

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Wednesday, 28th December, 1887.

Quarters for Resident Medical Officer, Wyndham—Cost of Fremantle Post Office—Cost of Bunbury Railway—Return of Aboriginal Natives engaged in Pearl Fisheries—Petition—Distribution of Police Force—Message (No. 1): Reply from Secretary of State to telegram re Responsible Government—Colonial Secretary's Financial Statement—Report of Tariff Commission: adjourned debate—Adjournment.

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

PRAYERS.

QUARTERS FOR RESIDENT MEDICAL OFFICER, WYNDHAM.

MR. A. FORREST, in accordance with notice, asked the Director of Public Works if the Government intended to provide quarters for the Resident Medical Officer at Wyndham?

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright) replied that it was not the intention of the Government to provide quarters.

COST OF FREMANTLE POST OFFICE.

MR. PARKER (for Mr. SHENTON) asked the Director of Public Works—

1. The amount of the original contract for the erection of the Post Office at Fremantle.
2. The amount paid to the contractor on account of work done.
3. If the first contractor had failed to complete his work.
4. Amount of the second contract to complete the building.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright) said he would furnish the information asked for, next day.

COST OF BUNBURY RAILWAY.

MR. SHOLL, in accordance with notice, asked the Commissioner of Railways to lay on the table of the House a return showing—

- a. Amount of original tender for construction of Railway from Bunbury to Timber Ranges.
- b. All amounts paid or still owing to Contractor for extras in connection with this work.

c. All other amounts paid or still owing in connection with rolling stock, equipment, and completion of this line; such return showing the items in detail, and to whom paid.

d. The cost of all surveys in connection with the line.

e. What surplus, if any, remains from the loan of £40,000 voted for this work.

THE COMMISSIONER OF RAILWAYS (Hon. J. A. Wright), replying, said: In the first place, it has always been the custom of this House that returns of the sort now asked for should be moved for, in the form of an address, and not put in the form of a direct question. In the second place, it would be extremely prejudicial to the interests of the colony at the present moment to lay the return asked for on the table, as several claims for compensation are still outstanding. So soon as these claims are settled, I shall be happy to furnish the information asked for.

RETURN OF ABORIGINAL NATIVES ENGAGED IN PEARL FISHERIES.

MR. RICHARDSON, in accordance with notice, asked the Colonial Secretary whether the return asked for by resolution of the Legislative Council, on 29th July, 1887, had been prepared; the said return showing the number of aboriginal natives engaged in the pearl shell fisheries for the seasons 1884-5, 1885-6, 1886-7.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) laid on the table a return for the years 1885-6 and 1886-7. The Government Resident, he was sorry to say, had been unable to furnish the return for the earlier date.

PETITION FROM LICENSED VICTUALLERS.

MR. MARMION presented a petition from the licensed victuallers of Perth, Fremantle, and Guildford, praying for an increase of duty on imported beer.

The petition was received.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE POLICE FORCE.

MR. PARKER, in accordance with notice, moved that an humble address be presented to His Excellency the Gov-

error, praying that he will be pleased to cause to be laid upon the table of the House a statement showing the places where the Police Force of the colony are at present located, and the rank and number of the officers at each station. The hon. member said he simply asked for the return so as to facilitate their dealing with the vote under the head of the Police Department. He should also like the return to show where it was proposed to locate the members of the force next year.

Motion put and passed.

MESSAGE (No. 1): TELEGRAMS *re* RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT.

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

"In reply to Address No. 1 of the "Honorable the Legislative Council, "dated the 21st instant, the Governor "has the honor to transmit the enclosed "telegraphic correspondence with the "Right Honorable the Secretary of "State.

"Government House, 28th December, "1887.

"TELEGRAM.—*Governor to Secretary of "State:—*

"Perth, 22nd December, 1887.

"Am requested by Legislative Council "to forward following resolution, passed "Chamber. Begins 'This House regrets "'that His Excellency the Governor has "'not yet been informed of the views of "'the Imperial Authorities on the sub- "'ject of Responsible Government, and, "'before providing for the financial re- "'quirements of the year 1888, requests "'to be informed of the date on which "'those views may definitely be expected.' "Ends. Reply by telegraph.

"GOVERNOR, WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

"TELEGRAM.—*From Secretary of State to Governor:—*

"London, 26th December, 1887.

"Referring to your telegram of 22nd "December, full particulars given in my "Despatch No. 130, of 12th December.

"SECRETARY OF STATE."

THE BUDGET SPEECH.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser), having moved the House into committee of ways and means, for the consideration of the estimates of expenditure for the year 1888, said: Sir Thomas Campbell—It is my intention to-night to confine myself to the delivery of such remarks as may assist the hon. members of this House in understanding our financial position; at the same time, I shall at present refrain from dealing directly or specially with the question of revenue, feeling that the matter cannot be exactly decided upon until the work of the tariff committee has been completed.

The Condition of Trade.

Alluding first to the condition of the trade of the colony, hon. members, if they have studied the returns which are shown in the Blue Book, will find that the trade of the colony has been gradually and steadily increasing. True the products of the colony had not gone to such good markets, perhaps, of late years as they did in years gone by; at the same time we may rest assured that our trade, so far as regards our exports, is in a sound condition. I am not aware that it is necessary for me at present to enter into figures to demonstrate the development and position of our import trade—the returns are within the reach of all hon. members. It has been stated that where the imports of a country increase rapidly it is an indication of prosperity. So it is, within a certain limit. But a question worthy of consideration in this connection is, whether this remarkable development of the colony's import trade within the last year or two has not tended much to bring about that scarcity of money which is now felt in the colony,—especially in view of the fact that our exports, unfortunately, have not gone to such good markets as we might desire.

Progress and Settlement.

With regard to progress and settlement, I regret to say that the progress of settlement has not shown that steady increase which we all desire. The improvements effected in our towns within the last few years have no doubt been something very marked, but unfortunately, the large amount of capital expended in improving and beautifying our towns is (so to say)

sunk. It is not like capital invested in the proper settlement of the country and the development of its resources, inasmuch as it cannot be regarded in the same sense as a reproductive work. It is very pleasant and enjoyable to see so much being done to improve the appearance of this prettily situated city, by the erection of so many handsome buildings, and it is equally so to witness the many imposing structures which have lately gone up in the town of Fremantle, including its beautiful Town Hall. These improvements are no doubt indicative of progress and prosperity in a certain degree, but they do not furnish indications of any substantial extension of progress in the sense of settlement and cultivation. It has been said that one of the main causes of the failure of the French as colonisers and settlers is the fact that immediately they settle down to occupy a new country, their first thought is to convert it into something that will remind them of their beloved Paris. They must have their boulevards, and their theatres, and their cafés, and their sources of amusement and recreation. These are their first objects, and it is said that this desire to produce, on a small scale, a reproduction of their beautiful chief city, rather than to develop more solid settlement, is one reason of the insuccess which usually attends the efforts of our Gallic friends at colonisation. In this colony, as I have already said, we have during the last few years made some marked improvements in the general appearance of our towns; no doubt hon. members will agree with me that hundreds of thousands of pounds have been spent of late years in town improvements.

Country Improvements.

Would that an equal sum, or greater, had been expended in the improvement of the country! It is sad to have to say it, but, beyond the improvements made out of public funds, in the extension of railway facilities, my own impression is that the country generally is not in such an advanced state of settlement as it was some years ago. The farmsteads, the homesteads, the fences, and all such things really do not appear to be in the same perfect state that they were, to my knowledge, fifteen years ago. It has been said, and with truth, that in the

immediate neighborhood of our railways a great deal has been done in the way of clearing and so forth. I hope it will continue, and that the settlement of the colony will be encouraged and stimulated by the facilities which have been provided out of public money, and that the time is not far distant when we may see the same substantial signs of improvement and progress in the country as we have had in our towns. Most assuredly there have been most gratifying indications of progress in our towns, but I cannot say the same, speaking generally, of rural progress, if I except, perhaps, the Northern division of the colony, where the pastoralists certainly have made marked strides, and made much more progress within the last few years than has been made in this Southern part of the colony during a generation.

Gold Discoveries.

We have, as we all know—or at least we trust—recently discovered gold at the North and also in the East. These gold discoveries may possess potentialities of wealth beyond the dreams of avarice, but I regret to say that as yet we have not, as a colony, derived much advantage from them; on the contrary, I believe myself that we are in fact poorer, as a community, at the present time, through their discovery. But let us hope that this large expenditure which we have incurred in the development of our gold-mining industry is merely the first cost of laying the foundation of future prosperity, and that in a short time we shall begin to reap the advantages of these discoveries. Let us trust so, at any rate.

Immigration.

Let me allude here for a moment to the question of immigration. Hon. members are aware that in 1883 a Board of Immigration was established here by virtue of a statute, and that the Board for some time carried on a somewhat vigorous and extensive system of immigration at public expense. I may state that up to the present time the Board have brought into the colony 915 nominated adult immigrants and 815 selected adult immigrants; and that 1,254 adult immigrants have been introduced under our contract with the W. A. Land Company, so that the total cost which the

Board has incurred up to the present time amounts to £51,495. Hon. members, however, are aware that immigration in a great measure has now ceased, and that the agreement with the W. A. Land Company has been temporarily suspended; and that, beyond a certain number of nominated immigrants which may continue to be brought out under the auspices of the Board—so long as the existing regulations remain in force—no provision is made for the future. I will deal more in detail with this subject further on, when I come to explain the vote that will be asked for immigration purposes for next year.

Indebtedness of the Colony.

I was alluding just now, Sir Thomas Campbell, to the progress made in public works, such as railways, throughout the colony. These public works, I need hardly say, cost a good deal of money, and, as the result mainly of this public works policy, I may say that the indebtedness of the colony at the present moment on account of public loans is £1,286,000, and that the Banks hold securities representing a sum of £1,297,000; so that the total indebtedness of the colony on public and private account may be taken to be something over two millions and a half of money, or about £63 10s. per head of the population—£32 per head on account of our public indebtedness, and about an equal amount on private account. I have been accused here very often of preaching caution. I ask hon. members to give their attention to these figures. We cannot, at any rate, be accused of not having appropriated large sums for the improvement and the development of the colony—large sums bearing in mind our scanty population. A large proportion of this public indebtedness, as hon. members are aware, has been incurred in the prosecution of public works. But there is another matter to which I would draw the attention of the committee, and that is the peculiarly generous and lavish way in which our present paternal constitution provides for the wants and requirements of the colonists, in the maintenance of public institutions which, in the other colonies, are largely maintained out of other sources, assisted by private enterprise. Let hon. members look at the estimated expenditure for next year, and

what do they see? Under the head of the Medical Department, including hospitals, provision out of public funds is made amounting to £15,289. A further sum of £11,085 is provided for the education of the people. The Poor Relief Department requires £9,671; and the Ecclesiastical Grant amounts to £3,543. Here we have a sum total of close upon £40,000 expended out of general revenue in providing for the wants of the community in matters which, in the other colonies, are provided, to a large extent, by the people themselves, instead of by the State. The State, it is true, in some of them, supplement the contributions of the people; but here the whole cost devolves upon the Government, which, as I have just pointed out, expends £1 per head of the population in providing it with medical, ecclesiastical, educational, and charitable relief. Then again there is the maintenance of the public roads. During the last five years we have expended £82,429 in grants for the purpose of the upkeep of roads, all of which has come out of the general revenue. In addition to this, as I have already said, we have spent £51,000 upon immigration since 1883, or a total of about £134,000 out of current revenue upon roads and immigration. There are few colonies, I venture to say, where so large a demand is made upon the public revenue, for such purposes as I have referred to; and I think it would be well that this House should not lose sight of the fact.

The Public Revenue.

Coming to the revenue, if hon. members will bear with me a few minutes, I will briefly glance at the revenue and population of the colony during the past six years. In 1881, when our population was a little over 30,000, our revenue was £254,000, and we closed that year with a deficit of £12,565, with which we commenced the year 1882. At the end of 1882 we had a surplus of £32,355; but how was that? It was because we restored to the revenue, out of loan, a sum of £48,160 which we had previously expended in connection with the Eucla telegraph line. In the following year, the population of the colony was 31,700, and, with the surplus of the previous year, we enjoyed a revenue amounting to £284,363, while, on the other hand, we

only spent the moderate sum of £240,566. Next year, in 1884, we had a population of close upon 33,000, and our revenue realised £290,319, our expenditure for the same period being £291,306. In 1885 the population increased to 35,186, and the revenue realised £323,213, of which we only spent £308,848. In the following year, with a population amounting to 39,582, the public revenue realised £388,564, and we expended £394,695, or about £6,000 in excess of our income. In 1887, with a population estimated at the end of June last at 41,717, my estimate of revenue for the year, now just closing, is £370,938, and the estimated expenditure is (in round numbers) about £440,000. Hon. members will thus see how the revenue of the colony, with the exception of a slight turn last year, has steadily increased from £254,000 in 1881 to £388,000 last year. In introducing the Supplementary Estimates last session I called attention to the fact that, although our revenue had advanced by leaps and bounds, our expenditure had shown still further agility; therefore it is we find that our accumulated savings are gone. But all this expenditure had been incurred under the law. It has been expended at the desire of this House, and upon the votes of this House. Hon. members, I am sure, will pardon me if I remind them of that fact.

Estimated Revenue.

I will now, sir, make some allusion to the estimated revenue for the coming year. I have already stated that I cannot be very precise in dealing with next year's revenue, inasmuch as the labors of the tariff committee have not yet concluded; but I think there is a general feeling among hon. members that any changes that may be effected in the Customs duties will be so arranged that, at any rate, there shall be no appreciable loss to the revenue from that source. What I desire particularly to draw attention to now is the lightness of our taxation. It has been said here, or it has been thought at any rate, that we are a heavily taxed people; but when we consider what our sources of revenue are, and what the calls upon that revenue are—calls which I have already explained are not made to the same extent in the other colonies—extraordinary calls I may say—I think it must be admitted that

the burden of taxation placed upon the shoulders of this community is a comparatively light burden. Taking the estimated Customs duties, and the stamp duty—the latter of which it may be said only affects people of property—we find that the amount we expect to derive from these sources next year is £182,115, which may be said to be the total amount of taxation, fairly so called, which the people here are called upon to pay. I maintain that the land revenue, which is calculated to produce next year £83,200; our railway receipts, which are estimated at £50,000; our postal and telegraph receipts, estimated at £24,000—I maintain that all these sources of revenue are (so to speak) mere matters of trade or business. The man who purchases or leases land, which he makes use of, cannot be said to be taxed. The man who travels on a railway does so for pleasure or business, and what he pays for the convenience cannot be regarded as a tax, but rather a *quid pro quo*. The same may be said with regard to the facilities provided by the Postal and Telegraph Department. There are other sources of revenue which we expect will bring in some £42,000 more, but none of which I submit can be regarded in any way as taxation. Therefore it is wonderful, when we consider all the demands that are made upon the Government in this colony—it is really wonderful that we are able to accomplish so much without at the same time unduly taxing the people.

Customs Receipts.

I find that since 1882 the revenue from Customs alone has gone up rapidly. In that year our fiscal revenue amounted to £118,000; next year it was £121,000; in 1884 there was a slight falling off, the receipts for that year being £118,000; in 1885 they amounted to £134,000; in 1886 they increased to £163,000; and the estimated revenue from Customs during the present year amounts to the respectable figure of £177,000. It will be seen that our Customs revenue has been on the ascending scale, right through, although no increase whatever has been made in the duties imposed, since they were raised in 1882.

Land Revenue.

With regard to the land revenue, it may interest hon. members to know what the land revenue will yield this year. From

information which I have obtained to-day from the Receiver of Land Revenue, it appears that the receipts from that source have realised, up to date, a sum of £78,340. It will be seen on reference to the estimates of revenue for next year that we anticipate receiving £83,200 from land. I have been naturally anxious to know what would be the probable result of the working of our new Land Regulations; and their effect upon the revenue; and I have made inquiries as to what will be the probable increase that will be derived from the increase of rents in the North District, next year, in consequence of leases entering upon their second term; and I find that the estimated increase—and I believe it is capable of being calculated to a nicety—will only amount to £2,231 15s. I was in hopes that it would have been considerably more. I find, on the other hand, that on account of reduction in rents in the Kimberley district, by reason of the deductions claimed under the stocking clause, we shall receive £1,154 10s. less next year from that source, which, with the reduction in other rents, amounting to £1,502 10s., will give a total estimated decrease in our territorial revenue of £2,657, against a total estimated increase of £2,231 15s., so that these two items of profit and loss may be expected pretty nearly to counterbalance each other. The reason I am now explaining this matter is because some hon. members have an idea that the increase of rents next year will bring a considerable addition to the revenue. They will now see the exact position of affairs.

Other Sources of Revenue.

Coming to another source of income, hon. members are aware that from time to time, for years past, the Imperial Government have contributed a considerable amount, in the shape of a grant in aid of magistracy and police. That grant has been gradually diminishing of late years, and this year it will cease altogether. But there will be found of the estimates of revenue, under the head of "Reimbursements in aid," a sum of £6,200, which will be the contribution of the Imperial Government for next year, in consideration of this colony having taken over the convict establishment. There is another item of revenue, or of income, which is gradually falling off, and

which cannot be avoided. I allude to the interest which the Government has been receiving upon unexpended loan money, deposited in the Banks. In 1886 the amount of interest received amounted to £13,180, whereas next year we do not expect to receive more than £3,000. Of course as the money is withdrawn from the Banks, and expended upon such works as it was borrowed for, the amount of interest must diminish. The Government invested these unexpended balances to the best possible advantage, but we cannot hope to derive much further benefit from them in the shape of Bank interest.

Estimates of Expenditure.

I should like, Sir Thomas Campbell, before I conclude, to make a few remarks upon the proposed estimates of expenditure. The ordinary departmental charges, if hon. members will compare them with the votes for the present year, show no increase, on the whole—there is a diminution in some of the votes, and a slight increase in others. But, as I said before, there are certain branches of our public service which should really be regarded as working concerns, altogether outside the cost of ordinary departmental administration. There is the Survey Department, for instance. In view of the revenue which we derive from our lands, I regard it as an obligation upon us to provide a sufficient sum out of that revenue for carrying on necessary surveys. Then again with regard to the Railway Department, for which such a large sum as £63,586 is required next year, hon. members must bear in mind the facilities and the conveniences which the public derive from the railways, and the indirect advantages which they confer upon the country. Of course, my hon. friend the Commissioner will tell you that, if the colony insists upon having all the conveniences which it has at present, they must be paid for. We are all aware of that. But my hon. friend will tell you also that if you are willing to put up with less frequent opportunities of transit, and to put up with less frequent facilities in other respects, no doubt a reduction could be made. We anticipate to receive £50,000 next year from our railways, and on the other hand we expect we shall have to expend some £15,000 or £20,000 more. No doubt as

settlement and population increases, the discrepancy between receipts and working expenses will disappear, and the day, I hope, is not far distant when our railways will pay their way and yield a fair profit. At present, I think all will admit that the money expended upon railways is money well spent, and money for which the public, directly or indirectly, receive a very fair return. Then again there is the the Postal and Telegraph Department. As settlement extends, so also does the demand for postal and telegraphic facilities extend. I contend that there is no other colony in the world where the public, compared with the number of our population, are so well served as the people of this colony are as regards their mail and telegraph services; and, as our lines are extended, so also must the cost of maintaining and working them increase. With the telegraph lines now in contemplation, or in course of construction or completed, there are no other 40,000 people in the world with such a record to show as this colony has. Then again with regard to our mail services. Every settler unless he has a weekly mail delivered at his door considers himself an injured man. Session after session hon. members move for votes for new mail services, between one place or another, with the result that it costs the colony now over £40,000 to maintain its Postal and Telegraph Department. Nor can it be done for less, with the present conveniences afforded. The estimated receipts for the same source next year are £24,000. There is the Medical Department, too. We provide hospitals and medical officers all over the colony at public expense, and, so long as the existing policy of State aid continues, we must be content to meet an ever-increasing expenditure. The Harbor and Light Department is estimated to cost £7,118, against receipts amounting to £4,000; but this is another branch of the public service which must be maintained, and, until our mercantile shipping increases and our commerce expands, maintained at a loss. The Police Department is another expensive department. A return has already been asked for, bearing upon the cost of this department, and, until that return is prepared, perhaps it would be as well that I should postpone any remarks I may have to make on the subject. Here again the

Government have been asked over and over again to afford additional police protection, especially in outlying districts, and new stations are opened every year in some part of the colony. All this means an additional expenditure. There is also the Gaol Department—what I may call a necessary evil, for which £14,648 is required next year. It is proposed on the 1st of April next to abolish the central gaol at Perth, and to locate all prisoners at Fremantle. As I shall have an opportunity, on another occasion, of explaining in detail the proposed new arrangements, I will say no more than that such is the intention of the Government. The Printing Department is another expensive department, but it is one in which the work is admirably done, and a credit to any Government. At the same time it costs a lot of money, and a great deal of the work is in connection with the proceedings of this House. Some of the departments, too, and, especially the Railway Department and the Postal and Telegraph Department cause a great deal of printing, and, regard being had to the work done, I consider the department of the Government Printer a very cheaply worked department. There is one department which I am sorry to be compelled to make allusion to, but it is one which we must always expect to find on our Estimates, and that is the Poor Relief Department, for which nearly £10,000 is asked for next year. This is a very considerable charge upon the revenue of the colony, entailed to a great extent by the number of now aged men, who, years ago, were introduced here, in the days of the Imperial Establishment, but who in their declining years have become a burden upon the colony. There are also the widows and orphans of others, who being improvident in their habits have left their survivors to the care of the State. There is a new department, the Aboriginal Department, for which £3,200 is required,—a department that has sprung up under the auspices of an Act passed by this House for the protection of these aborigines. We have our duty towards these natives, and no one I suppose would wish to see that duty ignored, nor consider that the amount asked for is an extravagant one. Then again there are our own gallant Volunteers, the vote for which service is gradu-

ally increasing. But I am quite sure no one will say that there is a pound mispent in keeping together and maintaining in a state of efficiency the various corps we have at present.

Special Coast Survey.

A few words with regard to the item Special Coast Survey, for which £2,500 is asked. Her Majesty's Government, as hon. members are aware, share with the colony in the expense of this survey, and a steamer has been obtained for the work, to replace the "Meda." That steamer, the "Myrmidon," will be commissioned at Sydney, where it is being re-fitted, and it will be ready for work on our North-West coast in April, where it will carry on the very necessary surveys required from Cambridge Gulf downwards. The vote asked for next year is £500 in excess of the vote required when the sailing vessel "Meda" was employed, but the cost of working and maintaining a steamer must necessarily be greater, as she will be employed during a longer period of the year than a sailing craft could possibly be employed. No official intimation has been received from the Admiralty yet as to the probable cost of the new service, but I have a private communication on the subject which leads me to believe that this colony's share will not be more than £3,000 a year; and I think the colony may be congratulated upon having a very good bargain. The item of Works and Buildings, for which £27,000 is asked, will be a subject for discussion hereafter.

Roads and Bridges.

I come next to Roads and Bridges, for which £10,400 has been set down. I have already pointed out that during the last five years we have spent no less than £82,000 in grants to Roads Boards; and, looking at the fact that, at any rate in the Eastern Districts, the settlers should be well satisfied with the railway facilities provided for them, I think a saving may well be made in this vote. The same applies to other districts provided with railway communication. I think if the settlers are assisted to maintain such roads as are the feeders of the railways they will receive as much as they can fairly expect to receive. I think it is a matter for very serious consideration whether the time has not arrived when the various Roads Boards should

be called upon to exercise their powers of levying local taxation, for the upkeep of their roads. All these heavy charges upon the Government—charges which in the other colonies are partly, if not entirely, met by the people themselves—must necessarily increase the cost of administration; and, in view of our present somewhat straitened means, caused in a great measure by this large expenditure. I think the colonists themselves might be fairly called upon, by our Roads Boards, to do something to relieve the central Government from the charges, particularly in view of the large expenditure incurred of late years upon railways, which are now being pushed from one end of the colony to the other. There is another item which requires a like explanation: I allude to the provision to be made for maintenance of the revenue vessel on the North-West coast. The Admiralty has very generously presented the colony with their share in the late surveying schooner the *Meda*, which, as hon. members are aware, has now been commissioned for revenue service; and I have no doubt that much benefit will be derived from her employment upon that service. She has been well fitted out, and is in command of a most energetic and experienced commander, and I believe her presence in our northern water will be advantageous to all concerned. It is estimated that the cost of her upkeep, in round numbers, will be about £2,000 a year.

The Immigration Vote.

I next come to the Immigration Vote, which requires some explanation, because, having told the House that immigration has virtually ceased, it may appear strange to find a sum of £6,820 placed on the Estimates for next year. I would first of all draw attention to the fact that the money that is paid to the W.A. Land Company in respect of the immigrants does not become due until three months after their arrival; and we shall owe for these and some nominated immigrants a balance of about £3,600. Provision will also have to be made for the assisted passages of 105 nominated immigrants, who have been approved during the year, at a cost of £10 each. I have already said that so long as the present regulations as regards nominated

immigrants remain in force, the colony must keep faith with those who nominate and those who are nominated; and I believe the system on the whole has worked well, and resulted in the introduction of a very desirable class of immigrants. The remainder of the vote will be required for incidental expenses in connection with the department, and to meet any claims that may arise. I should be sorry to see the colony reduced to a position in which she was unable to continue her present system of assisted passages for nominated immigrants, the majority of whom have done very well, and become very useful colonists.

Government Geologist.

With regard to the Geological Survey vote (£1,000), an appointment has been made in accordance with the wish of this House, and Mr. Page Woodward, a son of Dr. Woodward, of the British Museum, is now on his way to the colony to fill the appointment of Government Geologist. He will be here in the course of a very short time, and will immediately enter upon his duties.

Telegrams on Public Service.

I am not aware that I should have made any reference to the item "Miscellaneous," but for a statement made in the House the other day by an hon. member, who charged the Government with expending some thousands in telegrams on public service. That hon. member has no doubt found out his mistake before this; but it may be as well to state that the vote asked for under this head is not £8,000 but £600; and, when it is borne in mind that that covers the cost of all messages going outside the colony, from every department of the public service, I think it will be admitted that the amount is not an extravagant one.

Conclusion.

Sir Thomas Campbell, I am not aware that I need say any more at present. When hon. members come to deal with the Estimates in detail, I shall be glad to furnish any further information in my power. Meantime, I think I shall best consult the wishes of hon. members if I now ask that progress may be reported, and leave given this committee to sit again to-morrow.

Agreed to.

Progress reported.

REPORT OF THE TARIFF COMMISSION.

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

SECOND SCHEDULE:

(Duty of 20 per cent., according to value.)

Item: "Carriages, carts, and wagons:"

Mr. MARMION thought it would be better to have a high specific duty on these articles. If the object was to encourage local production and to protect local industry he did not think an *ad valorem* duty of 20 per cent. would be sufficient to answer the purpose they had in view. Vehicles, especially those of a light description, were now built in America, and imported into the colony, at such a low rate as to defy local competition. Nor did he think that raising the present duty to 20 per cent., as now proposed, would have the effect of shutting out these importations. In order to bring the matter before the committee, and to test the feeling of the committee, he would move, *pro formâ*, that the item be struck out.

Mr. PARKER said the object of the Commission in placing carts, carriages, and wagons on the 20 per cent. list was, certainly, to encourage local industry. There was no doubt about that; and he hoped it would have the desired effect, to a large extent at any rate. As to the suggestion of the hon. member for Fremantle that a specific duty should be imposed, there were carts and carriages of different prices, and it would be obviously unfair to put the same specific duty on them all. The Commission, therefore, thought that an *ad valorem* duty would be better,—though, with the hon. member for Fremantle, he thought the proposed duty was not high enough to keep out imported vehicles. The Foundry Company established in Perth some time ago had to discharge all their men, finding themselves unable to compete with the American products; and the question was whether it was better for us to place a duty on what would give employment to a large number of our own artisans and mechanics, or whether we should send our money to support American artisans and mechanics. He preferred the former course himself.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) pointed out that it was intended to allow the introduction of materials used by coachsmiths and wheelwrights at nominal duty.

MR. RICHARDSON submitted that carts and wagons were essentially agricultural requisites and also largely used in connection with pastoral pursuits, and, as one of the avowed objects of the new tariff was to encourage the agricultural and pastoral industries, he thought it was somewhat inconsistent to seek to do so by heavily taxing carts and wagons. He thought 20 per cent. was a very high duty indeed, and one that would press very hard on those who had to use such vehicles—all in order to bolster up an establishment at Perth.

MR. A. FORREST said, although a protectionist at heart, and prepared to support any local industry, he thought 20 per cent. was high enough.

MR. MARMION thereupon withdrew his amendment.

Item: "Doors, window sashes, and frames:"

MR. MARMION was afraid that here again a 20 per cent. duty would not have the desired effect, of shutting out the American article. It was only an addition of $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. to the present duty. The only effect it would have, in his opinion, would be to add slightly to the revenue. As to affording the necessary protection to the local industry it would have little or no effect. It would only make a difference of £7 10s. on a £100 consignment; and he was sure that would not kill the American import trade.

The item was passed.

Item: "Harness and saddlery:"

MR. HARPER pointed out that a duty of 20 per cent. on saddlery and harness would be very seriously felt by the settlers, who were not a wealthy class. The same remark applied to carriers and others. It would very considerably enhance the cost of their outfit. He was not aware that there was any large establishment in the colony capable of supplying the requirements of the country; and he would move that the item be struck out of the schedule.

MR. PARKER was under the impression that there were several establishments in Perth alone doing a good business in the saddlery line, and capable

of turning out a really good article. Moreover, it must be remembered that the object of the tariff was not only to encourage existing industries but to promote the establishment of new industries.

MR. RANDELL thought that the harness and saddlery industry was one that could be carried on in the colony with every success, and afford employment to a considerable number of persons.

The motion to strike out the item was negatived.

Item: "Musical Instruments; Harmoniums, pianos, organs, etc.:"

MR. HENSMAN said it appeared that the object of the tariff now under discussion was, not so much to increase the revenue as to exclude articles that could be made or produced in the colony; if so, he would suggest that upon such articles the duties should be made absolutely prohibitory, otherwise they were simply playing with the revenue. If by increasing the duty it did not have the effect of developing local industries, it would certainly have the effect of raising the price of the article. He was perfectly certain there would be no musical instruments made in the colony to supply the colony, and therefore he failed to see the object of increasing the duty—unless, as he had already said, the object was to increase the revenue; and, if the object was to increase the revenue, he did not think the revenue was likely to gain much by placing musical instruments in this second schedule. We had neither the materials nor the artisans to manufacture these instruments, and the result would be that we should have an inferior class of pianos and other instruments for our money. He thought it would be a great misfortune to put this heavy tax upon musical instruments, and he would move that the item be struck out.

MR. VENN had much pleasure in supporting the motion, and, if necessary, he hoped the hon. member would press it to a division.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. C. N. Warton) said there was a great deal of force in the argument as to the impossibility of manufacturing musical instruments on the spot; but he regarded the matter from a different point of view. The hon. and learned

member for Greenough regarded music as a necessary of life, and as having an elevating or refining influence. He (the Attorney General) regarded it rather as a luxury, and that as such it ought to be taxed. We were putting a duty of 20 per cent. on household furniture; and he thought, having done that, it would be folly to put a less duty on what was an article of luxury, at any rate compared with a bed, or a chair, or a table.

MR. MARMION said the cases were not parallel. Furniture could be produced in the colony; pianos couldn't. Assuming that the intention in moving to strike the item out of this schedule was to place it on the 12½ per cent. list, he would support the motion.

MR. A. FORREST said he did not object so much to pianos coming under a less duty, but he took it that the term "musical instruments" included such articles of torture as concertinas. He should be glad to see the duty upon the latter increased to 50 per cent., or 100 per cent., so as to reduce the importation to a minimum.

MR. SHOLL thought it would be a mistake to tax musical instruments as proposed. Whether it was a concertina or a tin whistle there was a certain amount of innocent pleasure derived out of it by the player at any rate. The freight upon pianos and organs, and instruments of that description, was very heavy, and he thought the present duty was quite high enough.

MR. E. E. BROCKMAN said he could neither play nor sing, but he could appreciate good music, and he should have much pleasure in supporting the amendment.

MR. PARKER said the object and intention of the Commission was that articles of luxury—articles only within the reach of the comparatively wealthy man—should be heavily taxed, rather than the necessaries of life. It must be borne in mind also that it was necessary to provide additional revenue from somewhere to meet an additional expenditure, and, if articles of luxury were not to be taxed, he failed to see where their taxes were to come from. With regard to this particular item, however, seeing how largely musical instruments

were used in this colony, he would have no objection to see the item removed to the 12½ per cent. schedule.

MR. RICHARDSON said musical instruments were, avowedly, articles which only ministered to one's pleasure and enjoyment. They could in no sense be said to be a necessary of existence, otherwise a great many people would starve. Nor could they be regarded as necessary for the development of any particular industry; and, as the committee had had no scruple in increasing the duties on articles of daily consumption, he did not see how they could with any consistency oppose this 20 per cent. duty on musical instruments.

THE COMMISSIONER OF TITLES (Mr. J. C. H. James) said he regarded the cultivation of a musical taste as part of the education of the country, and the question of necessity or of luxury did not in his opinion apply. He should be glad to support the amendment.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) said the members of the Commission all were unanimous with regard to this item, and it was his intention to support it, as would the other members of the Government bench.

MR. RANDELL said the item, with other items, was placed in this schedule so as to compensate for the loss of revenue caused by the reduction made in other articles, which were regarded of more utility. Seeing that the committee had already seriously encroached upon the revenue, by reducing duties in several directions, and looking also at the absolute necessity of maintaining the revenue, he thought a very strong case should be made out before they should consent to remove this item from the schedule. Probably one effect of this higher duty upon musical instruments would be that it might operate in some degree as a check upon what was known as the "time payment" system of purchasing pianos and other expensive instruments. Under that system many comparatively poor people were induced to invest in what they could ill afford, and he was afraid it had proved a heavy burden upon many people whose children probably would be much more profitably employed otherwise.

Question put—that the item be struck out.

The committee divided, with the following result—

Ayes ...	...	...	10
Noes ...	...	...	9

Majority for ... 1

AYES.	NOES.
Mr. H. Brockman	Mr. A. Forrest
Mr. Congdon	Mr. Harper
Mr. Keane	Mr. McEae
Mr. Layman	Mr. Randell
Mr. Marmion	Mr. Richardson
Mr. Morrison	Hon. J. G. Lee-Steere
Mr. Pearce	Hon. C. N. Warton
Mr. Sholl	Hon. J. A. Wright
Mr. Venn	Hon. Sir M. Fraser
Mr. Hensman (Teller.)	(Teller.)

Item: "Watches and Clocks:"

MR. E. R. BROCKMAN moved that this item be struck out. Every owner of a cottage, however humble it was, looked to have a clock, and nearly everyone, in every circumstance of life, required a watch.

MR. LAYMAN supported the proposition. He certainly failed to see how a clock or a watch could be regarded as an article of luxury. People must have some means of ascertaining the time; and, as it would not affect any local industry, he hoped the amendment would be agreed to.

MR. PARKER thought that, for the purposes of this tariff, they might regard what were not articles of necessity as articles of luxury; and, from that point of view, he must say it appeared to him that a watch was a luxury.

MR. CONGDON said he should support the proposition to strike out the item. The committee had increased the duty on many articles, in going through the tariff, especially in the table of specific duties, and he thought they could well afford to remove watches and clocks from the present schedule. Every poor man nowadays looked to have a watch, and every householder wanted a clock.

MR. A. FORREST thought if there were any articles in the tariff more than another that could stand a 20 per cent. duty, watches and clocks could.

MR. RANDELL would again point out that we must have revenue from somewhere. The prices of watches and clocks nowadays were very low, and placed within the reach of all. He believed you could buy a clock for 7s. 6d. It was actually cheaper to purchase a new time-keeper than to take a more valuable one to the watchmaker for repairs.

The committee divided—

Ayes ...	...	...	11
Noes ...	...	...	9

Majority for ... 2

AYES.	NOES.
Mr. H. Brockman	Mr. A. Forrest
Mr. Congdon	Mr. James
Mr. Hensman	Mr. McEae
Mr. Keane	Mr. Morrison
Mr. Layman	Mr. Parker
Mr. Marmion	Mr. Randell
Mr. Pearce	Mr. Venn
Mr. Richardson	Hon. C. N. Warton
Mr. Sholl	Hon. Sir M. Fraser
Hon. J. G. Lee Steere	(Teller.)
Mr. E. R. Brockman	(Teller.)

Item: "Patent Medicines:"

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. C. N. Warton) advocated a still further increase of duty upon these noxious articles, which, he submitted, were a frightful source of mortality amongst infants, and of injury to adults. He held in his hand the report of the local Medical Board, issued a few days ago, and he found in it the following paragraph, referring to the causes of infant mortality:

"Another and gravely important factor is the frequent practice of administering narcotic patent drugs, and as a means of somewhat diminishing the facility of obtaining these pernicious compounds, the Board would suggest that certain preparations as enumerated should bear a largely increased duty: these are:—

"Steedman and Stedman's Soothing Powder

"Dalby's Carminative

"Winslow's Soothing Syrup

"Chlorodyne

"Cherry Pectoral, of various makers

"Pectoral Balsams, of various makers

"and other preparations which may hereafter be proved, to the satisfaction of the Medical Board, to contain opium or other narcotic drugs."

That report was signed "Alfred R. Waylen, President"—a name which he thought would have considerable weight with hon. members. He might state that he brought this subject before the House of Commons two or three times, with the result that every patent medicine in England now bore a form of stamp which distinctly set forth that the Government did not guarantee the quality of the medicine. He had overwhelm-

ing evidence of the fearful effects of these medicines, including numbers of letters from coroners from all parts of the Kingdom. He was informed that one medicine called "Pain Killer" had conduced to the death of many people; also chlorodyne, taken in injudicious doses. There was nothing more murderous than the practice of plying little children with those soothing syrups which some parents poured down their throats. Looking also at the enormous profits which the quacks made out of their medicines, he thought we might well have a share of it, apart from any hygienic point of view. He would move that the item be struck out. He did so with the view of putting on a higher duty, of 50 per cent.

MR. A. FORREST said he represented a district where there were very few medical men, and where patent medicines were necessarily very largely used, and, so far as he knew, with beneficial effect. He thought 20 per cent. was quite high enough duty.

MR. LAYMAN said he could not understand the action of the Commission in placing this item on the 20 per cent. list; and he certainly could not understand the Attorney General when he talked of putting on a duty of 50 per cent. These patent medicines, he could inform the hon. gentleman, were very useful indeed in country places, where there were no medical men; and he should have thought that a duty of 10 per cent. would have been quite high enough.

MR. MARMION said he would support the motion to strike out the item; not however, with the object which the Attorney General had in view, but for the purpose of replacing the item on the same list as it was at present. Many people believed at any rate that these medicines did them good, and, so long as they had that faith, he was afraid it was useless for that House to preach to them to the contrary.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. C. N. Warton): Having delivered my soul on the subject, I beg leave to withdraw my motion.

MR. McRAE objected to the motion being withdrawn. He thought it was quite right that the item should be removed from the 20 per cent. schedule, and restored to its present position.

Question put—that the item be struck out.

A division being called for,

MR. HENSMAN rose to a point of order. Could a member who had moved to strike out an item vote against its being struck out, upon a division?

THE CHAIRMAN said he was not aware of any rule to prevent a member doing so.

The committee divided, with the following result—

Ayes ...	...	...	14
Noes ...	...	...	7
Majority for ...			7

Ayes.	Noes.
Mr. H. Brockman	Mr. James
Mr. E. R. Brockman	Mr. Morrison
Mr. Congdon	Mr. Parker
Mr. A. Forrest	Mr. Randell
Mr. Harper	Mr. Richardson
Mr. Hensman	Hon. C. N. Warton
Mr. Keane	Hon. Sir M. Fraser
Mr. Layman	(Teller.)
Mr. McRae	
Mr. Pearse	
Mr. Sholl	
Hon. J. G. Lee Steere	
Mr. Venn	
Mr. Marmion (Teller.)	

Item: "Mineral Waters:"

MR. PARKER moved that "aerated waters" be added. If anyone was not satisfied with such aerated waters as were produced in the colony, he thought they ought to be prepared to pay this extra duty.

MR. SHOLL said he had no objection to aerated waters being included in the schedule, but he certainly objected to mineral waters, seeing that we had no mineral springs in the colony.

MR. PARKER pointed out that the Customs would have great difficulty in distinguishing between mineral waters that were aerated and mineral waters that were not aerated.

The amendment to add "aerated waters" was then put and passed.

The remaining items included in the schedule were agreed to.

THIRD SCHEDULE:

(Duty of 5 per cent., according to value.)

Item: "Drainage pipes and tiles:"

MR. MARMION said he was informed this was a local industry which had recently been established, and that it was likely to extend its operations; and he thought they might encourage it by strik-

ing out this item and putting it on the free list.

Agreed to.

Item: "Leather (American Patent):"

MR. PARKER read a petition from certain boot and shoe manufacturers, praying that other descriptions of leather required in the trade should be included in this list, instead of the 12½ per cent. list. In pursuance of the prayer of the petition, the hon. member moved that the following new item be added: "Leather—kid skins, mock kid skins, patent leather, Morocco leather, Levant leather, seal-skins, French calfskins, roans, satin hides."

MR. PEARSE said he believed that the various kinds of leather enumerated would meet the requirements of the trade. Any other kind of leather could be made in the colony.

The motion was agreed to.

MR. PARKER also moved to add the following item: "Machinery used in the manufacture of boots."

MR. RANDELL said that at present he was not prepared to vote for a reduction of the duty upon machinery, which would have the effect perhaps of depriving many men of their work.

The motion was negatived.

Item: "Machinery for crushing quartz:"

MR. A. FORREST asked that this item might be placed on the free list, in view of the immense freight, and cost of transport. This class of machinery was required for the development of a very important industry, which ought to be encouraged in every possible way. Machinery for boring was on the free list, and he thought they might put this item there also.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. C. N. Warton) said he would be very happy to agree with the hon. member's proposition.

MR. PARKER said he certainly should not agree with the proposition. Boring machinery and crushing machinery were two very different things. The former was required for purposes of discovery, whereas the latter could only be required after the mineral wealth of a claim had been ascertained. As a rule machinery for crushing would only be required by wealthy proprietors or syndicates, who expected to make a fortune out of their

claims, and he thought they could well afford to pay a duty of at least 5 per cent.

MR. SCOTT would support the motion to strike out the item. We had not yet satisfactorily proved that our goldfields were going to be a success, and that people were going to make fortunes there.

MR. MARMION thought that the greater number of these companies were formed, and, the more quartz-crushing machinery they introduced, the better would it be for the colony; and he thought every possible encouragement should be given to them.

MR. PARKER said the Kimberley district, at any rate, had been proved to be a magnificent gold country, and it had already been the making of some fortunes, and he believed others were likely to be made there. He hoped he was patriot enough to rejoice at the discovery of all this auriferous wealth in the colony, but he certainly was not patriot enough to allow wealthy Melbourne companies, who expected to make thousands of pounds out of these mines, to introduce their machinery into the colony free of duty.

The motion to strike out the item was agreed to.

Progress was then reported, and leave obtained to sit again.

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

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Thursday, 29th December, 1887.

Report of Tariff Commission: adjourned debate—
Motion for Adjournment: Estimates for 1888—
Adjournment.

THE SPEAKER took the Chair at noon.

PRAYERS.