

species of retaliation to which, by a strange inconsistency, the Prince was afterwards as sensitive as if he had been the most decorous and devoted husband in the world.

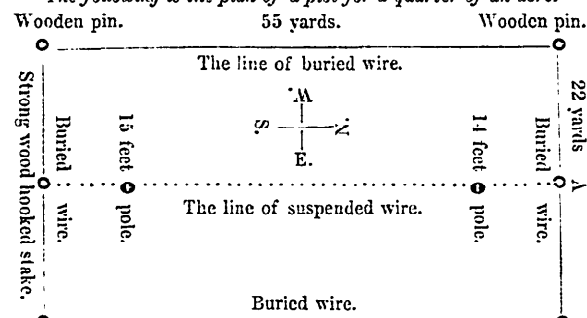
Here we close this most curious and painful episode—which, as we could not omit to notice it, we have stated not more fully than the case required, and, we trust, with candour, decency, and truth.

ELECTRICITY APPLIED TO AGRICULTURE.

We give below a statement read at a meeting of the Geological and Polytechnic Society of the West Riding of Yorkshire, held at Halifax, on the 13th of March. As the paper shows the results of an experiment actually made, confirmatory of the theory of the action of the electric fluid always present in the atmosphere, on the growth of plants brought under its direct influence, we have no doubt that it will be read with attention and satisfaction. As the *modus operandi* is at once simple and inexpensive, we trust that some of our readers will take an early opportunity of making practical application of the information thus afforded, as also, that actuated by a highly commendable public spirit, and a desire for the diffusion of important information—they will communicate the results to their fellow-colonists through the press.

Doctor Forster, of Findrassie House, near Elgin, had thrashed, weighed, and measured his electro cultured chevalier barley, and the product was the enormous quantity of 104 bushels, or THIRTEEN QUARTERS per acre! The tail corn was not measured, and each bushel weighed 54½ lbs. The weight of the straw was 9,300 lbs. per acre. The cost of the electric apparatus is £1 per acre, which will last for twenty years.

The following is the plan of a plot for a quarter-of-an-acre.



	55 yards.	22 yards.	Cost.
Glbs. of iron wire at 4d. per lb., for buried wire	2	0	
4lbs of do. at 3d. per lb., for suspended wire	1	0	
2 poles dry wood at 6d. each	1	0	
Labour, &c.	1	0	
			5 0

As the area increases, the cost diminishes rapidly. Convenient and desirable areas are for—

Two acres, 127 by 75 yards	½ of an acre, 73½ by 33 yards
One do. 80 by 55	¼ of do. 55 by 22
¾ do. 82½ by 44	⅛ of do. 36 by 16½

The mode in which the plot is laid out is as follows:—With a mariner's compass and measured lengths of common string, lay out the places for the wooden pegs, to which the buried wire is attached, by passing through a small staple. Care must be taken to lay the length of the buried wire due north and south by compass, and the breadth due east and west. This wire must be placed from two to three inches deep in the soil. The lines of the buried wire are then completed. The suspended wire must be attached, and in contact with, the buried wires at both of its ends. A wooden pin with a staple must, therefore be driven in at A, and the two poles (one 14 feet and the other 15 feet) being placed by the compass due north and south, the wire is passed over them and fastened to the wooden stake, but touching likewise at this point the buried wire. The suspended wire must not be drawn too tight, otherwise the wind will break it. The Rev. W. Thorpe remarked that the application of the electricity of the atmosphere upon a large scale for the purpose of agriculture, is a discovery which, if successful (and there is every theoretical reason that it should be so,) will exercise a most important influence upon its interests. Dr. Forster here has obtained more than three times the average amount of both barley and straw (4 to 5 quarters being the average, while he has 13 quarters; and about 3000 lbs. of straw, while he has 9300 lbs.) The condition of the air in regard to electricity has evidently a most striking influence on the rapidity of the growth of plants, most of which increase in the most extraordinary manner during thundery weather. Nitric acid, a most important element in the root of plants, is formed in the atmosphere during thunder storms; and at these periods free electricity, in considerable quantity, can be drawn from the air by flying kites with wire strings. There is also a general electric current over the earth's surface from east to west, and both the terrestrial and aerial currents are here collected by the suspended and buried wires, and is again abstracted by the moist earth and the roots, which, when wet, become conductors of electricity. The application of electricity to field culture is quite in its infancy, and probably many improvements will be discovered; whether one or more suspended wires should be added, or galvanic troughs placed in the field to supply additional electric fluid, are yet subjects to be determined. It is unnecessary to add, that the electric fluid acts as a stimulant, and therefore the usual quantity of manures must be applied. Under the direction of Mr. Gordon, the president of the Triang Agricultural Association, many of its members are trying the experiment. Mr. Mechi, at Tip-tree Hall, is trying fifty acres: Mr. Briggs, at Overton, near Wakefield; Capt. Newton, of Womersley Grove, are likewise about to try it upon their barley crops. One word with regard to Mr. Briggs's remedy for "clover sickness." He (Mr. T.) had long since proved that clover is killed by the frost, and that no manuring will ensure its continuance on "puffy soils," and these late frosts are now affording a melancholy proof of the truth of this assertion.

A DISCOVERY.—A young American, who is travelling in Europe, gravely announces, in a letter, that Professor Van Grusselbach, of Stockholm, has brought to a state of perfection the art of producing a torpor in the system by the application of cold, of degrees of intensity proceeding from less to greater, so as to cause the human body to become perfectly torpid, in which state it may remain for 100 or 1000 years, and then be awakened to a new existence.—*Medical Times.*

FIVE FACTS.—A firm faith is the best divinity, a good life the best philosophy, a clear conscience the best law, honesty the best policy, and temperance the best physic.

A DIALOGUE BETWEEN A FRENCHMAN AND A CHINAMAN.

FRENCHMAN.—Pray, Mr. Chinaman, why do you permit John Bull to send his goods to you at the low *ad valorem* duty of five per cent, when he saddles your teas with 100 per cent?

CHINAMAN.—Because we think it our interest.

FRENCH.—There is no reciprocity in this.

CHINA.—It answers our purpose, and if John Bull is a fool it is no reason why Chinamen should be so too.

FRENCH.—These strange notions of yours puzzle me.

CHINA.—There is no puzzle in it; it is quite clear, if we saddle John Bull's goods with 100 per cent. duty, they would cost us twice as much as they now do—would not that be punishing ourselves?

FRENCH.—I must admit that.

CHINA.—We have the advantage of not only buying cheaper, but are benefited in other respects too; for if, at the low duty, we are able to buy twice as much of his wares as we would at the high duty, he must take twice as much of our teas to pay for them; and twice the demand raises their value, which is so much the better for us, as it takes less of our property to satisfy his claims.

FRENCH.—But then, there is protection to your manufactures; you lose sight of that.

CHINA.—No; we consider it very bad policy to force the labour of the people to make articles that we can buy cheaper elsewhere, and which would be better directed to make articles that we can furnish cheapest to you in exchange for those that you can furnish cheapest to us.

FRENCH.—But suppose other nations will not exchange with you?

CHINA.—It punishes all parties, as it compels us to make articles at home at a higher cost than our neighbours could furnish them at; but this is not our fault.

FRENCH.—It just occurs to me that John Bull may demand your gold for his goods, in place of your teas.

CHINA.—Well, suppose he does, we get double the quantity of goods under the low duties that we would under the high.

FRENCH.—But parting with your gold will ruin you.

CHINA.—I want to part with it for something that is useful to me, for I can neither eat it, drink it, nor will it clothe me.

FRENCH.—John Bull is very knowing, and is sadly afraid of parting with his gold; he says it distresses him.

CHINA.—Pray, ask John Bull how he gets possession of his gold, as he produces none at home; does he not get it from other countries in exchange for manufactures, produced by the capital and industry of his people, and does that distress him? and he is constantly bringing it home, and sending out with advantage to himself.

FRENCH.—That is true, but will not the high duties imposed on your teas by John Bull very much abridge their consumption, and the comforts of his people?

CHINA.—No doubt it will and injure his revenue too; but we cannot prevent that, nor can we make fools wise men.

FRENCH.—Raise your duties, and coerce John Bull to lower his.

CHINA.—John Bull is too obstinate to do that, and we will not punish ourselves in order that we may vex him.

FRENCH.—There is still a feeling in my mind that this is a one-sided business.

CHINA.—It is a one-sided business, but the balance of gain is in our favour.

FRENCH.—Then, as you say the balance is in your favour, how does John Bull pay you?

CHINA.—The balance of account is a very different thing from the balance of advantage. In money matters, nations never do a one-sided business. Fiscal regulations may stop business altogether, but the exchange of equivalents must be equal, directly or indirectly; they do not make each other a present of their property.

FRENCH.—Then, if I understand you, you think that nations deal with each other as individuals do, in exchanging their wares; each gets from the other what is more valuable than that which he parts with, and by that means they both get rich?

CHINA.—Certainly; and the more extensive their trade the richer they will get.

FRENCH.—Then you consider it a fallacy that a balance of trade can exist between nations trading with each other?

CHINA.—There may be a debt due from one to the other for a time, as between merchants; but no permanent balance can exist, unless in such a case as John Bull lending Jonathan money, which he refuses to pay; this is the only one-sided business that can exist.

FRENCH.—I see you Chinamen are shrewd fellows. Do you let your Emperor lay a duty on rice at the suggestion of the producers?

CHINA.—Our celestial Emperor knows better; he will not let the many starve for the benefit of the few; he gives a bounty on rice coming into the country to feed his loyal people.

FRENCH.—But John Bull has an eye to the cash; he wants revenue.

CHINA.—Experience, by this time, ought to have taught him better; large consumption of imports; at low duties, produces the greatest revenue, as well as increases the comforts of the people.

FRENCH.—You have opened my eyes; it is but too clear that we Europeans deserve the name you give us, 'barbarian merchants.' We must profit by your wisdom, and become wise.

Punch.

Mr. PUNCH was present at Mr. Little's Committee meeting, at the Saracen's Head, on the 15th instant, and gave a report which was faithful in substance, though much too favorable in detail. That the *Australian* was there, but did not see him, may be confidently received as fact, inasmuch as the regularity of that journal's attendance at all kinds of meetings where "refreshments" may be expected to be provided, is notorious; as also the ample justice which such "refreshments" usually receive at his hands. Therefore, with Mr. Little's well-supplied table before him, the wonder would have been if his attention could have been so far diverted therefrom as to notice Mr. Punch, or anybody else.

As to the facetious commentary, that Mr. Punch's report was *all my eye and Betty Martin*, the said accurate reporter would caution the *Australian* to take care, lest, in these very brilliant sallies, he burn his fingers, by causing a "stringent examination" into his proceedings at *head Quarters at Camden Town!* In which case, his editorial vocation would then indeed be "all my eye and Betty Martin."

Punch would also suggest the propriety of a change in the denomination of the *Australian's narrow sheet*. With Mrs. Caudle to write leading articles, and Mrs. Parley to write lectures, he thinks the appropriate title would be "The Australian Nursery Journal, and Old Ladies' Tea-Table Remembrancer."

The Drama.

Sheridan's opera—*The Duenna*, was produced on Monday evening, but not very successfully. The company were not "up" in their respective parts, and Mrs. Carandini, we are sorry to say, was labouring under severe indisposition. Mrs. Gibbs, as the *Duenna*, played very well, but her appearance was excessively grotesque—anything, and everything but what it ought to be. However, as we have said, her acting was excellent. Mr. F. Howson's *Isaac* was a particularly lame impersonation. He was not Sheridan's *Isaac Mendoza*, in look, word or deed. Mr. J. Howson was a tolerable *Don Antonio*, but still with the old fault, want of animation. *Carlos* had an agreeable representative in Mrs. Ximenes, although her singing was very mediocre. That beautiful song, "Had I a heart," &c., had but little of its characteristic fervor and pathos, without which it becomes flat and meaningless; nothing short of most impassioned feeling and tenderness of expression, will serve as a passport to this exquisite air. Mr. Grove might have made *Don Jerome* much more effective by singing the whole of "If a daughter you have." If he can sing a part of it, he could sing the whole. This opera was repeated on Thursday, with considerable improvement, with *Linda*; in which Mrs. Stirling and Mr. F. Howson appear to great advantage.

The new tragedy *The Queen's Love* will be performed on Monday. In the preparations for this new piece we believe the management have spared neither time, trouble, nor expense.

Music and Musicians.

Leichhardt's Grave; an Elegiac Ode. Poet, ROBERT LYND, ESQ. Composer, J. Nathan, Esq. Sydney: Baker. 1845.

We take some blame to ourselves for not having noticed this very classical production—as regards both the poetry and the music—long ere this. When Mr. Lynd's very elegant and touching lines first made their appearance, they deservedly attracted very general admiration, and the lovers of genius may look upon it as a singular piece of good fortune, that the setting of them to music fell into the hands of so distinguished a composer as Nathan. Both the poet and the musician were, we believe, intimate friends of Leichhardt, and to this circumstance are we, in all probability, indebted in some measure for the great ability which they have both evinced. Their heart was in their work, and hence arose the excellence of their performances. Of the music, it is scarcely necessary that we should say anything, seeing that its reputation is already established. It is undoubtedly the finest piece of composition ever produced in the colony, and we believe that Mr. Nathan himself values it higher than anything that he has done since the Hebrew melodies. In a scientific arrangement and adaptation to its subject, it equally excels and yet its simplicity is so great, that a very moderate share of musical knowledge is adequate to its performance. In these days of difficult and impossible music, we look upon this as a high recommendation, and we feel no difficulty in saying, that this ode is destined to enjoy an extensive and lasting reputation in the music and literature of the country. As many fair readers may not have seen Mr. Lynd's lines, we copy them below:—

BY B. LYND, ESQ.

Ye who prepare with pilgrim feet
Your long and doubtful path to wend,
If—whitening on the waste—ye meet
The relics of my murder'd friend—
His bones with reverence ye shall bear
To where some mountain streamlet flows;
There, by its mossy bank, prepare
The pillow of his long repose.

It shall be by a stream, whose tides
Are drunk by birds of ev'ry wing;
Where ev'ry lovelier flower abides
The earliest wak'ning touch of spring!
O meet that he—(who so carest
All-beauteous Nature's varied charms)—
That he—her martyr'd son—should rest
Within his mother's fondest arms?

When ye have made his narrow bed,
And laid the good man's ashes there,
Ye shall kneel down around the dead,
And wait upon your God in prayer.
What though no reverend man be near;
No anthem pour its solemn breath;
No holy walls invest his bier
With all the hallow'd pomp of death!

Yet humble minds shall find the grace,
Devoutly bow'd upon the sod,
To call that blessing round the place
Which consecrates the soil to God.
And ye the wilderness shall tell
How, faithful to the hopes of men,
The Mighty Power, he served so well,
Shall breathe upon the bones again!

When ye your gracious task have done,
Heap not the rock above his dust!
The angel of the Lord alone
Shall guard the ashes of the just!
But ye shall heed, with pious care,
The memory of that spot to keep;
And note the marks that guide me where
My virtuous friend is laid to sleep!

For oh, bethink, in other times,
(And be those happier times at hand,)
When science, like the smile of God,
Comes bright'ning o'er that weary land;
How will her pilgrims hail the power,
Beneath the drooping myall's gloom,
To sit at eve, and mourn an hour,
And pluck a leaf on Liechhardt's tomb!

Sydney Barracks, July 2nd, 1845.

Lady O'Connell's Waltz. Composed by T. STUBBS. Jervis. Sydney, 1845.

In the dry, prosaic, and utilitarian business of auctioneering, Mr. Stubbs has not altogether forsaken or forgotten the graceful and the ornamental. The composition which he has favoured the public with, is one that speaks very highly of his musical ability; and though, as he tells us, the piece was harmonized by Nathan, yet great credit is due to him notwithstanding. We may mention, in paying Mr. Stubbs this compliment, that he is a native of the colony.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 1845.

The Speaker having taken the chair, Mr. ALLEN presented a petition from Alderman Macdermott, setting forth that a prosecution for breach of privilege had been carried on against him, in consequence of a resolution passed by that House, and that by means of such prosecution he had been subjected to a very considerable degree of expense; and praying that the House would take such steps as were necessary to remunerate him for these expenses. Read and received.

SLAUGHTERING OF CATTLE.

Mr. MURRAY, as Chairman of the Committee appointed to consider the operation of the Slaughtering Act, brought up the report of that Committee, and moved that it might be printed, ordered.

CONVICTS' WIVES AND FAMILIES.

Dr. LANG now moved, pursuant to notice, "That an Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor, praying that His Excellency will be pleased to order to be laid upon the table of this House, a nominal list of such convicts, emancipated convicts, and holders of tickets of leave, as have solicited His Excellency at any time during the last seven years, to recommend to the Secretary of State to send out to them their wives and families at the national expense; specifying the numbers, the sexes, the ages, and the places of abode of the members of such families respectively, and the cases in which such applications have been acceded to by the local government, and acted upon by the Secretary of State; with such additional information as it may be practicable to procure, in regard to the number of convicts and emancipated convicts throughout the colony who have wives and families in the United Kingdom."

The COLONIAL SECRETARY was unable wholly to support the present motion. During the continuance of the transportation system there were regulations in force under which the wives and families of the class of persons alluded to were sent to the colony free of expense, the Home Government having an opportunity of doing so by the ships which from time to time came out with female convicts. Since the abolition of transportation, however, there had been no means of extending this indulgence to such of the before mentioned class as still remained in the colony, for the Home Government could not have continued to send out the wives and families of such persons without hiring vessels for the purpose. The motion, as at present worded, would require a return of the parties by name, which would be unusually voluminous: and he would suggest to the honorable and reverend mover the propriety of so altering his proposition as to permit of a numerical return being prepared; also the propriety of striking out that portion of the motion which had reference to those who had become free, and over whom the Government had now no more control; and also of abandoning the proposition of obtaining a return of the wives and families in England belonging to the convicts of this colony. An accurate return of the latter description could not be procured at all, and such a return as they would be able to get could only be obtained by asking every convict in the country whether he had a wife and family in England.

Dr. NICHOLSON would call the attention of the Colonial Secretary to a matter which had some connexion with this subject, namely, the practice when a prisoner of the Crown was discharged from Hyde Park Barracks, with a view to his going up with a ticket of leave into the interior, of sending him forth without either money or rations, and with nothing but his Government clothing. This course of proceeding he apprehended had operated as a great inducement to crime: for the newly discharged prisoner could scarcely, under such circumstances, avoid resorting to theft as a means of relief.

Dr. LANG having replied, the motion altered as suggested by the Colonial Secretary, was carried.

COURT OF VICE ADMIRALTY.

Mr. COWPER, in accordance with previous notice, moved "That an Address be presented to his Excellency the Governor, requesting that he will be pleased to cause to be laid upon the table of this House, a Return of all fees received by the Judge and other Officers of the Court of Vice Admiralty respectively, since the 1st January, 1840, under the Act of Parliament, 2 Wil. IV., c. 51."

Carried.

CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOLS.

Mr. COWPER moved, "That an Address be presented to his Excellency the Governor, requesting that he will be pleased to cause to be laid upon the table of this House, a copy of any correspondence which has taken place between the Colonial Government and the Bishop of Australia, since the 1st January last, respecting the appropriation of the sums voted for the Schools in connexion with the Church of England." Carried.

TARIFF BILL.

The House resolved itself into Committee for the further consideration of the Tariff Bill; and Mr. Daniel Egan, Mr. Robert Cassells, Mr. Peter McSweeney and Mr. John Johnson, were severally examined at the Bar of the House; after which, the House was counted out.

TUESDAY, 23.

The Speaker having taken the chair:

COAL.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY laid upon the table the return to an address moved by the honorable and learned member for Sydney, comprising copies of correspondence, &c., relative to the monopoly of coal, said to have been granted to the Australian Agricultural Company. These documents, he said, were those which had been referred to in the Message from his Excellency the Governor, which had been received by the Council a short time since.

Ordered to be printed.

The following petitions were presented:

By Mr. ROBINSON from the Town Clerk of Melbourne, complaining that he had been subjected to great loss and inconvenience, in consequence of having had to perform the duty of preparing the Electoral Lists, and praying that the Council would adopt measures to remunerate him for this service, in the same manner as he had been remunerated for a similar service in the year 1844.

By Mr. MURRAY, from a number of magistrates and others, resident in the neighbourhood of Queanbeyan, setting forth that they had heard with alarm of a contemplated tax upon tea and sugar, which they conceived to be articles of indispensable necessity to all classes of persons throughout the colony, more especially the labouring classes of the remote interior, and praying, therefore, that the Council would most strenuously oppose any such proceeding.

Both petitions read and received.

MR. HENRY MACDERMOTT.

Mr. ALLEN moved that the petition of the above gentleman, presented on the 19th instant, be printed. Ordered.

The following addresses were moved:—

By Dr. Nicholson, on the part of Mr. Windeyer, who was at that moment absent, "That an Address be presented to his Excellency the Governor, requesting that his Excellency will be pleased to cause to be laid upon the table of this House, a return of the expense defrayed from the Colonial Treasury of New South Wales, of every mission to the Aborigines within the colony, and of the Protectorate, from the 31st December, 1842, showing the amount paid for each mission, the expense of the Protectorate, and the total expense of the Aborigines for each year."

Also, "That an Address be presented to his Excellency the Governor, requesting that his Excellency will be pleased to cause to be laid upon the table of this House, copies of reports made to the Government, from or respecting the Protectors of Aborigines, since December, 1842."

The COLONIAL SECRETARY stated, that there could be no objection on the part of the Government to furnish the information

required, but the reports alluded to were so voluminous, that if copies were to be made of them the return to this address could hardly be procured before the close of the session. He would suggest, therefore, that the word "copies" should be omitted, and the motion so far altered as to admit of the original reports being laid before the Council.

The amendment was agreed to, and the motions carried.

CORPORATION AND MECHANICS' INSTITUTION OF MELBOURNE.

Mr. ROBINSON moved for leave to bring in a Bill to enable the trustees of the savings' Banks of New South Wales and Port Phillip, respectively, to lend money to the Corporation of Melbourne and the Mechanics' Institution there. The claim of the Corporation of Melbourne for assistance had, he stated, been frequently brought under the notice of the House with very little success. The object of the corporate authorities was to effect some improvement in the town, which had been handed over to them in such a state that it would require several thousands of pounds to put it in order; and although out of their income of £3000 a-year, the Town Council had done all which lay in their power, there was still much wanting. They were, therefore, desirous of obtaining a loan of £5000 from the Savings' Bank for this purpose; and if the necessary arrangements could not be effected with the Savings' Bank at Melbourne, he proposed to give in this Bill the necessary power for enabling the Savings' Bank at Sydney to make the advance. Another institution, which had been productive of very great public benefit, and to which this Bill was meant to apply, was the Mechanics' Institution at Melbourne. He proposed that the Bank should have power to make an advance of £1000 to this Institution; and although he felt certain that the security was ample, he should propose as an additional precaution that the loan should only be made with the consent of the Government.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY suggested, that as there was already a Bill before the House to enable the Savings' Bank of Sydney to advance a sum of £6000 to the Corporation of that city for the laying down of the water ways, it would be well if such a measure as that now proposed by the honorable member for Melbourne was deemed desirable, to include both propositions in one Bill. He scarcely thought it advisable that power should be given for an advance of £1000 to the Mechanics' Institution; but he should reserve to himself the right in the subsequent stage of this measure to adopt such a course as upon consideration he might deem advisable.

Mr. ROBINSON had no objection to the consolidation of the two Bills in question, but this might be done at a future stage, and he had no doubt that his honorable friend, the Colonial Secretary would, after further consideration, see the propriety of extending the proposed aid to the Mechanics' Institute of Melbourne.

The Bill was then introduced, read a first time, ordered to be printed, and read a second time on Tuesday next.

REGISTRARS BILL.

Mr. COWPER having moved the second reading of this Bill, which, being seconded by Mr. Robinson was, after some dissentious remarks from the honorable the Colonial Secretary and Mr. Berry, and observations in favor by Mr. Windeyer and Dr. Lang. Carried.

MELBOURNE.

The Bill brought in by Mr. Robinson to transfer the surplus Police fund to the Town fund of Melbourne, was read a second time, passed through Committee; and ordered to be engrossed and read a third time on Friday.

POSTAGE BILL.

The House now resolved itself into Committee for the further consideration of the above Bill.

Dr. LANG, in proposing the adoption of the first clause, observed, that the only restriction which this Bill would impose upon the Government would be to prevent the rate of postage from exceeding 2d. per letter: for in all other respects the power of the Governor would be untouched, and new post offices might be established, new regulations adopted, or even a lower rate of postage resorted to.

The Colonial Secretary, the Auditor-General, Mr. Hamilton, and Mr. Lamb opposed the Bill; upon the grounds that the colony was not in a position to bear the defalcation which would occur in the revenue from the passing the Bill, and that it would be better to await until the Post Office Commissioners should have made their report.

Messrs. Windeyer and Robinson were in favor of passing the Act.

Dr. LANG having replied, the House divided upon the clause; which was lost by the following majority:—

Ayes, 5.
Mr. Wentworth
Mr. Windeyer
Dr. Lang
Mr. Wild
Mr. Robinson (teller)

Noes, 13.
Colonial Secretary
The Collector of Customs
Auditor-General
Mr. Murray
Mr. Hamilton
Mr. Allen
Mr. Macarthur
The Speaker
Mr. Cowper
Mr. Lamb
Captain Dumaresq
Colonial-Treasurer (teller)

Majority against the motion, 8.

Dr. LANG remarked, that after such a decision as this there would be little use in proceeding with the other clauses of the Bill, and he would therefore move that the House resume, and that the Chairman ask leave to sit again that day six months. Which was carried.

The Bill is consequently lost for this Session.

The Council then adjourned.

WEDNESDAY, 24.

The Speaker having taken the chair:

BRIDGE OVER THE YARRA YARRA.

The COLONIAL TREASURER brought up the Report of the Committee appointed to consider the propriety of erecting a bridge over the Yarra Yarra, and moved that it might be printed, ordered. He gave notice of his intention to move, that it might be taken into consideration when the Supplementary Estimates for 1845 should again come under discussion.

COMMERCIAL READING ROOM.

Mr. BLAND presented a petition from the subscribers to the Commercial Reading Room, setting forth at great length the public advantage which had attended the establishment of that Institution, and praying on account of its public character that an application might be made by the House to his Excellency the Governor to have a sum placed upon the Estimates for its aid.

The petition having been read and received.

Mr. BLAND gave notice of his intention, on Tuesday next, to

move an Address to the Governor, praying that a sum of £50 might be placed upon the Estimates for this service.

TARIFF BILL.

The House then resolved itself into Committee upon this Bill, and Mr. John Johnson, Alexander Livingstone, Mr. Henry Smithers Hayes and Mr. Cadell were severally examined upon it. The House then resumed.

SAVINGS BANK LOAN BILL.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY moved the second reading of this Bill, and explained the only object of the Bill, as at present framed, was, to authorise a loan by the Savings Bank of New South Wales to the Corporation of Sydney, of £6000. The introduction of this Bill arose out of the following circumstances. The City Council of Sydney applied to the Savings Bank, to ascertain if the Directors of that Institution would be willing to advance to the Corporation £6000, for the purchase and laying down of water pipes in the City, and on what terms. The trustees found that they had not the power to lend money to the Corporation on the security proposed, which was the revenue to be derived from the water, and application was made to the Government on the subject, and this Bill was proposed by the Governor. The Council would be aware of the correspondence that had taken place on the subject, as it had already been laid before them and printed. The nature of the security offered was unexceptionable, and the security abundant, and the object of the Corporation was one that ought to be encouraged; the Corporation, it would be remembered, had power to mortgage the revenues of the Corporation for a limited time, to borrow money on the security of those revenues, for objects such as was now contemplated. He had thrown out a suggestion yesterday to the honorable member for Melbourne, who had introduced a similar bill for the Savings Bank of Melbourne, that the two objects might be effected by one bill; it would be for that honorable member and the House to determine whether it was desirable to unite them in one bill, and before anything was done in that matter, it would be better to ascertain the views of the House with respect to the present measure. The period which he should propose for the loan would be five years, at six per cent. interest, the object being to secure five per cent. to be divided amongst the depositors, after paying all expenses of management, which amounted to about one per cent. There were Government securities now out bearing six per cent. interest, and recently some of them had been purchased at 2½ per cent. premium; and as these had two and a half years to run, the real interest on them would be about five per cent.

The motion having been seconded.

Mr. WINDEYER said there was a portion of the correspondence alluded to by the Honble. Col. Secretary, which had caused him no small astonishment, and a portion of it was likely in his opinion to do the colony more harm than any thing that had before emanated, even from the same quarter. He alluded to the letter of the Governor at the close of the correspondence. It appeared that the Trustees of the Savings Bank found that funds were so rapidly accumulating upon them that this proposed loan of £6000 to the Sydney Corporation would not afford the relief which the Savings Bank required; so rapidly were large sums of money coming into their hands, that in a short time the amount to be divided amongst depositors, in the shape of interest, would be next to nothing, although in order to secure as much as possible to the depositors, the Trustees had adopted the measure of withdrawing all interest from sums deposited above £200. The Trustees had represented their distress to the Government. In reply, the Governor coolly told the trustees that he saw no means of investing the capital in this colony, and recommended that it should be sent home to be invested in English funds at 3 and a fraction per cent.; in other words, to remove capital from a new country where it was wanted to an old country which was already overloaded with capital; to an old country where the interest was not more than two or three per cent., from this country where the minimum interest was 6 per cent., and the maximum from 12 to 15 per cent. The honorable member then made some very caustic remarks upon the line of policy the Governor had adopted, in endeavouring again to force a monetary crisis upon the Colony, by withdrawing capital from it, especially of so large an amount, and belonging, not to private individuals, but to a public institution, which might not for many years require the aid of that capital back again to aid it in its necessary functions. He also deprecated it on the grounds of the colony suffering, from a fact of this kind becoming known among the British capitalists, as it would be the only means of preventing the embarkation of their surplus capital in this colony. The principle of the Bill was to enable the Trustees of the Savings Bank to invest the money of depositors, and he was willing that the Bill should be read a second time; but he thought that after the second reading the Bill ought to be referred to a Select Committee, to enquire as to the working of the old system, lending money on mortgages, and even on bills; for he thought that under some restrictions it would be desirable that the trustees should have the power of discounting bills. He should support the second reading of the Bill, but not with any notion that it was to be confined to the mere authorising a loan of £6000 to the Sydney Corporation.

Mr. WENTWORTH hoped that the Corporation would not take the money from the Savings Bank, but would profit from the bitter lessons taught to some, and learn to restrict their expenditure to their means. He was not anxious that gentlemen in office should be encouraged to incur a large expenditure for extensive improvements, which would be sure to be made in time, and which it would be much better to have paid for out of a fund formed from savings from the annual revenue of the Corporation, than with borrowed money. The honorable member, equally with the honorable member for Durham, deprecated the idea of sending capital out of the colony to be invested in the English funds. He objected to money being lent on bills, but had no objection to its being laid out on mortgages under certain restrictions. He did not see himself either why the suggestion of the trustees, that debentures should be issued, the proceeds to be applied to public works, which would pay the interest of the money, should not be acted upon. Numbers of bridges were required—there was now a suggestion before the house for a bridge over the Nepean at Emu Plains. He could not see why the house should not borrow £10,000 or £15,000 and apply it to the building of this bridge, which would yield 10 or 12 per cent. on the money spent, and at the same time afford employment for mechanics and others of that class, for the encouragement of which the Savings Bank was instituted; the revenue which might be derived from the bridge would pay the interest of the money borrowed, and leave a large surplus for the formation of a sinking fund to pay off the debt. Even from the miserable punt that was on the Nepean now, a revenue of £600 or £800 a year was derived, but if a bridge were built this might be much increased. There were also other places where such capital might be profitably employed, for instance, a bridge at Bathurst, another at Maitland; which method, if adopted, would be, in a pecuniary as well as political point of view, of great benefit to the colony. He should not oppose the second reading of the bill, but he hoped that when they went into committee upon it they would