

the contract was carried out in the best interests of the colony.

SIR J. G. LEE STEERE could not see how we could do away with these inspecting engineers, because one of the conditions of the contract was that the railway shall be made in all respects equal to the Government lines; and how was the Commissioner going to see that such was the case unless he had somebody to supervise the work? He agreed in one respect with the hon. member for Kimberley that it would have been well when this contract was made to have required the contractor to make the company pay for this supervision. But if they were to ask him to do so now, he would simply laugh at them.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. W. E. Marmion) thought there would be one disadvantage in having the Government inspector virtually the servant of the contractor. It would be a curious thing to expect such an officer to report upon the inefficiency of the work done by his own employer and paymaster. He thought that would be a most inadvisable arrangement.

MR. A. FORREST said his argument was that the money for supervision should be paid by the company, and not by the Government, but that the Government should appoint their own inspecting officers. It would be absurd to allow the contractor to appoint them. He hoped the Commissioner of Lands did not think he was born yesterday.

Item passed.

Progress reported, and leave given to sit again another day.

APPORTIONMENT BILL.

A Message was received from the Legislative Council, forwarding this bill for the concurrence of the Assembly.

The House adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Legislative Assembly,

Monday, 16th February, 1891.

Alleged intemperance in the Locomotive Workshops, Fremantle—Message from the Governor: Continuation of Expenditure—Fremantle Jetty: inspection of Karri piles—Prevention of spread of Insect pests—Water Supply, North Ward, Fremantle—Adulteration of Liquors—Excess Bill, 1889: second reading—Apportionment Bill: first reading—General Loan and Inscribed Stock Bill: third reading—Estimates, 1891: further consideration—Adjournment.

THE SPEAKER took the chair at 7:30 p.m.

PRAYERS.

ALLEGED INTEMPERANCE IN LOCOMOTIVE WORKSHOPS.

MR. TRAYLEN: I should like to ask the Commissioner of Railways, with leave, without notice, whether he has received any further communication with reference to the alleged prevalence of intemperance in the Locomotive Workshops, to which I referred the other day?

THE COMMISSIONER of RAILWAYS (Hon. H. W. Venn): In reply to the hon. member, I have much pleasure in saying that I have received some further information on this subject, in the form of a deputation representing the workmen employed in the Locomotive Workshops, who waited upon me since the hon. member mentioned the subject in the House the other day. The representations made to me by the deputation I will read to the House:—

“We, as Delegates representing each department of the Locomotive workshops, respectfully beg to call your attention to the question regarding the alleged rumour of intemperance in the Locomotive workshops, asked by the hon. member, Mr. Traylen, in the House of Assembly, on 13th instant, and are deputed by the unanimous desire of a full meeting of workmen, held on Saturday afternoon, to most emphatically and firmly deny the slightest foundation for any such rumours, and to express the feeling, that the open publication of such rumours, through the public press, may cast a stigma of a grave and damaging character upon the workmen of this Department, and would respectfully, sir, through you, make such public utterances as would

“prevent the possibility of such unjust and serious rumours gaining further ground, and would further desire that a full inquiry be instituted if the aforesaid rumours have the slightest tendency to receive public credence.

“THOS. KEADY, representing

“54 Enginemen, Stokers, &c.

“C. H. BARRATT,

“25 Fitters and Erectors.

“J. H. LEWIS,

“10 Boiler-makers and Laborers.

“H. HENSTOCK,

“5 Turners and Drillers.

“W. HAMPTON,

“16 Carpenters, &c.

“R. JONES,

“7 Blacksmiths.

“JAS. MACGREGOR,

“9 Officers.”

I may add that I have received no information on the subject to induce me to believe that the representations made by the employés are untrue. I informed the deputation that the only person who had made any representations to me on the subject was Mr. Hasluck, and that I would communicate with that gentleman.

MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR: CONFIRMATION OF EXPENDITURE.

A Message from His Excellency the Governor was presented by the Premier, and read by Mr. Speaker, as follows:

“The Governor recommends to the Legislative Assembly that provision be made to confirm an Expenditure of £6,465 12s. 8d. for 1889, beyond the authorised Votes for that year, and of £28,794 8s. for 1890, beyond the authorised Expenditure for that year.

“Government House, Perth, 16th February, 1891.”

FREMANTLE JETTY: INSPECTION OF KARRI PILES.

MR. PATERSON, in accordance with notice, asked the Director of Public Works, Whether he had caused any inspection or examination to be made of the karri piles used in the construction and erection of the South Jetty at Fremantle, with a view of ascertaining whether such piles had suffered from the ravages of the *teredo navalis*; and, if so, what had been the result of such inspection or examination.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. H. W. Venn) replied, as follows: I have to inform the hon. member that there are no karri piles in the South Jetty at Fremantle. Therefore, no examination has taken place. The karri piles in the Fremantle *New Jetty* are periodically inspected for the purpose of ascertaining how far they are being deteriorated by the action of the “teredo navalis.” The first inspection was made on 24th December, '89, and it was found that the sapwood of one karri pile, selected for special examination, was completely gone, and the teredo had made its way into the timber to the extent of $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch. The second inspection, on the 18th July, '90, owing to the continued high water, did not allow the Resident Engineer to make a proper examination, but he reported: “The sapwood of the piles is completely gone, but owing to their having a greater amount of sapwood than jarrah piles, by looking at them from the top of the jetty they look much worse than they really are. There are about 3 inches of the pile eaten away all round.” On the 30th of the same month a further examination was made, and samples taken of two piles. No. 1.—3 years in the water, original diameter, immediately below water level, $16\frac{1}{2}$ inches; found then to be $15\frac{1}{2}$. No. 2.—3 years in water, original diameter 18 inches; found to be 15 inches. Another inspection was made on the 13th December last, when it was ascertained that the further deterioration in these piles amounted to 3-16th of an inch. The measure of other piles was taken, and the worst deterioration was 4 inches from the original diameter. A further inspection will be made in March.

PREVENTION OF SPREAD OF INSECT PESTS.

MR. PATERSON, in accordance with notice, asked the Premier, Whether the Government intended to take any steps to prevent the spread of the insect pests which were at present manifesting themselves in the fruit gardens near Perth?

THE PREMIER (Hon. J. Forrest) said the matter had not been officially brought to his notice, but he would be glad to confer with the hon. member for Murray on the subject.

WATER SUPPLY, NORTH WARD, FRE-
MANTLE.

MR. PEARSE, in accordance with notice, asked the Director of Public Works, if it was the intention of the Government to extend the Water Supply at Fremantle, to the North Ward?

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. H. W. Venn) replied that there was a special vote of £7,000 for a Water Supply to Fremantle. Out of this vote £6,069 17s. 2d. was expended in the West Ward; this covered cost of tanks, leaving a balance last year of £931. Since then pumps to duplicate those at present in use had been indented for, which were estimated to cost £350. A further sum of £350 was required to finish the tanks; and the balance, amounting to £231, would take the service as far as the Lunatic Asylum. It was the intention of the Government to extend the water mains into the North Ward, Fremantle. The new mains would be laid from the intersection of High and William Streets, along Adelaide Street and Cantonment Street. He might further say that to extend the system of water supply to both the South Ward and the North Ward of Fremantle—as shown in the second plan—a sum of nearly £6,000 would be required. The Government had not asked for any vote for that purpose.

ADULTERATION OF LIQUORS.

MR. TRAYLEN, in accordance with notice, moved, "That a select committee be appointed, with power to call for persons, papers, and records, and to sit at any convenient places for taking evidence, to inquire into the nature, extent, and results of the adulteration of liquors, wines, or other beverages used in the colony; and to report upon the best measures to be adopted in connection therewith." The hon. member said, knowing as he did that the time of the House was wanted for other important public work, he should place the objects sought for in the appointment of this select committee before members as briefly as he could. He took his stand on the broad principle that it was desirable that beverages in common consumption among the public should be pure and free from foreign and especially injurious or deleterious ingredients. As members knew,

there were many temptations to adulterate spirits, wines, and beers; the prime cost of the pure beverage was so considerable in many cases, and the demand so great, that the ingenuity of man was often exercised to find out some mode by which spurious beverages could be palmed off upon an unsuspecting public. Many of the ingredients employed (which the hon. member enumerated) were poisonous, others were more or less deleterious, and others had for their object the causing, by means of thirst, a further craving for liquor. He thought it must be apparent that if practices of this kind were going on in reference to the beverages consumed in the colony, it was in the interest of the public health that an inquiry should be made with the view of detection, if possible. He was willing to admit that adulteration in this colony was only in an incipient stage, but they knew for a fact that certain essences, suitable for adulteration, had been introduced into the colony, and, he believed, been disposed of by the importer, and, they might presume, had been used for purposes of adulteration. At the time he asked the question in that House the other day with reference to these essences, he received a letter from a leading firm in Fremantle intimating that the essences had not arrived by the "Denton Holme" (as he thought they had), but from another part of the world; and the letter went on to say that no doubt adulteration was going on, and that it was to be hoped the question he had put in the House would have a good effect. He concluded that if a letter of that tenour was sent to him by one of the leading firms of Fremantle, the writer knew what he was talking about; and the presumption was that adulteration, in an incipient form at any rate, had been going on in the colony for some time past. Therefore it was with some confidence that he put this resolution before the House; and, although by the rules of the House he could not nominate the members to sit on this select committee, he might intimate to the House that the hon. member for Murray would be extremely glad, for one, to serve on this committee, if such be the will of the House. The hon. member for the Irwin, and no doubt other members from

the country who found time hanging rather heavily on their hands, would also probably be willing to render further service to the country by serving on the committee.

Motion put and passed, and the following members elected by ballot to serve on the select committee: Messrs. Paterson, Phillips, Cookworthy, Clarkson, and the mover.

EXCESS BILL, 1889.

Read a first time.

APPORTIONMENT BILL.

Read a first time.

GENERAL LOAN AND INSCRIBED STOCK BILL.

Read a third time, and transmitted to the Legislative Council.

ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE, 1891.

The House went into committee of supply for the further consideration of the Estimates for 1891.

Works and Buildings, £24,572 1s. 8d. :

MR. TRAYLEN: May I ask how it is that, while in most other departments there are considerable increases of salaries, there is nothing of the kind in this department?

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. H. W. Venn): Does the hon. member ask for some increases?

MR. TRAYLEN: I am asking for some explanation as to why, although there are increases in almost every other department, there are none in this.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. H. W. Venn): The only reply I can give the hon. member is, that we are trying to do things as economically as we can.

MR. PARKER said he noticed that the Colonial Architect was down for £500 on these Estimates, whereas last year he drew £599 9s. 3d. He presumed this reduction was not in consequence of any fault found with that officer, but in consequence of certain departmental changes brought about by the introduction of Responsible Government, whereby this officer, who, for some time past, had occupied the temporary position of head of the Works Department, was no longer so, the department being under a Minis-

terial head. He believed this officer was a very good officer, and, seeing that he was a professional man, and that the Under Secretaries of departments, who were not professional men, were to be paid £500 a year, he could not help thinking this officer ought to receive more than £500.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. H. W. Venn) said the hon. member was quite right in his surmise as to the reason for the apparent reduction in this officer's salary; it was not owing to any fault found with him, or anything of the kind, but simply due to certain changes brought about by the introduction of the present form of Government. When the late Commissioner of Railways and Director of Public Works retired from that position, a temporary arrangement was made whereby the General Manager of Railways was to act as Commissioner, and the Colonial Architect as Director of Public Works, each receiving an additional £100 a year. That was to remain in force pending the introduction of Responsible Government; and, according to the recommendation of the select committee that sat on the subject, there was no other course for the Government to adopt, when the change took place, but to put back the salary of this officer to what it originally stood at, and he was now in the same position as he was in before. The reduction must not be taken in any way as any slight whatever upon his professional abilities, or upon the way in which he performed his duties. The Government had every confidence in him, and the question of an increase of pay to this officer would occupy the attention of the Government during this next year.

MR. KEANE asked if there was any intention on the part of the Government to improve the present post office building at Geraldton, or erecting a new one? The present structure was a most miserable affair. He had been informed that day that it was so small and confined that in this hot weather it was nothing but martyrdom for the telegraph and post office people to do work there, and that one of them was already *hors de combat* with the heat. Surely in an important place like Geraldton, they might have a decent post office. He noticed on the Schedule of the Loan Bill an

item for certain improvements and buildings at "Northern ports"; he did not know whether a post office at Geraldton was included in this item. If it wasn't, it ought to be.

MR. PARKER said it had been particularly represented to him that the post office at York was entirely unfitted for such a building, and that were it not for the vigorous health of the officer in charge he would have been laid up with illness long before this. He thought York should take precedence of Geraldton. It had also been pointed out to him very strongly the necessity of a new court house at York; and he hoped the Government, when they had time at their disposal, would take the requirements of York into their consideration.

MR. HARPER urged the necessity of removing the present post office at Beverley to a more central position in the town; the present site was a most inconvenient one.

MR. CLARKSON said he had the honor of representing a more important district than either Geraldton or York, and he was sorry to say they were in a similar position as regards their public buildings; their courthouse was in a most disgraceful state, their police quarters unfit to live in, and their post office also was in a very bad condition. There were half a dozen other small requirements in the town of Newcastle which he hoped the Government would be in a position to attend to.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. H. W. Venn) said the question of improving the accommodation at the Geraldton post office had not been lost sight of. The Postmaster General had himself urged the matter on the attention of the Government, and it was the intention of the Government to make some improvements there at a very early date. He had no doubt that something would also be done at York. As to Beverley, the post office there had been put so far out of the present town-site in the belief that the town would extend in that direction; but, unfortunately, it had not done so. As to Newcastle, the repairs to the police quarters might possibly come out of the item, "Police stations and quarters generally, £1,000."

MR. QUINLAN asked what were the intentions of the Government with regard to the Barracks building at Perth, which was partially destroyed by fire some time ago?

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. H. W. Venn) said this question had been brought before the House some sessions ago, when he sat on the other side of the House, and the suggestion he then made was that the best thing they could do with these barracks was to let them be, as they would, in time, become very interesting ruins. At the present moment, the Government had not considered the question of the desirability of doing anything to this building; but no doubt the matter would receive consideration.

MR. A. FORREST said he noticed £500 down for a police station at Broome Hill, and another £500 for a police station at Katanning. Both these little places on the Great Southern Railway were in their infancy, and, as they were only ten miles apart, and there was a daily train between them, surely it was unnecessary to have a police station at both places. He certainly did not think they required one at Broome Hill, and he would move that that item be struck out.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. H. W. Venn) said these two items had not been put upon the Estimates without some reason; it had been strongly urged by the people living in these localities that these buildings were required, and the same thing had been strongly urged by the Commissioner of Police, and the Government, very reluctantly, placed these two items on the Estimates.

MR. R. F. SHOLL said there might perhaps be a necessity for one police station, but it was absurd to have two police stations twelve miles apart for two little villages, when there was a train passing backwards and forwards every day.

Question put—That the item "Broome Hill, Police Station and Lockup, £500," be struck out.

Agreed to.

MR. PARKER, referring to the item "Drill Shed, Albany, £105," asked whether this was for the erection of a

new building, or for renting some building?

THE TREASURER (Hon. J. Forrest) said this was a legacy from the late Government, who promised the Albany people they should have a new drill shed put up. It was very necessary, he thought, that there should be a drill shed at Albany, in view of the proposed fortifications.

MR. CLARKSON said he represented a very warlike district; he believed the Toodyay district possessed the finest defensive force in the colony. Yet they had no drill shed, and he did not see why Albany wanted one.

MR. PARKER thought it was highly desirable, in view of the proposed fortifications, that they should cultivate a military spirit at Albany.

MR. CANNING said that, unfortunately, the hon. and gallant member for Albany was absent, and he thought if for no other reason they ought to allow this item to remain. Albany promised to be a very important military station, and this drill shed would serve many useful purposes—garrison balls for instance. He thought they should take a large view of this question of £105 for a drill shed at Albany, in view of the large possibilities that might result.

MR. A. FORREST said he noticed an item "Bonded Goods Shed, Eucla, £250"; who was going to look after this bonded store? What was the use of building a goods shed unless there was somebody to look after it?

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. H. W. Venn) said this item had been on the Estimates before; it appeared there was no place whatever at Eucla at present in which bonded goods could be stored, and it was proposed to erect an iron shed. The Eucla people asked very little, as a rule, from the Government, and they got very little.

MR. A. FORREST: Is the hon. gentleman aware of the number of people in the Eucla district? I don't suppose there are 250 altogether, and, what they want with a bonded store I can't say. I move that it be struck out.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. H. W. Venn) said it

had been strongly recommended by the Collector of Customs, and it was largely on that officer's recommendation that the item had been put on.

THE TREASURER (Hon. J. Forrest) said, though the Customs revenue at Eucla was not very much, still they had received a good deal of money from that district for land—as much as £10,000, he believed, in one year—and possibly they might do so again. This was not much to give them in return, £250 for a goods shed. He believed there were about 20,000 sheep in the district, and the settlers shipped their wool from Eucla, and they received their stores there. He did not think they were asking for much when they asked for a building for storing their bonded goods. The telegraph officer stationed there looked after the Customs receipts.

MR. LOTON thought it would be unnecessary expense to build a bonded store at a place like Eucla. There were many other outlying districts in the colony that were much more entitled to such accommodation, having a much larger trade than Eucla. Condon, for instance, with ten times the trade, had not a bonded store yet. Let the Eucla people pay the duties as their goods were landed, as they had to do at Condon.

MR. R. F. SHOLL thought the people living in these out of the way places ought to receive some consideration. Condon also ought to have its bonded store. Why should these people pay the duty on their goods beforehand, and stand the risk of leakage and damage during transit?

MR. COOKWORTHY said there was one thing he should like to point out as to these bonded stores in these out of the way places: not only were they used for bonded goods, but also of great convenience to settlers living at a distance from the port whose stores otherwise would be exposed to injury when landed. These goods might be landed weeks before the owners knew anything about them. It was a very small item, and these outlying settlers were surely entitled to some little consideration.

Question put—That the item "Eucla, Bonded Goods Shed, £250," be struck out.

The committee divided, with the following result—

Ayes	11
Noes	8
Majority for	3

AYES.

Mr. Burt
Mr. Clarkson
Mr. Cookworthy
Mr. Harper
Mr. Loton
Mr. Marunio
Mr. Paterson
Mr. Phillips
Mr. Quinlan
Mr. Traylen
Mr. A. Forrest (Teller.)

NOES.

Mr. Canning
Mr. Darlot
Mr. Kenne
Mr. Pearce
Mr. Scott
Mr. Sholl
Mr. Venn
Mr. Forrest (Teller.)

Item struck out.

The vote as reduced was then put and passed.

Roads and Bridges, £12,200 :

MR. A. FORREST said he was in favor of the vote for roads and bridges, but, seeing that they had already provided £30,000 in the Loan Bill for this purpose, he should think it would be impossible to spend that amount and this £12,000, this year at any rate. He thought they might save £10,000 of this, which would be so much more towards paying the interest on the loan.

MR. LOTON said the Government had not got their £30,000 loan money yet, and if this vote were to be withdrawn there would be no money at all in the hands of the Government for roads and bridges this year. Works of this kind ought to be put in hand at once, in the early part of the year; in three or four months time it would be impossible to travel over some of these roads unless something was done to them.

MR. CLARKSON said, as to the Government not being able to spend their £30,000 and this £12,000 this year, that was all nonsense. The district he represented could itself spend £10,000 very well. There were very erroneous opinions held by people in town with regard to country roads; they seemed to think that so long as there was a railway they did not want roads. But he would ask how that railway was going to be fed unless they had roads communicating with it? The roads to the Eastward of his district were almost impassable, owing to the small amounts spent on them of late years. There was not a more popular vote on the Estimates than this vote, and not a more popular item

in the Loan Bill than that £30,000 for roads.

MR. PARKER understood that this vote was for the maintenance of existing roads, and that the £30,000 on the Loan Schedule was for the construction of new roads and new bridges. He should be sorry to see the loan money expended in repairing existing roads and bridges.

MR. COOKWORTHY said if the £30,000 out of the loan was only to be expended in making new roads, he considered that the sum placed on these Estimates for the repair and maintenance of existing roads was not half sufficient. In the country districts what little money they got from the Government, in return for their taxation, was simply what was spent on their roads. He was sure if the country districts had been more largely represented in that House than they had been, more money would have been voted for roads and bridges. Out of a total revenue last year of £400,000 only £8,000 had been spent on the roads of the colony. He thought the amount on the present Estimates was very small indeed, unless the £30,000 out of loan was also to be applied to the maintenance of existing roads as well as the construction of new roads.

MR. CLARKSON could not agree with the hon. member for York, that none of the loan money should be spent in the repair of existing roads. He thought it would be better to repair the roads already in existence than to make new ones. They did not want to go to the expense of cutting fresh roads when they had old roads that would answer their purpose, if placed in a state of thorough repair.

MR. QUINLAN intimated his intention of asking the Director of Public Works to have a portion of the £30,000 loan money expended on the Wanneroo road, which he thought had one of the strongest claims that would be likely to be brought before the Government with regard to the distribution of that money.

Item passed.

Estimates reported to the House.

The House adjourned at 25 minutes past 9 o'clock, p.m.