

tion which might serve to guide hon. members in their discussion of this subject. Having done this he should simply move the adoption of the resolution which he was about to bring under the notice of the House. The points to which he deemed it necessary to draw their attention were, firstly, the number of married and single men in the Metropolitan Police Force; secondly, the number of married men already provided with lodgings, and the number of both yet to be provided with accommodation. The total number of married and single men at present in the metropolitan force, exclusive of the district police, was 300; of which 172 were married, and 128 single. Of the married 38, exclusive of the district police, were already provided with quarters, which left 134 married persons to be provided for in future, and the whole of the single men. From enquiries he had made he learnt that there were certain buildings in the city which, with a little alteration, could be made available as barracks for the police. These were the Commissariat Stores, the Immigration Barracks, the new iron building near Fort Phillip, and the Shipping Master's Office, which he understood would shortly be vacant. The expense and labour required to put these buildings in a habitable condition would not be very considerable, whilst the particular points of their situation would be found most convenient for quartering the force. He had succeeded in obtaining a return, showing the average weekly rent paid by the police in private lodgings under the existing system, which, on comparing it with the plan he proposed, would prove advantageous both to the Government and to the police. The average rent paid by married sergeants under the private arrangement was £1 per week, with married ordinary constables 15s., and by single 10s. Under the arrangement as proposed by the Government, married constables would be charged 4s. per week for house accommodation, in addition to a deduction of the temporary allowance of 7s. per week, which would make a total charge of the Government on the score of house accommodation about 11s. per week, thus leaving a difference in favour of the married sergeants as compared with the average rent paid in private of 9s., and in favour of the married ordinary constables of 4s. 9d. each. With regard to single constables the charge for rent under the Government system would be 2s. per week, which, with the deduction of the temporary increase of 1s. per day, would amount to 9s. per week, and leave a difference as compared with the private system of 1s. per week to each constable. Assuming, therefore, that the barrack accommodation to which he alluded could be procured, the total additional expense for providing the whole of the Police with lodgings would be about £700 or £800 for 1855, and about £1700 or £1800 for 1856. This was of course exclusive of the repairs and necessary arrangements which would have to be made to render the buildings habitable. The only two buildings which would involve any serious expense in the fitting up were the Immigration Barracks, which would cost about £300, and the Commissariat Stores, which would cost about £500,—making a total expenditure for repairs, &c., of £800. He would now move the resolutions, as under:—

This Council, having taken into consideration His Excellency the Governor-General's Message of the 7th instant, No. 44, resolves:—

1. That it is advisable to provide permanent barracks accommodation for the whole of the Metropolitan Police, on the understanding that deductions from their pay will be made at rates not less than four shillings per week for each married man, and not less than two shillings per week for each unmarried man.
2. That it is advisable, as soon as possible, to provide, as far as it may be possible, temporary accommodation, in public or hired buildings, for the whole of the Metropolitan Police, on the same conditions; and, in cases where such cannot be provided, to defray, or allow the difference between the actual cost of lodgings, affording reasonable accommodation, and the amount of deduction allowed in each instance.
3. That the last temporary increase to the pay of the Metropolitan Police, having had reference to the high rate of rent, that increase, to the extent of one shilling per man, shall continue in the case of each man, for whom quarters or lodgings are provided by the Government, or who shall have defrayed or allowed to him the difference between the weekly rent of lodgings and the fixed deduction as referred to in Resolution 2.
4. That an Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor-General, requesting that his Excellency will take the necessary steps to give effect to the resolutions; and will place on the Supplementary Estimate of 1855, and on the Estimate of Expenditure for 1856, the sums respectively required to carry them out.

Mr. COWPER said, it was quite evident that the consideration of this important subject had taken the House by surprise. He, for one, felt quite unprepared to proceed with this question at once. He did not see why their practice should be different in regard to such matters as these to the practice of the Parliament in England. These all matters of finance were considered by a Committee of the whole House. Now, this was an important matter of finance, therefore it ought to be considered by a Committee of the whole House. He would suggest to the Inspector-General of Police that the best course to pursue would be for him to withdraw his resolutions, and propose a motion to the effect, that the Speaker do now leave the chair, and the House resolve itself into Committee. A discussion could then take place on the subject, and they would all be able to express their opinions. He was sure that hon. members were prepared to meet the Government on this occasion. He thought the course adopted by the Imperial Parliament ought to be adopted here in all matters of finance. He hoped therefore the Inspector-General of Police would adopt the course he had suggested.

The INSPECTOR-GENERAL OF POLICE had no objection to offer to what had been suggested by the hon. member for Durham; he begged therefore to withdraw his resolution. Motion withdrawn.

The INSPECTOR-GENERAL OF POLICE moved the Speaker do now leave the chair.

The House then resolved itself into a Committee of the whole, for the consideration of the Message.

The INSPECTOR-GENERAL OF POLICE said it was unnecessary he should trespass on the time of the House, after the explanation he had already made, and he would therefore merely move the resolution already referred to.

Mr. COWPER said that it was a very perplexing thing to precipitate the Committee into the consideration of the important question now before it, without almost any previous notice. It was to be regretted that the person or agent who had been entrusted with the duty of engaging those men should have been so very remiss, although it was not the first time that employees of the Government had acted in a similar manner. It appeared that the whole difficulty arose from the inconsiderable omission of the agent in putting his name as witness to the agreement, as he ought to have done, and which, if he had done, a great deal of perplexity would have been avoided. At all events, in consideration of the circumstances of the case, they were bound to sustain the faith of the Government with these men. With reference to the main question, however, the providing of lodging for the men, he confessed he could not take the same view of it as that expressed by the Inspector-General of Police. No doubt the men on their arrival here, expected that accommodation would be provided for them as they had been led to believe by the representations of the agent, and the Government ought to deal strictly with them, in accordance with that agreement, although the men might themselves feel desirous not to fulfil their engagements. There was another difficulty, however, to be got rid of. Suppose the Committee provided quarters for the whole of the metropolitan police, those men lately arrived might still be anxious to repudiate their engagements, and therefore he thought some new course should be adopted to bind them to the colony. As the matter at present stood, it could not be denied that the question, with all its difficulties and perplexities, had been forced upon them, and now the men might naturally enough consider themselves the victors. That view of the case must be admitted the true one, when it was recollected that though the misconstruction of the instruction which he received, Mr. Hampton gave a document to one of the men, which in a manner bound the Government to provide lodgings for the whole; that document was kept a secret from the hon. and gallant member the Inspector-General of Police, and in ignorance of its existence he unfortunately instituted a prosecution against the man. Now, the Government finding it could not withdraw from the pledge given by their agent, came to the House and asked for the necessary vote to provide quarters for them. But instead of a distinct estimate being laid before them, without the matter being brought forward in his Excellency's Financial Message, or without their even knowing what the probable expense would be, the whole question comes before them for consideration in twenty-four hours. They were told that the minimum expenditure for this purpose alone would be £20,000, but he was of opinion it would reach £40,000. At all events, this was not the first time that the Council had been placed in an embarrassing position by the officers of the Government; but this was one which would involve the country in an enormous expense. It was in fact difficult to say what course the committee of the Council should take in the matter; but, as it appeared that the men had come to the colony upon certain conditions, and upon the faith of the Government that such conditions would be kept, it seemed to him that the Government should maintain its faith. It would not do for those men to write home and inform their friends that they had been deceived.

Mr. CAMPBELL would ask the Inspector-General of Police, if any steps had been taken towards providing quarters for the police in the Emigration Barracks, the Commissariat Stores, or the Military Barracks?

The INSPECTOR-GENERAL OF POLICE replied, that the Commander of the Forces had been applied to with reference to accommodations at Victoria Barracks, when it was ascertained that there was no accommodation there, all the extra accommodation having been lately given up to the married people of the corps.

Mr. MURRAY said, that there were two courses open to the Government to pursue in the matter under discussion. In the first place, if the men desired to repudiate their engagement, the Government might of course, if it thought proper, yield and let them throw up their engagements. (Hear, hear.) He did not think the country would be materially affected by that course. (Hear, hear.) If, however, an engagement was properly entered into with them, by which the Government were bound to provide them with quarters, that engagement should be fulfilled, and the faith of the Government maintained. It appeared from the whole facts of the case, that the interests of the country had been materially involved—(hear)—and it was the duty of the Government to follow up the present proceedings by dismissing their agent, and engaging an officer upon whom they could better depend. (Hear, hear.) It was proved that the trust reposed in the agent now employed had been grossly neglected; indeed; it appearing that he had not signed the agreement as required by the Act. It also appeared to him but too likely that, if the Government made a concession in the present instance, it might be in their power to question the validity of the agreement, and that was a matter that should at once be submitted to the law officers of the Crown. With reference to the proposition made by the Inspector-General of Police, they should be very cautious indeed on agreeing to the resolution contained therein—especially as it involved an expenditure which would in all probability be much greater than was contemplated in his Excellency's Message. If they agreed to the proposition, they would pledge themselves to the erection of barracks, and perhaps involve the country in an expenditure of £50,000, £60,000, or £100,000, and they were not to be thought in a position to agree to anything of that kind. At all events, it was premature to bring an item involving such an expenditure before the Council upon such short notice, and he for one would not agree to such a proposition at present. He did not think, from the statement made by the Inspector-General of Police, that any great expense was involved in the second resolution of his proposition, and he would therefore vote for it. He did not, however, consider, that the country would be put to much inconvenience by the withdrawal of the men from the police force. It was known that in the country districts the office of constable was much sought for, being now a more lucrative one than it formerly was; and those who, some time ago, had the greatest objection to entering the force, would now willingly join it. He did not consider it desirable to postpone the matter, it would be better to do something at once, for the longer it remained unsettled, the greater would be the difficulty of dealing with it. He would vote for the second resolution.

Mr. DONALDSON said, he thought this matter had entirely taken the House by surprise, and he was hardly prepared to say whether he would support the view expressed by the hon. member for the Southern Boroughs; but he was decidedly opposed to the first resolution now before them, because it involved a principle beyond the exigency it appeared to meet. From the brief consideration of a few hours that he had been enabled to give to this matter, it appeared to him this was an instance of gross administrative blundering, for which this Government were to pay, and this House to vote the means of paying. The Inspector-General had told them it was not his fault, but, nevertheless, he was the responsible party, and it was to him the House must look. The whole Government were answerable for these gross blunders, and this colony had to pay for them. In this instance they were called on to sanction an expenditure to an indefinite amount. It was estimated at £30,000, but he (Mr. D.) thought it probable it would be near £100,000. They had been led, in a great measure, into this blunder by Mr. Barnard. He (Mr. D.) contended that that gentleman was not the proper party to act as agent for the colony, seeing the amount of business he had always in his hands; and whenever that view was urged on the House, they were met with the answer from Government—that he was so cheap; and this was a proof of how far they saved by such policy. To save a paltry sum of perhaps £50 in the salary of the party employed, they got the thing done badly and inefficiently, and the colony put to an expense which would probably amount to £100,000; and, again, on reference to the third page of the Supplementary, they were called on to vote a sum of £13,000 for the completion of the Circular Quay. This was owing to another instance of the defective manner these matters were conducted by the Government. It was for the House to vote money, but it was for the Executive to see that it was properly expended, and the works properly executed. It was an unfair and improper course for the Government to come to this House and ask them to patch up their blunders at an enormous expense to the country. It rendered it impossible for them to determine the proper course of action with regard to the general expenditure of the means of the colony. With regard to the first resolution, which stated that it was advisable to put all the Metropolitan Police in barracks, he could not agree to it; for if all the Sydney police (possessing this advantage of better pay, more comfort, and more facility of obtaining a home) were to be put in barracks, surely all those who were in the interior, without those facilities, would have a right to be found with lodgings likewise. If the Government were so perpetually making these blunders they could not know from day to day what they might be called on to vote; they had been told a few weeks since (for it was some weeks now since the Estimates first came before them) in the Message of his Excellency, that it was necessary to provide for the expenditure of a certain sum—to that they were now asked to sanction the expenditure of a sum which he believed would not be less than £100,000. How then were they to come to any final conclusion as to the expenditure of the country, when to-morrow they might be asked to vote three or four hundred thousand pounds to patch up some other blunder. He for one would always have a care to the maintenance of the public faith, but he would not, on any occasion, abstain from expressing his indignation at these gross and unwarrantable blunders. They might as well attempt to silence the people altogether, as to impose on them a law to take the money out of their pockets without good cause being shown as to the necessity for so doing. One-half the time of the House was taken up in discovering and patching up the blunders of the Government. They had heard a great deal about having confidence in the Executive lately, but how could they have it, when they constantly had matters like this thrust suddenly upon them, and they had then to find means for patching them up. He was not prepared at present to say how he would vote on the other resolutions; but to the first he was directly opposed. The second, he thought, probably be reasonable, but he thought at the same time, after the short time he had had to consider the matter, that with the view of keeping good faith with the men, the best plan would be to allow the men to go if they liked. He thought the colony would not suffer considerably by adopting that course, and would avoid the necessity for this enormous expenditure. He thought he should vote against the resolutions, because they involved the necessity of providing not only for the Metropolitan Police, but the whole police force of the colony.

The SOLICITOR-GENERAL said he did not think it was necessary to abandon altogether the first resolution, though perhaps it would be better to defer the consideration of it. Even when the men were discharged from the ship it was necessary that the Government should be in such a position as to keep good faith with them. The hon. member for the Sydney Itamela had made an attack on the Government, and said that they had exceeded their authority in the matter. Now it was difficult to see for what reason the Executive Government were blamed. The Inspector-General of the Police had the whole management of this transaction; and the instructions which he sent home were quite clear that when lodgings were found, 2s. per week would be deducted from the pay of the single men, and a proportionate amount from the married men. The promise of lodgings had been made by a person who was unauthorized to make that promise, but who was instructed to engage the men according to the instructions he had received from the Inspector-General of Police. He thought the Government ought to keep good faith with the men, and, if it was for the benefit of the colony, to insist on their performing their agreements. Now, it was necessary to place the Government in such a position that they could not only keep faith with the men, but also to make them remain in the service of the Government for three years, according to their contract. It was true that if the men were discharged that most of them, after trying to get other employment, would most likely come back and engage themselves again; but then they would be in a position to leave the service whenever they liked, and they could not be forced to remain for

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

THURSDAY.

The SPEAKER took the chair at half-past three o'clock.

MESSAGES.

The following Messages from his Excellency the Governor-General were received and read.

LEGAL CLAIM OF MR. WILLIAM BROOKS. The Governor-General lays before the Council a despatch with which he has been honoured by the Secretary of State, in reply to one from Sir Charles Fitz Roy, forwarding an address from the Legislative Council, recommending the land claim of Mr. W. Brooks to the favourable consideration of her Majesty's Government.

Sir George Grey, while he was no reason to differ from the conclusions adopted by former Secretaries of State, alluded to the authority over the waste lands of the colony which will, in a short time, be vested in the local Legislature, by which it will be referred to adjudicate, at once, upon Mr. Brooks' claim, as well as upon those of any other person similarly circumstanced.

FAREWELL ADDRESS OF SIR CHARLES AUGUSTUS FITZ ROY. The Governor-General lays before the Council a despatch with which he has been honoured by Lord John Russell, her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies, expressing the satisfaction which Lord John had experienced in perusing the interesting testimony to Sir Charles Fitz Roy's administration of the Government of New South Wales contained in the address presented to him by the Legislative Council on his departure from the colony.

SUMMARY OF FUNDS returned by the Schedules 13 and 14 1854, &c. &c.

The Governor-General lays before the Council, in accordance with the request contained in an Address dated 12th June, 1855, copies of the correspondence which has taken place between the Government of the colony and the Secretary of State, in reference to the appropriation of funds reserved for her Majesty's disposal by the Schedule attached to the Act of the Imperial Parliament, 5 and 6 Vict., cap. 76, as has not already been printed.

The Despatches from the Secretary of State to Sir Charles Fitz Roy, in 1847 and 1848, contain clear and precise instructions as to the manner to be pursued by the Governor-General in relation to the funds in question, so long as the law continued unchanged, and the circumstances under which those despatches were written remained unaltered; but the law relating to the Schedules having been materially altered, by the Act 13 and 14 Victoria, cap. 59, and a marked change having taken place in these circumstances, the Governor-General expresses that instructions issued to his predecessor, with reference to one state of things, cannot be considered binding upon him, when the conditions under which they were written have been altogether altered. He has, therefore, no hesitation in taking upon himself the full responsibility of assenting to such appropriations as the Legislative Council may deem advisable to substitute for those contained in the present Schedules, so far as he may do so consistently with the provisions of the Act of 13 and 14 Victoria, cap. 59, and with those of the New Constitution Act. The Governor-General feels the more confident that the course taken by him with relation to these reserved Schedules will meet with the approval of her Majesty's Government, from the fact, that he had not placed them at the disposal of the Council, he would have been compelled, on the proclamation of the New Constitution, either to have taken upon himself the responsibility of authorising the issue of money from the Treasury for the payment of salaries, not sanctioned by any legislative enactment, or to have suspended for a time the payments to officers engaged in the administration of justice, and in many other matters connected with the ordinary functions of the Government—a proceeding which would, necessarily, have caused great inconvenience, and even distress, to many individuals, and have seriously hampered the operations of the Government.

Ordered to be printed, together with the accompanying despatches.

COUNCIL PAPERS.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY laid on the table the following Returns:—The Return to the Address in reference to Foreign Medical Practitioners, adopted, on motion of Mr. Darvall, on the 24th ultimo. The Return to the Address in reference to Civil and Criminal Causes tried at Moreton Bay, adopted, on motion of Mr. Nicholas, on the 27th ultimo.

PETITION.

Mr. FLOOD presented a petition from 173 inhabitants of Newcastle, praying that the present system of Religious State Endowments might be abolished, and particularly that no increase should be made in the present ecclesiastical burdens of the colony. Petition received.

LODGING THE POLICE.

The Message of his Excellency the Governor-General with reference to the lodging the police recruits per Exodur, was read on the motion of the INSPECTOR-GENERAL OF POLICE, whereupon the hon. gentleman said that as he had so recently addressed the House at considerable length upon this subject, he should confine himself on the present occasion to briefly laying before it a few further points of informa-

