

holder of the office had accepted the position at the salary now provided on the Estimates.

MR. A. FORREST said he agreed with the hon. member for the Greenough that the salaries of certain members of the Executive were too low, as compared with the salaries received by other members. But he should be sorry to see any reduction made. On the contrary he thought the members of the Executive were all rather underpaid. He knew, if he accepted a ministerial position under Responsible Government he would expect at least £1,500 a year.

Progress was at this stage reported, leave being given to sit again on March 19th.

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

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## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

*Monday, 19th March, 1888.*

Telegraph line between Roebourne and Derby: Terms of contract—Lodging allowance to certain members of the Police Force—Protection of left bank of the Gascoyne river fronting Carnarvon—Fees received in respect of Protection Areas and Miners' Rights—Estimates, 1888; further considered—Adjournment.

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

PRAYERS.

### TELEGRAPH LINE BETWEEN ROEBOURNE AND DERBY.

MR. A. FORREST, in accordance with notice, asked the Director of Public Works—

1st. When the date of contract expires for Telegraph line between Roebourne and Derby?

2nd. What is the penalty to be enforced if the line is not completed by date of contract?

3rd. Do the Government intend to enforce the penalty for non-completion?

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright) replied—  
1st. The date of the Contract expires on the 31st March, 1888.

2nd. The penalty for non-completion is fixed at £20 per working day from that date.

3rd. It can hardly be expedient to state now what the Government may consider necessary in a case which may possibly never occur.

### LODGING ALLOWANCE FOR CERTAIN MEMBERS OF THE POLICE FORCE.

MR. SHENTON, in pursuance of notice, asked the Colonial Secretary, what amount of lodging allowance was now being paid to the members of the police force who inhabited the Barracks previous to the late fire?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) replied: At the rate of £150 a year.

### PROTECTION OF LEFT BANK OF THE GASCOYNE RIVER.

MR. SHOLL, in accordance with notice, moved, That an Humble Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor, praying that he would be pleased to have placed on the Estimates for 1888 a sum of money sufficient for the purpose of protecting (either by bushing, staking, or other means) the left bank of the Gascoyne river fronting the township of Carnarvon. The hon. member said that moving the address he felt he should be met with the general reply, "No funds"; still he felt it to be his duty to publicly call the attention of the Government to the necessity of doing something, as speedily as possible, for the protection of the river banks at Carnarvon. He thought the Director of Public Works was fully alive to the necessity of this work, and probably the only stumbling-block was the lack of funds to carry it out. The town of Carnarvon was built close to the river, and for years past, every time that the river came down, it washed away the banks,

and it was rapidly encroaching upon the town. There were valuable Government buildings, such as the Residency, in a position of danger, besides private buildings. At a small cost now it would be possible to avert the danger, but the longer it was delayed the greater would be the expense, and he thought the Government might endeavor by some means or other to find sufficient money to do this very necessary work. He believed that when the river came down the other day the banks in some places were washed away some 15ft., and this was occurring more or less all along the banks. Having brought the matter thus publicly under the notice of the Government, he hoped some steps would be taken without delay to protect the town, otherwise very serious damage might occur.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright), while perfectly agreeing with everything which the hon. member had said as to the necessity for this work, hardly thought the present moment was an opportune time for bringing it forward. The amount required to effectually protect the river banks would be at least £1,500. This sum had been placed on the original Estimates for the current year for carrying out the work, but, unfortunately, when owing to the state of the finances the Estimates had to be remodelled, this was one of the items which had to be omitted. Although he agreed as to the necessity of something being done at once in the matter, still, until they saw what funds might be available after the Estimates were gone through, he did not see how they could remedy the evil complained of, and justly complained of.

The motion was agreed to.

#### FEES RECEIVED IN RESPECT OF PROTECTION AREAS AND MINERS' RIGHTS.

MR. HARPER, in accordance with notice, asked that a return be laid on the table showing the amount of fees received by the Commissioner of Crown Lands in respect of protection areas for mining purposes in the Eastern Districts, also in respect of miners' rights.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. J. Forrest) said the amount received, in the South-west

division, in respect of protection areas from the 1st January to the 19th March, instant, was £205; and for miners' rights (last year) £48, and £283 this year up to the present date—making £536, altogether, received from our goldfields.

#### WATER SUPPLY AT CARNARVON.

##### ADJOURNED DEBATE.

MR. SHOLL, in resuming the discussion upon his motion to have a sum placed on the Estimates sufficient to provide the town of Carnarvon with a supply of pure drinking water, said as this in his opinion was an urgent and important matter he did not feel inclined to postpone it any longer, and he should divide the House if there was any opposition to it. The amount required (£700) was so trifling, and the necessity of providing the town with water so pressing, that he thought the Government might very easily stretch a point and find the money. The Commissioner of Crown Lands said the other night that as a rule water could be found by sinking in the sand in the vicinity of pools, but that was not so in this case. The town and port of Carnarvon was becoming a very important outlet, yet the inhabitants had to cart their water a distance of two miles, and often this water was unfit for human consumption. Last year 2,000 bales of wool were exported from Carnarvon, and there was a growing trade. The hon. member for Vasse said the other evening that if they provided the inhabitants with water at the expense of the State they would next want to be provided with whisky to mix with the water. The hon. member, probably, was not aware that they were all teetotalers in the Gascoyne district. Joking aside, this was a work which he should not have pressed upon the Government in the present state of our finances, had he not considered it was most urgent and important, and he hoped the motion would receive the support not only of the elected members but also of the members of the Government.

The motion was then put and passed.

##### ESTIMATES (REVISED) 1888.

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

*Colonial Secretary's Department, £1,689:*

MR. SHENTON asked whether the Colonial Secretary was in a position to furnish the committee with any information as to how the Vote on Account granted in December last, for the first quarter of the year had been expended? That vote was given on the basis of the expenditure for the year 1887; but he noticed that the votes now asked for were in some instances considerably less than the votes granted last year, so that there would be an underdraft in respect of these votes. For instance, the vote for the Colonial Secretary's department for 1887 was £1,764, but the amount asked for this year was only £1,689, and, as the vote on account was based upon the larger amount, there ought to be an underdraft. How was this provided for in the accounts for the year?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) said although an advance vote was taken in December last, it did not necessarily follow that the whole amount of the vote had been expended. The officers of the various departments had been simply paid at the rate of their last year's salary, and no increase would be recognised until the Estimates now before the committee had been voted. Hon. members had now before them the revised estimate of revenue for the whole year, and the revised estimate of expenditure, and the Appropriation Bill would only cover such amounts as were now voted upon these Estimates, irrespective of what had been paid out of the Vote on Account, which had been simply taken as a guide or standard in the interim.

The departmental vote was then agreed to.

*Treasury, £1,470:*

MR. SHENTON said that he noticed that the item "Clerk, Roebourne, £100," had been placed on the Estimates again, although the House rejected it last year, upon the assurance of the late member for the district that this extra clerk was not required. He would therefore move that the item be struck out.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) said hon. members might rest assured that the Government would never have placed this item on the Estimates, under present circumstances, if they were not satisfied that this clerk was required, in view of the increasing

duties at Roebourne. He had been told that if the late member had been aware of all the circumstances of the case he would not have opposed the vote last session. He thought it would be an injustice to the Government if the vote was struck out.

MR. RICHARDSON said he was in a position to state, as regards the opposition shown to the vote last year by the late Mr. McRae, that it was done under a misapprehension. Subsequently the late member became satisfied that it was absolutely necessary that this additional clerk should be provided.

MR. SHENTON: That being so, I withdraw my amendment.

MR. MARMION asked whether this clerk had already been appointed?

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

MR. MARMION: Then it will be only necessary to provide for his salary for nine months. I therefore move that the item be reduced by £25.

Agreed to.

The departmental vote was then passed.

*Audit Department, £1,360:*

MR. A. FORREST asked why one of the clerks in this department was to receive an increase of salary from £130 to £140?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) said it had been done on the recommendation of the head of the department, for meritorious services. Clerks were not now entitled, as a matter of right, to annual increments, except upon the recommendation of the heads of the department,

The vote was then agreed to.

*Survey Department, £15,011:*

MR. MARMION asked for some information as to a new item "Draftsman, £300."

THE SURVEYOR GENERAL (Hon. J. Forrest) said the appointment of compiling draftsman was made some time ago, on his recommendation. It was referred to the Finance Committee, who approved of the appointment. He had been able to secure the services of an excellent officer, and one that was very much required, and he was pleased to say that some very good and valuable work had been done.

MR. MARMION asked the Surveyor General whether he saw his way clear to expend the £7,000 asked for surveys in the South-West division, between this and the end of the year.

THE SURVEYOR GENERAL (Hon. J. Forrest) said he saw no difficulty at all in spending the money. Last year, no great show had been made with the £6,000 expended in the same division, and, this year, he had hoped that a very large amount might have been placed on the Estimates in order that he might bring the clause in the new Land Regulations dealing with agricultural areas into full working order. In that, however, he had been disappointed. But with the amount available, he still hoped to be able to do something in the way of laying out these areas, near the centres of population, and to carry on at any rate until they got the Supplementary Estimates.

MR. MARMION said that on the original Estimates for this year the sums set apart for surveys were—Central District, £7,000; and Eastward of Central District, £2,000. The latter amount did not appear on the revised Estimates, and it seemed to him very necessary that some provision should be made for conducting surveys in the vicinity of Yilgarn, and in that direction. He would ask the Surveyor General whether he did not think it might be possible to save some portion of the £7,000 now asked for surveys in the South-West Division, for other surveys, the necessity for which might become apparent within the next few months, in view of the recent gold discoveries.

THE SURVEYOR GENERAL (Hon. J. Forrest) suggested that the £7,000 be voted for surveys generally, leaving it to the Government to expend the vote as they deemed necessary. This would enable them to provide for the contingency referred to by the hon. member for Fremantle.

MR. MARMION said he had no objection to that being done, and the matter left in the hands of the Surveyor General as to the distribution of the vote.

MR. A. FORREST said he had a very strong objection to this vote being expended entirely in this part of the colony. These central districts had the services of a large staff of surveyors, and the

surveys were in an advanced state. There was just as much necessity for the expenditure of money upon surveys at the North as there was in the South, and he objected to the matter being left to the discretion of the Government. He would ask the House to divide the £7,000, giving £5,000 to this part of the colony and £2,000 for the Northern Districts—say north of the 26th parallel of latitude.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) thought, if the £7,000 were given to the Surveyor General to spend at his discretion, that officer would do his best to do justice to the claims of every district, so far as the limited amount at his disposal allowed him to do. He only regretted himself that the colony could not afford more for these surveys. He hoped the committee would leave the Surveyor General unfettered in the matter.

MR. VENN said he should like in every way to support the Surveyor General in this matter. He had spoken strongly on this point when the hon. gentleman was absent from the colony, feeling as he did that the interests of the colony had suffered because the Surveyor General was not here when the new Land Regulations came into operation, in order that the system of agricultural areas might have a fair trial. He hoped, now that the hon. gentleman was amongst them again, he would be left unfettered as regards the expenditure of this vote, and that he would be able to see his way clear to expend a portion of it in setting apart agricultural areas, under the new regulations.

MR. RICHARDSON said the Surveyor General had the reputation, and he believed deservedly so, of making any money voted for his department go as far as it could possibly be made to go; and he thought they could not do better than leave the matter to the head of the department. If they attempted to tie his hands they might find they had made a muddle of it.

MR. A. FORREST said he understood the subject he was talking about, and considered himself as competent to give an opinion upon it as the Commissioner himself. Last year, and in former years, sums were voted for surveys in the Kimberley and the North districts, but this

year it was proposed to spend every penny of the vote in this part of the colony. He should like the Surveyor General to give them some idea as to how it was proposed to expend all this money in surveys in the South-West Division. He had already three staff surveyors available for work in the central district. There was quite as much necessity for carrying out surveys in the North as there was down here. Goldfields were breaking out all over the Northern districts, and surely they were entitled to some portion of this vote. He was surprised that one of the members for the North (Mr. Richardson) had advocated the expenditure of the whole of the vote in this part of the colony.

MR. RICHARDSON said he had done nothing of the kind. He had simply expressed his confidence in the Surveyor General, and suggested that the distribution of the vote might safely be entrusted to his hands.

MR. A. FORREST said he had no confidence in the Surveyor General himself, and, if the matter was left entirely in his hands, they would find that the whole of the money would be spent down here, and none of it north of Champion Bay. He would move that the vote for the South-West Division be reduced by £2,000.

MR. SCOTT said he would support the proposed reduction for this reason: he thought they would require a larger balance at the end of the year than was contemplated in these Estimates. He thought £668 was much too small a balance, and, as he was desirous of providing a larger margin, he had much pleasure in supporting the proposed reduction.

THE SURVEYOR GENERAL (Hon. J. Forrest) could not agree with the hon. member for Perth's proposal to increase the surplus balance at the end of the year by curtailing the vote for surveys. It appeared to him that if any vote required encouragement and support it was the vote for surveys, and he was sorry to acknowledge that this support had never been given, to the extent which he should have wished. There was no work that was more necessary in a colony like this than the prosecution of surveys. How were they going to settle population on the land if they did not have the land

surveyed? This vote of £7,000 would only keep half a dozen surveying parties in the field, and this was to meet the requirements of the whole of this huge territory. He should like to know in what portion of our Northern territory surveys were so urgent as had been represented by the hon. member for Kimberley. As a matter of fact surveys in that district were in advance of settlement; and, with the exception of a townsite that might probably require to be laid out on the goldfields, and a few suburban lots at Derby—all of which could be undertaken if the vote were not restricted to any particular division of the colony—he knew of no pressing necessity for any surveys in the Kimberley district. Nor was there any pressure for surveys in the North-West district, except such as might be necessary to carry out the provisions of the Land Regulations passed two years ago as regards special areas. At present the Government were not in a position to take the necessary steps for defining these areas, though probably next session the House might be prepared to offer some suggestions on the subject. As it was, they were obliged to economise the vote as much as possible; the surveys in these Northern districts were those which could be least inconveniently deferred. He was very anxious himself to take some steps to give effect to the new Land Regulations as regards agricultural areas, and, to do this, a considerable sum would have to be expended upon surveys; and to reduce this vote as proposed would cripple the department very seriously. Were these new Land Regulations to remain a dead letter? Or, were they going to give them a fair trial? They could not give them a fair trial with the small vote available this year for surveys, but he would do the best he could with the money placed at his disposal. As to the three staff surveyors referred to, these staff surveyors were not available for field work in the Central Districts, as suggested by the hon. member for Kimberley. Who was to supervise the whole of the survey work throughout the colony? He could only add that if the House entrusted the expenditure of this £7,000 to the discretion of the Government, it would be spent with all due regard to economy. He was not parti-

cular himself whether the words "South-West Division" were struck out or not; but, if the committee did so, giving the Government unrestricted liberty to spend the money as it thought best, hon. members might rest assured that the interests of the colony would not suffer.

MR. MORRISON said he looked upon surveys as the mainspring of the colony's advancement, and, so long as they had every confidence in the head of the department, he should be more inclined to increase the vote than to cut it down. He should be glad himself to have seen the original Estimates adhered to as regards this vote. The country was not in a worse condition now than it was in December last—in fact, he thought it was in a better condition, and he was sorry that the vote for surveys had been reduced at all.

The amendment to reduce the vote by £2,000 was negatived.

MR. MARMION moved that the words "South-West Division" be struck out, so as to leave the expenditure of the vote in the discretion of the Surveyor General.

This was agreed to, and the departmental vote put and passed.

*Customs Department, £8,156:*

MR. A. FORREST asked whether the warehouses for which the Government paid £150 a year were really used by the Customs department? He had been informed that they were not, and that the Government derived no benefit from these buildings.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) said not only were the warehouses actually used, but the Government made a large profit out of them. The revenue derived from them last year amounted to £2,208.

MR. SHOLL said he noticed a new item—"Store locker, £100"—what was this for?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) said this was an officer employed at the bonded store, who was paid out of fees recovered in connection with the store.

The vote was then confirmed.

*Works and Railways, £59,066:*

MR. SHENTON said that last year the House passed the following resolution: "That, in the opinion of this Council, the salary of the Director of Public Works and Engineer-in-Chief

should be raised, from the current year inclusive, from £800 to £900 a year, which latter rate has already been authorised by the Council, on the understanding that the present occupant of the office may, at the pleasure of the Government, hereafter be continued in office at the same salary, and without compensation, under any conditions rendered necessary by the introduction of Responsible Government." He wished to ask the Colonial Secretary what arrangement had been made with the Director of Public Works, in pursuance of this resolution.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) said the arrangement made was in the terms of the resolution approved by the House, and accepted by the Director of Works, and that officer was now filling the duties of the office under those conditions.

MR. HENSMAN: What are the terms of the appointment?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser): So far as I am aware they are the terms expressed in the resolution which the hon. member for Toodyay has just read.

MR. HENSMAN: I am not aware that the resolution expresses any term of years. It is a most vague statement, that the House agreed to raise the salary of the Director of Public Works, and that at a future time, at the pleasure of the Government, his services may be continued. Is he still under the agreement? If not, has a fresh agreement been entered into with him, and, if so, for what term of years?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser): My hon. friend himself will perhaps furnish the information.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright): I originally came out here under an agreement for a term of years. I understood that, last year, it was the pleasure of this House to do me the honor of stating that they were satisfied with my services, and they proved it by increasing my salary, and stating that my position would be the same, even when Responsible Government came in, at the pleasure of the Government for the time being; and I entered upon this new arrangement, without any particular term of years being specified, or any definite agreement made,

and under that arrangement I am now working.

**MR. HENSMAN:** Am I right in thinking that the hon. gentleman came out here under an agreement for three years certain, and that this term might be, by agreement between him and the Government, extended, at the option of the Government, for five years, and that the original term of three years has not yet expired?

**THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright):** Perfectly right.

**MR. HENSMAN:** Then I understand that the present Government has made an agreement with the hon. gentleman not to continue under the original agreement for the residue of the term, and that he has himself agreed to waive his right to the two years further service, and that he is now merely in the service of the Government at their pleasure, liable to be dismissed at a short notice?

**THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright):** No; I do not consider that all. I consider that I am now in the permanent service of the colony.

**MR. A. FORREST:** I think this is a most unfair way of attacking the Director of Public Works, as if he was a witness in the box. I think these questions should have been put to the Colonial Secretary, in the absence of the Director. It is a question for the Executive or for the Governor, and if there is any one to blame in the matter, we ought to tackle the Governor, and not attack the Director of Works in this way.

**MR. HENSMAN:** I am "tackling" no one. I have yet to learn that a member of this House, before voting money on the Estimates, is not entitled to ask upon what terms a public officer holds his appointment. All I can say is, that the information which the Director of Public Works has given us—that he is on the permanent staff of the colony, comes to me by way of a surprise, and, if I had thought that in agreeing to the extra £100 a year to his salary, we were putting him on the permanent staff, I should not have assented to it, for I think that to create a new permanent office of this kind just on the eve of Responsible Government would have been a wrong thing for this House to do.

It is for the next Government to make its own arrangements. I cannot believe that other members thought—certainly I did not—that, in passing that resolution, we had taken the Director of Public Works out of the terms of his original agreement with the Government and placed him on the permanent staff of the civil service of the colony. Therefore, I am glad that I asked the question. It does not appear yet whether this new agreement is in writing. That, perhaps, we may hear hereafter.

**THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright):** All I can say, after what we have listened to, is that I am exceedingly sorry I did not leave the House; and had I known that the hon. member was going to descend into personalities on a par with what he said on Friday night, I should have done so, sooner than I should have submitted to be interrogated in this way. If I considered that what he has said with regard to the resolution of last year is shared by other hon. members, I can only say I would sooner at once leave.

**MR. HENSMAN:** I am surprised that the hon. gentleman should say that I have descended to any personalities. I merely followed upon the question put by the hon. member for Toodyay, and asked what were the terms of his present appointment; and I cannot understand why there should be any objection to answer such a question. I had no intention to be personal, nor have I said one word reflecting upon him.

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

**MR. HENSMAN:** The hon. gentleman says "Question." I ask any hon. member whether I have said anything reflecting upon the hon. gentleman personally, but simply as to the terms of his appointment. I think the hon. gentleman can hardly say that by asking a question of the Government, as to what is the nature of his appointment as a member of the Government, I have reflected in any way upon him personally.

**THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. C. N. Warton)** said he felt bound to say that he felt a strong and deep sympathy with his hon. friend the Director of Public Works when he was subjected to the very vigorous and exceedingly skilful cross-examination of the hon. and learn-

ed member opposite—a cross-examination as clever and skilful as the hon. member's cross-examination of Mr. Gribble himself. Even in the hon. member's own carefully prepared scheme of Responsible Government there was to be a Cabinet of five Ministers, and one of them was to hold the appointment now held by my hon. friend, as Minister of Public Works and Railways; but of course it would be a political appointment, and the Minister holding it would be liable to be turned out of office with the other members of the Cabinet. He thought that after the graceful act of that House last session, when it showed its unanimous appreciation of the valuable services rendered to the colony by the highly intelligent and conscientious gentleman, his hon. friend, the Director of Public Works, by an addition to his salary and indulging in the hope that under no form of Government should the colony lose so valuable an officer—he thought the House having thus shown its appreciation of the services of his hon. friend, it ill became any member of the House to subject him to a personal cross-examination as to the nature of his connection with the Government.

MR. HENSMAN: Oh!

MR. PARKER: I must say I share to a certain extent the surprise expressed by the hon. member for the Greenough, that the Director of Public Works is on the permanent staff of the colony. Under the agreement upon which the hon. gentleman entered the service of this colony—and, I think, the country is to be congratulated upon having secured the services of a gentleman so well able to fill the office—he was engaged for three years, with the right on the part of the Government to retain his services for a further term of years. Last year it was suggested, and I think most fairly, that the services which he rendered the colony were such and so onerous that his salary should be raised to £900. But I thought this resolution particularly guarded against placing him on the permanent staff of the colony, because we knew at that time that it was proposed to adopt another constitution—in fact, we had passed the resolutions in favor of the change to Responsible Government—and we were fully aware that all the members

of the Executive placed on the permanent staff would be entitled to a pension, or compensation for loss of office. If this contingency had not been in view, no doubt the House would have been glad to have retained the services of the hon. gentleman as one of the permanent staff, but, having in view the contemplated change, and looking at the nature of his original agreement with the Government, it was not deemed advisable by the members of the House that he should be regarded as on the permanent staff, and entitled to a pension upon abolition of office. In the event of a change in the constitution, the head of the Works and Railways Department would be a member of the Ministry, and liable to go out of office: he would not be on the permanent staff at all; and, in view of that contingency, the resolution was worded in this way—"that the present occupant of the office may hereafter be continued in office"—not "shall" be continued in office, but "may" be continued in office—"at the same salary, but without compensation, under any conditions rendered necessary by the introduction of Responsible Government." In order to make the intention of the House still more clear, I myself moved a verbal amendment in the resolution, to insert the words "at the pleasure of the Government" between the word "may" and "hereafter." The resolution was so worded in case it might be necessary to dispense with the office of Director of Public Works as a permanent office, and to clearly show that in such event happening the present holder of the office would not be entitled to any compensation if the office were abolished. It is evident that the latter portion of the resolution is quite contradictory to the view that the hon. gentleman belongs to the permanent staff of the colony, because, if he did belong to the permanent staff he would be entitled to compensation upon the abolition of his office, or his services being dispensed with, he would become entitled to a pension. But this resolution contemplates neither the granting of a pension nor compensation for loss of office. I was under the impression that the hon. gentleman would have continued to serve the Government, for the remainder of his five years, at the increased



salary of £900; I certainly was not of opinion that the Government were authorised by that resolution to place him on the permanent staff, and I do not think myself there is anything in the resolution which would tend to that view. On the contrary, it tends quite the other way, and shows that the Legislature had no idea at all of placing the hon. gentleman on the permanent staff of the colony.

**THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright):** Will you excuse me if I say that I am exceedingly sorry I should have thought so myself? There is nothing about the Commissioner of Railways in the resolution; it only refers to the Director of Works and Engineer-in-Chief. I certainly was not under the idea that when Responsible Government came in I should have any claim to a pension, but I certainly did think that I was to be on the permanent staff; and I understood, when I came out, that the terms of the agreement were simply to see whether I suited the place or not, and that if I did my services would be continued. I also understood that when the House did me the honor of raising my salary, that it intended to keep me on the staff. But as it is now said that such was not the case, and as the mover of the resolution has stated that at the end of my five years I am liable to be turned off, I simply have to bow to the wishes of the House.

**THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser):** I am sorry there should have been any misunderstanding, and perhaps I may be allowed to explain how the matter stands. No communication has passed between the Government and the Director of Public Works on the subject. I believed the hon. gentleman quite understood the resolution to make it a condition that, in the event of a change in the constitution, his services might be dispensed with, and that he would have no claim to a pension. The hon. gentleman has been paid partly out of loan, but, as the loan funds became exhausted, his salary has been placed on the Estimates, along with the salaries of other public officers who are not on the Civil List. The understanding with the hon. gentleman, so far as I know, is that his appointment is held during the

pleasure of the Government of the day. I think my hon. friend allows that; and that, in the event of the Government of the day not requiring his services, they might be dispensed with, and he would have no claim either to a pension or compensation. I think my hon. friend understood that.

**THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright):** I did not understand it; but I do understand it now, and I shall consider myself perfectly at liberty, if I have another appointment offered me, to accept it.

**THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. J. Forrest):** I think hon. members will see how exceedingly inconvenient it is for members of the Executive to have their salaries placed on the Estimates. Fortunately, I am exempt from that myself, and some of my hon. colleagues are in the same position, being tacked on to the Constitution Act. I think it is unfortunate that my hon. friend, the Commissioner, should have to stand the badgering he has been subjected to, and to be catechised as to his personal status in the service. At the same time, we have to accept the position as we find it, and I think my hon. friend has been somewhat thin-skinned, in taking so strong an exception to the remarks of hon. members. I think the members of this House have a right to question us upon every item on the Estimates: and so long as they do it in a polite way, however personal the question may be, I think we on this bench must accept the position we are in, and answer it, to the best of our ability. Entertaining this view, I really cannot go with my hon. friend the Director of Public Works in thinking that the remarks of the hon. member for Greenough were in any way offensive. I don't think they were intended to be offensive, nor do I think that they bear that construction; and although we are all very touchy upon questions of a personal character, and apt to take offence when no offence was intended, I think when the hon. member for Greenough says he never intended anything personal, my hon. friend might accept the hon. member's assurance, in the same spirit. I make these remarks with the view of throwing oil on the troubled waters. I think, so long as the comments made are

not personal, we must not be too thin-skinned.

CAPTAIN FAWCETT thought hon. members would agree with him that it would have been very much pleasanter to all parties if the Director of Public Works had been absent, and they could have talked behind his back. The subject had, however, been thoroughly threshed out—too much so to please the Director; and he only rose to say that in his opinion this £100 added to the hon. gentleman's salary was objectionable. He thought that, instead of increasing the salaries of the members of the Executive, they ought to reduce them, or make a corresponding increase in the salaries of all the public servants. This increase was voted last year, it was true, but he himself had been in no way anxious to support it, and he should have been prepared to vote against it, had it gone to a division. If these high officials had a large increase made in their salaries, why should not poor clerks with £60 a year receive a corresponding increase?

MR. PARKER said he might remind the hon. and gallant member for Murray and Williams that this increase in the Commissioner's salary was not made this year; it was placed on the Estimates last year, at the request of that House. The House requested the Government to give the Director of Public Works an increase of £100 a year, and the Government, in deference to the wish of the House, had placed this increase on the Estimates. But there was this difference between the Commissioner and the other civil servants whose salaries appeared on the Estimates—they were all on the permanent staff, and therefore entitled to a retiring allowance, whereas the Director of Public Works was not on the permanent staff, but only temporarily employed.

MR. MARMION said he had no wish to prolong the present controversy, but he must say he also had been rather surprised to hear that there should have been any misunderstanding with reference to the meaning and intention of the resolution referred to. The hon. member for Perth (Mr. Parker) was he believed the prime mover in the matter, and he thought it was understood by everyone who agreed to the increase in the salary of the Commissioner that the hon. gentleman waived any right he might be supposed to have

to any compensation, in the event of his services being no longer required, when a change in the form of Government took place. The wording of the resolution was very plain, that the hon. gentleman might, at the pleasure of the Government, continue in office at the same salary; but, "without compensation under any conditions rendered necessary by the introduction of Responsible Government." If those words meant anything, they meant this: not that the hon. gentleman was to be retained on the permanent staff, and occupy the position of Commissioner in every successive Ministry, but that he might retain his position as Director of Public Works and Engineer-in-Chief, at this increased salary, with or without a seat in the House, so long as the Government chose to retain his services. He did not think anyone was under the impression, when that resolution was passed, that this increase of salary was to extend beyond the five years, the term of the hon. gentleman's engagement. He thought it was a pity that notice was not given of the question, so that the matter might have been discussed in the hon. gentleman's absence, and all unpleasantness avoided. He was sure no member of that House had the slightest desire to offend the hon. gentleman's feelings in any way, but simply to obtain information.

MR. HENSMAN said he was not going to do anything but throw oil on the troubled waters at this stage. When he happened to enter the House, a few minutes ago, the hon. member for Tood-yay was interrogating the Colonial Secretary as to the position of the Director of Public Works, and he had simply followed up the question. If he had thought it necessary, he would have given notice of his question, which would have afforded the Commissioner an opportunity of retiring, if he wished to do so. But he thought there would be no harm in his answering the question. He wouldn't really say that he had no intention of saying anything offensive, for it was obvious to anyone who knew him that he would do no such thing. His question at any rate had elicited the fact that there was a considerable difference of opinion as to the terms upon which the hon. gentleman held his office;

and it did not appear to him very satisfactory that there should be any difference of opinion with regard to an appointment of this kind. He believed that in the course of the debate upon the resolution, last year, he said something as to the ambiguity of the resolution, and that there would be a difficulty about it, possibly, hereafter.

The subject then dropped.

MR. SHENTON, referring to the item "Accountant, £300," said he understood this officer was away, fulfilling other duties; what arrangement had been made, during his absence?

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright) said another officer was discharging the duties of accountant, during the absence of that officer, and he might say, was discharging them in a satisfactory manner.

MR. SHENTON said he understood that when the accountant (Mr. Thomson) was in England, the duties of the office were amalgamated with those of the railway accountant. Why could not that arrangement have been continued?

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright) said one accountant had to do with loan works and banking account, whereas the time of the railway accountant was fully occupied with railway accounts. It took him and his staff all their time to overtake the work, and they had great difficulty in doing so.

MR. SHENTON said as our loan money was nearly all expended, and there was no immediate prospect of another loan for public works, he would suggest whether one accountant could not do all the work. It seemed an enormous staff that they were now employing in connection with the Public Works office, and he should have imagined that a considerable reduction might have been made.

MR. A. FORREST said he had no wish to be personal, but it did seem strange to anyone connected with business, that it should require an accountant, two clerks, a book-keeper, a collector, and a probation clerk in the Public Works office, when we had no public works going on. Moreover, he understood that the officer occupying the position of accountant had never been trained to the work, that he was merely

an ordinary clerk. He must be a wonderful man if he could do the work without training. He did not think that House should be called upon to provide funds to teach a man his business. He believed with the hon. member for Toodyay that this department should be cut down to the lowest possible level, seeing that we had no public works going on, or likely to be going on, nor hardly a single contract on hand.

MR. SCOTT asked whether the item "Collector, £75" was a new appointment?

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright) said the office had been filled up to the present time by one of the probation clerks, at £60 a year; but he had been two years in the service and it was now proposed to give him an increase of £15. In reality a great many of these offices, appearing under the head of "Works and Railways," instead of being charged to that department, should be charged to works and buildings.

MR. MARMION said it had always appeared to him it would be a good thing if the two departments of "Works" and "Railways" were separated, and that each department should rest on its own bottom. We now had virtually two heads of department, the Commissioner of Railways and the Superintendent of Works; and he saw no earthly reason why the two branches should not be separated, and the responsibility cast upon the respective head of each department.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) said his hon. friend the Commissioner had suggested that this should be done on the Estimates for this year; but as the Estimates had already been framed and were in print, it was decided that they should remain as at present for the current year; but, when the Estimates came to be framed for next year they had agreed that the two departments should be separated. The Commissioner had himself suggested it, and there was no reason why it should not be done.

CAPTAIN FAWCETT asked what about the Traffic Manager; was he to go?

THE COMMISSIONER OF RAILWAYS (Hon. J. A. Wright): Not that I am aware of. I believe he is doing his

duty very well, and to the perfect satisfaction of the public.

MR. SHENTON asked upon what terms the Superintendent of Works (Mr. Poole) was engaged?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) said that officer was originally engaged for a term of three years, which would shortly expire, and formal notice had been given to him, immediately after the House adjourned in January, when there was a general opinion expressed in favor of retrenchment, to the effect that his services might not be required after the expiration of his three years.

MR. HENSAMAN asked whether in the event of the two departments being divided, this gentleman would be at the head of the Works Department?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser): I don't know how it is, but the hon. member for Greenough has a happy way of intentionally distorting.—

MR. HENSAMAN: I ask is that in order?

THE CHAIRMAN: It is not altogether parliamentary.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser): Then I withdraw it. The hon. member has misunderstood me. What I said was that the department should be divided into two branches, and appear so on the Estimates—a very different thing from establishing a fresh department. The items on the Estimates will be classified under each branch, so that it may be seen at a glance how the departmental staff was employed.

THE COMMISSIONER OF RAILWAYS (Hon. J. A. Wright) said what was intended was to alter the headings, and not the heads.

MR. SHENTON asked, as it was proposed to reduce the expenditure on works and buildings from £44,000 to £15,000 this year, whether it was necessary to employ a staff costing £1,300 in connection with this department?

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright) said he considered they required a qualified architect to design and superintend the construction of their public buildings, whether they were constructed out of loan or revenue. The surveyor (included in the staff referred to) had been in the service for many years past, and his ap-

pointment had been confirmed by the Secretary of State; but he had not been drawing any salary from revenue, but from loan funds. But if they were to abolish him from the Estimates, they would be abolishing the office, and he could claim compensation.

MR. SHOLL said he did not see why officers should appear on the Estimates who were drawing their salaries sometimes out of revenue and sometimes out of loans. It appeared that when the loan money was exhausted they began to draw their salaries from the general revenue, and were placed on the Estimates.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright) said that in order to meet the hon. member's objection the officer in question should in future be paid out of revenue.

MR. SHENTON asked upon what terms the services of the Superintendent of Works was to be retained if the head of the department said he couldn't do without him, or some qualified architect?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) said he had already stated that formal notice had been given to this officer, to the effect that his services might not be required after the expiration of his present agreement; but he had asked whether further employment might not be found for him, and, at the desire of the Commissioner, provision had been made for his salary for the current year. If any agreement should be entered into with him, it would be in the nature of a fresh agreement, upon such terms as may be agreed upon.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright): Under any circumstances it will be necessary to have a colonial architect and superintendent of works.

MR. SHENTON said that, under Responsible Government, the first Ministry in power might decide that it was unnecessary to retain the services of this officer, and it was necessary that the House should understand whether or not it was intended to place him on the permanent staff.

MR. SCOTT said he intended to move that the vote for the salary of this officer be reduced to the amount that would suffice to pay him until his present engagement expired, a few months hence,

and that his services be then dispensed with. He did not see what was the use of their asking the Government to retrench, and reduce their expenditure, and then asking them to retain officers whose services could be dispensed with. They knew, whoever was to blame for it, that many of the public buildings recently designed in this colony, were altogether in advance of the requirements of the colony and beyond the means of the colony.

MR. SHOLL said he could not support the proposal to reduce this vote, and dispense with the services of this officer. He thought these were matters which ought to be left to the Executive, who were responsible. For his own part he was not going to take upon himself the responsibility, the unpleasant responsibility, of doing work that should devolve upon the Government.

MR. PARKER said he was on the committee which, some three or four years ago, recommended the Government to secure the services of a Superintendent of Works, and it was recommended that he should be a competent architect; and he believed this officer possessed that qualification. No doubt it was true his services had only been engaged for three years, with the right of extending the term to five years if the Government wished it; but they all knew perfectly well that, as a rule, when a gentleman was engaged for the public service like that he was impressed with the idea that, if the Government were satisfied with his services, and he discharged his duties properly, he would eventually become a permanent officer of the Government. They were told by the Director of Public Works that it was necessary to have a competent architect connected with the department; and, that being so, and if this gentleman gave satisfaction to the Government, he could see no reason himself why they should dispense with his services, and perhaps secure the services of someone else, probably at a larger salary, who might not discharge his duties as satisfactorily. He thought this was a matter purely for the Executive Government, and the responsibility ought to rest upon them and not upon that House, of dispensing with his services, or retaining him after his three years expired. They must bear in

mind that since this officer was appointed, the circumstances of the colony had somewhat changed. At that time, their finances were in a flourishing condition, and they were desirous of securing the services of a fully qualified architect to design and supervise the erection of public buildings, of a superior class—buildings that would not only be useful but also ornamental. But now, they found they could not afford to go in for the ornamental, and that it was as much as they could do to provide what was necessary and useful. But the mere fact of our not being in a position to carry out our somewhat high-flown notions of a few years ago, was hardly a just reason for dispensing with the services of this officer, if he was qualified to perform his duties, and the head of the department said such an officer was required.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. J. Forrest) said the hon. member for Perth had anticipated his own remarks in every respect. This officer was appointed upon the recommendation of a committee of that House, and, if he performed his duties to the satisfaction of the Government, he failed to see why that House should now desire to abolish his office. Were we in such a poverty-stricken state as all this? Was the colony going to the dogs altogether? He did not think so himself. So far as the revenue of the colony was any test of prosperity, we never were in a more prosperous position than we were at the present time. The revenue last year was greater than it had been since the colony was a colony. He could not see himself that there was any ground for interfering with this office any more than any other office under the Government. He thought the Government would act wisely in retaining the services of this officer. He could quite understand that they should have given him formal notice, in the terms of his agreement, in the event of that House in its wisdom insisting upon his services being dispensed with. But he did not think that simply because the required notice had been given, his services should be done away with.

MR. HENSMAN said the Government seemed to have acted most cautiously and prudently in giving formal notice to this officer, in the event of the House resolving not to vote his salary after the expiration

of his present engagement. If the House voted his salary and the Government withdrew their notice, it would be competent to retain his services for another two years, as originally provided, under any form of Government.

MR. SCOTT said that so far as the gentleman himself was concerned he had no feeling in the matter; but seeing that the expenditure upon public works was being reduced to the lowest ebb possible, and that they were calling upon the Government to retrench in every direction, he had thought an opportunity was here afforded of saving the salary of this officer, when his engagement expired. He had no wish, however, to press his motion.

MR. A. FORREST said he noticed that the Railway Accountant was to receive an increase of £50 a year. How was this?

THE COMMISSIONER OF RAILWAYS (Hon. J. A. Wright) said this was an officer who had been a very long time in the service, and who most thoroughly deserved this increase of salary, in view of the enormous increase of work he had to do.

MR. SHENTON said he quite agreed with the proposed increase in this case, for he believed this officer well deserved some extra pay. He noticed that a sum of no less than £2,500 was asked for working expenses in connection with the Cossack and Roebourne Tramway. This seemed an enormous amount for a tramway only eight miles long.

THE COMMISSIONER OF RAILWAYS (Hon. J. A. Wright) said the working expenses were calculated exactly at the rate now paid, and there was no increase. It might be said that this was really the only public work that satisfactorily paid. He doubted whether any tramway eight and a-half miles long was ever worked for such an amount before.

MR. SHENTON, referring to the item "Land Grant Railways—supervision expenses, £2,000," said he found on looking at the Suspense Account that of this vote last year only £232 had been expended, leaving a balance of £1,768 still in hand, on the 31st December last. That being so, and taking into account that the Midland Railway was not likely to require any supervision this year, he thought this vote would not be wanted, and he

should move that it be reduced by £1,250.

THE COMMISSIONER OF RAILWAYS (Hon. J. A. Wright) said there was evidently some misapprehension on the part of the hon. member. Sir Charles Hutton Gregory's expenses alone, up to September last, amounted to about £850, which would be in addition to the £232 referred to. Since then there had been some heavy expenditure, but, although the Crown Agents had been written to for the account, the Government were at present unable to say how much it amounted to. As to the Midland Railway not going on, he hoped it would go on, and that the whole of this vote might be expended in connection with the inspection of rails and rolling stock during the present year.

MR. SHENTON said that when this money for supervision expenses was voted it was not intended that it should be expended in England, but in this colony, in the inspection of earthworks, etc.; but now they found that it was spent in England. At any rate, with a balance of £1,768 on hand, there could not possibly be any necessity to vote another £2,000. The Midland Railway could not possibly be resumed for another three months, which would only leave six months to be provided for this year. He had gone carefully into the matter, and he felt inclined to press his amendment.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) thought it would be very impolitic to press it, against the opinion of the head of the department. It was very desirable that proper supervision should be exercised in connection with these railways, and the money could only be expended upon such supervision, and the hon. member might rely it would not be expended unnecessarily.

MR. PARKER said he had always understood that the supervision which this vote was intended to provide was supervision of the lines during their construction, and he could not understand how Sir Charles Gregory, who was in England, could exercise any supervision over these lines of railway.

THE COMMISSIONER OF RAILWAYS (Hon. J. A. Wright) said the perfection of a railway must depend upon its rails and rolling stock, which represented a very large expenditure, and

it was impossible for them to be properly inspected after they were put together, and were brought into the colony. Sir Charles Gregory had been appointed to examine the specifications and drawings of the rolling stock and rails to be used in these land grant railways, and to see that all was exactly up to the standard of excellence provided for in the drawings and specifications, and that nothing but the best material was used, and the best workmanship. Supposing these land grant railway syndicates failed to carry out their contracts, and the lines were to fall into the hands of the Government, was it not very desirable that the closest supervision should be exercised in the selection of materials? We were satisfied that in this way we got our money's worth, for, although we were not paying for these railways in hard cash, we were paying for them in land, which was equivalent to money, and we ought to see that we got good value in return.

MR. A. FORREST said the only line now in course of construction was the Albany-Beverly line, and they all knew that syndicate had its own engineer in England to select their material; and it was known that they were using the very best materials. Yet the House was asked to vote £2,000 for supervision expenses, which he thought was money thrown away.

MR. SHOLL said it would be quite a different matter if the Government were building their own railway. This money, too, was voted for supervision expenses in the colony, and not to pay an engineer in England. These syndicates imported their material at their own risk, knowing that the Commissioner could condemn it, upon arrival.

MR. MARMION thought it was very necessary we should take care that we got good value for our land, and that the materials used should be of the very best description. This could only be ensured by having proper supervision exercised on the spot. At the same time he was not prepared to say that the whole of this vote would be required, under the circumstances, and seeing that a sum of £1,700 had been carried to suspense account last year. He would suggest as a compromise that the vote be reduced one half.

MR. SHENTON said he would accept that suggestion, and move to reduce the vote by £1,000.

THE COMMISSIONER OF RAILWAYS (Hon. J. A. Wright) said he would accept that compromise, on condition that if the amount voted should not prove sufficient, an additional sum would be voted, if shown necessary, on the Supplementary Estimates.

The proposal to reduce the amount by £1,000 was agreed to, and the departmental vote put and passed.

*Volunteers, £3,385:*

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) asked that this vote should be taken next, as it was necessary to acquaint the Volunteers, without delay, whether provision would be made for the holding of an Easter encampment this year.

MR. PARKER said he noticed that there was an increase of £25 in the lodging allowance of the Drill Instructor, making it £50.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) said this was because the sum previously voted was not sufficient to provide the officer in question with a decent residence, at the rate house rent was now ruling. It was understood when he accepted the appointment that he was to be provided with quarters, but in lieu of quarters this lodging allowance was granted to him.

MR. SHOLL said he was opposed altogether to these lodging allowances, and he should like to see the system abolished. If the salary of a public officer was not sufficient to enable him to pay his rent, let his salary be increased.

MR. SHENTON said he understood that two valuable guns had been sent out by the Admiralty, as a present to the colony, and that they were to be stationed at Fremantle. He hoped due care would be taken of them, and that steps would be taken to reorganise the Naval Brigade, and place the corps under the command of a qualified officer.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) said he would take care to bring the hon. member's suggestion under the notice of the Commandant.

MR. A. FORREST asked how it was that the vote for the Easter Encampment was increased this year from £200 to £250?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) said there was also an encampment held at Champion Bay, as well as down here, and this amount was intended to cover the cost of the two encampments.

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

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

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## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

*Tuesday, 20th March, 1888.*

Water-borer for Yilgarn—Completion of Vasse Jetty—Estimates (Revised), 1888: further consideration—Victoria Public Library Bill: second reading.

THE SPEAKER took the Chair at noon.

PRAYERS.

### DELAY IN SENDING WATER-BORER TO YILGARN.

MR. SHENTON, in accordance with notice, asked the Director of Public Works what was the cause of the delay in forwarding the water-borer to Yilgarn?

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright) said the cause of the delay was the action of the Northam, Newcastle, and York Districts Roads Boards. He had met the Newcastle Board on Saturday week, and they agreed that they would see the Northam and York people with a view to seeing to what extent they would be inclined to go in assisting to get a water supply for Yilgarn. It had been stated that the Newcastle people would subscribe £75 and the York people £300

towards this work. After a delay, it was not until Friday that he had received a telegram stating that none of the Roads Boards would co-operate in the slightest degree in the matter. The borer had been ready for the last ten days, and as the Boards were not prepared to make use of it, the Government had now sent the borer off to the fields.

### COMPLETION OF VASSE JETTY.

MR. LAYMAN, in accordance with notice, moved that an humble address be presented to His Excellency the Governor, praying that the sum of £400 be placed upon the Estimates for 1888, for the purpose of completing the construction of the Vasse jetty, now remaining in an unfinished and comparatively useless state. The hon. member said the jetty had cost the colony some thousands of pounds, but was in a great measure of no practical utility; and the expenditure of a few hundreds, as now proposed, would make it one of the most useful structures of the sort in the colony, outside Fremantle or Albany. Therefore he thought it would be wise economy for the House to affirm this resolution, and for the Government to give effect to it. Probably the proposal might be met with the objection that there were no funds; but he thought himself that funds might be provided for such a work as this. Until this jetty was finished, by having a head put to it, it could never serve any purpose of practical utility; therefore, he hoped he should have the support, not only of the Government, but also of the elected members.

CAPTAIN FAWCETT seconded the motion.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) said the Vasse had many blessings—a glorious climate, a fertile soil, calm water, and a most elegant jetty, for the purpose of promenade and the enjoyment of the sea breeze. So far he was not aware that the trade of the Vasse had ever suffered by reason of the fact that this jetty had not been taken into deeper water. The hon. member must see that there were other claims upon the Government at the present moment which must be regarded as superior to those of the Vasse jetty, upon which, as the hon. member had said, thousands of