

able to be present, one would like those members to have an opportunity to speak. He therefore moved that progress be reported.

Motion put and passed.

Progress reported, and leave given to sit again.

ADJOURNMENT.

The House adjourned at 10-20 o'clock, until the next day.

Legislative Council,

Tuesday, 6th November, 1900.

Paper Presented—Question: Supreme Court Building, Donnybrook Freestone—Standing Orders, suspension to expedite business—Motion: Timber Cutting, to erect Mills (postponed)—Return Ordered: Cement purchased, Particulars—Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Bill, Select Committee's Report—Kalgoorlie Tramways Bill, first reading—Leederville Tramways Bill, first reading—Fremantle Tramways Bill, first reading—Roads and Streets Closure Bill, first reading—Trustees (Colonial Securities) Bill, first reading—Loan Bill, in Committee, third reading—Patent Acts Amendment Bill, second reading *pro forma*, Petitions—Land Act Amendment Bill, in Committee (progress)—Land Resumption Amendment Bill, in Committee, reported—Adjournment.

THE PRESIDENT took the Chair at 7-30 o'clock, p.m.

PRAYERS.

PAPER PRESENTED.

By the COLONIAL SECRETARY: Annual Report of Government Storekeeper.

Ordered to lie on the table.

QUESTION—SUPREME COURT BUILDING, DONNYBROOK FREESTONE.

HON. J. M. SPEED asked the Colonial Secretary: 1, Whether freestone from Donnybrook was specified for portions of the new Supreme Court buildings. 2, Whether the said freestone has been subjected to any test as to its suitability, and has any price been quoted to the

Government at which the same could be obtained. 3, Is there more than one quarry capable of supplying this freestone. 4, Is the Government aware how and by whom these quarries are held.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY replied: 1. Yes. 2. Sample blocks have been part dressed, and exposed to the weather of last winter. Prices have been quoted by the various contractors who tendered for the erection of the new Supreme Court buildings. 3. The beds of stone are reported to extend over a very considerable area, and afford, it is believed, scope for many quarries. 4. No.

STANDING ORDERS, SUSPENSION.

TO EXPEDITE BILLS, ETC.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. G. Randell) moved:

That in order to expedite business, the Standing Orders relating to the passing of public Bills, and the consideration of Messages from the Legislative Assembly, be suspended during the remainder of the Session.

He said: In moving the motion standing in my name I need hardly say no improper advantage will be taken of it. If members are willing to consent to the suspension of the Standing Orders, it may have the effect of facilitating business. It will not prevent any discussion or cause any Bill to be rushed through the House, nor will it prevent any motion from being brought forward. It will probably in several cases enable us to get through the business with more expedition than at present, especially Bills which are not argumentative. Such a motion is generally passed towards the close of the session; and only with the object of saving the time of hon. members. I hope the House will agree to the motion. I do not see any immediate necessity of putting it into operation, but at any moment there may arise a desire to pass some small Bill through, so as to get the Orders of the Day cleared.

Question put and passed, and the Standing Orders suspended accordingly.

MOTION: TIMBER CUTTING, TO ERECT MILLS.

HON. J. M. SPEED moved that the following Notice of Motion be postponed until the next Tuesday:

That, in the opinion of this House, the Government should grant no further timber leases

or concessions, and that the Government should make provision for the erection of mills for cutting timber.

HON. R. S. HAYNES objected, as he did not know that any advantage would be gained by postponing the consideration of this motion. The House were able to consider the question.

THE PRESIDENT: A member in charge of a notice of motion could always ask that consideration of the motion be postponed.

HON. R. S. HAYNES: It was for the House to grant permission.

THE PRESIDENT: It was customary to grant permission.

HON. R. S. HAYNES: There were certain measures before the House to-night which he (Mr. Haynes) had been asked to have adjourned until next Tuesday, and he was afraid we should find as the session proceeded there would be congestion of business. He did not know what the hon. member wanted the motion adjourned for, and perhaps we were better able to deal with it to-night.

HON. J. M. SPEED: The reason one wanted this motion adjourned was the same as that given in regard to the previous motion; that being to expedite the business of the House. If on Tuesday next there was a congestion of business, the motion could be still further adjourned.

Question (postponement) put and passed.

RETURN: CEMENT PURCHASED, PARTICULARS.

HON. J. M. SPEED moved:

That a return be laid upon the table of the Council, showing: 1, The quantity of cement bought by the Government in England since 1st January, 1900. 2, The brands of such cement, if any, and the price paid for the same. 3, The cost per cask of English cement, f.o.b. London, purchased by the Government. 4, The number of casks of cement imported from the Eastern colonies since 1st January, 1900. 5, Whether this cement was of German or other foreign make. 6, The reasons of the Government for refusing to allow German manufacturers to tender if the cement imported from the Eastern colonies was of German make. 7, The inquiries, if any, made by the Government as to the quantity of English cement available, and where and from whom such inquiries were made. 8, The quantity of German cement used to date on the Mundaring Weir, and what quantity of German cement has been used on the said weir since 1st January, 1900.

He was informed that there was a good deal of reason for the questions asked, which had to do with a very important matter; that being the Mundaring weir. He did not know whether the Colonial Secretary could give the return now.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: Not now. The hon. member had better ask for it.

HON. J. M. SPEED asked that the matter should be adjourned.

THE PRESIDENT: The Colonial Secretary had stated he was quite willing to give the information; so the hon. member had better go on at once.

HON. J. M. SPEED said he would move that the return be laid on the table.

Question put and passed.

INDUSTRIAL CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION BILL.

SELECT COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

HON. R. S. HAYNES brought up the report of the Select Committee appointed to inquire into the Bill.

Report received and read.

HON. R. S. HAYNES: I move that the report be printed.

HON. J. M. SPEED: I wish to say that, as a member of the committee, I dissent generally from the report, and it was understood my dissent would be appended.

HON. R. S. HAYNES: If the hon. member desired to bring in a minority report, it was his duty to do so. Each clause of the report was put and passed by the committee, according to the Standing Orders. It is not my duty to refer to the fact that Mr. Speed was opposed to the report, or, if so, it would also have been my duty to point out that throughout the proceedings the hon. member caused much difficulty, to which was due in a great measure the want of compromise referred to.

THE PRESIDENT: I presume the report was submitted by the chairman to the select committee under Standing Order 328?

HON. R. S. HAYNES: And the report was put and passed.

HON. J. M. SPEED: I do not know whether I am in order, but, of course, when I found the rest of the committee on one side practically—

HON. R. S. HAYNES: Is the hon. member in order?

THE PRESIDENT: Standing Order 328, which deals with the drawing up of the report of a select committee, is very plain. It reads—

The chairman shall read to the committee, which shall be convened for the purpose of considering the report, the whole of his draft report, which, if desired by any member, shall be printed and circulated amongst the committee, and a subsequent day fixed for its consideration; and when the committee are desirous of taking the report into consideration, the chairman shall read the draft report, paragraph by paragraph, putting the question to the committee at the end of each paragraph "That this paragraph stand part of the report." A member objecting to any portion of the report shall propose his amendment at the time the paragraph he wishes to amend shall be under consideration.

I understand from Mr. Haynes, the chairman of the committee, that the procedure as laid down by the Standing Order was strictly adhered to.

HON. R. S. HAYNES: The report was put paragraph by paragraph, and passed, and I pointed out to Mr. Speed that if he wished to bring in a minority report he might do so.

HON. J. M. SPEED: All I wish to say is that I dissented from the report, and I still dissent from it.

THE PRESIDENT: The procedure is clearly laid down under the Standing Orders; and the chairman of the select committee informs the House that he told the hon. member that if he dissented he could bring in a minority report. The hon. member has not done so, and therefore the only report before the House is the one presented by the chairman of the committee.

Question put and passed.

HON. R. S. HAYNES moved that the consideration of the report be made an order for the next Tuesday.

HON. J. M. SPEED: I move, as an amendment, that the report be taken into consideration on Thursday next.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: It would be better to fix the earlier day, when, if the report cannot be discussed, there may be an adjournment to another day.

HON. R. S. HAYNES: In view of the statement of the Colonial Secretary, who has charge of the business of the House, I will amend my motion, and ask that the report be taken into consideration on Thursday.

Question (as amended) put and passed.

KALGOORLIE TRAMWAYS BILL.

Received from the Legislative Assembly, and, on motion by the COLONIAL SECRETARY, read a first time.

LEEDERVILLE TRAMWAYS BILL.

Received from the Legislative Assembly, and, on motion by the COLONIAL SECRETARY, read a first time.

FREMANTLE TRAMWAYS BILL.

Received from the Legislative Assembly, and, on motion by the COLONIAL SECRETARY, read a first time.

ROADS AND STREETS CLOSURE BILL.

Received from the Legislative Assembly, and, on motion by the COLONIAL SECRETARY, read a first time.

TRUSTEES (COLONIAL SECURITIES) BILL.

Received from the Legislative Assembly, and, on motion by the COLONIAL SECRETARY, read a first time.

LOAN BILL.

IN COMMITTEE.

Clause 1—agreed to.

Clause 2—Power to raise money for certain purposes:

HON. R. G. BURGESS: Before this passed he was going to raise a protest against the small sum allotted for rolling-stock, the amount being £100,000. It was well known, he believed, to every member of the House who liked to give the information in his possession, that the people throughout the country were suffering from the incomplete rolling-stock. Someone was to blame for the way in which the railways were managed, but we did not know who it was. We were supposed to have a progressive Government and a progressive policy, but the railways were not properly equipped at the present time, and it was well known that there was a continuous block. We had a Loan Bill of £790,000, of which £100,000 was for rolling-stock, but everyone in the country knew it was quite impossible to obtain sufficient rolling-stock for that amount. He knew it was of very little use for any member of this House to criticise the almighty Government we lived under, but, as long as he dwelt in the country; he would whether

a member of the House or not, protest against the unsatisfactory way in which the railways were now carried on. The Government put people on the land, and then when those people had produce and stock to send about the country, they found they could not obtain trucks, and even when the trucks were loaded at the sidings, very often persons had to wait two or three days before the trucks could be removed. This happened every day, and how would the Government improve matters with this paltry sum of £100,000 for rolling-stock? He knew he might as well talk to the moon so far as concerned any notice being taken of what he said.

HON. J. M. SPEED: Then what was the use of talking?

HON. R. G. BURGESS: The attention of the public could be called to the matter. From his personal knowledge, he knew that it was the same all over the country. The Norseman railway was introduced the other day, and it was said large quantities of timber were required, but some hon. members voted against the railway, because they knew there was no means of carrying the traffic there. Railways were advocated every day, while it was well known there was not sufficient rolling-stock for present requirements. He recognised that the House could do nothing except, perhaps, block the Bill. The Government knew they were not able to carry out these works, but they hoped to be able to "crib" from some other vote for rolling-stock, and allow other works to stand by for some future time.

HON. F. WHITCOMBE took exception to the expression "crib" used by Mr. Burgess, who, no doubt, meant "reappropriate," or as it was called in the Council last session, "misappropriate." He (Mr. Whitcombe) was inclined to support Mr. Burgess, and to move an amendment that the first four words, "it shall be lawful," be struck out.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: The Bill could not be amended by the Council.

HON. F. WHITCOMBE: It was within the power of the Council to move an amendment, so far as the words of the Bill were concerned, because the Government ought not to be authorised, under present circumstances, to raise £790,000 for the purposes set forth, seeing that the administration of the Govern-

ment departments had in the past not been such as to inspire hon. members with confidence. The mismanagement of the past was quite sufficient to raise a considerable amount of doubt as to whether the Government should be authorised to raise loans, when they misappropriated 2s. 6d. out of every pound authorised. It was necessary, no doubt, to give the Government certain moneys to carry on the business of the country; but he doubted the wisdom of giving them power to raise money for the purposes set forth. On the second reading, the Colonial Secretary had a good deal to say as to the purposes to which the money was to be applied, and was absolutely flowing over with descriptions of the advantages which would accrue from the expenditure in the bulk, but he was unable to give any details.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: Some details were given, and more could be given.

HON. F. WHITCOMBE: The Colonial Secretary gave details of small importance, but those of importance, which would have guided the Council, he was not prepared to give, and apparently did not wish to give.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: In Committee, further information would be given on each item.

HON. F. WHITCOMBE: Hon. members would be glad to hear the Colonial Secretary was prepared to give all details and information. The Colonial Secretary was not to be blamed personally, and it was unfortunate that he should have to take charge, in the Council, of the affairs of all departments, when it was absolutely impossible for him to be in touch with the details. The Government did not act fairly by the Colonial Secretary, or give him information to enable him to lay before members of the Council the facts and figures required. The Government seemed to think that because a Bill was passed in another place, all the Council had to do was to pass it, and, because there was money involved, the Council were not supposed to have any power of amendment. Unless the Council were supplied with details necessary to allow hon. members to form their judgment, the Bills should be sent back, and he would be prepared when the time came, if details were not provided,

or the Bill did not meet with approbation, to move that the measure be returned until details were furnished. The Council were supposed to be a corrective House, and ought to have the necessary details to enable hon. members to come to a decision, and should not have measures laid before them with a general recommendation from the Colonial Secretary. If the hon. gentleman were Premier, with a general knowledge of all the departments, and he gave an assurance that the Bill was all right, the House as a whole would probably accept his statement; but when hon. members knew the Colonial Secretary was ignored, as far as he could be ignored, and was not supplied with information to enable hon. members to even consider those matters, it would be quite right to send the Bill back again. In the Schedule, £100,000 was set down for rolling-stock, although on the authority of the General Manager, the late Commissioner of Railways, and every man who knew anything about the subject, more like £500,000 was necessary to put the rolling-stock in fit condition. It was essential to the proper government of the country, and the administration of public affairs, that details should be placed before hon. members, and thus an opportunity afforded them of exercising their judgment. If hon. members considered the present necessities of the colony they would say £4,000,000 or £5,000,000 was necessary to place the country on a fair basis. Why did the Government not come down, and, taking the "bull by the horns," put the colony on a proper footing, pay off the liabilities, and issue loan debentures, instead of pottering with £300,000 this year and £1,200,000 next year? Why should we allow ourselves to be "deluded," to use the expression of an hon. member in another place, by the Government representative, and asked to pass a vote authorising the Government to raise £790,000—an amount which would not pay 4s. in the pound on our present necessities and indebtedness—to spend in ways on which hon. members had no opportunity of exercising their judgment? The Council appeared to be flouted, and if they were, why was the Council not abolished, seeing that the signature of the Administrator would be quite sufficient without the formality of the assent of an upper House? If the Council were

to be a mere formality, it ought to be done away with, but if it had to be a live House and have a correcting influence on the affairs of the colony and the expenditure, the Government should be prepared to give details and particulars to enable hon. members to exercise their judgment in the way it was intended judgment should be exercised by both branches of Parliament. He quite approved of the remarks of Mr. Burges, and he moved that the first four words of the clause be struck out.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: No doubt the hon. member knew the result of striking out the words, and it was hard to believe he could be serious in the proposal. It had never been the custom to give detailed information on a second reading, although he could have enlarged on that occasion, had he chosen to do so. These details were furnished usually when the schedule was being dealt with item by item in Committee, and that he was prepared to do to-night. It was not the practice elsewhere to raise loans of £3,000,000 or £4,000,000; and though that plan had been pursued here in the past, it was distinctly stated when the Bill was introduced that the practice was considered to be bad.

HON. F. WHITCOMBE: Was the Colonial Secretary in order in referring to what was alleged to have been stated in debate in another place during the present session?

THE CHAIRMAN: The Colonial Secretary would not be in order in making such a reference; but he (the Chairman) did not know that the Colonial Secretary had done so.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: It was to be feared Mr. Whitcombe was hypercritical to-night. This Bill was introduced in the interests of the country. The reason a larger amount had not been asked for was that it had been thought undesirable to ask for more at the present time. £700,000 was not a small amount to go into the market for. He thought members would generally agree that it was better to have an amount that could be expended, or very nearly expended during the current year. It was anticipated that the amount would carry us through the current year and take us some time into the next. A considerable part of this money was to be expended

upon works which had been undertaken and were of great importance to the welfare of the colony. Those works must be carried out, and to carry them out we must have the money, therefore the Government had brought in this Loan Bill. It was usual to furnish details when in Committee upon the schedule, and he was prepared to give that information to the best of his ability. After careful consideration it was deemed wise not to raise a larger amount of money than necessary, for if that were done we should have to pay interest on that larger sum of money, a portion of which would for a considerable time be lying unused. He would be prepared to give information, and if he had not sufficient and hon. members asked for more, he would endeavour to get it.

HON. F. WHITCOMBE: The Colonial Secretary had not given sufficient reasons why such a large amount as £800,000 should be raised. The Colonial Treasurer would have power to raise £790,000 for various works partly declared and partly undeclared. Works to the extent of £300,000 were not declared, and if we passed this Bill as it stood, the Government would have power to re-appropriate that large sum of money. In his (Mr. Whitcombe's) opinion this money was required in order to cover up deficiencies and mistakes in the Treasury, so that when the time came—which everyone could see was not far distant—when the Premier and the Government would lay down the burden of office, they would have a general floating account to settle up everything without investigation.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: The hon. member was, in his opinion, entirely out of order in attributing dishonourable motives to the Ministry of the day. He did not think the hon. member was justified in making such statements.

HON. F. WHITCOMBE: No improper motive had been suggested by him, that he was aware of. All he could say was that there was a vote before the House last year for re-appropriations of various amounts. Anyone acquainted with political matters knew that money spent on re-appropriation was necessary to straighten affairs. There was nothing immoral or absolutely wrong or illegal about the matter, except that the money had been spent without authorisation; at

the will of the Ministry, and without the authority of Parliament. If it were any other person than a Minister of the Crown, one did not think the term "re-appropriation" would be used, but a harsher term. When the voice of the people was heard next year the dismissal of this improvident Ministry would be demanded.

HON. J. T. GLOWREY: We ought to accept the assurance of the Colonial Secretary that the hon. gentleman would give us full particulars as to the various amounts mentioned in the schedule, and we should not take up the time of the Committee any longer by this debate, which did not appear to have placed us in a much better position.

HON. S. J. HAYNES: The amendment of the hon. member was one which he could not support. If that suggestion were accepted, it would practically wreck the Loan Bill.

HON. F. WHITCOMBE: No; it would wreck the Ministry, which was pretty well wrecked already.

HON. S. J. HAYNES: Like every other member of the Committee, he regretted that there was any necessity to borrow, but some of these items were absolutely requisite. Time after time had he, in common with others, protested against this expenditure, having regard to the smallness of our population, and now we were only reaping the benefit of our past extravagance. At the same time there was necessity for certain of these items, and therefore it would be absurd at the present juncture to support an amendment of the nature of that proposed by Mr. Whitcombe. In looking through the schedule one saw the bulk of the money was practically for Fremantle or Fremantle Harbour Works, and he protested against that. In the first line there was £120,000 for the harbour works. He did not know how much more of the colony's money those works were going to swallow before being supposed to be perfect. The second item was £10,000 for lighthouses. Looking at Part I. of the schedule, giving a total of £160,000, one saw that about £130,000 of that had reference to Fremantle.

HON. F. WHITCOMBE: £145,000.

HON. S. J. HAYNES: As far as the Albany Harbour Works were concerned, there was a paltry sum of £3,000.

HON. F. WHITCOMBE: That was to keep Albany quiet for the removal of the mail ships.

HON. S. J. HAYNES: One did not know that it would keep Albany quiet. The removal of those ships was a piece of political robbery at the expense of the whole of the service, because the whole of the colony was bearing the burden by reason of the traffic on the Great Southern Railway being minimised. The sums allotted to Albany and other places in this Bill were altogether disproportionate to the amount for Fremantle, and it was simply doing what had been done in the other colonies—in Melbourne, Adelaide, and Sydney—adopting this cursed centralisation policy. Everything was to be brought to the metropolis, or the port of the metropolis, to the detriment of the whole of the colony, and no doubt the time would come when the experience would be found to be bitter and not satisfactory to the people of the colony at large. He simply protested against that at the present time, because he had lived in the other colonies, where he noticed what loss the community suffered by centralising everything. In Western Australia this system had apparently been aggravated for years past, and it was still going on, and would no doubt go on until our power of borrowing ceased. He trusted that the Government in power after the next general election, would deal more fairly with each portion of the colony, because at present the metropolis and Fremantle got more than the lion's share of the public expenditure. The Colonial Secretary had mentioned that when the schedule was reached, he would give all details asked for, and it was to be hoped he would give some explanation of item six in the schedule "Discount and Loans, £200,000," which was a very vague description, and involved a very large amount.

Amendment put and negatived, and the clause passed.

Clauses 3 to 6, inclusive—agreed to.

Schedule:

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: In reference to the item "Fremantle Harbour Works, £120,000," some information was given when the second reading was under discussion. There was £48,804 unexpended balance of previous loan,

plus £120,000 proposed loan, making £168,804. The amount proposed on this year's Loan Estimates was £150,000, and the work contemplated included the completion of the entrance to the channel in Gage Roads, the continuation of the dredging in the inner harbour, widening the harbour, extending the North Mole for 1,100ft., and erecting a quay on the north side. There was a projection near the slip, which the captains of the mail steamers and other large vessels had requested should be removed, and a straight line made from one beacon to the other. The development of the trade at the harbour had been so great that the original design had had to be enlarged upon, and as these large steamers come in nearly every day of the week, it was the duty of the Government to provide every convenience for their berthing.

HON. F. WHITCOMBE: Was that not considered when the project was first brought forward?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: It was; but it was not then anticipated that steamers of 10,000 and 11,000 tons would visit the port. If the harbour had to be rendered satisfactory, the money must be expended, and it was hoped that the work would be completed in the next eighteen months. It was found necessary to increase the accommodation, piers having to be erected on the north side, so that there might be no disappointment owing to the detention in port, of mail or inter-colonial steamers. Complaint had been made from time to time that steamers had not been able to get the accommodation they had the right to expect, and dock and harbour works always had to be made complete. Even in the Thames new docks had to be constructed from time to time, and the same might be said of Southampton, and wherever a port had been created and trade developed. It ought to be satisfactory to hon. members that the original design had been found inadequate, owing to the increase in population and demands for greater accommodation; and it must be a source of considerable satisfaction to see those steamers come into Fremantle, though, at the same time, he sympathised with the feelings of the people of Albany. But if he read aright that which he had predicted was happening, and he thought that within the last year a larger tonnage

had entered the port of Albany than ever before. It had been the policy of the Government to have the chief port at the centre, and he thought that policy had been justified by circumstances; and he was certain hon. members would not hesitate to vote the money, so long as they were satisfied it was properly expended. The original estimate of the cost per cubic yard for removing the silt and sand at the harbour, had not been reached, and he believed that the construction of the mole for a certain distance was also done under the estimate, but the further extension of the mole, to satisfy the requests of Captain Angus, who represented the P. and O. Company, had proved more expensive, because deeper water had been reached and greater difficulties had to be contended with. It was intended to put a lighthouse on the North Mole, and another on the South Mole, one to be a leading light on Woodman's Point. A new lighthouse had to be erected at Rottneest, a work which was never contemplated in the original estimate, and all this had added to the cost of the great work which would be a monument of enterprise and of engineering skill, and would be of great advantage to the colony at large. Although the expenditure on these harbour works had specially benefited Fremantle, the works were more or less for the benefit, not only of inland towns, but every town both north and south.

HON. F. WHITCOMBE: Of Albany?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: And even of Albany ultimately. The vote would carry on some little distance into the new year, and give Parliament the opportunity, when it met again, to supply further funds if these were wanted for the completion of the work. It was intended ultimately to construct a graving-dock at Fremantle, but there was no immediate necessity for this work, which could very well be left for a little while. Such a work would no doubt be a great convenience, and would possibly be the means of inducing ships to call at Fremantle for repairs, but the money proposed to be now appropriated, was for the continuation of the work begun in the enlargement of the harbour. There was to be a lighthouse on Cape Naturaliste, which had been asked for for a number of years, it being well-known there was a reef to the north, which

to some extent was a danger to navigation. There were some 60 miles between Cape Naturaliste and the Leeuwin, and the lighthouse mentioned had been advocated for a very long time by the captains of intercolonial steamers; and, further, a superior lighthouse was to be placed on Breaksea Island. There was a sum of £18,000 balance from previous loans, and that added to the £10,000 in the schedule would give the sum of £28,000 to be expended on these different lighthouses. It was proposed to provide a stock jetty and approaches near Cossack, where, as hon. members knew, there was an open roadstead, and cattle and passengers had to be shipped and disembarked from lighters.

HON. F. WHITCOMBE: Was the Colonial Secretary in order in referring to items 2 and 3 before item 1 had been dealt with?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: Hon. members had asked him to deal with these items.

THE CHAIRMAN: The whole Schedule was before the Committee; but, perhaps, it would be better to take the items *seriatim*, and the item before the Committee was that of the Fremantle Harbour Works.

HON. S. J. HAYNES: So far as the Fremantle Harbour Works were concerned, he did not think any member begrudged expenditure for the port, which was the chief port of the colony, and every right-thinking person hoped the harbour would turn out to be a thorough success; but one did not agree with the statement of the Colonial Secretary that the expenditure in respect of this work had been kept within the estimate of the Engineer-in-Chief. It was a well-known fact that figures could be made to prove anything and everything.

HON. F. WHITCOMBE: The Engineer-in-Chief was pretty clever at that.

HON. S. J. HAYNES: One did not wish to discuss the Engineer-in-Chief personally, but he was positive that if a competent person made inquiry he would find the estimate had been greatly exceeded, because in connection with the works various improvements had been done and charged under the item Fremantle Harbour Works. In this very schedule there were two lighthouses provided for. Certainly only £10,000 was

put down, but that amount would scarcely build them. To the disgrace of this Government, the light for Breaksea had been lying in the Customs House at Albany for upwards of two years, and had not been put up. Had that light-house been near the metropolis, doubtless its erection would have been started in a few weeks.

A MEMBER: Was that light there still?

HON. S. J. HAYNES: One believed so, unless it had been surreptitiously removed to some other part of the colony. Scarcely a Loan Bill came up without there being a large amount for the Fremantle Harbour Works, and members should have some idea when this expenditure was likely to cease. He would like to move as a suggestion that the item £120,000 should be reduced to £110,000, and the £10,000 thus deducted be devoted to the Albany Harbour Works.

HON. F. WHITCOMBE: That could not be done.

HON. S. J. HAYNES: This was not brought forward by him simply because Albany happened to be in his district.

HON. J. M. SPEED: That was a mere coincidence.

HON. S. J. HAYNES: That might be so, but it did not affect him. Esperance, Geraldton, and the whole of these ports had not had fair play, and the policy that had been adopted in regard to Fremantle must be detrimental to the colony. Surely it would be better to have thriving commercial towns in three or four places in the colony instead of one. Since we had had responsible government little or nothing had been expended on the harbour at Albany, which, for the last 50 years, had been doing good service for the colony. He thought the Colonial Secretary interjected something about the mail steamers. Doubtless the removal of the mail steamers would be a loss to Albany; Albany would not die through it, however, but would still be a sound and prosperous place. Within the last fortnight they saw the magnificent steamer *Afric*, about 12,000 tons, another steamer 11,000, and two others; so doubtless there was a large amount of traffic. It was only fair to grant to Albany a reasonable expenditure. It would be a national disaster if the enormous amount of money spent at Fremantle were wasted,

and he was perfectly fair as regarded Fremantle, but he trusted we should shortly see the end of this continual expenditure, and that the harbour would be completed. Whilst dealing liberally with Fremantle we should act fairly towards other portions of the colony, so that we should have not only one centre, which would perhaps be congested, but half-a-dozen, which would tend to open up the colony better, and be for the welfare of the country as a whole. That would do away with the centralisation policy, which had been a curse elsewhere.

HON. J. M. SPEED: Might one ask the Colonial Secretary if there was a misprint in Part I. of the schedule?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY said he did not know.

HON. J. M. SPEED: One did not see anything about Bunbury Harbour Works. He did not understand how a Bill could be brought down without containing something about Bunbury.

HON. F. WHITCOMBE: That came in later on. He would like to have from the Colonial Secretary more details about the proposed expenditure at the Fremantle Harbour. If his memory had not misled him, something like a million and a-half had been spent on the Fremantle Harbour already. He would like to know the amount of the original estimate, the amount of any estimate for further works that might have been made, and the amount that had been expended. It seemed to him the country had actually been throwing money into the mouth of the river and into the sea at Fremantle, and there was no hope that this would be stopped for the next 18 months. If they were going on at the rate of £120,000 a session, they would have to crib out of the £10,000 for lighthouses. Apparently the end was by no means near.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: The original estimate for the works was, he believed, for a smaller scheme, the sum being £800,000.

HON. F. WHITCOMBE: The smaller scheme had been adopted.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: The smaller scheme was adopted, but it had been enlarged since. Of course the works had been very much extended. There was a statement made by the Engineer-in-Chief the other day, which appeared in *Hansard*, saying that up to the present

time the cost of these works was £200,000, he (the Colonial Secretary) believed, below the estimate. The report said that a sum of money had been expended on the east, which had no right to be charged to it. That was in the shape of plant which was necessary for the construction of the work, but which would have to be credited to the work when completed. A charge was made that the estimate had been exceeded, but by the figures laid before the other House of Parliament the Engineer-in-Chief proved that such was not the case. The estimate for the larger scheme was, he (the Colonial Secretary) believed, £1,200,000. He was not quite sure about that, but was speaking from memory. The mole had now been extended out to where the larger scheme was intended to go—that was out to the entrance rocks.

HON. F. WHITCOMBE: Was the larger scheme accepted?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: No; the smaller scheme was originally started, and it was intended to complete it at some time or other, but not at so early a date as that at which it had been completed.

HON. F. WHITCOMBE: One asked what was the amount of the original estimate, whether there had been an estimate for further work, and how much had been already spent. It appeared that the £800,000 scheme was accepted, and there was £200,000 wrongly charged by someone; he did not know whom. How much had been spent did not appear.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: A sum of £800,000 odd had been spent, including the plant which had been purchased; steamers, and so on. There was, he thought, a further estimate of something like £130,000 for additions required by Captain Angus.

HON. F. WHITCOMBE said he was prepared to accept what the Colonial Secretary thought and believed within the proper province, but when it came to dealing with public money for works which ran into millions, and in relation to which we were asked to vote £120,000 in one lot, one would like to ask that further details should be afforded, and in order that further details might be provided, he moved that progress be reported

and leave asked to sit again on Thursday. If particulars were forthcoming, even in round figures, hon. members would have something before them, but if the Colonial Secretary merely said "I believe" and "I think," further details and particulars must be asked for. This was a large sum of money for a work on which all previous estimates, he had reason to believe, had been exceeded, and yet they were asked to vote £120,000 in a direction of which they knew nothing.

Motion (progress) put, and a division taken with the following result:

Ayes	2
Noes	15
	—
Majority against ...	13
AYES.	
Hon. F. Whitcombe	Hon. G. Bellingham
Hon. J. M. Drew (Teller).	Hon. F. T. Brimage
	Hon. C. E. Dempster
	Hon. J. T. Glowrey
	Hon. S. J. Haynes
	Hon. A. Jameson
	Hon. D. McKay
	Hon. M. L. Moss
	Hon. C. A. Plesse
	Hon. G. Randell
	Hon. J. E. Richardson
	Hon. H. J. Saunders
	Hon. J. M. Speed
	Hon. F. M. Stone
	Hon. R. G. Burges
	(Teller).
NOES.	

Motion thus negatived.

HON. R. WHITCOMBE said he had been much impressed by the remarks of Mr. S. J. Haynes, who seemed to think a great injustice had been done to Albany and district by the lavishing of money on what was called the chief port of the colony at Fremantle. The Government had been absolutely wrong in rudely tearing away the shipping from Albany, and throwing it on Fremantle, for the benefit of their supporters. Whether that was done because the Government had supporters at Fremantle, and political opponents at Albany, he, of course, could not say, but it was curious that just at the time when the strongest political opposition came from Albany and the strongest support from Fremantle, the Government should have cast the whole of their influence in favour of removing the large mail steamers from Albany to Fremantle. It was said that was done on public grounds, and perhaps hon. members were prepared to give the Government credit for that; but a great deal of weight should be given to the remarks of Mr. S. J. Haynes, and he

(Mr. Whitcombe) would like to move that this item be reduced by £10,000, which sum should be expended in some way to compensate the people of Albany for the loss they had sustained through the high-handed action on the part of the Government. Although the Colonial Secretary, on the second reading, had said he would be prepared to give all the details required, that hon. gentleman was not now prepared with particulars, and it might be supposed the Government and their supporters alike, did not care to show why they had favoured Fremantle. Were hon. members prepared to submit to this policy of centralisation, as shown by the amount of money spent almost wantonly—thrown into the sea at Fremantle—to open up the river to allow the possible passage of ships of more or less draught, to the wharves? So far as could be found out, all the information as to the trade and the draught of the principal vessels was known when the first estimates were prepared, but no provision was made.

HON. J. T. GLOWREY called attention to the state of the House.

Quorum formed.

HON. F. WHITCOMBE (resuming): In the absence of the details and particulars to which he had referred, it was unreasonable on the part of the Colonial Secretary, to attempt to force the Schedule through Committee. It seemed impossible to obtain particulars in regard to measures introduced before the Council, some of which involved the expenditure of upwards of £1,000,000, the Council being simply told to pass those Bills; but if the business of the country had to be carried on in that way, it might as well be done through the President or the Administrator. If the majority of hon. members admitted for a moment that they were prepared to carry on the business of Parliament in that way, they were making a long stride towards the inevitable abolition of the Council. If they themselves admitted that they were of no use, it would not be long before the public came to a similar conclusion. Lots of members admitted that others were of no use, but did not admit that they themselves were in that category. He had heard some members say they wondered why Mr. Piessé came here.

THE CHAIRMAN: The hon. member would confine himself to matters that were not personal.

HON. F. WHITCOMBE: If the Chairman would stop all these interruptions, one was quite prepared to abstain from an offensive attack upon other members of the Committee. He asked the Colonial Secretary to supply information not only regarding the expenditure proposed, but all particulars of Fremantle Harbour in the past, so that we could see whether the proposed expenditure was warranted. If the Colonial Secretary was not prepared to state such facts as would enable us to come to a decision, we could do no more than refer the matter to the one arbitration which would be called into question before long. If the Government were prepared to ride roughshod, and if the Council were prepared to allow the Government to pass such Bills as they liked, by simply bringing them before us and dealing with them in a high-handed manner, without opportunities being afforded of discussing them and obtaining the necessary information, it simply meant that the members of the Government and the supporters of the Government had to submit themselves to the voice of public opinion. The Government knew, however, that they would not go before that tribunal before next year, and possibly they were quite satisfied to carry through what they now proposed, and to trust to chance for straightening themselves afterwards. Doubtless if one were a member of any corporate company or of any partnership in a considerable concern, he would insist on knowing all the details before passing item after item, but because some members of the Council had for years been under the whip, under the sceptre, so to speak, of the magician—and in some cases members had been so for more than five years—they said, "We will pass it." They did so because the measure came from that particular magician. No one else could do right and protect the country.

HON. J. T. GLOWREY moved, "That the question be now put."

HON. F. WHITCOMBE: There were several items to which one desired to address himself.

THE CHAIRMAN: The question to be put was—

HON. F. WHITCOMBE: The question of the Fremantle Harbour Works.

THE CHAIRMAN: The question before the Committee was, "That the Schedule stand part of the Bill." There had been no amendment to that.

HON. F. WHITCOMBE said he proposed to move as an amendment—

THE CHAIRMAN: The question now before the Committee was, "That the question be now put," on which there could be no discussion.

Motion put and passed.

Further question, "that the schedule stand part of the Bill," put and passed.

Preamble and title—agreed to.

Bill reported without amendment, and the report adopted.

THIRD READING.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY moved that the Bill be read a third time.

HON. F. WHITCOMBE moved that the Bill be recommitted for the purpose of taking into consideration the items, "Additions and improvements to open railways, £70,000; rails and fastenings, £100,000; rolling-stock, £100,000; and discounts on loans, £200,000."

HON. C. E. DEMPSTER: Was the hon. member in order?

THE PRESIDENT: The hon. member was in order.

HON. F. WHITCOMBE: Certain members, one understood, desired to speak on one or more of the items mentioned by him.

Motion not seconded.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a third time, and passed.

PATENT ACTS AMENDMENT BILL.

SECOND READING.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. G. Randell) said: I only move the second reading of this Bill *pro forma*, to enable the hon. member (Hon. R. S. Haynes) to table some amendments, and to introduce a petition to the House. I do not propose to speak on the merits of the Bill at the present moment.

PETITIONS AGAINST THE BILL.

THE PRESIDENT read a cablegram received by him from the Australian Gold Recovery Company, Limited, protesting against the passage of the Bill in its present form.

HON. R. S. HAYNES brought up a petition from the attorney for the same company in Western Australia, praying for an amendment of the Bill, and moved that it be received and read.

Motion put and passed, and the petition received and read.

Ordered that the petition be printed, and taken into consideration on the next Tuesday.

[Motion for second reading not proceeded with.]

LAND ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

IN COMMITTEE.

Consideration resumed from 24th October.

Clauses 3 to 6, inclusive—agreed to.

Clause 7, amendment of 62 Vict., No. 37, section 134:

HON. R. G. BURGESS: Why had the word "registered" been struck out of the section? Under the Act, land was liable to forfeiture without notice; but in most of the other colonies if land were so forfeited, there was a Board appointed with power to investigate. How was it to be proved notice had been given at all?

HON. R. S. HAYNES: On such an important measure, there ought to be a fuller House, and inasmuch as there would be serious opposition to some of the provisions, he moved that progress be reported.

Motion put and passed.

Progress reported.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY moved that the report be adopted and that leave be given to the Committee to sit again.

HON. R. S. HAYNES: Was the Colonial Secretary in order in moving that the Committee be given leave to sit again?

THE PRESIDENT: The Colonial Secretary was in order.

HON. R. S. HAYNES referred the President to the Standing Orders, which provided that when a motion was put before a Committee that the Chairman report progress and it was carried, that report was made to the House, and the House might either accept or reject it. It was quite in order for an hon. member to move on the report stage any motion he desired, but the Colonial Secretary could not first accept the resolution that the report be adopted, and then stultify that, by moving that the Committee have leave to sit again.

THE PRESIDENT: The hon. member who had charge of the Bill could move that the report be adopted, and could name a day for the House to sit again. Then the House could decide whether they should sit again or not. The power was left in the hands of the House.

HON. R. S. HAYNES moved formally that the House have leave to sit again to-morrow.

THE PRESIDENT: The motion of the hon. member in charge of the Bill was that the report be adopted and that the Committee have leave to sit to-morrow.

HON. R. S. HAYNES: Might one ask that this question should be adjourned, that members might see whether the hon. member was in order in moving this motion. He (Mr. Haynes) submitted that the Colonial Secretary was not in order in moving such a motion. One bowed to the President's ruling, but wanted as far as possible to avoid introducing a precedent into the House.

HON. F. WHITCOMBE moved that the Committee stage be taken again on Thursday.

THE PRESIDENT: The ruling he had just given was in accordance with the procedure which had always been adopted in this House, and he did not see any reason why it should be departed from. When the House was in Committee it was moved that progress be reported, and that was carried. The Chairman of Committees reported that. The hon. member who had charge of the Bill moved that the report be adopted and that the Committee have leave to sit again to-morrow. That left it for the House to decide whether they would sit or not.

HON. R. S. HAYNES: Might one ask for the ruling of the President on the point whether a resolution of the Committee that the Chairman report progress was not tantamount to a cessation of all further proceedings in Committee.

THE PRESIDENT: Certainly not. The hon. member who had charge of the Bill at the report progress stage had power to move the adoption of the report, and to fix the date on which the Bill might be again considered in Committee.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY moved that the report be adopted, and that the Committee have leave to sit again on Thursday.

Division called for, and taken with the following result:—

Ayes	10
Noes	7

Majority for ... 3

AYES.	NOES.
Hon. G. Bellingham	Hon. E. G. Burgess
Hon. T. F. Brimage	Hon. C. E. Dempster
Hon. J. M. Drew	Hon. R. S. Haynes
Hon. J. T. Glowery	Hon. S. J. Haynes
Hon. C. A. Piesse	Hon. D. McKay
Hon. G. Randell	Hon. F. Whitcombe
Hon. H. J. Saunders	Hon. F. M. Stone
Hon. C. Sommers	(Teller).
Hon. J. M. Speed	
Hon. E. McLarty	
(Teller).	

Question thus passed.

LAND RESUMPTION AMENDMENT BILL. IN COMMITTEE.

Clause 1—Amendment of 58 Vict., No. 33, section 2:

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY moved that the words "between lines fourteen and fifteen" be struck out, and that the words "after the word 'wells,' in line fifteen thereof, the words 'or for pipe tracks,' and by inserting between lines fifteen and sixteen" be inserted in lieu.

Put and passed, and the clause as amended agreed to.

Preamble and title—agreed to.

Bill reported with amendments, and the report adopted.

ADJOURNMENT.

The House adjourned at 10:15 o'clock, until 7:30 the next evening.