

better position to pronounce an opinion upon the subject. In order to enable the hon. member for Greenough to submit his resolution in a formal manner, he would, with leave of the House, withdraw his own motion.

MR. BURT moved that Progress be reported.

Question—put and negatived.

THE CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES: Does the hon. member for Geraldton withdraw his amendment?

MR. BROWN: No.

THE CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES: Then the original resolution cannot be withdrawn.

MR. BROWN said the only difference between the suggestion made by the hon. member for Greenough and his own amendment was this: the hon. member for Greenough wished the Government to report to the House and to deal with the subject next year, whereas he (Mr. Brown) wished that, if possible, the Government should do so this Session. He imagined it would be quite possible for the Government to do so before the Session closed, and he failed to see the necessity of having the whole matter hung up for a whole year. But although he felt this, he was aware that his amendment would not have much support, and that it would be useless to push it to a division; consequently he would submit to its being negatived on the voices.

The amendment was then put and negatived, and

MR. STEERE, by leave of the Committee, withdrew his motion.

MR. CROWTHER then moved the following resolution:—"That the Report of the Select Committee to inquire into 'His Excellency's Message No. 3 does not contain sufficient information as to the advantages to be derived by the extension of the line to the 50-mile post on the Perth and Albany road, or as to the nature, extent, and quality of the land which would be benefited by such extension; and the Council is of opinion that the Government be requested to make such inquiries as may furnish the information desired, in order that it may be prepared to place such proposals before the Council at this or its next Session, as may appear to the

"Government would be to the interests of the Colony."

This was agreed to.

The House adjourned at a quarter past four o'clock, p.m.

## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

*Friday, 1st September, 1882.*

Proclamation of Sandalwood Districts—Relaxation of conditions attached to Special Occupation Leases—Pastoral Leases in Central District: Minimum size of blocks—Kimberley Land Regulations—Trespass, Fencing, and Impounding Bill: in committee—Immigration: Report of Select Committee; consideration of—Estimates: in committee—Municipalities Act Amendment Bill: second reading—Imported Labor Registry Bill: third reading—Adjournment.

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

PRAYERS.

## PROCLAMATION OF SANDALWOOD DISTRICTS.

MR. STEERE asked the Colonial Secretary, "Whether it is the intention of the Government to proclaim any district within which no sandalwood should be cut, in accordance with the Act passed at the last Session of the Council, 'to prevent the destruction of and export of immature sandalwood?'"

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Lord Gifford) replied that the Government intended doing so.

## SPECIAL OCCUPATION LEASES.

MR. CROWTHER asked the Commissioner of Crown Lands, "What are the intentions of the Government with regard to those persons holding Special Occupation Leases which will shortly expire, and who have not carried out, in their entirety, the conditions imposed by the Government, on account of unavoidable causes,—whether it is the intention of the Government to grant

"the fee simple of such lands on the expiration of their present lease, or whether it is intended to permit them to hold the land until the improvements are completed: and, if so, whether fresh conditions will be imposed, and the nature of such conditions?" The hon. member said he was induced to ask the question because he knew that, this year, several of these leases will expire, and a still greater number during the next and the following years, and it was within his own knowledge that many of these lessees, owing to their inability to comply with the conditions imposed by the Government, would not be in a position to claim the fee simple of their lands. He did not know what the intention of the Government might be with regard to these men, whose position he thought was deserving of sympathy, and he could not help thinking that, if His Excellency the Governor could see his way clear to allow them to hold their land without imposing any further conditions upon them, he would do so. The conditions now imposed pressed very heavily indeed upon these men, and it would be very hard if they were not permitted to hold the land until the required improvements are completed. It was with a view to relieve all anxiety on this point that he had asked the Commissioner this question.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. M. Fraser), in reply, said the matter had received the consideration of the Government, and if the improvements required by the regulations were not completed at the end of their leases, the lessees or their representatives would be allowed to continue holding the land at the same annual rental as at present, but no Crown Grant would be issued, in fee simple, until the required improvements have been duly made.

#### PASTORAL LEASES IN CENTRAL DISTRICT.

MR. VENN asked the Commissioner of Crown Lands, "Whether, under the revised Land Regulations shortly to be issued, leases will be granted for Crown Lands in blocks of less than ten thousand

acres; and, if so, the minimum size of such blocks?" The hon. member said he put the question in the interest of the small license holders who could not afford to take up large leases—small farmers, who were desirous of supplementing the grazing capabilities of their farms by leasing a block of Crown Land contiguous to their homesteads, but who could not afford to lease so much as 10,000 acres.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. M. Fraser) replied that as regards the first part of the hon. member's question, he might state that, under certain circumstances, provision had been made in the consolidated Land Regulations shortly to be issued, to extend to pastoral licensees the same privilege, if he might so term it, as had heretofore been granted to pastoral lessees. As to the minimum size of the blocks in respect of which leases would be granted, the regulations did not specify what the size would be, but they provided that no lease shall be issued for a less annual rental than £3.

#### KIMBERLEY LAND REGULATIONS.

MR. CAREY—who had given notice of his intention to move an address to the Governor, praying that he would be pleased to take what steps he might deem necessary to prevent the transfer of pastoral leases in the Kimberley District, until satisfactory proof had been furnished to the Government that the land under lease had been duly stocked, in accordance with the Land Regulations for that district—said he found, since he had given notice of his motion, that he was not likely to get a sufficient number of hon. members to support him as would command a majority in the House, and, such being the case, it appeared to him no good result would be attained by his moving the address standing in his name, and, with the leave of the House, he would let it lapse. It was his intention, however, of bringing forward another motion which, if carried, would answer the purpose he had in view, to the effect that, in the opinion of this House, the 13th section of the Kimberley Land Regulations, with regard to stocking, should be enforced.

TRESPASS, FENCING, AND IM-  
POUNDING BILL.

The House then went into Committee for the consideration of this Bill.

Clauses 1 to 3:

Agreed to *sub silentio*.

Clause 4.—Owner of land unlawfully and wilfully killing or maiming any animal found trespassing shall upon conviction forfeit and pay to the owner of such animal the value thereof:

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. A. C. Onslow) pointed out that, under the existing Act, the penalty for the same offence is the payment of a sum not exceeding £10; but occasions might arise in which that amount might not be anything like an adequate recompense for the loss of a valuable animal, and it was now proposed that the offender shall pay the owner of the cattle the full value thereof, if unlawfully and wilfully destroyed.

The clause was then agreed to.

Clauses 5, 6, and 7:

Agreed to without comment.

Clause 8.—“No cattle shall be sold, “nor shall any cattle other than pigs, “dogs, goats, rabbits, poultry, or pigeons, “be destroyed under color of any trespass committed, unless by order of a “Justice of the Peace after complaint or “information made in respect of such “trespass.

“1. Such order shall not be made “on the default of the discovery “of the owner of such cattle, “unless notice of the trespass, “impounding, and intended sale “of such cattle shall have been “advertised with full description thereof, including marks, “brands, color, and height, in “two newspapers published in “the Colony, for three successive weeks, nor until seven “days after the last of such “advertisements, nor unless a “written or printed placard be “posted on the pound at which “such sale shall be held, for “seven days prior to such sale.”

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. A. C. Onslow) said he did not know whether it was the wish of the Committee that the provisions of this clause—especially that relating to advertising—should apply to the whole of our vast territory.

He thought it might be modified in its application as regards a district like Kimberley. The law, however, as it now stood was identical with the provisions of this clause, but he deemed it right to mention the matter to the Committee.

The clause was agreed to without further comment.

Clause 9.—Compensation for neglect: Agreed to *sub silentio*.

Clause 10.—“In all cases where cattle “shall be impounded and the owner “thereof shall not be discovered within “seven days after the last of the advertisements and placards hereinbefore “required by section 8, a Justice of the “Peace, on proof of such non-discovery, “by oath of the person entrusted with “the service of the summons, may order “the sale of such cattle by public auction “in manner hereinbefore directed by “section 8.

“1. In all cases when cattle trespass- “ing shall not be impounded, and “it shall be proved to the satisfaction of a Justice of the “Peace that it is not possible “to impound such cattle except “at an inadequate expense, and “also that the owner thereof is unknown, or cannot be “found; it shall be lawful for “such Justice to order the “destruction of such cattle, in “such manner as he shall think “fit, and for the production and “delivery to a police constable “of the hide of such cattle “(being ‘great cattle’ as referred to in the Trespass Scale “hereto) so destroyed.

“2. The owner of land obtaining “such order for the destruction “of cattle, and the person destroying the same, shall in “every case of breach or non-compliance with such order “be liable, on conviction, to a “fine not exceeding Five pounds “for each head of cattle so “destroyed, and with reference “to which such non-compliance “shall have occurred.

“3. If such order for destruction of “cattle shall have been improperly obtained, the owner “of such cattle may have any “remedy against the person

"obtaining such order as he  
"would have had in case this  
"Act had not been passed:"

MR. MARMION considered that this clause would leave open a door for grave abuses, and that some provision ought to be made prohibiting the person destroying any cattle, by virtue of this section, from consuming the carcase. Unless this were done, it appeared to him they would be offering a strong temptation, if not a positive bonus, in the way of unprincipled persons destroying other people's cattle. These cattle, although it might become necessary to kill them, might be of considerable value to the owner.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. A. C. Onslow) said the 4th section of the Bill would meet such a case as that contemplated by the honorable member for Fremantle. The cattle referred to here would not have been impounded, but destroyed because of the great expense which impounding them would entail.

MR. BROWN saw no hardship in the clause. Where cattle trespass on a man's land, and the owner of the land does all he can to impound such cattle, and probably incurs considerable expense in endeavoring to do so, but without avail, he (Mr. Brown) certainly thought the owner of the land ought to have some remedy. The mere destruction of the stock trespassing would not help to recoup him the expenses he had incurred in endeavoring to catch the cattle for the purpose of impounding them; and if, as a last resource, a man found he had to kill a beast, and he obtained the necessary order from a Magistrate to do so, he (Mr. Brown) thought it would be a very reasonable thing indeed to permit the person who had gone to all this trouble and expense to consume the flesh of the cattle so destroyed. A discretionary power was vested in Justices as to granting an order for the destruction of these cattle; they were not bound to grant them, whenever application was made.

The clause was then agreed to.

Clauses 11 and 12:

Agreed to without discussion.

Clause 13.—"In all cases of trespass  
"on land committed by any person, with  
"or without any cattle, the owner of  
"such land may complain thereof in

"manner aforesaid to a Justice of the  
"Peace, who, when no *bond fide* question  
"of title shall arise in the course of the  
"proceedings, may adjudicate thereon  
"and award to such complainant, in  
"respect of any damage on any unen-  
"closed country land, in addition to or  
"inclusive of any penalty for trespass  
"herein provided, a sum not exceeding  
"Ten pounds; and in all cases of trespass  
"committed on unenclosed town or  
"suburban land a sum not exceeding  
"Twenty pounds in respect of any dam-  
"age; or if such Justice of the Peace  
"shall find the trespass or damage so  
"complained of to have been justified,  
"or so trifling as not to merit any pun-  
"ishment, he may dismiss the com-  
"plaint:"

MR. MARMION noticed that, according to this clause, in all cases of trespass committed in a town, where the land was unenclosed, a penalty not exceeding £20 was incurred. He thought it would be a very hard thing indeed if a man simply walked his horse on a vacant piece of land within a townsite, he should be liable to such a penalty as this.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. A. C. Onslow) said no doubt the clause might be made to operate very harshly, like most other penal provisions of this kind, but surely the hon. member did not think that Magistrates would inflict a fine of £20, if a man simply walked his horse across an unenclosed piece of ground in a town or its suburbs. They must take it for granted that Magistrates, if they fined at all, would impose a fine commensurate with the nature of the offence committed. The hon. member would observe, from the latter part of the clause, that if a Magistrate considered the trespass or damage complained of to have been so trifling as not to merit any punishment, he was empowered to dismiss the complaint. The law as at present in force was the same as contemplated in this clause, with the exception that the maximum penalty for trespass on unenclosed town and suburban lands had been doubled.

MR. MARMION saw no necessity for doubling it. He thought a maximum penalty of £10 would be amply sufficient to meet any case of trespass on unenclosed town or suburban lands, and, in order to test the feeling of the Committee on

the subject, he would move that "£10" be substituted for "£20."

MR. STEERE took quite the opposite view. He would even make the penalty £20 as regards unenclosed country lands, as well as town or suburban. A sum of £10 might, in some cases, be altogether inadequate.

The amendment submitted by Mr. MARMION was negatived, on the voices, and the clause agreed to.

Clause 14—Reservation of public rights:

Agreed to, *sub silentio*.

Clause 15—Enumeration of Acts whose provisions shall not be affected by present Bills:

Agreed to.

Clause 16—Council of Municipality may publish scale of penalties less than those hereby enacted:

MR. BROWN failed to see why Municipalities should be entitled to receive fines imposed for trespass upon unenclosed country lands, outside the municipal boundary.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. A. C. Onslow) said that was evidently a blot on the Bill, and he would, at this stage, move that Progress be reported, and leave given to sit again on the 4th September:

Agreed to.

#### IMMIGRATION: REPORT OF SELECT COMMITTEE.

##### ADJOURNED DEBATE.

##### IN COMMITTEE.

MR. S. H. PARKER said he rose for the purpose of submitting certain resolutions, bearing upon the report of the Select Committee on Immigration which had already been under discussion. These resolutions were partly prepared by the hon. members for Greenough and Geraldton, in conjunction with himself; the others he alone was responsible for. They were to the following effect: This Committee, having considered the Report of the Select Committee of the Legislative Council, appointed to take into consideration the subject of Immigration, resolves as follows:—

"(1.) That the system of Nominated Immigration be continued. (2.) That the Government be requested to take such steps and make such arrangements

"as they may deem advisable so that the system may be developed and worked in the manner best suited to the requirements and circumstances of the Colony; and further, that a certain number of female immigrants, not exceeding sixty annually, be introduced to Western Australia. (3.) That the principle of giving land to immigrants introduced at the public expense is not one that this Committee can recommend. (4.) That persons introducing adult European immigrants to the Colony, after the 1st January next, at their own cost, shall receive for each such immigrant so introduced, and who shall remain in the Colony for two years, a grant in fee simple of twenty-five acres of land; which land may be selected from any Crown Lands then open for sale to the public. (5.) That every adult European immigrant who shall arrive in Western Australia after the 1st January next, and shall have paid his or her own passage to the Colony, and shall remain in Western Australia for two years, shall at the expiration of such period be entitled to a free grant of 25 acres of land in fee simple; which may be selected as provided in the previous Resolution. (6.) That from and after the 1st January next, any person may select from the Crown Lands open to selection by purchasers an area of not more than 100 acres, and shall upon proof to the satisfaction of the Commissioner of Crown Lands (a.) That he has resided upon such a block for not less than two years, (b.) That he has fenced, cultivated, and improved the said area in the same manner as required in the case of Special Occupation Lessees, be entitled to a grant of the said land in fee simple. Provided nevertheless, that if such fencing, cultivation, and improvements shall not be effected within four years from the date of the approval of the application for such block, the applicant shall forfeit all right to and interest in such land; and provided further, that no such occupier shall transfer or assign his interest in such land until he shall obtain or be entitled to a grant of the same in fee simple; and provided further, that if within 12 months after the approval of any such application the applicant shall have

"failed to perform any portion of the fencing and improvements hereby required to be done, shall absolutely forfeit all right to and interest in the said land." The hon. member said that, under all the circumstances, and after giving due consideration to the Report of the Select Committee, it did not appear to him and the two hon. members who had been associated with him in formulating the above proposals, that it would be wise or expedient to abolish the nomination system, in view of the fact that immigration, for the present at any rate, must be carried on out of current revenue, instead of loan. Consequently their first recommendation was that the nomination system should be continued, but that the Government should take some steps to develop the system to the full extent of the means at their command; also that an effort should be made to introduce every year a certain number of female immigrants, in three batches of about twenty at a time. So far it might be said that these recommendations were in accord with the suggestions put forward by the Select Committee. He, however, thought that, instead of entrusting the selection of immigrants to the parish constable, they should dispense with the officious services of that functionary, and leave it to the Government to make the best arrangements they could for the selection of suitable immigrants, and for forwarding them to the port of shipment; also that their passages in all instances should be provided for them, free of expense, to the port nearest their intended destination in this Colony. The principle of granting free grants of land to immigrants, as recommended by the Select Committee, was a principle which he and those hon. members who had been associated with him in formulating these resolutions could not recommend. The system had already been tried in the balance and found wanting, as very few immigrants ever made any use of the land, except for the purpose of traffic. For this reason the system was abolished three years ago, and he saw no good ground for its resumption. Even, if there were, he could hardly regard the recommendations of the Select Committee as liberal in any sense, limiting, as they did, the maximum

quantity of land to be given to any family, no matter how numerous, to 200 acres. Of this quantity, the husband and wife would be entitled to one half, and the rest would have to be divided between the children. According to the scale proposed for single immigrants under twenty-one years, this would only give two of the children the right of selection; the rest of them would get no land at all. He failed to see the justice of this. If an immigrant brought half a dozen olive branches into the Colony, he could not understand why each of them was not as much entitled to a grant of land as the other, seeing that the object we had in view was to increase our population. So that if this principle of granting land to immigrants introduced at the public expense was going to be reverted to—which he was opposed to—he thought it ought to be on a more liberal scale than that recommended by the Select Committee. With regard to inducing immigrants to remain in the Colony, his idea was this: if a man paid his own passage, or the person nominating him paid his passage, there ought to be some recompense made for the outlay incurred in bringing such people out here. Therefore, in these resolutions he proposed that, after the 1st January next, persons introducing adult immigrants at their own expense shall receive in respect of each such immigrant who shall remain two years in the Colony a grant in fee simple of twenty-five acres of land, to be selected from any Crown lands then open for sale to the public. He thought this proposal was defensible even on the grounds of economy. He reckoned that every adult European immigrant introduced at State expense cost the Colony £25, whereas, under the system which he recommended, the value of the land given in consideration of such immigrant being introduced by private persons at their own expense would not, at the present price of Crown lands, be more than £12 10s.; and we might rest assured that immigrants thus introduced by their friends here would be much more likely to be a suitable class of immigrants than those introduced at Government expense. In the next place, carrying out the same principle, he proposed that, after the 1st of January next, every adult immigrant who paid his own

passage to the Colony, and who remained here for a term of two years, shall, at the expiration of such period, receive a free grant of land, of twenty-five acres, to be selected as in the former case. He further proposed, with a view to check the continual exodus which had been going on for years, and which was still going on,—scarcely a vessel leaving our shores without taking away some of the most useful and desirable class of colonists, our young men and young women, our mechanics and tradesmen,—with a view to endeavor to check this exodus, he proposed that, after the 1st January next, any person in the Colony who chooses to do so, may select a block of not more than 100 acres of land, upon the same conditions as regards improvements as S.O.L. holders hold their land now, and, after residing two years on such land, any person so selecting shall receive the fee simple thereof,—provided the required improvements have been carried out, but without the right of transfer. This would be virtually giving these people the privileges of Special Occupation without any charge, as regards the rent of the land; and he thought it would operate as a desirable check upon the constant flow of emigration which for years past had been going on. He did not think we could devote our waste lands to a more legitimate object. So long as the land is lying idle, it is absolutely useless to the Colony; whereas if we could have it cultivated and induce an industrious population to settle upon it, who would become producers as well as consumers, we should be adding so much to the material wealth of the Colony, and providing an element now wanting, as regards the development of the country's resources.

#### POINT OF ORDER.

MR. MARMION rose to a Point of Order. The question before the House was that of Immigration, but he noticed that the 6th proposal submitted by the hon. member for Perth dealt with another question altogether. This paragraph related, not to Immigration, but to an important modification of the Land Regulations. Probably the hon. member would withdraw the paragraph referred to, and bring it forward again as a substantive resolution.

MR. CAREY considered this the best proposition of the whole lot, as, if carried into effect, it would tend to do what none of their immigration schemes in the past had accomplished—induce immigrants, after they came into the Colony, to remain here. True the clause did not refer to new comers alone, but applied to all persons who had resided on their grant for the space of two years, and performed certain conditions.

MR. MARMION: Order.

THE CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES: I think the hon. member for Perth is perfectly in order in moving the paragraph referred to in conjunction with the other paragraphs, as it is part and parcel of his scheme of Immigration.

MR. MARMION: It goes far beyond that question, and is in direct contravention of the existing Land Regulations. I do not raise the Point of Order in any spirit of hostility, but simply because it appears to me that the proposal is one which ought to be discussed as a substantive motion.

THE CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES pointed out that the other proposals likewise contemplated an alteration in the Land Regulations, as did also the recommendations of that Select Committee. He must rule that the hon. member was not out of order.

Debate resumed:

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Lord Gifford) said, as regards those of the recommendations which were based upon the principles embodied in the Select Committee's report, he saw nothing objectionable in them, and he might add nothing new. As to the proposal that every man brought into the Colony free of expense to the Government should, after remaining here two years, become entitled to 25 acres of land in fee simple, it appeared to him that this proposal would require some modification, to say the least of it; for the new comer might become a pauper soon after his arrival, and might spend his two years in the poor house, or, he might become an invalid, and pass his period of probation in the hospital, and, upon his release, claim his 25-acre block. He should be sorry, without further consideration, to pledge the Government to support any of these recommendations, beyond those which

were framed on the lines of the Select Committee's proposals, and therefore he would move that Progress be now reported, and leave be given for the further consideration of the subject on Wednesday, Sept. 6.

MR. STEERE said, so far as he could see, all the resolutions submitted by the hon. member for Perth did was this—they left extremely indefinite what was very well defined in the report of the Select Committee. The hon. member proposed to leave everything to the discretion of the Government, as regards the selection of immigrants, while, as to the idea of giving every immigrant introduced into the Colony a free grant of 25 acres of land, valued at £12 10s., which the hon. member advocated on the score of economy,—why, any enterprising individual who chose to introduce immigrants from the other colonies, under this scheme, would make a very good thing out of it, for the cost of their passage would not be more than £5 or £6. So that it would be necessary, at any rate, to make a corresponding reduction in the quantity of land given in respect of immigrants introduced from the Eastern colonies. For his own part, he saw no necessity whatever for giving away our land for any such purpose, as people who wished to introduce immigrants could avail themselves of the system of nomination. With regard to the other proposition put forward by the hon. member—that anybody who chose to select 100 acres of land may do so free of cost, conditionally upon their undertaking certain improvements,—that was a proposal which he certainly would oppose as much as ever he could. It would, in his opinion, simply be throwing land away, without any good result. The small rental now charged for land held under the S.O.L. regulations did not preclude a single person, who had any *bonâ fide* intention of making good use of the land, from availing himself of these regulations, while at the same time, it brought an appreciable amount of revenue to the Treasury, which the Colony could not afford to lose, and which, on the other hand, did not press heavily in any way upon those who contributed it. For these reasons he should feel bound to oppose these proposals, which, in his opinion, did not carry out the wishes of

the House nearly so well as the recommendations of the Select Committee.

MR. BURGESS was of the same opinion. As to inducing immigrants to remain in the Colony, the best way of doing so was to treat them properly when we got them here, which he was afraid was more than a great many employers of labor now did. These people came here, in many instances, friendless and utter strangers to colonial life, and they were sent into the bush, where they had no comforts nor even proper accommodation, in many cases. If these people were treated kindly, were given a little house and a nice bit of ground which they could cultivate as a garden, and their masters treated them with consideration, they would become good and faithful servants, instead of being discontented and restless, and turning their backs upon the Colony the first opportunity they got. He had had the pleasure of assisting many a friendless immigrant in years past, and these people were now amongst our most useful colonists. That was the way to keep men here. Let their employers treat them better than they are now treated, make them more comfortable, act towards them with a little more consideration and kindness, let them know that in their new home, in a strange land, they are amongst friends, and give them a chance eventually of becoming employers of labor themselves—that was the way to make our immigrants cling to the Colony, and to make them good, useful, and contented colonists.

Progress was then reported and leave given to sit again for the further consideration of the subject on Wednesday, 6th September.

#### ESTIMATES.

The House then went into Committee for the further consideration of the Estimates.

*Colonial Secretary's Department*, Item £1,109:

MR. STEERE said he noticed it was proposed to increase the salary of the Assistant Colonial Secretary from £400 to £450, and he was surprised at this, seeing that it was resolved by the House some years ago that the maximum salary attached to the office of chief clerk in this department should be £400. He



observed on his return from England that the designation of Assistant Colonial Secretary had been given to this officer instead of chief clerk, and, when he noticed it, he said to a friend that the next thing we would be sure to see would be a proposal to increase the salary attached to the office,—for he had always noticed that if any additional title was given to any officer, the House was sure to be asked next Session for an additional salary for that officer. That was a doctrine which he could not subscribe to, and he saw no necessity whatever for any increase of salary in this instance. The proposed increase would make this officer's salary higher than that of some heads of departments occupying a much more responsible position. Under these circumstances he felt bound to move that the sum be reduced from £450 to £400. It had struck him, when he noticed the proposed increase, that this extra £50 was to be given to this officer because that amount had been taken from his emoluments in connection with the Volunteer Force and given to the newly-appointed Inspector, but he was informed by the Colonial Secretary that this was not the case, and of course he accepted the noble lord's assurance to that effect, and that this increase would have been proposed without any reference to any changes in connection with this officer's military appointment. No more unpleasant task devolved upon him (Mr. Steere) in that House than to propose these reductions in the salaries of our public officers; but unfortunately it was a task that always fell on his shoulders, in the first instance. He was quite willing to admit that this officer was a very valuable and very efficient public servant indeed, and he regretted that it had fallen to his lot to oppose the proposed increase to his salary; but he felt bound to do so.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Lord Gifford) said he must oppose the motion. In the first place he had not been aware of any resolution such as that referred to by the hon. member as having been adopted by the House some years ago, with reference to the maximum salary attached to this office. The holder of it held a much more responsible position than some hon. members seemed to think; this officer was the confidential

assistant of the Colonial Secretary, his right-hand man, and during the absence of his "chief," was in confidential communication with His Excellency the Governor, and conducted the work of the department, so that, in reality, he held a more responsible position than many heads of departments did. This particular officer was a very old public servant, who had always efficiently discharged the multifarious duties connected with his position, and it would be very hard indeed if no prospect of advancement or of an increase of pay were to be held out to him. [Mr. STEERE: He might be made a Resident Magistrate.] The noble lord hoped not. At any rate it would be a great loss to the Colonial Secretary's Department, and, he ventured to say, to the public service, if his claims to an increase of pay were recognised by giving him a magisterial appointment, instead of endeavoring to retain him in his present position, with the duties of which he was so thoroughly conversant. Had the motion introduced the other day by the hon. member for Perth in favor of Responsible Government been adopted, it must be well known to every hon. member that this officer's salary would have had to be very considerably increased indeed. [Mr. PARKER: Hear, hear.] The recent changes in connection with Volunteer appointments had nothing whatever to do with this increment; it was proposed by the Government in recognition of this officer's own merits, and of his claims as an old and much-valued public servant.

Mr. MARMION would support the proposed increase on the grounds upon which the noble lord put the proposal forward—the just claims of the officer in question. As to the resolution that the maximum salary attached to the office should not exceed £400, that resolution was passed by a Council that was now defunct, and he failed to see that a resolution adopted by a Council which was no longer in existence should be binding upon the present assembly. He noticed that as long as seven years ago this officer was in receipt of the same salary as he now receives, and he thought he well deserved an increase of £50 a year.

Mr. CROWTHER was glad to see the noble lord on the Treasury bench taking time by the forelock, and making

his preparations in view of the adoption of Responsible Government. An increase of £50 might probably be an act of scant justice towards this officer, but seeing that it was not proposed to extend the same principle of justice to other public servants, he did not think they ought to make this case an exception. His Excellency the Governor, in his opening Speech, said "he should be glad to see some of the public officers—especially in the lower grades of the service—remunerated on a more liberal scale;" but he (Mr. Crowther) saw no provision made on these Estimates for increasing the salaries of the lower grades, and he could only suppose that the Governor's Speech must have been framed without regard to the Estimates, or the Estimates had been prepared without reference to the Governor's Speech.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. M. Fraser) said the hon. member for the Swan, in his effort to curtail the salary of a deserving public officer, spoke in an apologetic strain of the unpleasant duty which his position in the House cast upon him in this respect—something in the same strain, probably, as that in which Herod, of old, excused himself for slaughtering the innocents of Bethlehem, with an apology to the poor parents for the necessity which a stern fate had cast upon him, in depriving them of their little treasures. With regard to the officer whose claims were now under consideration, he had known Mr. Phillips for the last twelve years, and he had no hesitation in saying that the proposal to give him a paltry increase of £50 was doing but very meagre justice to an excellent public servant. This gentleman had on more than one occasion occupied the responsible position of Acting Colonial Secretary, and on another occasion of Acting Colonial Treasurer, and had always shown himself in every way worthy of the trust reposed in him and of the responsibility cast upon him. He thought this was a case which really came within the category of "underpaid officers," referred to by His Excellency the Governor in his opening Speech. Apart from any personal considerations, he would ask hon. members how they could expect public officers to go on toiling, year after year, in positions of trust, unless some prospect of promotion

and of increased emoluments was offered to them. He thought it was a very bad policy to underpay public servants; he would prefer to see the number reduced, and well paid, to seeing the public departments overcrowded with officers, drawing a mere pittance. As regards this particular instance, he thought his noble friend the Colonial Secretary had simply done a bare act of justice to a most deserving public officer, and he hoped the House was not going to be so ungracious as to thwart the noble lord in his desire to give to the officer in question what he was entitled to, as a slight recognition of services faithfully and efficiently rendered.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. A. C. Onslow) pointed out the difference between the position of Chief Clerk in the Colonial Secretary's Department and the position of officers holding the same position in other departments of the public service. In every other department, except that of the Colonial Secretary, when the work of the day was done, it was put aside, pigeon-holed, and perhaps lost sight of; at any rate, it was not so necessary that a man should be able to put his hand on it, at any moment, when required. In other offices, the work of the department was confined to the departmental routine; but the Colonial Secretary's office was a sort of depository for the work done in all the other departments of the service, and it was absolutely necessary that the office should be thoroughly well organised, and that questions with reference to past doings in almost every department should there be easy of access and investigation. They might get a fresh Attorney General to-morrow, and it would not matter to him what his predecessor may have said or done ten or twenty years ago; but it was all-important in the Colonial Secretary's Office that they should be able to refer to questions connected with any and every department, no matter how long ago. In fact, the Colonial Secretary was a sort of Jack-of-all-trades—if he might be pardoned for applying such a designation to the holder of such an exalted position; he was the most useful man in the public service, and it was absolutely necessary that his principal assistant should be a thoroughly good man, well up to his work, for it would take a very

long time indeed for a fresh Colonial Secretary to acquaint himself with all the multifarious duties of his office; and consequently, as he had already said, it was all-important that there should be some responsible officer in the department able to assist him. He believed, no one would gainsay that, in the present holder of the position of Assistant Secretary, they had a gentleman who was thoroughly competent to do this.

MR. CAREY said one singular argument had been adduced in favor of granting the proposed increase, namely, with a view to secure the services of the present Assistant Secretary in the event of a change in the constitution. With regard to that he would only say, "Sufficient unto the day is the"—Well, it would be time enough to grant the increase when we got Responsible Government, when he hoped it would be a much larger increase than £50. He should like to see the claims of the officers of the Post Office Department receive more consideration.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Lord Gifford) said the claims of every officer in that department had been considered, from the Postmaster General downwards, and various increases were proposed, based upon length of service and the responsibilities of office.

MR. S. H. PARKER said they all must recognise the courage displayed by the hon. member for the Swan in applying the pruning knife to these Estimates, for it certainly was a very distasteful operation, especially in the case of deserving public officers. In the present instance, it was allowed on all hands that the gentleman whose claims were under consideration was a most useful public servant, and one whom the Colonial Secretary, even under the present form of Government, could ill-spare. In view, therefore, of the still more valuable services which this officer would be able to render, when he (Mr. Parker) entered upon his ministerial duties as Premier, he appealed to the hon. member for the Swan to withdraw his motion.

MR. MARMION did not think there would be much objection to this increase if it was intended simply as a recognition of the special claims of the present holder of the office, and not as the fixed salary attached to the office itself; and

if this fact were placed on record, so that the present vote should not be regarded as a precedent hereafter, when another officer is appointed to the same position, he thought that would remove the objections which some hon. members had to the increase.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Lord Gifford) said he would have no objection whatever to that being done, and he would move a resolution to that effect before the Session closed.

MR. STEERE said that, in view of the valuable services which it was considered this officer would be able to render the future Premier, and with a view to encourage his hon. friend on the left (Mr. Parker) in his ambition to become the first Prime Minister under Responsible Government, he would consent to withdraw his motion, out of consideration for the hon. member's peace of mind.

The vote was then agreed to.

*Treasury Department, Item £1,250:*

MR. STEERE asked how it was that the salary of the book-keeper in connection with this department was proposed to be increased from £200 to £275?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Lord Gifford) said the reason was this: hon. members were aware it had been found necessary to reorganise the Treasury Department, and it was decided, by a resolution of the House, that the services of a competent book-keeper should be procured, at a salary not exceeding £350. The gentleman whose services the Government had secured had previously been employed in one of the Banks, and he was offered £200, with the promise of a substantial advance, but that his salary should never exceed £300. In view of the promise of a substantial rise, he agreed to enter the service at £200, and the present increase was simply a fulfilment of the promise made to him.

MR. STEERE believed the officer in question was a very valuable officer indeed, and he did not mean to say he was not quite worthy of the proposed increase. What he objected to was that a scheme of reorganisation should be submitted to the House, and then that the Government should, without further reference to the House, suddenly and largely increase officers' salaries, in this way.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Lord Gifford) pointed out that the House had already, by a resolution (*Vide* "Hansard," vol. v., p. 319), concurred in the views contained in a Message received from the Governor recommending the appointment of a competent book-keeper for this department, at a salary not exceeding £350. Surely the House was not, in the face of that resolution, going to oppose a vote of £275 for the salary of the officer in question.

MR. STEERE thought the noble lord had made a mistake as to the intention of the House when it passed the resolution referred to. It was then contemplated that the gentleman who would be appointed book-keeper was an officer who was already receiving a salary of £350, from various sources, and it was never intended that this should be the amount of salary attached to the office, whoever filled it.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Lord Gifford) said he was not here when the resolution was passed, nor when the discussion took place with reference to it, and he did not know to whom it had referred.

MR. MARMION thought it was very desirable it should be thoroughly understood on the part of the Government, that the House never intended that the salary attaching to the office of book-keeper should be £350, no matter who filled the office. The resolution in question, as stated by the hon. member for the Swan, had reference to a particular officer; and this should not be lost sight of in any future appointment. He hoped the Colonial Secretary would make a note of this, and that it would be duly recorded in the Book of Chronicles.

The vote was then agreed to.

*Audit Department, Item £8,245 :*

This vote was postponed.

*Survey Department, Item £14,063 :*

MR. STEERE said he noticed it was proposed to give the Deputy Surveyor General an increase of salary of £50, and he must say he was surprised at the Government proposing such an increase. He had a very vivid recollection of the Departmental Commission recommending that this office should be abolished, following up an expression of opinion made some years ago by the Surveyor

General, that the appointment was an unnecessary one. Under these circumstances, he could not imagine with what grace the Government came forward to propose this increase in the salary of that officer. He was now receiving £350 a year, and £150 forage and travelling allowances, making £500 in all, which he thought was quite sufficient for any officer holding an appointment which they had been told by the head of the department was not required. He would therefore move that the £50 be struck out.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. M. Fraser) said the hon. member's arguments were not worth a rap. The hon. member said the Departmental Commission recommended that this office should be abolished, because many years ago he (the Commissioner) had expressed an opinion that the appointment was not then necessary. But the Departmental Commission seemed to be oblivious of the fact that the work of the Survey Department had quadrupled since then, and also our land revenue. Did the hon. member think that the department was going to be worked from generation to generation on the same basis as it was started upon? He never heard of such absurdity. This officer was a man whose name was a household word throughout the whole of Australia, and he was now engaged in leading a party in a part of the Colony where the majority of hon. members allowed that he carried his life in his hands. [Mr. BROWN: Oh, no, no.] He thought this was one of the "disturbed districts" of which they heard so much,—treacherous natives, hostile savages, and all that. [Several hon. members: No, no.] This officer was actually drawing a less salary than the young assistants who accompanied him, who were paid at the rate of 30s. a day, or about £550 a year, whereas the officer in charge of the party, upon whom all the responsibility rested, only received £500. The work to be undertaken by the Survey Department next year would require the exercise of the most strenuous exertions on the part of this officer, and unless they succeeded in securing his services a great injustice would be done to the department. He believed himself that the only objection to this proposed increase arose on account of some animus

towards the officer who at present occupied the office, and that were it not for this animus there would be no opposition to this vote. ("No, no.") He really felt there were grounds for saying so.

MR. STEERE: I rise to order. Is the hon. gentleman allowed to attribute motives?

THE CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES: The hon. member is out of order in attributing motives.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. M. Fraser) said he would refrain from doing so, and if he had spoken heatedly he apologised; but he felt he was only doing a simple act of justice to a most meritorious officer.

MR. STEERE said, the hon. gentleman holding as he did a brief for the Crown had made out a very good case for his client. It was strange, if the services of this officer were so necessary in connection with the Survey Department, that he should have been away from the department altogether for a whole year, discharging the duties of Superintendent of Convicts, while at the same time the head of the department was also absent at Melbourne. As to subordinate officers of his party receiving more pay than the Deputy Surveyor, these men were only temporarily employed.

MR. MARMION would support the proposed increase. If there was one officer in the public service more than another whose claims demanded such a recognition at the hands of the House that officer was the Deputy Surveyor General. In the gentleman filling that office they had a gentleman whose name was honored all over the Colony, and far beyond the boundaries of the Colony. Seven years ago this officer was receiving the same salary as now. He would ask hon. members to bear in mind the progress which the Colony had made within that time, and the consequent increase of work in this particular department. Regard being had to the eminent services which the Deputy Surveyor General had rendered his native land, as an explorer, he thought the least that House could do was to grant him this slight recognition of those services.

MR. BURT thought the duties which members had to perform in connection

with the Estimates were the most obnoxious duties that devolved upon them, in view of the personal character which the discussions, of necessity, assumed. There could be no doubt that, if the Deputy Surveyor General was only receiving £350 and forage allowance for the work he was now engaged in at the Gascoyne, he was very much underpaid; but that was a special service, and what they had to consider was whether the ordinary duties appertaining to the office entitled the holder of it to a higher salary. They were aware that both the Surveyor General and the Deputy Surveyor General had both been away from the office, at the same time, for months together; and yet the work of the office went on. It did not come to a standstill although the top-sawyer and the second hand were away. Seriously, the question to be considered was whether the present salary attached to the office in question was not sufficient remuneration for the ordinary work devolving upon the Deputy Surveyor General. The probability was, if they increased this vote as proposed, it would always remain at the same figure hereafter, no matter who stepped into the shoes of the gentleman now holding the office.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. M. Fraser): Not necessarily. So far as the salary which ought to attach to the office is concerned, I think £350 is a very fair emolument, with forage allowance; but, so far as the present holder of the office is concerned, that is another question, bearing in mind the exceptional services which have been rendered this Colony by the officer in question. I should be sorry, however, that hon. members should think for a moment that I consider an increase of £50 an adequate recognition of those services.

MR. SHENTON said he could not do better than refer to the remarks of the Departmental Commission with reference to the office of Deputy Surveyor General. This was what the Commission reported: "We find that the Surveyor General was absent from the Colony for a period of seven months in 1879, and that during a great portion of that time the duties of the office were carried on nominally under the direction of the Colonial Secretary, but in reality under the

"management of Mr. Price (the Deputy Surveyor General being absent on duty); also, in the latter end of 1880, during the three months absence of the Surveyor General, Mr. Price performed the active duties of the head of the Department, under the supervision of the Deputy Surveyor General, who was then, and has been since May, 1880, doing the duties of the Comptroller of Convicts at Fremantle. The Surveyor General has stated to us (the members of the Commission) that he was quite satisfied with the manner in which the duties had been performed during his absence, and, looking at the fact that the Surveyor General has been absent ten months during a period of eighteen—between July, 1878, and January, 1880,—and that the Deputy Surveyor General also has been away seven months during the same interval of time, and that no extra officers were during that period employed in the office, while, at the same time, the duties were, nevertheless, carried on to the satisfaction of the Surveyor General, we are of opinion that the office of Deputy Surveyor General is not required, and recommend that it should be abolished as soon as a vacancy may occur, or an opportunity offer of otherwise providing for the officer at present filling that position." He thought there was a good deal of weight to be attached to the recommendation of the Commission. They had it on the evidence of the Surveyor General himself that the work of the office was performed satisfactorily for many months together in the absence of himself and his Deputy, and certainly it appeared that a salary of £350 and £150 forage allowance was not, under these circumstances, very inadequate pay. With regard to this £150 forage allowance, no doubt when the officer drawing it was employed on field work such an allowance was necessary; but while he was in town, doing office work, he hardly thought he could spend so much as £150 a year in forage. Under the Imperial Regulations, before an officer could draw his forage allowance, he had to make a declaration that he had kept a horse and maintained it according to the regulation scale; but no such declaration was required under our colonial regulations, and the Deputy Surveyor General drew this allowance

while residing in town, which was so much clear profit.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Lord Gifford) said the value of Mr. John Forrest's exploration services were too well known for him to dilate upon them; nor did he think the value of these services should be reckoned as a factor in considering this officer's claim to an increase of his official salary as Deputy Surveyor General. There could be no doubt that the work of this department had largely increased of late years, and if the Head of the Department was willing to carry on this increased work without at the same time increasing his staff, in a corresponding degree, he thought the House would not begrudge a slight addition to their salaries. Ever since last year the work of the Department had nearly doubled, and it was proposed to ask for an additional vote for further surveys, one of which would be under the charge of this particular officer. The hon. member for Toodyay had referred to the report of the Departmental Commission on the subject of the absence of the Surveyor General and his Deputy; the hon. member should also have read the Governor's minute on the same subject. His Excellency said: "The circumstance that the work of the Department has been sometimes satisfactorily performed during the simultaneous absence of the Surveyor and the Deputy Surveyor General is to my mind no proof that the latter office is a superfluous one. The chances are that, during the period alluded to, no field surveys of any importance were undertaken, and but little triangulation accomplished; and, of course, if this were to continue, in consequence of a permanent reduction of the staff, the interests of a colony which, above all things, requires thorough and comprehensive surveys, would in the long run materially suffer." With regard to the proposed increase to Mr. Forrest's salary, all he could say was, if it was the wish of the House that the increase should be regarded as a personal one—in the same light as the increase to the present Assistant Colonial Secretary—and that the vote is not to be regarded as attaching to the office, he should be quite prepared to accede to the wishes of hon. members in that respect.

The question was then put—That the item be reduced by £50, and the Committee divided, with the following result:

Ayes ... .. 11

Noes ... .. 8

Majority for ... .. 3

AYES.	NOES.
Mr. Brown	The Hon. A. C. Onslow
Mr. Burt	The Hon. M. Fraser
Mr. Carey	Mr. Burges
Mr. Crowther	Mr. Grant
Mr. Glyde	Mr. Hamersley
Mr. Higham	Mr. Marmion
Mr. S. H. Parker	Mr. S. S. Parker
Mr. Randell	Lord Gifford ( <i>Teller.</i> )
Mr. Shenton	
Mr. Venn	
Mr. Steere ( <i>Teller.</i> )	

The vote was accordingly reduced.

MR. BROWN said, although he had voted against the proposed increase to the salary of the Deputy Surveyor General—which salary, under ordinary circumstances, he regarded as a reasonably fair salary, while that officer was engaged in Perth or in the settled districts of the Colony; still he thought some special provision ought to be made for increasing the remuneration of surveyors when employed on special surveys, and under exceptional circumstances. He had been surprised to hear that the Deputy Surveyor General was only getting the same allowances as when in Perth while engaged on the special mission upon which he had been sent in connection with the Gascoyne surveys. He did not think that when an officer was sent to perform services of that exceptional character he was paid on a scale commensurate with the work he had to perform, if he only received his ordinary allowances and salary; and, as he understood that extensive surveys were in contemplation for next year, chiefly in the Kimberley District, and that the Deputy Surveyor General was likely to have the charge of such surveys, he did not think any hon. member would expect that officer to undertake such exceptional duties, and encounter the hardships necessarily attendant upon surveys in that district, on the same allowance as he is allowed while comfortably stationed at Perth. Certainly the addition of £50 to his salary would be a totally inadequate remuneration for such services, and, under these circumstances, he would wish that some provision should be made whereby the Government would be in a

position to make him a reasonable and fair allowance.

MR. SHENTON said he would be entirely in favor of a special field allowance being granted to surveyors when engaged on special surveys, so long as such allowance was fair and reasonable.

MR. BURT said that proposition would certainly meet with his own views. He thought the Deputy Surveyor General might fairly urge, at any time, that it was no part of his duty to undertake such surveys as those referred to by the hon. member for Geraldton. Perhaps the better course to adopt would be to report Progress, in order to enable the Government to consider the present scale of allowances, and see how far they could meet the wishes of the House in this direction.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Lord Gifford) suggested that there should be two different rates of allowances for surveyors—one applicable while they are employed in the settled districts, and the other when they are engaged on special surveys in the North District.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. M. Fraser) thought the noble lord's idea was a very good one. A field allowance of ten shillings per diem might be allowed when the surveyors are engaged in the Southern part of the Colony, and twenty shillings per diem when they are employed within the tropics. This might be provided for out of the vote for Special Surveys; at the same time he thought it would be better that a resolution to that effect should be adopted by the House, so that there may be no misunderstanding hereafter.

MR. SHENTON suggested that while the Deputy Surveyor General is employed on surveys South of the Northern boundary of the Victoria District, he should not be allowed anything beyond his ordinary forage allowance, but that when he is employed North of that boundary he should then be entitled to a special field allowance.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. M. Fraser) said, probably there would be two officers employed next year in charge of special survey parties in the North District, and of course both would have to be placed on the same footing.

MR. CAREY directed attention to the claims of the officers who had been provisionally employed, for many years past, to being placed on the permanent staff.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Lord Gifford) moved, That Progress be reported, and leave given to sit again on September 4th.

Agreed to.

#### MUNICIPALITIES ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

MR. SHENTON, in accordance with notice, moved the second reading of a Bill to further amend "The Municipal Institutions Act, 1876." The hon. member said the principal reason for introducing the Bill was in order to remove a difficulty as to placing the monies accruing as a sinking fund in connection with municipal loans at fixed deposit in the local banks. The present Act required the sinking fund to be invested in the purchase of consols or in Government stock, but it had been considered desirable that power should be given to place the money at fixed deposit in any of the banks of the Colony. This was the main object of the Bill; but, as they were about to amend the Act, it was considered desirable that other amendments should also be introduced at the same time. At present, municipal councillors were not required to possess any property qualification at all, but the Bill now before the House proposed that every councillor shall be liable to be rated in respect of property of the rateable value of £20. This was a very low qualification, and would hardly exclude any person from holding office. If the general rate should be 5 per cent., every person who paid £1 a year in rates would be eligible to sit as a councillor. The 3rd clause of the Bill provided that any person elected as chairman, councillor, or auditor must make and subscribe the declaration prescribed by the Act, within two months of his election, otherwise he shall forfeit his seat,—a very reasonable provision. The next clause provided certain penalties for acting as councillor while incapacitated from doing so. The 5th section enacted that, in the event of the chairman of a municipality refusing or delaying to call a meeting of the council after receiving a requisition for that purpose, signed by one-third of the

councillors, the councillors may themselves summon a meeting, by giving twenty-four hours' notice, stating therein the business proposed to be transacted. The next clause provided a penalty in the event of a councillor voting or taking part in a discussion relating to any matter in which he may have a pecuniary interest. Another section enacted that moneys amounting to £20 and upwards belonging to any municipality shall be lodged in the bank within seventy-two hours—or such shorter period as the council may direct—after coming into the treasurer's hands; and that no money shall be drawn out of the bank by the treasurer, except by a warrant signed by the chairman and countersigned by the municipal clerk. The 10th clause provided that every person elected into any corporate office under the Municipalities Act may at any time resign his office, and such resignation shall be held to be complete from the date of its being received by the municipal clerk. This clause was introduced because at present there appeared to be some doubt as to whom the resignation should be sent. These were the main provisions of the Bill, and he did not think there was anything in it to which hon. members were likely to take exception. He therefore now moved that it be read a second time.

MR. RANDELL said he would support the motion, but he thought an amendment would be necessary in the 7th clause, in order to provide that the chairman of a municipality shall not also occupy the position of treasurer.

The motion for the second reading was then agreed to.

#### IMPORTED LABOR REGISTRY BILL.

Read a third time and passed.

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