to re-appropriate the balances of the 1884 loan as suggested by Your Excellency; and we humbly beg Your Excellency will be pleased to reconsider your decision with reference to this important subject."

POINT OF ORDER.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. C. N. Warton) rose to a point of order. He submitted that it was not competent for any member to bring forward any motion or amendment embodying the subject of any bill already before the House. The House had already passed the first reading of a bill dealing with the re-appropriation of the loan balances referred to in the hon. member's motion.

THE SPEAKER thought the Attorney General was right. That was his first impression. The point raised, however, was a very important one, and he was not prepared at the moment to give his ruling upon it. He therefore desired some little time to consider his decision.

Debate adjourned.

GERALDTON-NORTHAMPTON RAILWAY AMENDMENT BILL.

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

the second reading of this bill, said it was a pure formality. The necessity for it arose simply through an error having inadvertently been made in the schedule of the original bill, a certain point of departure being the Anglican Church instead of the Roman Catholic Church, in the town of Geraldton. The Municipal Council of that town desired the error to be rectified, so as to relieve them from any responsibility with regard to that part of the railway running through the town.

The motion was agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

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

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Thursday, 22nd December, 1887.

Roebourne-Cossack Tramway—Address in Reply to the Governor's Speech: Adjourned Debate—Point of Order—Presentation of the Address-in-Reply—Geraldton and Northampton Railway Amendment Bill: in committee—Report of Tariff Commission—Adjournment.

THE SPEAKER took the Chair at noon.

PRAYERS.

ROEBOURNE-COSSACK TRAMWAY.

MR. RICHARDSON moved for a return showing all payments that had been made, or that were still owing, in connection with the survey, construction, and equipment of the tramway between Roebourne and Cossack; and asked whether any further capital outlay was likely to be required for the completion of this work.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright) promised to furnish the information asked for.

ADDRESS IN REPLY TO THE GOVERNOR'S SPEECH: ADJOURNED DEBATE.

POINT OF ORDER.

On the order of the day for the resumption of the debate on the address in reply to the Governor's speech being read,

THE SPEAKER said: It will be in the recollection of the House that the debate was adjourned upon a point of order raised by the Attorney General, as to whether it was competent for the hon. member for Fremantle (Mr. Marmion) to move the amendment of which he had given notice, expressing disapproval of the proposal of the Government to adjust the revenue and expenditure for 1888 by re-appropriating the unexpended balances of the public works loan of 1885, a bill for that purpose being already before the House. It was contended by the Attorney General that the discussion upon this bill would be anticipated if the hon. member for Fremantle were allowed to move his amendment. The objection taken was a novel one in this House, and I was not prepared at the time to rule upon it. Since the adjournment I have had time to consider the matter, and I have consulted various authorities on this point; and I have come to the conclusion, very decidedly, that the hon. member cannot move the amendment of which he had given notice, because it would anticipate discussion upon a matter which is the subject of a bill already before the House. Many decisions have been given on the point, by various Speakers, the last I have seen being that of the late Mr. Speaker Brand, who stated that the practice of the House of Commons was this: that, if the House should order a bill to be read on a given day, it would not anticipate discussion of the matter by a motion on the same subject. According to that ruling, and of various others which I have consulted, the hon. member for Fremantle will not be in order in making the motion standing in his name. But I may point out that this rule is one that is framed in the interests of members themselves. It is done to prevent surprise, on the same principle that a member who gives notice of a motion for a certain day cannot bring it forward at an earlier date. The members of this House are not great in number at present, and they give their attendance very regularly, and therefore such

a rule is not of so much importance. But in large Assemblies—and it will be the case here some day—where many members only attend on occasions when matters are put down in which they take great interest, such a rule is obviously a very necessary one. A member might come here on the day fixed for the discussion of a bill or other matter in which he is interested, and find that he has been anticipated by some motion made, materially affecting the principle of that bill. These rules, as I have already said, are to prevent members being taken by surprise. I have no hesitation in giving this ruling on the present occasion, but it will not at all prejudice the hon. member, because he will be able to give it greater effect by moving his motion on the second reading of the Attorney General's bill.

MR. VENN said the ruling of the Speaker showed the inadvisability of bills being introduced into the House dealing with any matter referred to in the Governor's speech, until the terms of the address in reply had been agreed upon; otherwise discussion might be stifled, so far as the address in reply was concerned.

DEBATE RESUMED.

MR. SHENTON said he was fully in accord with the hon. member for Fremantle in his condemnation of the course proposed by the Government for restoring the financial equilibrium. He thought it would be a most unwise course in every way, and contrary to every proper principle of finance. His Excellency had told them there was a precedent for it. The precedent referred to no doubt was the Eucla telegraph line. But that was a different affair altogether. The money for the construction of that line came out of general revenue, which had been accumulating for some years, leaving what, at that time, was considered a very considerable surplus in the chest; and the House, on the full understanding, and with the sanction of the Secretary of State that the money so appropriated out of surplus revenue should be recouped out of the next loan, agreed to the expenditure. But here the Governor proposed to make use of money already raised by loan for a specific pur-

pose—namely, the prosecution of certain public works—in order to make up an anticipated deficiency in next year's revenue, so as to make the revenue meet the proposed current expenditure. This loan money had been lent to us by English bondholders, on the strength of the schedule attached to the Loan Bill; and he considered it would be a breach of faith towards those bondholders if this money was diverted to other purposes. If the Government wanted to make both ends meet, let them retrench. There were many ways in which they could do it. His Excellency said that if the revenue next year did not substantially increase, large reductions and economies would have to be effected in 1889. He (Mr. Shenton) considered that now was the proper time for retrenchment; the present was the right time to commence these reductions and economies, and not wait for another year, and meantime tide over the difficulty by appropriating loan moneys borrowed for other purposes. On looking at the Estimates for 1888, now before them, he saw no indications of retrenchment; on the contrary, he found that in nearly every department there was an increase. Glancing casually at one department only, he noticed that on one page alone an expenditure of £15,000 could be saved, and he was certain that large saving might be effected in the Police and the Public Works Departments. If we expected to have any further loans in this colony, instead of replenishing our revenue out of borrowed money, raised for public works, we must be prepared to meet any deficiency in revenue by retrenchment; and he regretted very much that the Government, seeing the position they were in, had not come down that session with a policy of retrenchment, instead of bringing in this Reappropriation Bill. When that bill came on for discussion he should feel it his duty to oppose it at every stage. One of the proposed items of reappropriation was the money unexpended from the amount raised for harbor works at Fremantle. He thought it would be dishonest—about the mildest expression he could use—to devote that money to bolster up a deficiency in current revenue.

Mr. MARMION said his intention in moving the amendment which the Speaker had ruled out of order had been merely

to draw the attention of the Governor and the Executive to the fact that the House disapproved of the method—he wouldn't call it the policy—proposed by them for adjusting the finances of the colony. His wish had been to do that in as mild a way as possible, so as to give the Government an opportunity of reconsidering their proposal, and of retiring with as much grace as they could from an untenable position, which that House was not likely to let them maintain. He still hoped the Government would do so, without further action on the part of the House. As to the proposed reappropriation (as it was called), reappropriation was not the right name for it. It was a misappropriation of a reappropriation of money originally appropriated for specific purposes; and when the House came to discuss the bill authorising this misappropriation—if it should ever be called to do so—he was afraid the members of the Government would have to listen to some very unpleasant remarks, which would not be very palatable to them. He earnestly hoped the Government would see the unwisdom of pressing this bill upon the House, and that they would abandon it, in favor of some other scheme of meeting the difficulty. If they did so the end which he had in view in proposing the amendment which had been ruled out of order would be achieved.

Mr. VENN said that the frame of men's minds, the state of their health, the state of their feelings, and possibly the state of their own financial speculations, often tinged and colored and sometimes warped their judgments in dealing with other matters; and it struck him that this had been somewhat the case with hon. members in that House in listening to the Governor's speech. He did not think that speech had come upon them altogether by way of surprise. But, true to human nature, they did not like to be told the bare naked truth. People, for instance, did not like to be told that they were getting grey, that they were getting old, or that they were getting fat, although the truth of these statements might be ever present in their own minds. In the same way there were few hon. members, he thought, who were not aware in their own minds before they ever heard the Governor's speech, that the finances of the colony were not in a

very flourishing state. Few of them expected there would not be a falling off in the revenue. Few of them anticipated that there would be no necessity for retrenchment, in order to make both ends meet. But they did not like to be told of it. They did not relish the plain truth when it came to be placed before them by the Governor in his speech. Now, however, that they had got over the first feeling of revulsion, he hoped that a more cheerful tone would pervade their deliberations. He hoped the gloom of which they had heard so much would be suffered to disperse, and that a brighter prospect would open out before them. After all, there was really nothing to cause any feeling of despondency in the position or prospects of this colony. A great deal had been said about the falling off in the land revenue, but there were causes for that which might easily have been foreseen. He thought it was a most unfortunate thing, in the first place, that the Surveyor General—a gentleman who at all times had the interest of the colony at heart—should have left the colony just as the new Land Regulations had come into operation; for he felt sure that the colony had suffered materially in consequence. He was certain that the revenue from land sales would have been considerably increased if the Government had taken proper steps to set apart and declare “agricultural areas,” as contemplated by those Land Regulations; and he was sure that if the Surveyor General had not been absent from the colony this would have been done. While on the subject of revenue from land sales, he might say that he agreed with the hon. member for the North (Mr. Richardson) that the money derived from this source should not form part of the current revenue. But it had been regarded as such hitherto, and it was much to be regretted that the receipts under this head had not been increased, as they would have been, if the Government had taken the proper steps to open up these agricultural areas. Until this was done, there would be very little extension of agricultural settlement. The present holders of land—he might say this as chairman of the Agricultural Commission—were doing a great deal in the way of clearing and preparing for cultivation, doing as much as could be expected of

them under the circumstances; and before there would be any material increase of settlement, steps must be taken to open up additional areas for agricultural purposes. They had been told, and much stress had been laid upon it, that the amount received from land sales this year showed a falling off of about £28,000 compared with the revenue derived from the same source last year. The cause of this falling off had already been explained. But there was one point in connection with this subject which appeared to have been lost sight of by the Governor, and it was this: if the land revenue of this colony had shown a falling off, in direct cash receipts through the Treasury, what amount of land revenue was at present being expended for us in the construction of our land-grant railways? What relation did the £28,000 bear to a hundred miles of railway? Was this not an important and substantial element of prosperity? Was it not an item that should appear somewhere to the credit of our land revenue? As to the position of agriculture, his own opinion—and he had recently had excellent opportunities of forming an opinion—was that the agricultural industry was on a perfectly sound basis at the present moment, and that there was no such thing as depression among the agriculturists of this colony. The evidence taken before the Agricultural Commission had established that fact, so far as the districts already visited were concerned. He saw nothing in the position of the colony itself to justify any gloomy apprehensions. There was no fear of the colony so long as they kept a tight hand on the public expenditure. He felt sure the finances of the colony would adjust themselves without any reappropriation from loans. There had been large sums expended out of revenue within the last few years—with the consent of that House, he admitted—expended upon works which undoubtedly should have been constructed out of loan money; and, at some future date, he would not be averse to including these sums in a public works loan bill. But he should certainly oppose the proposal of the Governor, and he regretted that His Excellency should have imagined that there was a precedent for it—a precedent which was in no way analogous.

With regard to the abandonment of the telegraph line from Wyndham to the goldfields, he had always been averse to any large expenditure at Wyndham, being of opinion that we should concentrate our efforts in developing Derby; so far as he was personally concerned, he was not opposed to the cessation of that work. But he thought the line from Derby to the goldfields ought to be proceeded with, seeing that the necessary plant was on the spot. Had the Government not been in such a precious hurry to start this work and to procure the necessary material, he did not think he would have supported this expenditure at present; but, under the circumstances, he thought the work should be proceeded with. The hon. member concluded by moving an amendment to the address in reply expressing their appreciation of the courtesy extended to them by the colony of New South Wales, in inviting the members of the Legislature to visit that colony on the occasion of the approaching Centenary demonstrations.

THE COMMISSIONER OF RAILWAYS (Hon. J. A. Wright) said he had much pleasure in seconding the amendment proposed by the hon. member for Wellington, and he took occasion to do so in order to express his appreciation of the courtesy of the mother colony, not only in this but in other matters. He only wished this colony was in a position to repay some of these courtesies. It was only the other day that the Locomotive Superintendent, on the occasion of his visiting that colony, was the participant of so much kindness that he (the Commissioner) thought it called for the strongest expression of his thanks and appreciation.

MR. HENSMAN said he was sure the hon. member for Wellington would readily admit that the suggestion of adding this paragraph to the address in reply emanated from himself (Mr. Hensman). It had struck him that something of the kind was wanting in the address. He thought our best efforts should be to keep ourselves on the best terms we could with our neighbors. He hoped many hon. members would be able to attend the Centenary banquet—a sufficient number of prosperous-looking, well-fed (but not fat), and gentlemanly men. It

might perhaps produce a good effect, especially if they had an opportunity of speaking in public, as no doubt they would, on that interesting occasion. He hoped they would make it a point to impress upon the New South Wales people that this colony is in a sound financial position. He was sorry it should have been put forward in the columns of a certain paper that he had ever suggested that the colony was on the “brink of ruin.” He was not aware that he had ever said so. He had commented on the mismanagement of the colony by the present Government, but he never said that the colony was in anything but a sound and healthy condition; and, if well managed, he believed the colony had great resources, which only wanted proper development under that form of Government which they hoped soon to see it enjoying.

The address in reply was then agreed to as amended.

PRESENTATION OF THE ADDRESS.

The Council adjourned, during leisure, in order to present the Address to His Excellency the Governor. On re-assembling,

THE SPEAKER announced to the House that, the Address having been presented, His Excellency had been pleased to reply as follows:—

“MR. SPEAKER AND GENTLEMEN OF
“THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,—

“I thank you for the Reply you have
“been good enough to make to the
“Speech with which I opened the Session,
“and I rely confidently upon your assist-
“ance in the settlement of the important
“matters which are now before your
“Honorable House.”

GERALDTON-NORTHAMPTON RAIL- WAY AMENDMENT BILL.

This bill passed through committee
sub silentio.

REPORT OF TARIFF COMMISSION.

ADJOURNED DEBATE.

The House went into committee for the further consideration of the report of the Tariff Commission.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) said that when they adjourned the discussion of the report the

other evening it was, he understood, generally agreed that the proposals embodied in the report were acceptable as a whole; and it now remained for the committee to deal with the schedules in detail.

MR. MORRISON thought it would be advisable, before going into details, to endeavor to arrive at the reason why we were altering the tariff at all. In discussing the various items, one member might be actuated by protective principles, another by free trade principles, and another by some other principle—the necessity of increasing the revenue, without regard to the question either of Free Trade or Protection. Were we going to deal with this question simply for the purpose of swelling the revenue, or were we going to consider it as a tariff intended for the purpose of protecting certain industries? If for the purpose of augmenting the revenue, our first duty was to regulate our expenditure with the tariff, or we should have to increase our tariff to meet our expenditure. If for the purpose of protecting everything we could produce in the colony, then the protection provided should be such as to have the desired effect. If the object they had in view was this latter one, then he thought the present was not an opportune time to consider the question, in view of the approaching change in the form of Government.

FIRST SCHEDULE :

Table of Specific Duties.

Item: "Animals Living: Horses and Horned Cattle, 10s.; Sheep, 1s.; Pigs, 2s.:"

THE HON. J. G. LEE-STEERE said as the constituency represented by the Chairman of Committees was the constituency most deeply affected by the proposed duties, he hoped this item would not be disposed of until the hon. member for Plantagenet had an opportunity of stating his objections to the proposed taxes. At any rate, the Chairman of Committees wished it to be understood that he reserved to himself the right of moving, when the opportunity was afforded him, that the proposed imports be struck off altogether, or, at any rate, that there should be no increase upon the schedule. Having said so much for his

hon. friend the Chairman, he did not himself object to these charges. He thought we had sufficient live stock in the colony to supply our local markets.

THE CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES said he might be permitted to state that all he asked was that the committee would not come to a decision until he had an opportunity of communicating with his constituency. When the Tariff Bill came before the House he would have an opportunity of making a statement on the subject.

MR. A. FORREST moved that the duty on horses and horned cattle be increased from 10s. to £1. He did not see why the whole colony should suffer for the sake of the people of Albany, who now received their butcher's meat from Adelaide. Everything we sent to Adelaide was taxed, and why should we not retaliate?

MR. RICHARDSON said he considered horned cattle and sheep amongst the most important items on the schedule, and they required very careful consideration in dealing with them. The House had accepted the announcement that this was a protective tariff, and he thought every member, having regard to the interests of his own particular district, had a perfect right to take part in the scramble, and to make the best terms he could for his constituency. The constituency which he represented was concerned very much indeed in these items—being very much interested in the production of cattle and sheep, and he therefore hoped the proposed increased duty would be supported.

MR. KEANE thought it was simply waste of time to discuss all these items now, if they were going to have them again in the Tariff Bill.

MR. SHENTON also thought the real fight—and there were members who were prepared to contest a great many of these items—should be when they had the bill.

MR. PARKER said the House had already affirmed the general principle of the report of the Commission; and it appeared to him that was all that was required by the Government to enable them to prepare their bill. It seemed to him the committee could not arrive at any final determination as to each particular item now.

MR. VENN thought that not only would it save time to discuss the sche-

dules now, but also save a considerable amount of printer's work. The constitution of the Council was very much the same in committee as it was in the House, and there couldn't be very much alteration made in the bill, if they discussed these items *seriatim* now.

MR. SHOLL thought if they threshed them out that evening in committee there couldn't be much left to do when the bill came in.

MR. HENSMAN thought it most desirable that they should not prematurely dispose of these schedules, and that whatever they did that evening, an opportunity should be given for a final revision when the bill came in. It must be borne in mind that the public, who, after all, were most interested, had had very little opportunity of discussing this new tariff, and there might be many useful suggestions made to hon. members from outside. He was personally opposed to touch the tariff at all unless he was satisfied it would not have the effect of diminishing the revenue.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) said he would draw attention to the fact that circumstances had very much changed since the Commission were instructed. They were instructed in accordance with the report of the select committee of last year, and the object was to amend the tariff for certain purposes, without at the same time seriously affecting the revenue. But since then circumstances had changed, and he was of opinion it would not be judicious nor expedient at the present time to hazard any experiments with these schedules which might result in any loss to the revenue. As he had already said, the members of the Commission, taking the receipts for 1886 as their guide, calculated there would be no loss to the revenue, if their suggestions were adopted. But as a safeguard—though he was not prepared to do it himself, nor did he think it would be becoming on the part of the chairman of the Commission to do so—if it was the pleasure of the House that what was commonly called the *ad valorem* should stand as at present (12½ per cent.), he could say without hesitation that the revenue would be a gainer rather than a loser; and he thought a conclusion should be

arrived at upon that point, at any rate, before the bill was introduced.

MR. SCOTT said he understood the House had already affirmed the principle of the recommendations of the Commission, and the change in the *ad valorem* duty was the whole gist of the report. If they now altered that duty from 10 per cent. (the amount proposed by the Commission) to 12½ per cent., it appeared to him they would be departing from the main principle of the report. For his own part he believed the majority of people would prefer to leave the tariff as it now stood.

MR. MARMION said there was another view of this question: until they decided this question of the *ad valorem* rate, and settled the schedules generally, it would be impossible for the Colonial Secretary to estimate his revenue. He was not opposing the postponement of the discussion upon the schedules until the bill came in; on the contrary, he thought it was very desirable that the country should have an opportunity of further considering this revised tariff before the Legislature dealt with it.

THE HON. J. G. LEE-STEERE said there was another thing that struck him: this report was the report of a Commission; it was not sent down to the House by the Government. The committee now would be at liberty to increase or reduce any of these items, but when the Government brought down their bill imposing certain duties it would not be in the power of any member of that House to propose an increase in those duties. It was only the Government that could propose any additional burdens upon the community in the shape of taxation.

MR. SHENTON moved that the Chairman do now report to the House the resolution of the committee, arrived at the other day, generally affirming the principles of the recommendations of the Commission.

The committee divided:

Aye	1
Noes	21
	—
Majority for ...	20

AYES.

Mr. Shenton (Teller.)

NOES.

Mr. E. E. Brockman
 Mr. Congdon
 Mr. A. Forrest
 Hon. Sir M. Fraser
 Mr. Harper
 Mr. Hensman
 Mr. James
 Mr. Keane
 Mr. Layman
 Mr. Marmion
 Mr. McRae
 Mr. Morrison
 Mr. Parker
 Mr. Pearce
 Mr. Richardson
 Mr. Scott
 Mr. Sholl
 Hon. J. G. Lee-Steere
 Mr. Venn
 Hon. C. N. Warton
 Hon. J. A. Wright

(Teller.)

MR. A. FORREST amended his previous motion—that the duty on horses and horned cattle be increased to £1—and now moved that the duty on horses be £1, and on cattle £1 10s.

MR. PARKER suggested that horses be left out altogether. We required fresh blood in the way of good horse stock, and the more fresh blood we introduced the better would it be for the country.

MR. RICHARDSON disagreed with the hon. member for Perth. He thought that the horses now introduced into the colony were introduced for the most part for what they could win at race meetings, and not to improve the breed of colonial horses. We wanted revenue, and they had been told this was a protective tariff, and he should therefore support the proposed increase. A duty of £1 on a valuable horse could not make any appreciable difference in the price.

MR. SHENTON said that what the Commission considered was that there were a considerable number of horses introduced into the colony by railway contractors and others—draught horses.

MR. PARKER pointed out that railway contractors—at any rate so far as land grant railways were concerned—were exempted from paying any duty upon any portion of the plant they required for the construction of the lines. He did not know whether horses would be considered as part of a railway contractor's plant. Their plant would be very incomplete without them.

MR. MORRISON said he understood the main object the Commission had in placing these duties upon cattle and sheep was to check the importation of

stock for butchering purposes at Albany chiefly. He would point out to the House that the reason why so much stock was imported into Albany from Adelaide was because of the high freights charged by our own subsidised steamers along the coast, which were simply prohibitive, so far as our own stockowners were concerned. If these rates were reduced there would be no necessity for these import duties. He would suggest that the duty on cattle for stud purposes be £1, and for slaughtering purposes £2.

MR. SHOLL thought it would be unwise to make the duty upon imported stock too high. We hoped to see our Eucla country stocked sooner or later, and probably the great bulk of that stock would have to come by sea.

MR. VENN thought the insertion of the words "for slaughter" would meet the difficulty.

MR. KEANE said it would be very difficult to prove whether a man brought his cattle or sheep here for slaughtering purposes or not. He might bring them ostensibly for stocking purposes, and, after fattening them for a few months, sell them to the butcher. In this way he would be able to evade the tax.

MR. HARPER thought that if they began to discriminate between the various descriptions of animals, they would get into serious difficulty. If the colony was not able to supply sufficient stock to stock the country, it seemed to him we ought to keep our ports free.

The proposal to increase the duty on horses to £1, and on horned cattle for slaughter to 30s., was then put and passed.

MR. A. FORREST then moved that the duty on sheep for slaughter be raised from 1s. to 2s. 6d. His object was to protect our Northern stockowners, who were now blocked out by importations from the other colonies, owing to the exorbitant freights charged by our own subsidised steamers.

MR. HENSMAN asked was it possible that committee was going to impose a duty of half-a-crown on every sheep imported into the colony? Who was going to follow these sheep and see whether they were slaughtered or not? We should want a very large staff of officers to watch them. It appeared to him that the object of hon. members was to protect

their own constituencies, or their own particular industries; and really he must begin to think whether he had any industry himself to protect.

MR. MORRISON said he would increase the duty to 5s., or anything to kill the trade now going on, in the shape of stock importation from the other colonies, while our own flockowners were overstocked, but simply handicapped by reason of the excessive freights.

THE HON. J. G. LEE-STEERE suggested that the duty should be imposed indiscriminately upon all stock, but if the owner made a declaration that they were intended for stocking or breeding purposes, he should have the duty remitted. This was often done with other things introduced into the colony.

MR. HENSMAN: May I ask whether this increased duty will increase the price of mutton or beef?

MR. A. FORREST: Not at all.

MR. SCOTT thought that other live animals, besides horses, cattle, and sheep, should be included in this schedule. We were taxing the most useful of all animals.

The motion to increase the duty on sheep to 2s. 6d. was agreed to.

MR. A. FORREST moved that the duty on pigs be increased from 2s. to 7s. 6d.

MR. LAYMAN said he couldn't stand that. It was too much altogether. He thought if we doubled the proposed duty, and made it 4s., it would be quite high enough. He would move, as an amendment, that the duty on pigs be 4s.

Agreed to.

Item: "Beef and pork, in pickle or brine, 1d.:"

MR. MARMION thought a 10 per cent. *ad valorem* duty would be ample upon salt beef in casks. The local supply, he believed, was nothing like sufficient. The same argument applied to salt pork, though not to the same extent because it was not so extensively used as beef.

MR. A. FORREST moved that "fresh meat" be added to the list. He did not see why fresh meat, in a frozen condition, should not be subjected to a duty as well as corned meat, or stock for slaughter.

MR. HENSMAN said if he stood there alone he should object to articles of daily consumption, and even of necessity, such as meat, being taxed. If the House was

determined to try the effect of what was called "protection," he thought we might, at any rate, allow the necessaries of life to come in free.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) did not think the slight protective duties proposed under this tariff would be felt by anyone to an extent worth mentioning, or going into heroics about. The object was to encourage local industries, and so keep the money in the colony. With more money in circulation business must become brisker. The encouragement and the success of native industries must be a gain all round: employers could afford a better wage, and the workman could thus afford any slight increase that might arise in the cost of commodities.

MR. PARKER said the way he looked at the question was this—that we must give and take, in framing a tariff for a whole community. If by the imposition of duties upon live stock and meat we sought to protect the Northern stock owners, it must be borne in mind that on the other hand we were taxing a great many articles which the settlers at the North were unable to produce themselves.

The proposal to add "Fresh Meat, including Frozen Meat," was agreed to, and the item, as amended, put and passed.

Item: "Beer, Cider, and Perry, per gallon 1s.:"

MR. A. FORREST said as the Government were in want of money he thought the duty on imported beer might fairly be increased, even if they took the duty off other articles of greater necessity, which would be a greater relief to consumers. Why should not the local brewing trade be encouraged as well as any other?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) said the present duty was as high as it was in any of the other colonies.

MR. SHENTON thought, if colonial brewers could not compete with foreign brewers, when they had the benefit of a shilling a gallon on their beer, the best thing they could do was to give up brewing altogether.

The matter dropped.

Item: "Biscuits, per lb. 2d.:"

MR. SHOLL pointed out that there were different classes of biscuits, some of

them not worth more than 3d. a lb., while others were worth 1s. a lb. He thought a uniform duty of 1d. upon every description of biscuits would be very unfair. He would suggest that the ordinary biscuits, in common use, should come under the *ad valorem* scale, and, in order to make up for it, that the duty on fancy biscuits be increased to 2d. At any rate he thought there ought to be some discrimination made.

MR. MARMION concurred with the hon. member for Carnarvon that a uniform rate all round would press unfairly upon the lower priced article. There were ship biscuits, which were not worth more than 2d. per lb. at the port of shipment, and it was now proposed to place a duty equal to 50 per cent. upon them. To be consistent, biscuits which cost 1s. a lb. should be liable to a duty of 6d. He thought 1d. a lb. on such biscuits as were used on board ship was too high.

No amendment was submitted, and the item was passed.

Item: "Butter, Butterine, and like substances, per lb. 2d.:"

MR. MARMION thought that butterine should be subjected to a higher duty than butter, and that no great harm would be done if it was doubled or trebled. But he would not press it.

Progress was then reported, leave being given to sit again.

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

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Friday, 23rd December, 1887.

Victoria Public Library Bill: first reading—Australasian Naval Force Bill: first reading—Petition—Coastal Steam Service (Contract)—Geraldton and Northampton Railway Amendment Bill: third reading—Report of Tariff Commission: adjourned debate—Adjournment.

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

PRAYERS.

VICTORIA PUBLIC LIBRARY BILL.

Read a first time.

AUSTRALASIAN NAVAL FORCE BILL.

Read a first time.

ADELAIDE STEAMSHIP COMPANY'S CONTRACT.

On the motion of the COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser), the provisional contract entered into between the Government and the Adelaide Steamship Co., was referred to a select committee, consisting of Messrs. Forrest, Keane, McRae, Shenton, Wright, Venn, and the mover.

PETITION.

MR. PARKER presented a petition from the Boot and Shoe Manufacturers of Perth, praying that in the proposed new tariff the duty upon various kinds of leather might be reduced.

The petition was received and read.

GERALDTON AND NORTHAMPTON RAILWAY AMENDMENT BILL.

Read a third time and passed.

REPORT OF TARIFF COMMISSION.

ADJOURNED DEBATE.

The House went into Committee for the further consideration of the report of the Tariff Commission, and proceeded to deal with the schedule of specific duties.

Item: "Bran and Pollard, £1 per ton" (instead of 10s.):

MR. RICHARDSON said he did not know whether hon. members had considered what the effect of a heavy duty on bran would be. It meant this: dear bran spelt dear milk for the residents of the towns. The quantity locally grown did not supply more than one-third of the local consumption. He would move that bran be placed on the free list.

MR. MARMION said the argument of the hon. member for Roebourne applied to numerous other articles of general consumption. Did we produce anything like enough butter, or cheese, or potatoes, or flour? Did the hon. member intend to move that these articles should be placed on the free list? If the hon. member carried out his principle to its logical