

loan, having for its object the further development of the Colony, by improving the harbor accommodation at Fremantle.

MR. RANDELL then moved the adjournment of the debate. He believed there were other hon. members besides himself who were anxious to address the House, but the lateness of the hour now almost precluded them from doing so. He would therefore move, That the debate be adjourned until Monday evening.

Question put.

Council divided.

Ayes	...	...	10
Noes	...	...	7

Majority for	...	3
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#### AYES.

Mr. S. S. Parker  
Mr. Burges  
Mr. Glyde  
Mr. Higham  
Mr. Carey  
Mr. Grant  
Mr. Marmion  
Mr. Venn  
Mr. S. H. Parker  
Mr. Randell (*Teller*.)

#### NOES.

Lord Gifford  
The Hon. M. Fraser  
Mr. Brown  
Mr. Hamersley  
Mr. Shenton  
Mr. Steere  
The Hon. A. C. Onslow  
(*Teller*.)

The motion was therefore carried.

The House adjourned at a quarter to eleven o'clock, p.m., until Monday, 31st July.

## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

*Monday, 31st July, 1882.*

Telephone Exchange—Seab Act Amendment Bill: first reading—Report of Special Mission to the Gascoyne and Murchison—Immigration—Stamp Act, 1881, Amendment Bill: first reading—Tariff Bill: motion for second reading—Hawkers' Bill: second reading—Statutes (Errors) Amendment Bill: second reading—Address in Reply: adjourned debate—Adjournment.

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

PRAYERS.

### TELEPHONE EXCHANGE.

MR. SHENTON, in accordance with notice, asked the Honorable the Colonial Secretary, "To lay on the Table a return "showing the cost of construction and

"maintenance of a central telephone exchange in the towns of Perth and "Fremantle." He understood the Government were in possession of the information asked for, and though it might appear somewhat premature to bring forward a motion of this kind so early in the Session, before they knew what money would be available for establishing such conveniences in this Colony, he thought it would be as well that the House should be placed in possession of the required information, so as to be able to form some idea as to whether these exchanges were not likely to prove reproductive undertakings. If that could be shown, there could be no doubt that, if established, they would be a great boon to people in business, to the press, and also to the Government offices.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Lord Gifford) said the matter had not been lost sight of by the Government. Information had been sought some months ago with reference to the cost of constructing and maintaining telephones, and that information he had much pleasure in laying on the Table, when hon. members would see that there was every prospect of these exchanges being self-supporting. The Superintendent of Telegraphs considered that the cost of fitting exchanges at Perth and Fremantle and of connecting them one with the other and with the subscribers who would be likely to make application in the first instance, would be about £1,300, and the annual charge for salaries, upkeep, and interest on capital account, he places at £453. The probable income to meet this charge was placed at £456. The Superintendent assumed that there would be thirty subscribers in Perth and Fremantle, and his calculations were based upon the following scale of charges: (a) an annual subscription of £8 to entitle a subscriber in Perth to communicate with any other subscriber in Perth; (b) the same subscription for the same advantages in Fremantle; (c) an additional £4 per annum to entitle subscribers in both places to communicate with other subscribers in either place; (d) for the use of the wires at the central offices by the general public for speaking from Perth to Fremantle and *vice versa*, one shilling for the first ten minutes, and sixpence for every additional five minutes.

# SCAB ACT CONSOLIDATION AND AMENDMENT BILL.

MR. STEERE, in moving for leave to introduce a Bill to consolidate and amend "The Scab Act, 1879," said that, with the exception of a few slight amendments in that Ordinance which had been suggested by the Board of Advice, the Bill merely provided for the consolidation of all local enactments dealing with the prevention and extermination of scab in sheep.

Leave was given to introduce the Bill, which was read a first time.

## REPORT OF SPECIAL MISSION TO THE GASCOYNE AND THE MURCHISON.

MR. BROWN, in moving that an Humble Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor, praying that he will be pleased to lay upon the Table the reports received by the Government from the Magistrate recently despatched on a special mission to the Gascoyne and Murchison Districts, in connection with the Native Question, said this subject was one which had agitated the public mind for some little time past, and more particularly during the last few months, and with reference to which many persons in the Colony differed. He noticed in the annual report of the Superintendent of Police that, so recently as the 22nd April last, Capt. Smith stated, for the information of the Government, that "from reports he had received from time to time there was but little doubt that the depredations committed by the natives in the Northern District, and in the Gascoyne and Upper Murchison Districts, were of a very serious nature;" and hon. members were aware that, a short time since, matters had assumed such proportions that the settlers of these districts sent a petition to the Government, setting forth their grievances in connection with the depredations committed by the natives, and that afterwards an influential deputation waited upon His Excellency the Governor to represent the really serious state of affairs which existed in the disturbed districts; and His Excellency, very wisely he thought, resolved to send a Magistrate on a special mission to deal with the difficulty. But in the Speech with which His Excellency opened the present

Session he said that, judging by the reports which he had received from the gentleman entrusted with this special mission, His Excellency was disposed to think that the difficulties of what had been called the "native question" had been exaggerated. Under these circumstances, he (Mr. Brown) thought it was very desirable indeed that they should know the exact position of affairs,—how far the settlers of the district were to blame, and how far the natives,—whether, in fact, the reports which had been circulated with reference to the relations existing between the settlers and the aborigines had been overdrawn; and it was with a view to enable the House to obtain this information that he had moved for the reports upon which His Excellency had based his belief that the difficulties had been "exaggerated."

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Lord Gifford) said it was not his wish in any way to oppose the motion for the adoption of this Address, but he might inform the hon. member that all the reports received on the subject referred to, directly they were received from Mr. Fairbairn, would of course be presented to the House. At present they were not complete, and, as hon. members were aware, the Government had not had an opportunity lately of hearing from the Magistrate sent up to deal with the matter. All that had yet been received from Mr. Fairbairn was merely a hurried report giving his first impressions on getting up there, and, at present, it was utterly impossible to say who was to blame, or how far the reports which had been circulated on the subject had been exaggerated. Possibly Mr. Fairbairn's first impressions might be considerably modified upon a closer investigation, and, until the papers on the subject were complete—when they would be immediately presented to the House—he hoped the hon. member would postpone his motion.

MR. BROWN said the mere adoption of the Address would, after the explanation offered by the noble lord, satisfy him. He merely wished the House to be placed in possession of the information upon which His Excellency considered he was justified in saying that he thought the difficulties had been "exaggerated."

The motion was then put and passed.

## IMMIGRATION.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Lord Gifford), in accordance with notice, moved the appointment of a Select Committee to take into consideration, in the first place, what steps should in their opinion be adopted to procure a larger number of immigrants than is at present obtained under the nomination system, and, secondly, to consider the entire question of immigration, and to report fully as to what inducements should be held out to persons wishing to emigrate. The right hon. gentleman said it was within the knowledge of the House that there had been numerous Select Committees appointed for the same object, from time to time, but he was afraid that in no instance had their labors proved very successful. The Government, however, were not discouraged at this, for the question was undoubtedly a difficult one to solve, and as there was a very wide-spread opinion that the initiation of some more satisfactory system of immigration than had been carried out in the past was of vital importance, in order to force the Colony ahead, he now moved for the appointment of this Committee. He wished it distinctly to be understood that the Committee would confine its inquiries entirely to the question of European immigration, and that it was not proposed that they should have anything to do with Chinese or Asiatics. The nomination system now in vogue, he might say, had worked more satisfactorily of late than in previous years, especially since the restriction had been removed which required persons here nominating emigrants in England to give the name and address, and other information of a personal character, with reference to their nominees. All that was required now was that the persons nominating should undertake that those whom they nominated shall not become chargeable to the Government when they arrived here, and would be of no expense to the Colony beyond their passage out. This system had worked very well indeed of late, so far as it went, and had been pretty largely availed of, especially by Messrs. Crowther & Co. at Champion Bay, and Mr. Sowden, a large employer of labor, at Perth. During the last two years over 600 persons had been nominated, of whom about 400 had arrived

in the Colony, from time to time, and the remainder were expected by the ships which were now on the berth or on the way out. In the opinion of the Government, it would be wise to continue this nomination system, but it was also desirable that some other scheme, to secure a larger number of suitable immigrants than is at present obtained under that system, should be adopted in conjunction with it. In order to accomplish that, he thought it would be necessary to hold out some inducements to the newcomers to settle down in the Colony, and to become permanent and useful citizens; and possibly this object would best be attained by giving them plots of land,—not in the towns but in rural districts—which they could settle upon, and thus earn for themselves a livelihood. This would be one of the questions which the Select Committee would have to take into their consideration. He hoped hon. members would favor the Government with their views on the subject. The right hon. gentleman then submitted the motion standing in his name and moved that the Committee should consist of Messrs. Steere, Grant, Shenton, Burges, Brown, and the mover, with power to call for persons and papers, and to report to the House on Wednesday, 16th August.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. A. C. Onslow) seconded the motion.

MR. STEERE said he cordially agreed with the object which the Government had in view in moving for the appointment of this Committee. He was very glad indeed to hear the right hon. gentleman suggest that allotments of country land should again be offered as an inducement to immigrants to come out and to remain in the Colony, for, as he had publicly stated the other day at Guildford, he for one certainly objected to that inducement having been withdrawn. There might have been some reasons for doing so, as regards immigrants who remained in the towns, and who possibly had abused the privilege granted to them in respect of selecting a piece of land in the country; but there could be no doubt that, so far as immigrants who went into the interior were concerned, these grants of land were a great inducement. The noble lord who introduced the subject said the efforts of the Select Committee should be directed

to devising some means to induce our immigrants to settle down on their land, or, in other words, become their own masters; but, in his (Mr. Steere's) opinion, before the Committee directed their attention to that part of the question, which no doubt was a most desirable object, they should endeavor to propound some scheme whereby those already settled in the Colony may be supplied with the labor so much required to enable them to work their land to advantage. It was undoubtedly a fact that a great deal of land in this Colony was actually going out of cultivation, because the owners could not obtain the necessary labor to work it; and before we hold out inducements to more employers of labor to come out here, we ought to endeavor to supply those already settled in the Colony with that which they stand so much in need of. No doubt, if this Committee could see its way clear to initiate some fresh and successful scheme of immigration, which would be acceptable to the House, they would deserve the grateful thanks of the community, and confer an inestimable advantage upon the Colony. He considered the nomination system a very good system indeed, in many respects, but it had this drawback,—the immigrants so introduced were not available for employment by the public at large, but were monopolised by their friends, who had nominated them, and so far as the general body of employers was concerned, their services were hardly available at all. For this reason, it appeared not only desirable, but absolutely necessary, that some other system should be adopted,—not to supersede the nomination system, but in conjunction with it. He would very willingly, himself, take part in the deliberations of the Committee, and he only hoped they would be able to present some scheme that would commend itself to the House.

MR. SHENTON pointed out that as the House would shortly pass a Bill to raise a loan for the extension of the railway to the Eastern Districts, some arrangements, if possible, should be made without delay for a larger supply of labor than was at present available for the settlers, otherwise the farmers in these districts would be placed in the same awkward predicament as the

settlers of Champion Bay found themselves in when the railway in that district was being constructed. It was well known that railway contractors, in order to get their contracts carried out with as little delay as possible, were in a position to offer much higher rates of wages than settlers generally are able to afford, consequently the whole of the available labor in these districts would be absorbed by the railway, when it came to be constructed. Therefore there was no time to be lost in making a strong effort to procure a fresh supply of labor, otherwise he was very much afraid agricultural and pastoral operations would soon be at a standstill altogether. With regard to giving grants of land to immigrants, he had always been in favor of that policy; and those hon. members who had been up the railway line, now in course of construction, beyond Guildford, must have been struck with the large quantity of good land which was to be found on each side of the line, available and suitable for settlement. It would also be a question for the serious consideration of the House, as to what measures ought to be adopted with reference to the immense tracts of land which in days gone by had been alienated from the Crown, but which had never been improved or utilised in any way ever since, by the owners. He had expressed his views pretty strongly on this subject on a former occasion in that House, and he had been told by people outside that he was quite as bad as Mr. Parnell himself. He really did think some steps ought to be taken to utilise these large blocks of land, owned for the most part by absentees, for the benefit of the country. The residents of the Colony were taxed in order to make roads and railways in the neighborhood of the lands, which necessarily enhanced their value, and yet the Colony derived no benefit whatever, in any shape, from them. He considered the Government, by paying the owners the upset price of 10s. an acre, would be perfectly justified in resuming portions of these alienated lands, for the purpose of forming agricultural areas. He did not for a moment apply this remark to lands which had been improved, and which were being utilised by their owners, but to those large tracts which were alienated

in the early days of the Colony, and which remained in the same condition up to this day, portions of which were amongst the best agricultural land in the whole country. He should be very glad indeed to see the Government—paying compensation, of course, to the owners—resuming some of these grants, and turn them to good purpose by settling a useful class of immigrants upon them.

MR. BROWN trusted that the result of the Select Committee's deliberations would be that some successful scheme of immigration would be adopted. In his opinion the efforts which had been made in this direction during the last thirteen or fourteen years, on the part of the Government and of the Legislature, had proved a failure, a complete failure. Their successive efforts had not resulted in the introduction of a good class of European labor, and he felt sure, in his own mind, we shall not succeed in doing so. The attractions offered by the sister colonies were so great that we cannot hope to compete successfully with them. Immigrants, naturally enough, preferred going to colonies where they can enjoy all the blessings and adjuncts of civilisation in the largest degree; and, in addition to this, it was an undoubted fact that the rates of wages in those colonies were higher than in this. He was aware that, if this went abroad, it might prove detrimental to the interests of Western Australia, but he wished to speak plainly. He thought it was but right that we should speak truthfully, and not hold out false inducements to people to come out here to benefit themselves, when we know very well that if they went to other places they would fare much better. It was our duty to point out to them the actual state of affairs, and to paint the Colony in its true colors. In the first place, immigrants coming here would have greater hardships to contend with; they would also have fewer means of enjoying themselves; and, it must be admitted, they would not be so well paid as the same classes in the sister colonies and other countries. There was great competition going on at the present day in many parts of the world, with a view to induce immigrants from the mother country to come out, and some of these countries—Canada, for instance—offered a more profitable field of labor to the im-

migrant, much nearer his own country, than Western Australia did. The hon. member referred to the steps recently taken by Sir Alexander Galt to induce immigrants to go out to Canada, and the cordial and liberal manner in which his efforts were seconded by some of the most influential people in England. Would these people exert themselves in this way with a view to send out families of immigrants to this Colony? He did not think so. He was sure they would not do so, if the truth were told them, as to the poor attractions which the Colony offered to immigrants, compared with other countries. In Canada, not only was work provided for the heads of families who went out there, but accommodation was also provided in depôts for the members of their families, and the rates of wages which prevailed in Canada were far beyond what employers in this Colony could afford to pay. He had read of blacksmiths receiving as much as £2 a day; that might be exaggeration, but there could be no doubt that laborers and mechanics could get wages there that no one here could afford to give them. These were drawbacks which we would have to face, in framing any scheme of immigration. He was sorry to hear the noble lord say that the attention of the Select Committee would be confined to European immigration, and it was not proposed to deal with the question of coolie or Asiatic immigration. It would be a long day before we may hope to obtain anything like an adequate supply of labor from Europe, and he thought it would be much better if we were to direct our attention to the teeming population of Asia, in conjunction with some well-devised scheme for supplying a certain class of immigrants from England. He should have much pleasure, however, in serving on the Select Committee moved for by the noble lord, the leader of the Government, though he must confess he was not very sanguine as to the result of their deliberations.

MR. MARMION, while agreeing as to the desirability of appointing a Committee to deal with the question of immigration, was afraid that the labors of the Committee would not be attended with any very satisfactory results, for the subject was one which had occupied

the attention of a number of successive Committees, and received much consideration on the part of that House for many years past, but very little good had resulted from their deliberations, and he was afraid that the expenditure of money in the same direction in future would be attended with but very slightly better results. In looking over the statistics of the Colony for the past ten years, he had been surprised and pained to find how very little progress the Colony had made in the number of its population, during that period. Such increase as had taken place was simply the result of the excess of births over deaths, which during the past ten years only amounted to 5,000 souls. As regards the actual increase, during the same period, caused by fresh arrivals, the total accretion to the population, according to the returns published in the Blue Book, was only eight souls; that is to say, comparing the arrivals with the departures during the past decade, the total number of the former in excess of the latter was not more than eight, and they were females. That was a most humiliating result, to say the least of it, when it was borne in mind that during the same period we had expended something like £29,000 on immigration. Hon. members must admit that this was a most unsatisfactory state of things indeed, and he only wished he were in a position to show how we are going to improve upon it,—how we can, not only succeed in inducing immigrants to come to our shores, but also to remain here when they do come. The latter was by far the most difficult problem to solve, as had been clearly shown by past experience. It was not so long ago since, he believed, a majority of the members of that House decided that the regulation under which grants of land were given to immigrants arriving in the Colony should be rescinded,—why, he could not say, though he believed it was because it was found that it led to a little bit of land-jobbing, on a very small scale, simply because some of the immigrants who had obtained a piece of land, finding it impossible to eke out a livelihood on it, sold it, and with the proceeds went off to some other colony, which, as the hon. member for Geraldton had pointed out, offered greater attrac-

tions than our own. He was afraid that a free gift of land in a Colony like this was not likely to tempt many immigrants, in view of the liberal treatment which new-comers received in other British settlements, such as Canada, where he believed not only were they given land to settle on, but were assisted by the State with small sums of money to enable them to improve their grants. Before we should propose to do that here, it would be necessary in the first place to find suitable land for the new arrivals to settle on, and so situated that they could manage to earn a living, humble though it might be, out of it. In the next place it would be necessary to survey this land, and to lay it out in blocks of suitable sizes, which should be set apart as agricultural areas. And the question arose—where were we going to find land of that character in Western Australia? So far as his knowledge of the country went, he was not aware where it was to be found, beyond that there was some quantity of land of that description, suitable for the purpose in view, in the neighborhood of the Eastern Districts,—land which had been alienated in the early days of the Colony, as referred to by the hon. member for Toodyay, and which partly belonged to absentee proprietors and partly to resident proprietors, none of whom had ever attempted to improve it, and who, in all probability, were not likely to do so, for years to come. No doubt one means of securing suitable land on which to settle immigrants would be for the Government to resume these unimproved estates, and split them up into agricultural sections, suitable for the purpose. He did not wish it to be thought that he would have these lands resumed without compensating their present holders. He would pay them a fair value for their land, but he would not base that valuation upon what it would be worth after the Eastern Railway was constructed; oh, no. He should say 10s. an acre would be a very fair price for such land, and no doubt the holders of it would have been glad to have taken that for it, before the railway was undertaken. He also believed there was a considerable extent of suitable land, still in the possession of the Crown, in the neighborhood of this railway, land which might be utilised

for agricultural purposes. It would be in the recollection of the House that a Select Committee appointed last Session to consider the question of developing the Eastern Districts recommended that this land should be surveyed, and all of it which was found suitable for farms cut up into small blocks, and pegged out, so that intending settlers might be able to discover the position of a given block, and to ascertain by personal inspection what it was like, and what was its relative position as regards other blocks. The idea which prompted the Committee to make this recommendation was the knowledge that it was with land as with other things,—no one would buy what was vulgarly spoken of as “a pig in a poke.” The idea, it appeared to him, was a good one, and one calculated to promote settlement. The hon. member for the Swan said that one objection to the present system of nominating immigrants was, that these immigrants were simply of service to their friends, and that their labor was not available to the general body of settlers. But he would remind the hon. member that the privilege of nominating immigrants was open to all our settlers alike, and if they did not avail themselves of it, the fault was their own and not that of the system. Allusion had been made to the difficulty of retaining laborers in the Colony after they came here, and no doubt that was the most serious difficulty which this Select Committee would have to deal with. One reason why these men would not stay with us was the fact that they could get no annual engagements. Their services are in demand for a few months only, during harvest and shearing time, but, as to the rest of the year, they are obliged to remain idle, or seek for other employment in the towns; and this precarious sort of living undoubtedly militated against the retention of immigrants in the Colony. As to the difficulty of obtaining a suitable class of people to come out from the Mother Country, to settle on the land, he thought there was one most desirable class from amongst whom we might obtain an almost unlimited supply, namely, the Irish peasantry, who are proverbially attached to the soil, and who no doubt would make most desirable colonists. Some years ago, there were introduced

into the Colony a considerable number of immigrant girls of the same nationality, and he had no hesitation in saying that a better lot of immigrants never came into this or any other Colony. With care and discrimination in their selection, he had no doubt in his own mind that an equally desirable class of laborers and small settlers might be obtained among the peasantry class of Ireland. This of course would entail the necessity of the appointment of an active immigration agent, upon whose knowledge of the requirements of the Colony and its capabilities the Government and the emigrants themselves could rely. With reference to immigration from Asia, referred to by the hon. member for Geraldton, he must say he was opposed to the introduction of an alien race at the public expense. He always had been opposed to the importation of coolie labor at the expense of the general body of colonists, and he always should be. He did not mean to say, if it should turn out that we have land in our Northern territory suited for the growth of tropical products, requiring Indian or Asiatic labor to cultivate, he would be opposed to the Government assisting those who wished to embark in such enterprise, in procuring a suitable class of labor for them; but there could be no doubt that, broadly speaking, Asiatic immigrants, as settlers, were a failure, and a very undesirable class to introduce. They might be useful to stop up a gap in the labor market, as a temporary expedient, but they never became settlers in the true sense of the word. They simply came here with a view to save a little money to return with to their celestial home,—and no one could blame them for that; but he certainly did not think the public funds ought to be devoted to the introduction of this class of labor. The result in the past, so far as his own experience of these people went, had been this: they came over on a three years engagement, and for the first eighteen months or so they were of very little use on a station, as they neither understood our ways nor our language; after about two years experience they became a little useful, and towards the end of the period of their engagement they were a fairly useful class of servants, though not equal to European labor. But what

was the result at the termination of their term of agreement? Were they prepared to enter into a fresh engagement at the same rate of wages? Oh, dear no. Your Chinaman is as shrewd as your European any day. When he is paid off, at the termination of his engagement, he goes and enjoys himself for a while, and, if you want his services again, you have to pay three times as much as you paid him under the original agreement, and at the same rate as his European brother. Therefore, he (Mr. Marnion) maintained, we did not get a cheap nor a desirable class of labor by the introduction of Asiatics, and if we wished to obtain a suitable class of labor, and a desirable class of settlers, we must turn our attention to other countries than that of the Heathen Chinese.

The motion for the appointment of a Select Committee was then agreed to.

#### TARIFF BILL.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Lord Gifford): With reference to the first Order of the Day—the second reading of the Tariff Bill—it has been suggested to me that, in view of the importance of the measure, it would be as well to postpone the Order of the Day, but I am entirely in the hands of the House.

MR. S. H. PARKER: My idea with regard to the proper procedure as regards the second reading of new Bills is this, that the member in charge of a Bill should move the second reading, and explain the principle and objects of the measure, and that the debate upon the motion for the second reading be then adjourned, so that hon. members might have an opportunity of considering the Bill in the light thrown upon it by the mover of the second reading. I think this is a course that commends itself to the House generally, as it would enable every member to take an intelligent interest in a measure, once its scope and its provisions were explained to him. I would therefore ask the noble lord to adopt this course with reference to the Tariff Bill,—explain the object of the Bill, and the alterations which it proposes to make in the tariff, and having done so, adjourn the debate upon the motion for the second reading until a

future day, so that hon. members may have an opportunity of considering the noble lord's explanation in all its bearings. I do not think it is the practice in other Legislative Assemblies that Bills are read a second time on the very same day as the motion for the second reading is made, but that, as a rule, some time is allowed to intervene between the motion being made and the debate leading to its adoption or rejection.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. A. C. Onslow): I am afraid we are somewhat drifting into an irregular discussion, but, inasmuch as it has been started, I rise to state that I cannot at all agree with the position taken up by the hon. member for Perth. It appears to me that what the hon. member suggests is that the mover of a Bill should be called upon simply to explain the principle of the Bill, and that thereupon the debate should cease, and be adjourned for a week or such further time as the House may order, to enable hon. members to do—what? Not to digest the details of the Bill, but to digest its principle. I would ask the hon. member to point out a single instance, either in this or any other Assembly—he may possibly do so in this, but I challenge him to point out a solitary case in any other Legislative Assembly—where, the mover having explained the object and the principle of a Bill, the debate ceases for the purpose of enabling members to have further time to consider its principle. If the hon. member wants time to consider the details of a Bill, I am with him altogether; but that is when in Committee, after the principle of the Bill has been affirmed. So far as the Government is concerned, we want to ascertain the feelings and the views of hon. members as regards the principle of a Bill, before we proceed to consider it in detail, and we wish to do so there and then. What hon. members have a right to demand, and what they will have an opportunity again of demanding, is, that time be granted them to digest the details of the Bill; but that is after the principle of the Bill has been discussed. My view of it is this,—that, after the mover of a Bill has explained its principle, there should be a debate upon that principle, and, if members begin to think it is a principle they ob-



ject to, let them move the adjournment of the debate, if they like; but why do so before we even know whether they approve of the principle of a Bill or no? Do not let us waste time unnecessarily. I heartily beg of hon. members to help us as much as possible to get through the business, by discussing the principle of this Bill as much as we can on the present occasion, and, if they object to the principle, let the debate be adjourned, or let the Bill be thrown out altogether. I do not think, as I have said before, the hon. member can point to a single case, in any popular Assembly, where the debate upon the second reading of a Bill has been closed immediately after the mover's speech, explaining the principle of it, and I hope we are not going to set a bad example in this Assembly.

MR. SPEAKER: It is an Order of the Day that the Bill be read a second time this evening, and that does not even require seconding. You may postpone the Order of the Day to another sitting, otherwise the member in charge of the Bill will proceed to explain its principle.

MR. STEERE: I do not think there is any desire on the part of anyone to oppose the Government in their anxiety to proceed with the work of the Session, but I believe I am giving expression to the wishes of the majority of hon. members when I say that they wish this Bill to be postponed for a few more days, in order to afford them more time to consider its provisions. Not in order that they may have more time to consider the details of the Bill merely, but also the principle upon which the Bill is framed. I agree almost entirely with what the Attorney General has said as to the practice of discussing Bills on the motion for their second reading. I believe the practice in the House of Commons is precisely such as has been indicated by the hon. and learned gentleman, and that it is never the custom of the Imperial Parliament to adjourn the debate on the second reading the moment the mover explains the principle of a Bill. But I hope in this instance, as it is the wish of the majority of hon. members that the Order of the Day for the second reading of this Bill should be postponed for two or three days longer, the noble lord in charge of the Bill will agree to such postponement.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. A. C. Onslow): It was not my wish to press the second reading of the Bill on the House this evening; what I said was, if my noble friend the Colonial Secretary is called upon to explain the principles of the Bill now, the debate should not cease there and then. If it is the wish of the House that the Order of the Day be postponed, let it be postponed by all means.

The Order of the Day for the second reading of the Bill was then postponed until Wednesday, 2nd August.

#### STAMP ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Lord Gifford) brought in a Bill to amend "The Stamp Act," 1881, and moved its first reading.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

#### HAWKERS BILL.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Lord Gifford), in moving the second reading of a Bill to repeal the present law relating to hawkers and pedlars, and to substitute other provisions in lieu thereof permitting hawking to be exercised under certain restrictions and regulations, said the Bill was introduced in pursuance of a promise he had made last Session. At one time in the history of the Colony, there were good and valid reasons why hawking should have been prohibited, but the conditions of the Colony had changed since then, and there did not seem to be any objection to it at present; on the contrary, it was considered by the Government that the Bill now before the House would prove a great boon, especially to poor people residing in out-of-the-way places, in the bush. One great objection which had been urged against such a measure was that it might possibly open the way to the sale of liquors by licensed hawkers to the men employed on farms and stations in the interior, but hon. members would observe that very severe restrictions were provided in the present Bill, to prevent hawkers from disposing of intoxicating liquors. The 19th clause enacted that any licensed hawker having in his possession any fermented or spirituous liquor shall forfeit the same and be liable to a fine of

£20. Power was given to magistrates, upon the information of any person having reasonable ground for suspecting that a hawker or pedlar was carrying such liquor, to grant a warrant to search and examine his packs and his conveyance, and, in the event of liquor being discovered, to order the whole to be seized—including the vehicle and the horse or horses employed in drawing it. It would thus be seen that every precaution and restriction was provided to prevent the Act being abused, and to remove the objections which settlers might otherwise entertain to such a Bill becoming law. If the House wished it, the Government would be prepared to accept an amendment prohibiting these hawkers from carrying liquor, under any circumstances, even under cover of executing "orders," which he believed was a ruse occasionally resorted to. The Bill provided for two descriptions of licenses, without one of which no person would be permitted to carry on business as a hawker or pedlar. One license authorised the holder of it to carry on his own person the wares and merchandise which he offered for sale, and for which the annual license fee would be £1. The other license authorised the holder of it to carry his wares by packhorse, by vehicle, or by a boat or any other craft, and it was proposed that the license tax payable for this should be £2 a year. It would be observed that the second clause very clearly defined what shall be deemed to be hawking, within the meaning of the Act, namely, "the selling or offering for sale of goods carried about on the person, or on any animal, or in any movable conveyance, whether by land or water, in any city, town, borough, street, road, or place within the Colony." There was nothing, however, in the Bill to prevent any person from selling or offering for sale newspapers, fish, fruit, milk, vegetables, or any agricultural produce. The Bill was a very simple one, and he trusted it would prove acceptable to the House and to the country.

Mr. STEERE said the Bill appeared to be so hedged round with restrictions, that it left no loophole for the disposal of intoxicating liquors—which was the great objection which many settlers entertained to hawking being permitted, upon their stations. In other respects,

he thought the Bill would prove a great boon to country residents.

The motion for the second reading was then adopted, and the House agreed to go into Committee, for the consideration of the Bill in detail, on Wednesday.

#### STATUTES (ERRORS) AMENDMENT BILL.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. A. C. Onslow), in moving the second reading of a Bill to amend certain clerical and other errors and omissions which occur in various Acts of the local Legislature, said it might appear at first sight that the Bill was one which it was hardly worth while bringing before the serious attention of the House, but, as hon. members were aware, a Commission having been appointed for the purpose of preparing and arranging the Statutes and Ordinances of the Colony with a view to their publication in a revised form, and as the Commission had discovered certain clerical errors and omissions in some of these Ordinances, and it was expedient to amend the same, the Commission had no option but to ask the House to assent to the present Bill, which proposed to repeal certain words and expressions, and to introduce others in lieu thereof. Most of the errors which it was proposed to rectify were merely clerical errors, with one exception, with reference to which the House might wish to express an opinion, and that was in the Police Ordinance, in which there is a section providing that any fines or penalties imposed by other Acts which do not expressly declare that such fines or penalties shall be recovered summarily, shall be so recovered; but in some Acts, these words having been omitted, a question had arisen as to whether the fines were recoverable in that way, though there could be no doubt that the intention of the Legislature was that they should be. It was therefore proposed to remedy this omission by the insertion of a few words to remove all doubts on the subject. This was the only alteration to which he thought it was necessary he should call the attention of the House; the others were merely clerical errors. He begged to move the second reading of the Bill.

Motion agreed to *sub silentio*.

Bill read a second time.

MR. BURT expressed a hope that the hon. and learned gentleman in charge of the Bill would fix a late date for going into Committee upon it. If this was the only crop of errors which the Revision Commission had been able to discover, he thought very little research would have enabled them to have found a much larger crop; and he thought, while they were about it, they might as well do the work thoroughly. There were many other errors which suggested themselves to his mind, and he thought they might as well be rectified.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. A. C. Onslow) said any suggestion emanating from the hon. and learned member who had just spoken would be thankfully accepted by him, as the representative of the Revision Committee in that House. The crop of errors presented with the Bill now before the House did not represent errors in the Statutes themselves, but merely clerical errors, the rectification of which was rendered necessary in order to make the Statutes read grammatically. He would move that the Bill be considered in Committee that day week (August 7).

This was agreed to.

#### WIDTH OF TIRES BILL.—POOR HOUSES DISCIPLINE BILL.

The Orders of the Day for the second reading of these Bills were postponed.

#### THE ADDRESS IN REPLY.

##### ADJOURNED DEBATE.

SIR T. COCKBURN-CAMPBELL explained that it was at his request that the hon. member Mr. Randell had moved the adjournment of the debate on the Address in Reply. Some remarks made by the hon. member for the Murray and Williams with reference to the Kimberley District had, in vulgar parlance, "fetched" the hon. member for the North. The hon. baronet himself, being an officer of the House, when asked to do so objected to take advantage of the forms of the House to enable the hon. member to reply to what had been said with regard to the Kimberley District, and moreover was afraid that upon the motion for adjournment the whole debate, as very often occurred, might be reopened. So

he thought he would exercise a little diplomacy, and, not having spoken himself, would arrange to reply for the hon. member for the North, moving the adjournment of the debate until Monday for that purpose. But, having to leave the House, he asked Mr. Randell to act for him in the matter. He understood that the Government considered this action obstructive. But just the contrary was the case—the desire being to avoid the use of the forms of the House to reopen a debate which already appeared to have become rather wearisome to the Government. Having said so much in explanation, he would merely add, with reference to His Excellency's Speech, that he thought the Government on this occasion had given as good an account of their stewardship as any Administration he recollected since he had been a member of that House had done. They had shown themselves not only anxious to meet the wishes of the House, but, as regards a great many questions, had anticipated those wishes.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. A. C. Onslow) said he rose merely to thank the hon. member for Plantagenet for the kindly terms in which he had addressed the House, in regard to the Government, and for the explanation he had offered with reference to the motion for adjournment. As regards the Government, he was free to confess that he for one had felt a certain amount of annoyance,—perhaps not annoyance, but pain—to think that the valuable time of the House was to be wasted by a mere motion for adjournment, when no apparent object was to be gained thereby. But had they in the least understood the object for which the adjournment was moved, or been aware that any hon. member opposite was desirous of expressing his views, no objection whatever would have been offered by the Government to the course adopted. But the position seemed to be this: there did not appear to be a single member of the House who wished to say another word with regard to the Address in Reply,—which, so far as he could see, had met with cordial approval from all parts of the House. It had not met with a single word of adverse criticism, except perhaps one, which was merely of a jocular character, from the hon. member for

Perth. Otherwise, the Speech had been highly approved all round, and when he heard the hon. member Mr. Randell move the adjournment of the debate, for no apparent purpose whatever, he could not but suppose that there was some deep-laid scheme behind, and that some mine would on Monday be unexpectedly sprung upon them, to their utter discomfiture, if not complete destruction. Consequently he had felt very uneasy about it; but, now, after the hon. member for Plantagenet had so courteously explained the object of the adjournment, he was sorry that any opposition had been offered to it from that bench.

Mr. RANDELL thought, when he moved the adjournment the other evening, it would have been understood, from his past action in the House, that at any rate he had no factious motive in doing so, or any desire to obstruct the progress of business. The hon. member for Plantagenet had already explained how it was that he (Mr. Randell) had come to move the adjournment. He had not quite understood at the time what the object in view was, in adopting that course, but he thought possibly some hon. members who had not yet addressed the House were desirous of doing so. It had not been his own intention to do so, for he thought His Excellency's Speech had been criticised from every possible point of view,—from the recommendation to remit the duty on immigrants' tools to the vexed question of who should have the honor of having initiated the proposed loan for public works. The Speech appeared to have met with the entire concurrence of the House, and to have given satisfaction not only to hon. members generally, but to the whole country, for it revealed a state of affairs which was encouraging and satisfactory in the extreme. He was sorry, therefore, that his action should have been misunderstood, or given umbrage in any quarter. Indeed he could scarcely understand why it should possibly have given umbrage, for, since he had been a member of that House, whether occupying the position which he now had the honor of occupying, or sitting as an elective representative, he thought his fellow-members would bear him out that his course of action had always been an independent

one; and, he might add, he intended to maintain that position, so long as he had the honor of a seat in the House. He should consider himself unworthy of a seat in it, if he did not pursue that course of conduct in all his public actions. He might add with reference to his action in moving the adjournment of the debate, that it was from a spirit of fair play, to a very great extent, that he had done so, and that he had been induced to fall in so readily with the wish of the hon. member for Plantagenet, and seeing that there was no absolute necessity to hurry the adoption of the Address in Reply,—which was usually presented to His Excellency on the only day in the week on which the House sat in the morning (Thursday). Consequently he saw no objection whatever to the course which had been adopted, especially as he understood there were other hon. members who were desirous of addressing the House, and who would have done so under a disadvantage at that late hour, when the House was already wearied by a very lengthy discussion. While on this subject he might add that he had been very sorry to observe on the occasion referred to, as on many other occasions, that many hon. members, having themselves addressed the House at very great length, immediately disappeared from the Council Chamber, thereby exercising a somewhat depressing influence upon those who had to speak afterwards, to an array of empty benches. He regretted to see that practice resorted to, and he availed himself of this opportunity of referring to it.

SIR T. COCKBURN-CAMPBELL said he now understood that the object of the adjournment of the debate had been done away with, as the hon. member for the North preferred taking another opportunity of replying to the hon. member for the Williams.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. A. C. Onslow) then moved, That a Select Committee be appointed to draw up an Address in Reply to His Excellency's Speech; such Committee to consist of Mr. Steere, Mr. Shenton, Mr. Grant, Mr. Venn, Mr. Hammersley, and the Mover.

Motion agreed to.

The Committee then withdrew to prepare the Address, and, after a short absence,

MR. HAMERSLEY brought up the Address, and moved that it be read, which was done, by the clerk. (*Vide p. 7 ante.*)

On the motion of Mr. HAMERSLEY, the Address was then adopted, and it was ordered that it be presented to His Excellency the Governor by Mr. Speaker and other members of the House.

The House adjourned at half-past nine o'clock, p.m.

## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

*Tuesday, 1st August, 1882.*

Supplementary Estimates for 1882—High School: Election of Governor—Width of Tires Bill: referred to Select Committee—Adjournment.

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

PRAYERS.

### SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES FOR 1882.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Lord Gifford) moved, "That the House do now resolve itself into a Committee of the whole Council to consider certain expenses requisite to be incurred in certain departments over and above the sums voted in 'The Appropriation Act, 1881,' for 1882." The motion for going into Committee having been agreed to, the noble lord explained that this Supplementary Estimate must not be regarded in the light of an Excess Bill, for it was nothing of the kind. The Government had not actually expended the votes which they now asked the House to sanction; but it was found that the sums appropriated last Session for certain departments would be inadequate to meet the expenditure which it would be necessary to incur in connection with these departments before the end of the financial year; and, the Government foreseeing

this, came frankly before the House and asked it to sanction the increased expenditure which had become necessary. The original estimate of expenditure for the current year was £191,261, which however would be reduced by £2,800, being sums provided by the annual Estimates but which would not be required. This underdraft was in connection with Interest on Loans (£247), Salaries (£176 6s. 11d.), Works and Buildings (£50), Pensions (£327 6s. 3d.), and a sum of £2,000 voted by the House as a subsidy to be offered with a view to induce ocean-going steamers to make Fremantle a port of call. As there was no probability of that amount being required before the end of the year, it would lapse; so that, with the other underdrafts which he had just mentioned, the actual amount of the original estimate of expenditure was £188,460. The supplementary grants which he now asked for amounted in the aggregate to £11,673. Notwithstanding this additional expenditure, it was estimated that there would be a balance of at least £9,000 to credit at the end of the year. The original estimate of revenue for the year was £200,565, but there had already been an excess under one source of revenue alone—namely, the land revenue—of £8,875; and, under almost every other head, the receipts during the first half-year had exceeded the estimate. In some instances, the revenue derived up to the 30th June was even in excess of the anticipated receipts for the whole year. All this, he thought, was matter for sincere congratulation on the part of the House and of the country. With these introductory remarks, he would now proceed cursorily to refer in detail to the various items constituting the Supplementary Estimates which he now asked the Committee to agree to. The first item was a sum of £15 in connection with his own office, being an addition to the salary of a clerk (Mr. Steere, jun.) who had entered the service, the previous year, as a probationer, and who had become entitled to an increase. With regard to this young officer he could only trust that the High School would be able to turn out many more young men who were as conscientious and punctilious in the discharge of their duties as this one was. He was a credit to the school where