

Governor found fault with the tone of the resolutions of 1842, and rather favored those now brought forward. The Commandant was sorry to see these resolutions opposed, as they would have given the Governor an opportunity of explaining to the Secretary of State the peculiar circumstances of the colony, which rendered the Imperial Act inoperative. The motion was then put and lost, and the remaining resolutions were withdrawn. A conversation ensued, in which the Governor expressed his regret at their fate, as he was prepared, to a certain extent to concur in them, and to found upon them a statement of the case of the colony, for the consideration of the Secretary of State. Mr. Leake then gave notice that he should, at the next meeting, move that the Home Government be requested to nominate two non-official members of the Council, in consequence of the preponderance of official votes. Mr. Singleton, having obtained a suspension of the Standing Orders, at once brought forward a resolution, called for by the sudden agitation of the Convict question, deprecating, in the strongest possible terms, the proposal for converting Western Australia into a penal colony. Each of the members individually warmly expressed his extreme abhorrence of the proposal, and the resolution was most unanimously carried, and ordered to be entered upon the minutes. The Governor then introduced two bills, providing for the trial of offenders at Albany, and other remote districts, and the Council adjourned.

July 31. — The Colonial Secretary withdrew his motion for a road fund, and postponed that for a labor fund, (notice of which was given on the 10th). Mr. Leake then brought forward his motion for the addition of two members to the Council, and adduced the precise arguments made use of in the leading article of the SWAN RIVER NEWS of April, 1845, particularly alluding to the appointment of Mr. Mackie, an official, on the vacancy for a non-official member. The Governor doubted whether the Council could entertain a motion questioning the propriety of its own constitution, and denied that Mr. Mackie was an official member, every judge in the British Empire being independent of Crown influence. Mr. Leake, however, persisted in his motion, and it was lost. The Governor then moved the appointment of a committee to take into consideration the most effectual means of raising a tax, to supply the place of the failing road fund, for the repair of the roads, to be paid by the parties through whose lands such roads passed. This was agreed to and the Advocate-General and Messrs. Leake and Singleton chosen by ballot. The council then went into

committee upon the Perth Gaol Bill, which was brought up for its third reading. Mr. Singleton opposed the bill on the same grounds as before, urging the propriety of applying the loan to the enlargement of Fremantle Jetty, which might be carried out into 15 feet water, and made to form a good breakwater for £1000. The formation of a good road from Fremantle to Perth, he conceived, would be a better project than that of a gaol though not so desirable as a jetty, to the extension of which he moved that the loan be applied—an amendment which Mr. Mackie seconded. The Colonial Secretary reminded Mr. Singleton that the ground over which he proposed to extend the jetty, belonged to the Whaling Company, who would require £1000 as compensation; he would like the question referred to a committee. The Surveyor-General opposed the amendment, as being at variance with the purpose for which it was proposed to incur a loan. He ridiculed the idea of an efficient jetty being built with so small a sum. The Advocate-General fully agreed with the last speaker, and Mr. Singleton having replied, his amendment was lost. Mr. Singleton then moved a fresh amendment, for the adjournment of the bill, with a view to forming a committee of enquiry into the practicability of improving the anchorage. The Colonial Secretary seconded, and the Surveyor-General, Advocate-General, and Commandant opposed it, as departing from the original purpose for which a loan was agreed to, and it was lost, the votes being equal. Mr. Leake then moved an amendment, that if a sufficient sum could not be raised for the purpose first contemplated a smaller loan should be raised and employed by the council either in a gaol, jetty, or road. This amendment, after a little opposition from the Surveyor-General, was carried, and the bill passed a second reading.

August 7. — The Governor introduced a Bill providing for the conveyance of mails, and compelling masters of vessels to receive them. The Colonial Secretary brought up the draft of a Banking Bill proposed in Committee; but on the Advocate General's suggestion, it was withdrawn until the report of the Committee had been laid on the table, as being a more regular course. The Perth Gaol Bill was then read a third time and passed, and the two Bills providing for criminal trials at remote districts went through Committee, and were read a second time.

August 18. — The report of the Banking Committee was brought up and read. It stated that there was a necessity for the alteration of the existing Acts, and suggested several alterations, the most important of which were: that the Colonial Banks publish a quarterly return of their assets and liabilities,

and register their charter and deed of settlement in the Colonial Secretary's Office; that no advances shall be made by any banking company upon its own shares; that, in all such companies, at least one-fourth of the Directors go out annually by rotation, and be not eligible for re-election, but by express permission of the Governor, for one year; and that judgment against such companies be issued against their property, before it is levied upon any individual partner. Mr. Mackie then brought up a Bill, framed upon these suggestions, and Mr. Leake moved the reception of both. The Advocate General, although concurring in the Bill, as far as the abstract explained it, thought it of so much importance that the entire Bill should be printed, and every consideration given to it in full; and, in this view, he was supported by the Surveyor General, who regretted that there was no provision for the case of local branches of foreign banks, in regard to which, the colonists were left without remedy or protection. The report was then received, and the Bill ordered to be printed, and the two Bills for establishing Courts of Justice in remote districts, having been passed, the Council adjourned.

Aug. 21.—The Advocate General brought up the report of the Road Committee, appointed on the 31st July. It stated that, the projected main lines passing through unassigned Crown Lands, the proposed assessed rate would not be practicable, but that they should be paid for out of the general revenue of the colony, and kept in repair by the levy of tolls, while branch roads passing through allocated lands, could be made in the way suggested: that the present main roads not having been properly arranged in the first instance, ought to be thoroughly surveyed: that the Great York-road most urgently required repair, and the expenditure upon it of about £200: and that this sum could be raised on loan guaranteed by the Governor, and repayable out of the tolls. The report concluded with a suggestion that the present state of the finances rendered it inadvisable to interfere with the other roads at present. The Surveyor General and Colonial Secretary objected to the report, as recommending an expenditure on the York-road, which had not been surveyed as suggested in the first portion; but the Advocate General explained that the repairs in question were too urgently required to admit of the previous survey, and the report was received. The business of the sitting then concluded with the Conveyance of Mails being read a first time.

[We have now reported the heaviest part of the session: we have two or three short sittings to record, which we shall give next month, when we have no doubt the next

arrival will also enable us to conclude our report of the Council's proceedings for the session of 1845.]

LATE & IMPORTANT FROM WESTERN AUSTRALIA!—PERTH, 1st JANUARY!

FROM OUR PRIVATE INFORMATION.

SINCE the foregoing was in type, a dispatch has been received from Western Australia, conveyed to Ceylon by the colonial vessel *Vixen*, and thence to England, by the Overland Mail. The news is of considerable interest although necessarily concise. The *Unicorn* which had arrived on the 28th of October, was loading for London, and was expected to sail, about the 11th of January, with 80 or 90 tuns of oil, 950 bags of wool, and 4 specimen logs of timber. The *Merope*, which had been repaired, was loading at Leschenault, and would bring about 250 loads of the contract timber, and another vessel, (supposed to be the *River Chief*), was taking in timber at Augusta. In winding up the affairs of the Australasian Branch Bank, about £10,000 was drawn from the colony for remittance home. Considerable complaints were made of the differential duties of 6d. per gallon on Cape wines, and 1s. 6d. on wines imported from England. The Session of the Legislative Council had closed. Next month we shall be enabled, by the arrival of the Mails of the *Emma Sherratt*, (which arrived at Mauritius early in December), or the *Unicorn*, to give fuller information upon all these heads; in the meantime we cannot conclude without calling the attention of our readers to the very short time in which these outlines of intelligence have been conveyed—only 85 days.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

Arrival at Fremantle.—*Unicorn*, Mullens, 28 Oct., from London.

Paul Jones, Bathe, for Swan River, sailed from Adelaide, 14 Aug.—*Emma Sherratt*, for Swan River, sailed from Mauritius, 22 Dec.—*Vixen*, Back, from Swan River, arrived at Colombo, 8 Feb.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

A SUBSCRIBER.—We are glad that our correspondent has furnished an address by which we can communicate with him privately as our reply could hardly be compressed into the short notice which our limited space requires. We do not publish his letter because we think its purpose can at present be better worked out by private co-operation than by its publication. We will write to our valuable friend next month.

C. B.—The "Journal of an Expedition to the Darling Range," now in process of publication, is written by ROBERT DALE, Esq., late of the 62nd regiment.

A CONSTANT READER.—We must postpone the subject till a more favorable opportunity presents itself. The "Index to the Laws of Western Australia" will no doubt be commenced next month.

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