

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Thursday, 2nd December, 1852.

Our readers will agree with us, we are sure, in thinking that, in these stirring times, we are not justified in locking up our columns by the publication of long detailed reports of the debates in the Legislative Council. Were that body in reality what it pretends to be, a legislative assembly of the representatives of the people, it would be entitled to the privilege usually accorded to such bodies, of being reported in full. While it continues as it now is, a ridiculous mockery of representation, it has no right to expect any such compliment, and we therefore limit our reports of the proceedings to a carefully prepared summary of what is done, accompanied occasionally by the remarks of the most able and influential members.

The SPEAKER took the chair at ten minutes past three o'clock. Present—The Attorney-General, the Solicitor-General, the Auditor-General, and the Chairman of General Sessions; Messrs Wilkinson, Westgarth, Rutledge, Strachan, Miller, Johnston, Campbell, Fawcner, Smith, and Murphy.

Mr RUTLEDGE gave notice that on Tuesday next he should move that the House resolve itself into a committee of the whole, for the purpose of taking into consideration the propriety of increasing the amount appropriated to public worship, by schedule B of the 13th and 14th of Victoria, cap 59. (The Church act.)

Upon the motion of the ATTORNEY-GENERAL, the House went into Committee upon the Horse and Cattle Stealing Prevention Bill, and the clause which enacted that the owner of a stolen horse, on having it returned to him, should be compelled to prosecute the thief, was struck out. A division took place upon the clause, and the only members who supported it were the Attorney-General and the Solicitor-General.

A clause was also introduced rendering Auctioneers liable for any stolen stock they might dispose of. The Chairman having reported progress the report of the Committee was ordered to be printed and taken into further consideration on Wednesday next.

The following messages were received from His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor:—Message No 42, containing a scale of the salaries voted for the various Government officers for 1853, under ordinary circumstances, and the additions it had been found necessary to make on account of the present state of prices in the Colony. Message No 43, containing a copy of a despatch from the Secretary of State upon the subject of emigration. The message was divided into three heads. The first being with reference to the possibility of preventing government emigrants going to the gold fields before a certain time; the second with reference to affording assistance to semi-European emigrants from India; and the third with regard to the working of the Land Emigration Deposit scheme.

Upon the motion of the AUDITOR-GENERAL the message No 42 was ordered to be printed and taken into consideration on Tuesday next, and also upon the motion of the same hon member, the message No 43 with its enclosures, was ordered to be printed.

Upon the motion of the ATTORNEY-GENERAL the farther consideration in committee of the Births, Deaths, and Marriages Bill was postponed until to-morrow (this day).

Upon the motion of the ATTORNEY-GENERAL the Steam Navigation Laws Amendment Bill was read a second time and directed to be made an order of the day for next Tuesday week.

The House then adjourned.

Friday, 3rd December.

ORDERS OF THE DAY.

1. Fitzroy Ward Streets Bill—Second reading.
2. Additional Estimates for 1851—Consideration of Lieutenant-Governor's Message, No 41.
3. Police Force Regulation Bill—Adoption of Report.
4. Scab and Catarrh in Sheep Prevention Bill—To be further considered in Committee.
5. Births Deaths and Marriages Registration Bill—To be further considered in Committee.