

only to return the interest on the money we ask you to lend us, but also provide a sinking fund; and that within a few years." We could not foretell the future of this colony; and to load it, unnecessarily, with £25,000 a year, for 38 or 39 years, was more than Parliament ought to do. He appealed to the good judgment of the Premier, who, he was sure, was better posted in the revenue figures than he was—he appealed to him to accept the financial principle he was now advocating, and endeavour to provide for all these non-productive works out of the revenue of the colony.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) really thought the speech of the hon. member who had just sat down should have been made on the second reading. If every member were to indulge in a dissertation upon the general question of finance, upon every item that came up, he did not see where they were likely to get to. Of course they were all interested to hear about the amount of bullion held in reserve by the Bank of England, and also how much money the hon. member had passed through his own banking account in one year; but what that had to do with improvements in existing railways, he could not make out. If the circumstances of the colony were such as to admit of our undertaking these works out of current revenue, and by so doing we were not neglecting other requirements of the country, he might be inclined to agree with the hon. member. He could only assure the hon. member that his experience of this growing young colony had been that, as the revenue increased, so the demands upon that revenue increased. One had as much trouble to make both ends meet now as when the revenue was not more than half what it was at present. He could only say that, if members were in any way inclined to follow the hon. member's advice, these works would have to stand over, because they certainly could not be carried out from the ordinary revenue of the colony. They must either make up their minds to have them constructed out of loan money, or else do without them for the present; and he did not think members were in that frame of mind. The Government had framed their Estimates, and there was no money available out of revenue

for any of the works in the Schedule. They thought they were justified in borrowing the money in the belief that these works would be adding to the prosperity of the country. The amounts placed in the Schedule would not be spent in one year, nor was it probable that the whole amount would be raised at one time. He asked the hon. member whether telegraph lines, roads and bridges, harbour works and jetties, could not be called reproductive works, and, as for lighthouses, they were usually built out of loan money. He did not see how they could curtail any of these items.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. W. E. Marnion) said the only difference in constructing these works out of current revenue and out of loan money was that in the former case the present generation would have to pay the full amount, whilst in the second case some of those who come after us would have to bear a part of the expenditure.

The amendment (Mr. Illingworth's) was negatived on the voices.

Item agreed to.

Progress reported, and leave given to sit again on the following day.

ADJOURNMENT.

The House adjourned at five minutes past six o'clock p.m.

Legislative Council,

Wednesday, 19th September, 1894.

Perth Railway Platform: Erection of roof over—Home-steads Act: Lands open for selection under—Imported Drugs: Exposed invoices of—Rottnest Island: Restrictions on persons visiting—Camels: Licensing of—Constitution Act Amendment Bill: second reading: committee—Adjournment.

THE PRESIDENT (Hon. Sir G. Shepton) took the chair at 4-30 o'clock p.m.

PRAYERS.

**PERTH RAILWAY STATION PLATFORM
—ERECTION OF ROOF OVER.**

THE HON. H. J. SAUNDERS asked the Colonial Secretary whether it was the intention of the Government to erect a roof over the Perth railway station platform; if so, when?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. S. H. Parker) replied: It is the intention of the Government to erect a roof over the Perth railway station. The ironwork has been ordered from England. A contract will be let for the erection as soon as it arrives in the colony.

**HOMESTEADS ACT—LANDS OPEN FOR
SELECTION UNDER.**

THE HON. H. MCKERNAN asked the Colonial Secretary what progress had been made in the direction of throwing open for selection, under "The Homesteads Act, 1893," Crown lands in the South-Western Division of the Colony; and, if any, to give the date when it was expected selection could take place.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. S. H. PARKER): I beg to lay on the table the following return, giving the information asked for by the hon. gentleman:—

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

*Department of Lands and Surveys,
Perth, 18th September, 1894.*

*Return of Crown Lands in the South-Western Division
thrown open for Selection under "The Homesteads Act,
1893," showing the date open for Selection.*

Agricultural Area.	No. of blocks set apart.	Open for Selection.
Boyanup	54	10th January, 1894.
Coolup	76	Do.
Harvey	15	Do.
Jandakot	35	Do.
Katanning	38	Do.
Mackering	23	Do.
Nonga	19	Do.
Tenterden	9	Do.
Wagin	9	Do.
Mullewa	17	1st August, 1894.
Darkan	9	14th July, 1894.
Uduc	18	1st August, 1894.
Tweed	12	14th July, 1894.
Serpentine	14	Do.
Wickepin	4	6th August, 1894.
Preston	50	20th August, 1894.

**IMPORTED DRUGS—EXPOSED
INVOICES OF.**

THE HON. T. H. MARSHALL asked the Colonial Secretary if it was a fact that the Collector of Customs, when an invoice of drugs was placed before him, sent for a merchant trading in the same

line, and exposed the invoice of such drugs to the said merchant?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. S. H. Parker): When the Collector of Customs believes an invoice of drugs to be under-valued, he exhibits the invoice to a chemist for his opinion as to the value of the articles comprised therein.

**ROTTNEST ISLAND—WITHDRAWAL OF
RESTRICTIONS ON PERSONS VISITING.**

THE HON. H. MCKERNAN moved, "That in the opinion of this House it is desirable that all restrictions on persons desirous of visiting any of the islands on the coast of this colony, either for pleasure or inspection, particularly Rottnest Island, be withdrawn." He said: The object of my motion is, I think, fairly clear. I do not think it necessary to go into the causes why any restrictions have been placed on persons wishing to visit the island in the past, for they do not prevail as regards the future. During the past few years this colony has made wonderful progress in almost every way, but we have not provided those sources of outdoor amusement and recreation which we ought to have done. Little less than twelve months ago there was a great outcry about people—principally miners—leaving the colony and going elsewhere to spend their money and enjoy themselves, and a good deal of the reason of that was on account of one having no pleasure resorts for the people to go to. I take it that something of the kind could be found on some of the islands along the coast—more particularly Rottnest—if the restrictions against visiting them were removed. I am sure many miners, after returning from the goldfields, would be very glad to spend two or three weeks there. The climate is superb, and the agricultural capabilities are immense. I contend that if the restrictions were removed, private enterprise would step in and institute a steam ferry service, and then people from Perth and Fremantle could easily enjoy a day's outing on the island. I am aware that it is not now difficult to get a permit, but we know people do not like going to Government offices to ask for such things. I do not see any reason for the continuance of the restrictions, and I hope hon. members will agree with me in seeking to abolish them.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. S. H. Parker): Will the hon. gentleman kindly give us the names of the other islands to which he refers?

THE HON. H. MCKERNAN: I refer to Rottnest principally.

THE HON. D. K. CONGDON seconded the motion.

THE HON. F. T. CROWDER: I cannot support this motion, because so long as Rottnest remains a prison I consider it is undesirable that the public should have free access to it. Had the hon. member moved that the Government should do away with the prison there, and throw open the lands for selection, I should have supported him, because I think the time has arrived when the Government should cease to bring down native prisoners from the North and feed them well, and in other ways so kindly treat them that when they are liberated they return to their country and tell their companions that they have had a holiday. If the hon. gentleman will bring forward his motion in the direction I have indicated I will support him, but I fail to see how the Government can practically throw open a prison.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. S. H. Parker): When I first had the pleasure of visiting Rottnest, it struck me it would be a most charming summer resort for the people of Perth and Fremantle. I believe the day is not far distant when my idea will be realised, but I do not think our population is yet sufficient to warrant any steps being taken at the present moment. Of course, so long as Rottnest remains a prison, it is impossible to throw it open to the general public without restriction. The whole island was declared a prison more than fifty years ago, and in order to maintain it as such it is absolutely necessary there should be some restriction. At present no boats are allowed to land at the island, and even the harbour master's boat when there has to be well locked up to prevent the natives getting away.

THE HON. F. T. CROWDER: They don't want to.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. S. H. Parker): On Saturdays and Sundays the natives are allowed their liberty all over the island, and if we were to allow the public to go there without any restric-

tion, the natives would have to be kept within the prison walls, for otherwise they might seize the boats and escape to the mainland. It was not many years ago that some natives got hold of a boat and escaped, and I do not think they have ever been caught. Owing to the restrictions, we have been able to keep the natives free from infectious diseases, and when small-pox broke out at Fremantle not a native on the island caught it. We try to make the natives work and become industrious, and efforts are made to improve their morals. It is difficult, however, to teach them much in the way of morality; but Colonel Angelo does all he can to lead them into a better way of life. The Hon. Mr. Crowder said he would be glad to see the prison abolished, and the natives kept at the North. I can assure the House that it is the policy of the Government, where practicable, to keep the natives in their own country. None are now sent to Rottnest unless it is absolutely necessary, that is unless the prisoners have committed murder or some other grievous offence, or are such troublesome natives that it would be impossible to keep them in the gaols in their own country. Hon. members are aware that the natives of Kimberley are of a wild and uncontrollable nature, and when placed in the gaol at Wyndham they escape time after time, and it is perfectly useless to try and keep them there. It must be remembered that the gaols in the country are not so secure as Rottnest, and it is impossible to maintain a staff sufficient to keep the natives in prison, much less to watch them while at work. The number of prisoners at Rottnest 18 months ago was 75, but the last return I saw showed only 44, and I hope the time is not far distant when the Government will be enabled to entirely abolish Rottnest as a prison and throw the land open for sale. I hope that then we shall have many wealthy families having their villas there, and that instead of going to Melbourne and other places to spend their money, they will remain here and share with us what they have. Until that time arrives, I think my hon. friend who has brought forward this motion will see that it is impossible that we can do away with the existing restrictions. Even now, the only restriction is that persons wishing to visit the island must get a permit. I have not known any

instance of where a permit has been refused. Not only have permits been granted to individuals, but parties have obtained them, and unless there are some suspicious circumstances to prevent our granting them, no individual will ever be refused one so long as I continue to hold office.

THE HON. D. K. CONGDON: It is not my intention to support the motion, although I seconded it so that the matter might be discussed.

THE HON. F. M. STONE: I am unable to support the motion in its present form. Had the mover of it gone further and have said that the prison should be abolished, and that the lands should be thrown open to the public, I should have been able to support him. I cannot see how it can be argued that people should be allowed to go there without a permit while it remains a prison. The land is not open for sale, and if people go there they must keep out in the open. For my part, I am in favour of abolishing the prison and throwing the lands open for selection. We have a large number of people coming to the colony, and there is no place they can go to in the summer months. There is always a beginning to everything, and it seems to me that now is the time to try and make Rottnest a place of summer resort. The Colonial Secretary says that only natives that are wild are sent there, and the reason of it is that the Government have no proper gaols in the country. The gaol at Wyndham is not fit to hold any native. It is made of corrugated iron, which the natives have only to push on one side to gain their freedom. At Roobourne the natives are of considerable use. They make the roads, repair the tramline, and are otherwise of considerable use, and they should be so utilised everywhere. As it is now, they get the benefit of a change at Rottnest, whereas we should have the benefit of it.

THE HON. H. MCKERNAN: If my hon. friends who have just spoken take the views I do, it is quite open for them to table a motion on the subject. My motion is only intended to meet the requirements of the coming season, and prevent a recurrence of the outcry that was raised last year. However, if the island is to be opened up within a short time, I am not sorry that I brought the

matter forward. Still I do not see why the natives should not now be confined to one part of the island.

THE HON. C. E. DEMPSTER: Why cannot people go to Garden Island or to Carnac?

Motion put and negatived.

LICENSING OF CAMELS.

THE HON. C. E. DEMPSTER moved, "That in the opinion of this House all camels engaged in the carrying trade should be licensed." He said: I would like to point out to hon. members that a number of settlers have invested their all in the purchase of teams with which to undertake the carrying trade to the gold-fields, but now they are completely cut out by the camels. These animals not only affect the teamsters in this way, but they are a source of danger to the public travelling along the roads. Besides this, they consume the water which is obtained at the expense of the colony. People who have spent large sums of money in bringing teams from the other colonies are also thrown out of work, the camels having taken their places. It must be borne in mind that both the teamster and his team are consumers of the produce of the country, and they contribute to the revenue. The camels, on the other hand, are fed from the Crown lands for nothing, and consume the water, and I consider that they should contribute just as much to the revenue as the teams do. The camel-owners should contribute at least something, even if it were only a trifle, towards the maintenance of the roads. We know that if the whole of the carrying trade to the fields were to fall into the hands of the camel-owners, the public would greatly suffer, for they would become independent and carry very little for a great deal of money. I do not think there should be any interference with the owners of camels not engaged in the carrying trade, and my motion is only intended to apply to camels in the hands of the Afghans. These men live on the smell of an oil rag, and what money they make they take or send away; whereas the teamsters settle here and spend what they make.

THE HON. T. H. MARSHALL: Tax all camels.

THE HON. C. E. DEMPSTER: That would be hard on those who brought camels here for prospecting purposes.

THE HON. T. H. MARSHALL: It is a distinction without a difference.

THE PRESIDENT (HON. SIR G. SHENTON): The hon. member will have an opportunity of speaking directly.

THE HON. E. G. BURGESS seconded the motion.

THE HON. E. G. HENFY: I shall support the motion, although I may point out that this colony would indeed be in a pitiable plight, as far as the back blocks are concerned, were it not for the camels. I know that before the camels came here the very men the hon. member has referred to used to take all the money they could out of the general public for the carriage of goods. I must say also that I should prefer to see the yeomanry of the country sticking to their lands and increasing the produce of the country. If we are going to push on our railways we must do all we can to procure a settlement of the soil, and it would be a good thing if those who are now engaged as teamsters would assist the colony in this way, leaving the Afghans and their camels to do the pioneer work into the interior. There are many parts of the colony to which drays cannot get, and it will always be necessary to have camel trains. I have seen men with drays have to turn back where those with camels could take out a big load. At the same time the camel-owners make a profit, and I do not see why they should not pay licenses in the same way that the owners of drays have to. I shall, therefore, support the motion.

THE HON. F. M. STONE: It seems to me that we are only taking up the time of the House by discussing a motion of this sort, for even if we agree to it there is no power existing to compel camels to be licensed. If the hon. gentleman had tabled a motion asking the Government to bring in a Bill on the subject there might be something in it.

THE HON. S. J. HAYNES: If we had no camels I do not know what would become of the people at Coolgardie. Judging from what I saw there I do not think the time is far distant when most of the camels will be under the control of our own colonists, and the Afghans driven out of the place. At present I

think it would be a great mistake to put any handicap upon them, especially as they are animals which, in many instances, are instrumental in saving life. I must oppose the motion.

THE HON. C. A. PIESSE: I have much pleasure in supporting the motion. While on my feet I should just like to reply to the remarks of the Hon. Mr. Stone. He seems to imply that we have no power to do anything; but I take it that, if this motion is passed, the Government will endeavour to do something to meet the wishes of hon. members. If we have no power to discuss these matters we might just as well not be here. To my mind this is a question which requires much thought and thrashing out. I am of opinion that camels should be licensed in the same way that drays are licensed, and one of the reasons why they should be taxed is that they can make a meal off the tree-tops, while the horses require the produce of the soil. I have seen camel trains laden with machinery—some of the pieces weighing as much as 7 cwt.—and it will be seen from this how they are cutting our people out of the carrying trade. It is only reasonable, therefore, that they should pay some tax.

THE HON. D. K. CONGDON: It is my intention to support the motion, as I think it very desirable that camels should be taxed in the same way that horses and carts are taxed.

THE HON. T. H. MARSHALL: I am sorry to have to oppose the motion, and I do so because I think the camels have been our mainstay so far as the goldfields are concerned. It must be borne in mind that camels cost from £60 to £70 each, whereas horses can be purchased for £10; and some inducement must be held out to people to invest their money in these beasts of burden, especially when, considering the scarcity of water, we can hardly do without them.

THE HON. J. C. G. FOULKES: I do not think the fact of camels having to pay licenses would in the least interfere with their trade, so long as the amount was small and reasonable. The Hon. Mr. Stone said that the hon. member should have asked for a Bill. Of course, before this motion can have any effect, a Bill will have to be passed; but I take it that if this House shows it is in

favour of the principle, a Bill will be brought forward by the Government. The hon. member does not suggest the amount of duty he would impose; but I take it no one would grumble at £1 per head. I know the camels do cause inconvenience. About six weeks ago some camels came through Perth, and for some time the whole of the traffic was stopped in consequence, and they should be called upon to pay something for causing this inconvenience. Besides this the colony is spending something like £1,000,000 of money on the goldfields, and it is only right that those engaged on these fields should contribute something towards it. In this way we have a chance of getting a contribution, and from people who can afford it.

THE HON. H. J. SAUNDERS: I may say, sir, that the Hon. Mr. Foulkes does not know much about camels if he thinks they inconvenience teamsters and others by travelling along the roads. My experience has been that when the drivers of a camel train see a horse coming they go off the road; in fact, as a rule they travel through the bush by the shortest possible track.

THE HON. J. C. G. FOULKES: I was speaking of Perth.

THE HON. H. J. SAUNDERS: That was a show day. I am opposed to this resolution because, without camels, I do not see how our goldfields' trade can be efficiently carried on, especially in dry weather. The camels will go nine or ten days without water. Hon. members say that they drink the water. No doubt they do, but only at intervals, and it must be remembered that the owners have to pay for it. I may also say that instead of the camels doing harm to the roads they do good, for there is nothing better than a camel path to walk on.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. S. H. Parker): Speaking personally, and not for the Government, I may say that I rather take the same view as the hon. gentleman who introduced this motion, which is that as the teams have to pay license there is no reason why the camels should not also pay. Camels are used in the same way that teams are used, and they make a profit, and therefore the one is as much entitled to pay as the other. Besides this, they use the water. Of course the owners have to pay, but the

sum charged by no means covers the cost of obtaining it. Taken altogether, I see no reason why camels should not contribute something towards the cost of the maintenance of roads as well as the teams.

THE HON. H. J. SAUNDERS: They do not use the roads.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. S. H. Parker): Well for the use of the lands, let us say. They are, moreover, not artificially fed. They do not consume the farmers' produce, but feed on the Crown lands without paying any rent. As I have said, I am now only speaking for myself; but I would suggest that if the motion is carried it should be transmitted to the other House for an expression of their opinion on the subject, inasmuch as if a Bill is introduced it must originate in another place and not here.

Question put and passed.

Ordered—That the message be transmitted to the Legislative Assembly, and their concurrence desired.

CONSTITUTION ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

SECOND READING.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. S. H. Parker): Although, sir, this Bill consists only of one clause, it is a measure of considerable importance. It repeals section 70 of the Constitution Act, whereby the colony is compelled to pay to the Aborigines Protection Board the sum of one per cent. of the revenue of the colony, after such revenue exceeds £500,000, which it now does. I have not a single word to say against the Board, because I believe it is composed of honourable gentlemen who desire to do their best in the interests of the natives. But the Government feels, and the country feels, that it is not a right or proper thing that any money should be withdrawn from their control. Under the Constitution Act we have one per cent. out of the revenue taken away and handed over to persons over whom we have no control, and who have the right to spend the money as they think proper, without any supervision or possibility of objection on the part of the people of the colony or their representatives. And again, sir, the mere fact of the existence of this 70th section of the Constitution Act is in some way a reflection on the people of

the colony. In effect it means that neither the people, nor their representatives, nor the Government, are to be trusted with the management of the natives. I feel sure that in no colony in Her Majesty's dominions have the natives been so well treated as they have been in Western Australia, and especially has that been the case during the last few years, and that not only in the Southern parts of the colony, but in the Northern portions. Do we hear of any cruelties to the natives? Occasionally we hear of small injustices being done, but we know that wherever a weaker race comes in contact with a stronger one there are at times small injustices done. Still, I venture to think that Western Australia has been freer of these injustices than any other colony in Australia. No such cases have occurred here as have been the case elsewhere, where the troopers have been sent out with almost licenses to shoot the natives down. Here we have the same regard for the natives as we have for the whites, and, notwithstanding that they are placed under the control of the Aborigines Protection Board, they are equally well protected by the police as the whites are, and no white man dare commit an offence against a native in this colony, unless he is most assuredly brought to justice. There is, therefore, no reason why the inhabitants should not be entrusted with the care and management of the aboriginal race. I might add that although this Board exists, it has no executive authority. It has no police. It has only one officer, who, I believe, is maintained at the North, and who travels about; but the real work of attending to the wants of the natives is now in the hands of the Government. Who look after the natives but the magistrates and the police? Even the duty of distributing blankets to the natives devolves upon the police, and we know that the Board can do nothing without the assistance of the officials of the Government. I feel sure that the gentlemen who compose this Board do their best to administer the funds at their disposal; but I submit that there is no occasion for the existence of the Board, because, without the assistance of the Government, they cannot perform the duties and functions they are supposed to. There is, therefore, no reason why this 70th section of the Constitution Act

should remain, and while it stands it is not only a slur upon the colony, but it is also worse, I think, for the aboriginal races themselves. I move the second reading of the Bill.

THE HON. E. G. HENTY: I second this motion, and I may say that I feel strongly with the Colonial Secretary that it is high time this grandmotherly system of dry nursing was done away with. The authorities at home seem to be guided by Exeter Hall clap-trap and nothing else, and the opinion seems to be that the colonies are unfit to govern the native races. We are, however, quite as well able to govern them as govern ourselves, and I shall, therefore, support this Bill.

THE HON. C. A. PIESSE: When the Constitution Act was being passed, I, with many others, felt indignant that we should have had such a reflection cast upon us as was done by the insertion of this section. I can only hope now that the British Government will have no hesitation in assenting to this amendment, which, I feel sure, will be passed without a dissentient voice. We are only seeking to obtain what is our right, and I hope the authorities at Home will see it in that light.

THE HON. E. ROBINSON: I have much pleasure in supporting this Bill, because I think the time has come when we should have sole control of all the races in this colony. We are able to manage ourselves, and surely we are equally competent to manage the natives?

THE HON. S. J. HAYNES: I have much pleasure in supporting this Bill. I do not think there is a man in this colony who does not look on this 70th section other than as the one blot in the Constitution Act. We have been entrusted with the power to borrow, and every other power, and why this restriction was placed upon us I fail to see. The people of this colony are not second to those of any other part of the world as regards their humane instincts, and it is unfair, therefore, that such a slur should remain over us as must be as long as this 70th section remains.

Question put and passed.

IN COMMITTEE.

The Bill was then considered in committee; agreed to without amendment, and reported.

ADJOURNMENT.

The House, at a quarter to six o'clock p.m., adjourned until Thursday, 20th Sept., at 4:30 o'clock p.m.

Legislative Assembly.

Wednesday, 19th September, 1894.

Personal Explanation—Reclamation of River Foreshore at Perth—Dentists Bill: first reading—Loan Bill (£1,500,000): further considered in committee—Carnel Licenses: Message from the Legislative Council—Adjournment.

THE SPEAKER took the chair at 4:30 p.m.

PRAYERS.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION.

MR. MORAN rose to explain that when addressing the House the other evening in regard to the Collic coalfield railway, in speaking of the Opposition he had used the expression "tag-rag and bob-tail." He had heard that several members of the Opposition were rather offended at the expression. [MR. LEAKE: No, no.] He did not intend to use the words offensively, but meant to apply them, as they were usually applied, to an army without any head or cohesion.

RECLAMATION OF RIVER FORESHORE AT PERTH.

MR. JAMES, in accordance with notice, asked the Director of Public Works whether, in view of the near approach of summer, the Director would have the dredge brought to Perth to reclaim the foreshore between the Recreation Ground and William Street Jetty?

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. H. W. Venn) replied that it was the intention of the Government to bring the dredge to Perth

immediately upon the completion of the work on the Canning River upon which she was now engaged.

DENTISTS REGISTRATION BILL.

Introduced by MR. JAMES, and read a first time.

LOAN BILL (£1,500,000).

IN COMMITTEE.

This Bill was further considered.

Item 7.—"Harbour Works, Fremantle, £200,000."

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) did not suppose there would be any objection on the part of members to this item, because he thought it was generally recognised that good work had been done in connection with these harbour improvements, and that it had been done at an economical rate. This question of harbour works at Fremantle was one that had been discussed in that House for years and years, and he was glad that at last—some two years ago now—they were able to make up their minds to commit the country to a definite scheme. He was also glad to say that up to the present time they had no reason to regret the decision which Parliament arrived at. They had every hope—speaking for the Government—that the result would be altogether satisfactory, and that they would be able to make on this Western side of the colony a safe and commodious harbour. The object he had always had in view, and he thought the object the Government had in view, was to make such a safe and commodious harbour at Fremantle as would not only accommodate our own shipping trade, but also accommodate the largest steamers that plied between the old country and Australia. No scheme of harbour works at Fremantle would be satisfactory to him unless the largest ocean-going steamers could come into it in all weathers. Of course even less than that would be a great boon; but that was the object the Government had in view. So far as they had gone already, they had constructed the North mole for a considerable distance, and they were beginning to construct the South mole. That South mole was necessary, in the opinion of their official adviser, the Engineer-in-Chief, in order to protect the dredging necessary to be done at the