

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Thursday, 10th August, 1882.

Message (No. 3) from His Excellency the Governor:
 Concessions Jarrahdale Timber Co.—Appropriation
 Bill (Supplementary), 1882: in committee—Tariff
 Bill: recommitted—Adjournment.

THE SPEAKER took the Chair at noon.

PRAYERS.

MESSAGE (No. 3): CONCESSION TO
 JARRAHDALÉ TIMBER Co. IN CON-
 sideration of RAILWAY EXTEN-
 sion.

THE SPEAKER announced the receipt of the following Message from His Excellency the Governor:

"The Governor forwards, herewith, a letter from the Honorable J. J. Casey, C.M.G., a Director of the Jarrahdale Timber Company, in which, on behalf of the Company, he makes certain proposals with reference to the extension of their railway from the present mill site to a point on the Albany Road. The Company offer to complete the line alluded to, to provide locomotive engines and all necessary rolling stock, and to keep the railway in good working order, open to the public, subject to such charges and regulations as may be agreed upon by the Company and the Government, provided the Government will make to the Company a reasonable concession of land in part payment of the cost of the construction of the line.

"The Governor is of opinion that the completion of a railway from Rockingham to the Albany Road would be a great benefit to, and would promote the development of, the districts contiguous to the proposed Eastern terminus of the line, and if your Honorable Council should consider that the project is one which, in the interests of the Colony, it would be expedient and proper to encourage by means of a reasonable concession of land, the Governor will be happy to co-operate with you with a view to the carrying out of the proposal.

"The remark of the Director that the proposed addition to the railway would bring into public use the line already built, carries with it a reasonable suggestion, and one which may fairly be

"taken into consideration in estimating the acreage per mile which it would be proper to offer for the extension.

"Government House, Perth, 9th August."

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Lord Gifford) moved, That this Message be taken into consideration on Monday, 14th August.

Ordered.

APPROPRIATION BILL (SUPPLEMENTARY), 1882.

This Bill was passed through Committee without discussion or amendment.

TARIFF BILL.

On the Order of the Day for the third reading of this Bill,

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Lord Gifford) moved, That the Order be discharged and the Bill recommitted.

Agreed to.

IN COMMITTEE.

Clause 1 reverted to.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Lord Gifford), without comment, moved, That the words "from and after the passing of this Act" be struck out, and the following words be inserted in lieu thereof: "On and after the seventh day of October next ensuing."

Agreed to.

MR. S. H. PARKER said that since the schedules had been agreed to it had been pointed out to him that the proposed tax on hides would operate directly as a tax upon an important local industry—tanning. It appeared, from what he was informed, that a sufficient number of hides could not be obtained in the Colony to meet the requirements of local tanners, and, as the loss to the revenue would be but slight—it only amounted to about £40 last year—he would move that "hides" be removed from the 10 per cent. schedule and placed on the free list.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Lord Gifford) said the tariff had certainly been framed with a view as much as possible to foster and encourage all local industries, but in this case the amount of the tax was so small that he really did not think it was worth while re-arranging the schedules for the sake of this one item. If, however, it was the particular

wish of the Committee to reduce the duty, he would not object to a reduction, but he could not consent to put it lower than 5 per cent.

MR. MARMION imagined that very few hides indeed were likely to be imported by our local tanners, who, as a rule, exported pretty largely. It might be of some advantage to those engaged in this industry if the materials used for tanning purposes were allowed to come in duty free; but he had refrained from making an appeal to the House on the subject, although he had been asked to do so, because it appeared to him he should be at once met with the argument that if we were going thus to favor the tanning industry, why not place the oils used in various other industries on the free list?

MR. RANDELL said he had been given to understand that it was only such hides as were not to be obtained in the Colony—very large sized hides—which were imported; but as there must be very few he hardly saw the necessity for altering the schedule.

MR. GRANT concurred. In the district which he represented, they exported a large quantity of hides to other places, simply because they could get better prices for them than here.

The motion was negatived.

Bill reported.

The House adjourned at one o'clock, p.m.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Friday, 11th August, 1882.

The Law as to Apprentices—Regulation of Volunteer Force—Petition re branch line railway from Clackline to Newcastle—Survey of line between Clackline and Newcastle—Land held by Mr. M. C. Davies—Excess Bill, 1881: first reading—Jury Act, 1871, Amendment Bill: in committee—Imported Labor Registry Bill: in committee—Masters and Servants Act Amendment Bill: in committee; third reading—Adjournment.

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

PRAYERS.

THE LAW RELATING TO APPRENTICES.

MR. S. H. PARKER, in asking the Attorney General "Whether the Government intend introducing to the House, during this Session, any Bill to amend the Law relating to Apprentices," said the reason why he put the question was this: our local statutes were now being revised by a Board appointed for that purpose—a Board that was entitled to the thanks of the House and of the public for their gratuitous labors, involving as those labors did a great deal of trouble and research; and the revised statutes were, he believed, about to be reprinted in a compact form, which could not fail to be of very great service not only to the profession and to the magistracy, but also to the public at large,—although he did not think the work was being carried out in the way in which that House intended in the first instance—the original intention being that all our statutes should be consolidated as well as revised. But that was more than they could reasonably expect any gentlemen to undertake, unless they were handsomely paid for their services, and he thought we ought to be well satisfied, under the circumstances, that the work was being done as it was; and it had struck him that, as our laws were thus being revised and were about to be reprinted in a revised form, it would be most advisable to have the law relating to apprenticeship set out in full, and incorporated with this revised edition of our statutes. At present, the only Ordinance dealing with the subject was the 37th Vic., No. 12, which simply provided that all the laws in force in England on the 1st January, 1873 (the year in which our local Act was adopted), relating to apprentices, shall be deemed to have been and shall henceforth be—except in so far as the same are inapplicable to the circumstances of this Colony—in force here. Another clause of the Act gave summary power to Magistrates to determine all disputes between masters and apprentices; and that was all the law we had on the subject. The result was, that when these disputes did arise, and a Magistrate was called upon to adjudicate upon them, the question arose how the Magistrate was going to deal with them. There was nothing set out