

them, for almost any other conceivable purpose of utility. I have made these observations, Mr. Speaker, in order to meet what might possibly be said, and what has been said on a former occasion, that this a squatter House, dealing with matters concerning its own interests. I have endeavored to show, but I am afraid very imperfectly, that this is not a question that interests only a single class, but a question that more or less affects the interests of the whole colony.

MR. SIMPSON: As one who is fortunate in not having a shilling invested in the pastoral industry, and who has travelled a good deal lately among those who are engaged in that industry, and who generally travels with his eyes open, I would fain offer my heartiest congratulations to the Government upon their action in introducing this Bill, to in some measure show the practical sympathy felt in this colony with the Northern pastoralists in their extreme distress and the disastrous losses they have recently suffered. I have had occasion during the last few years of moving about various parts of this colony, and of witnessing the conditions under which pastoral pursuits are carried on here, and I am perfectly satisfied that the average squatter's life in Western Australia (to use a common phrase) is not a happy one. It is not a luxurious life, by any means; it is made up in a great measure of mutton and damper (and not too much of that), with scab and drought by way of variety; and, although possibly, at Christmas time, some of those who are gay and festively inclined may live at the rate of, say, £30,000 a year for about twenty minutes or so, it is only to fall back again for the rest of the year upon the same old fare,—mutton and damper, and scab and drought. As to any enormous fortunes being accumulated in this colony from squatting, pure and simple, probably the best source to obtain information upon that point would be the Banks; and I am afraid if we went to that source for our information we should find that these enormous fortunes are either *in nubibus* or in the very dim and distant future. I do not know a single man in this colony who has absolutely accumulated even what might be called a very sound competency from pastoral pursuits alone,

without having put his money in other occupations. I do not regard this Bill as a measure for assisting the squatters: I look upon it as an honest effort to assist an important industry, which constitutes one of the great factors that will help to make a prosperous colony of the country we are living in. For this reason I do object to differentiating one particular industry from the general welfare of the country. As has already been said, if the squatting industry is prosperous, that prosperity affects and reacts upon the whole colony; and, if that industry suffers reverses, the whole colony suffers. I think the wish of this House and of the country is that practical assistance be given to our native industries in every legitimate way, in accordance with sound principles; and I think the assistance contemplated by the Government in the Bill now before this House is reasonable, honest, and well-intentioned, and I do really believe it fairly represents the practical sympathy of the bulk of the community. I have very much pleasure in supporting the Bill.

Motion—put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

ADJOURNMENT.

The House adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Legislative Assembly,

Thursday, 10th November, 1892.

Petition: Perth Gas Company's Act Amendment (Private) Bill—Completion of Section of Midland Railway—Prevention of Scab Infection from Travelling Sheep—Water Supply, Gnarlhine Goldfind—Extinction of "Stinkwort" in Kojonup District—Leave of Absence to Member for East Kimberley—Return showing Perth Lands Resumed for Railway purposes, and Compensation, &c., for same—Home-steads Bill: first reading—Constitution Act Amendment Bill: first reading—Appointment of Chairman of Committees—Safety of Defences Bill: in Committee—Treasury Bills Bill: in Committee—Lighting of the Chamber—Land Regulations Amendment (Rents) Bill: in Committee—Adjournment.

THE SPEAKER took the chair at 7.30 p.m.

PRAYERS.

PETITION: PERTH GAS COMPANY'S ACT AMENDMENT (PRIVATE) BILL.

MR. CANNING presented a petition from the Perth Gas Company, Limited,

praying for leave to introduce a Private Bill, intituled "An Act to amend 'The Perth Gas Company's Act, 1886,' and to extend the powers and privileges of the Company."

Petition received, read, and ordered to lie upon the table.

COMPLETION OF SECTION OF MIDLAND RAILWAY.

MR. TRAYLEN, in accordance with notice, asked the Commissioner of Railways, Whether any section of the Midland Railway had been completed in accordance with the terms of the original contract.

THE COMMISSIONER OF RAILWAYS (Hon. H. W. Venn) replied:—No; a completion of the line, or any section of the line, would mean full equipment, and all necessary sidings, passing places, stations, offices, engine houses, goods and cattle depôts, turn-tables, signals, telegraphs, and other works for the due and efficient working of the railway, and also level crossings, accommodation roads and approaches, &c., complete in all respects; and as many of these works still remain to be done, it cannot be said that any section is completed in conformity with the contract. But the permanent way for 154 miles has been certified as safe for public traffic, under clause 25 of the contract, and this length of line has been opened for traffic and worked since 27th of February last.

PREVENTION OF SCAB INFECTION FROM TRAVELLING SHEEP.

MR. A. FORREST, in accordance with notice, asked the Attorney General, What precautions the Government intended taking respecting sheep travelling between the South-West Division and Gascoyne Division, so as to prevent the spread of scab to the North.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt) replied that the Government had taken all necessary precautions under the powers of the Scab Act, and were considering the question of asking Parliament for further powers.

WATER SUPPLY, GNARLBINE GOLD-FIND.

MR. TRAYLEN, in accordance with notice, asked the Commissioner of Crown

Lands, What steps were being taken to supply the Gnarlbine Goldfind with water.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. W. E. Marmion) replied: Upon the visit of the Warden of Yilgarn Goldfields to Gnarlbine find, the following instruction was wired to him:—"As you intend to proceed to scene of new rush this afternoon, please report to me upon your return: 1st, The approximate position of the new find, and character of the track thereto; 2nd, The supply of water *en route* and in the vicinity of find, and whether necessary to provide same by sinking wells or otherwise, and at what points, if any, the necessity exists, and the probable cost of providing such water; 3rd, If you discover very pressing need of immediate action you are authorised to employ labor and expend a reasonable sum of money." On his return the Warden, in a portion of his report, stated as follows: "I made arrangements with a party of men to try for water by sinking on the field. I promised a bonus of £25 and a water-right if they found water. They had started sinking before I left, with a possible chance of obtaining fresh water. Should water not be obtainable by sinking, I beg to suggest the excavation of a large tank, for which purpose the ground and surroundings in many places are favorable. At that time a fair supply of water was available *en route* to find." The above was dated October 10, 1892. Since the above date, the Warden and a Deputy Mining Registrar and Mining Surveyor have proceeded to Gnarlbine, and, acting under instructions from the Director of Public Works, Mr. Raeside left Southern Cross on Monday last for Gnarlbine, with instructions to take the necessary steps to procure a water supply for the new find for immediate requirements, and to report to the Government his opinion as to the best means of procuring a permanent supply both for the field and for the road leading to it.

EXISTENCE OF "STINKWORT" IN KOJONUP DISTRICT.

MR. TRAYLEN, on behalf of Mr. Piesse, and in accordance with notice,

asked the Premier, Whether the Government had taken any steps to obtain information as to the existence of an obnoxious weed known as "Stinkwort," which was said to be spreading in the Kojonup District.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) replied that the Government had promised to provide £200 for the purpose, but nothing had yet been done owing to the difficulty of getting anyone to do it. If the Local Roads Board would undertake the work, the money was still available.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO MEMBER FOR EAST KIMBERLEY.

MR. A. FORREST, in accordance with notice, moved that leave of absence for one month be granted to the honorable member for East Kimberley (Mr. W. L. Baker).

Question—put and passed.

RETURN SHOWING PERTH LANDS RESUMED FOR RAILWAY PURPOSES, AND COMPENSATION, &c., FOR SAME.

MR. MONGER, in accordance with notice, moved that there be laid upon the table of the House a return showing:—1. The numbers and areas of blocks or portions of blocks taken during the last twelve months within the city of Perth for railway purposes. 2. The amount of compensation offered in each instance. 3. The amount awarded in such cases as have gone to arbitration. 4. The amount paid for costs to successful claimants.

Question—put and passed.

HOMESTEADS BILL.

Introduced by the Premier (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) and read a first time.

CONSTITUTION ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Introduced by the Premier (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) and read a first time.

APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest): I have much pleasure in proposing that the hon. member for East Perth, Mr. Canning, be appointed Chairman of Com-

mittees of this House. I think hon. members will agree with me that he is eminently qualified for the position which I desire to be conferred upon him. He has the advantage of being a resident of Perth, and I can inform hon. members that he is agreeable to accept the honor that is proposed to be conferred upon him. I feel certain that in the hon. member for East Perth we will have a gentleman who will preside over us, while the House is in Committee, in a manner which will reflect credit on himself and be agreeable to all hon. members. I have very much pleasure in proposing that the hon. member for East Perth, Mr. Canning, be elected the Chairman of Committees of this House.

Motion put and passed.

MR. CANNING: I beg to thank the hon. the Premier for the kind and gratifying terms in which he has proposed me for the very honorable position of Chairman of Committees of this House, and I also desire to tender my acknowledgments to hon. members for the very cordial manner in which they have received the proposal. I shall endeavor to discharge the duties appertaining to the honorable position now conferred upon me to the best interests of the House generally; and I can only ask for the indulgence of hon. members.

SAFETY OF DEFENCES BILL.

This Bill passed through Committee *sub silentio*.

TREASURY BILLS BILL.

IN COMMITTEE.

Clause 1: "The Treasurer for the time being of the said colony may issue, from time to time, bills to be called Treasury bills, for the purpose of raising any sum or sums of money, not exceeding in the aggregate Five hundred thousand pounds:"

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) moved, to strike out the words "Five hundred," and to insert the words "Eight hundred and thirty-six" in lieu thereof. He said that in taking the power to raise a portion of the authorised loan by Treasury bills, if necessary, the Government might as well be authorised to raise the balance of the loan; hence he proposed to alter the figures from £500,000

to £836,000. He had no reason to anticipate that the money would have to be raised in this form; but the Government might as well be armed with power to raise the whole as to raise a portion by Treasury bills.

Amendment put and passed, and clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 2 and 3 were agreed to without comment.

Clause 4: Rate of interest payable, &c.:

MR. MONGER moved--In line 9 to strike out the word "five," and insert the word "four" in lieu thereof, so that the Government might fix the interest payable upon Treasury bills at a rate not exceeding 4 per cent., instead of 5 per cent.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) said the clause provided that the interest payable should be at a rate "not exceeding" 5 per cent., but if the maximum were reduced to 4 per cent. the Government might not be able to raise the money at 4 per cent., and the Bill would be inoperative in the circumstances. The colony had to pay 4 per cent. now; and it was not likely that the Government would raise money at 5 per cent. if they could get it at less.

MR. LOTON said the last loan was subscribed at something under par, at 4 per cent. interest; and under these circumstances it was probable that the Government might not be able to issue Treasury bills at 4 per cent.

MR. R. F. SHOLL said the impression might get abroad that if the colony was willing to give 5 per cent., it must be much in want of money.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) said he could not see that the colony could get any better price by fixing the maximum interest at 4 per cent.

MR. R. F. SHOLL said he recognised the difficulty that if the money could not be raised at 4 per cent., and the Bill did not permit a higher rate to be offered, the public works in progress might have to be stopped for want of money. He advised the hon. member to withdraw the amendment.

MR. SOLOMON said the Treasury bills would be for short dates, and consequently would rank only as a common loan.

MR. DEHAMEL said the clause did not provide that the rate of interest payable should be 5 per cent., but not to exceed 5. The hon. member, therefore, had better withdraw his amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Clause put and passed.

The remaining clauses and the title and preamble were agreed to, and the Bill was reported as amended.

LIGHTING OF THE CHAMBER.

MR. R. F. SHOLL: I wish to ask whether a better light cannot be provided in this Chamber. It is almost impossible to read the clauses of Bills, with this inferior light; and perhaps, with the assistance of the gas, the light from the electric lamps might be improved. This electric light is not, to my mind, an improvement on the old state of things. Whether it is to be attributed to old age creeping on, I do not know, but I cannot see to read the sections of Bills.

LAND REGULATIONS AMENDMENT (RENTS) BILL.

IN COMMITTEE.

Clauses 1 to 4 inclusive were agreed to, without amendment.

Clause 5: "This Act shall be read and construed with the Land Regulations proclaimed on the 2nd March, in so far as those Regulations are not repugnant to this Act," etc.:

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt) moved that after the word "March," the words "one thousand eight hundred and eighty-seven" be inserted.

Agreed to, and clause, as amended, put and passed.

Preamble and title agreed to, and the Bill reported as amended.

On the motion that the third reading be ordered for the next day,

MR. MONGER asked that the third reading be further postponed, to enable him to receive certain information he had moved for, as he intended to propose an amendment to the Bill.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) said the hon. member could move the recommittal of the Bill; and suggested the following Monday for the third reading.

The third reading was accordingly made an Order of the Day for Monday, 14th November.

ADJOURNMENT.

The House adjourned at 8.10 p.m.

Legislative Council,

Friday, 11th November, 1892.

Leave of Absence to Hon. E. T. Hooley—Address-in-Reply: presentation of—Adjournment.

THE PRESIDENT (Hon. G. Shenton) took the chair at 3 o'clock.

PRAYERS.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO MEMBER.

THE HON. J. MORRISON moved that leave of absence for one month, on account of urgent private business, be granted to the Hon. E. T. Hooley.

Question—put and passed.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY—PRESENTATION OF.

At half-past three o'clock, the Council adjourned to present the Address-in-Reply to His Excellency's Speech.

The Council re-assembled at five and twenty minutes to four o'clock.

The President took the chair, and announced that the Address adopted by the Council on the 8th instant had been presented to His Excellency the Governor, and that His Excellency had made the following reply:—

MR. PRESIDENT AND HONORABLE GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,—

I thank you for your Address-in-Reply to the Speech with which I opened the

session, and am confident that your best efforts will be, as heretofore, devoted to advancing the interests of the colony.

Government House, Perth, 11th November, 1892.

ADJOURNMENT.

The Council at 3.40 p.m. adjourned until Tuesday, 15th November, at 3 o'clock p.m.

Legislative Assembly,

Friday, 11th November, 1892.

Government Cottage, Fremantle: Repairs and Rental—Fremantle-Rockingham Telegraph Line—Perth Gas Company's Act Amendment (Private) Bill: first reading: referred to select committee—Return of Pastoral Leases and Land Rentals in the Eastern Division—Safety of Defences Bill: third reading—Adjournment.

THE SPEAKER took the chair at 2.30 p.m.

PRAYERS.

GOVERNMENT COTTAGE, FREMANTLE.

MR. SOLOMON, in accordance with notice, asked the Colonial Treasurer,—

1st. The cost incurred in repairing the Government Cottage at Fremantle, lately in the occupation of the ex-Collector of Customs.

2nd. The annual rental for which the cottage was let to the present tenant, and whether on lease or otherwise.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) replied,—

(1.) That the work was done by prison labor. The materials cost about £120, which included new roofing.

(2.) That the annual rent was £100, and the premises were leased for five years from 14th September last.