

leave the two sides of the harbour with totally inadequate means of intercommunication. On the site selected, the borings available do not suggest that any considerable difficulty will be met in obtaining suitable foundations for bridge-piers for a bridge of moderate spans. On previously suggested sites in the Blackwall Reach, borings on the other hand show depths of mud, in some cases, in excess of 100 feet. The clearance under the proposed bridge will depend on the length of span eventually decided upon. It will, however, be in excess of that existing to-day and adequate for river traffic.

Clause put and passed.

Clause 3—Deviation:

Hon. A. LOVEKIN: How does the Chief Secretary read Clause 3 in conjunction with the schedule? The clause provides for a deviation of ten chains on either side, but in the schedule I cannot find what "either side" means. The schedule states—

Leighton-Robb's Jetty Railway—Description of line of railway: Commencing at a point about 35 chains south of Leighton station on the Fremantle to Guildford railway, and proceeding generally in a south-easterly direction for about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles; thence in a generally southerly direction for about $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles and there terminating opposite the smelting works on the Fremantle-Owen's Anchorage railway. Length about 4 miles.

Branch to Fremantle—Description of line of railway: Commencing at a point on the proposed Leighton-Robb's Jetty railway near the proposed new alignment of the south side of the Swan River, and proceeding in a generally south-westerly direction for about 50 chains, and there terminating near the overhead road bridge on the Fremantle to Guildford railway. Length about 50 chains.

The CHIEF SECRETARY: Mr. Lovekin should read the balance of the schedule as follows:—

All as more particularly delineated and coloured red on map marked P.W.D., W.A. 25453 deposited pursuant to the Public Works Act, 1902.

Clause put and passed.

Schedule, Title—agreed to.

Bill reported without amendment and the report adopted.

Third Reading.

Bill read a third time and *passed*.

BILL—LOAN, £4,940,000.

Received from the Assembly and read a first time.

BILL—AUDIT ACT AMENDMENT.

Assembly's Further Message.

Message from the Assembly received and read notifying that it had agreed to the recommendations of the conference managers.

BILL—EMPLOYMENT BROKERS' ACT AMENDMENT.

Assembly's Message.

Message from the Assembly received and read notifying that it had disagreed to the amendments made by the Council.

House adjourned at 11.10 p.m.

Legislative Assembly,

Thursday, 8th December, 1927.

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The SPEAKER took the Chair at 4.30 p.m., and read prayers.

QUESTION—RAVENSTHORPE SMELTERS.

Mr. CORBOY asked the Minister for Mines: 1, Is he aware that copper ore delivered to the ore receiver at Ravensthorpe for treatment is still lying at Kundip and Hopetoun, although delivered from three to four years ago? 2, What is the intention of the Government as regards the treatment or disposal of such ore?

The MINISTER FOR MINES replied:
1, Yes. 2, To sell or treat it on the first favourable opportunity.

QUESTION—HERDSMAN'S LAKE.

Mr. LINDSAY asked the Minister for Lands: 1, Is it a fact that £120,000 has been spent on the purchase and drainage of Herdsman's Lake? 2, Do the Government intend to sell this estate to settlers; if so, when? 3, Is he aware that the best land is being overgrown with couch grass, and country now worth £120 per acre will be worth only the price of grazing land if left another summer? 4, Is he also aware that large quantities of vegetables could be grown on this land if it were sold to those willing to purchase it at once, so that they might commence planting within the next few weeks?

The MINISTER FOR LANDS replied:
1, Yes. 2, Yes. The opinion of practical men, however, is that additional high land is required for successful subdivision, and negotiations are now proceeding for the purchase of what is required. When this matter is complete, the land will be subdivided and sold. 3, It is known there is a danger of couch grass getting a hold of parts of the lake, but cultivation of small blocks will solve that problem. 4, Yes; that is the object for which the estate was purchased.

QUESTION—NINGHAN LOCATION 264.

Hon. W. D. JOHNSON asked the Minister for Lands: 1, As the file dealing with Ningham Location 264 at least discloses irregularities, will he consult the Crown Law Department with a view to cancelling the transfer or preventing further expenditure on the holding pending an inquiry by a select committee regarding the whole of the transactions in connection with this block? 2, Should he be unable to act as suggested, will he consider the advisableness of appointing an honorary Royal Commission to investigate the matter?

The MINISTER FOR LANDS replied:
1, The matter will be placed in the hands of the Crown Law Department for investigation, and such action taken as may be advised. 2, Answered by No. 1.

ASSENT TO BILLS.

Message from the Governor received and read notifying assent to the undermentioned Bills:—

1. Forests Act Amendment.
2. Stamp Act Amendment.

BILL—AUDIT ACT AMENDMENT.

Conference Managers' Report.

THE PREMIER (Hon. P. Collier—Boulder) [4.35]: I have to report that the managers appointed by this House met the managers of another place this afternoon and agreed to recommend that the amendment proposed by the Legislative Council be accepted. I move—

That the report be adopted.

Question put and passed, the report adopted, and a message accordingly returned to the Council.

BILL—EMPLOYMENT BROKERS' ACT AMENDMENT.

Council's Amendments.

Schedule of seven amendments made by the Council now considered.

In Committee.

Mr. Lutey in the Chair; the Honorary Minister (Hon. J. Cunningham)—for the Minister for Works—in charge of the Bill.

Nos. 1 to 7.—Delete paragraph (c) of Clause 2, and Clauses 11-13, 15, 16, and 18.

Hon. J. CUNNINGHAM: I move—

That the amendments be not agreed to.

In the case of the first amendment the definition of the term "inspector" should stand. I cannot agree to accept any of the amendments, because they are totally opposed to the principles on which the Bill is founded.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendments not agreed to.

Resolutions reported and the report adopted.

A committee consisting of Hon. J. C. Willecock, Hon. J. Cunningham, and Mr. Davy drew up reasons for not agreeing to the Council's amendments.

Reasons adopted and a message accordingly returned to the Council.

Sitting suspended from 4.45 to 7.30 p.m.

BILL—AUDIT ACT AMENDMENT.*Council's Further Message.*

Message from the Council received and read notifying that it had agreed to the recommendation of the Conference.

BILL—CONSTITUTION ACT AMENDMENT (No. 2).

Returned from the Council without amendment.

ADJOURNMENT, SPECIAL.

THE PREMIER (Hon. P. Collier—Boulder) [7.32]: I move—

That the House at its rising adjourn until 4.30 p.m. to-morrow.

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 7.33 p.m.

Legislative Council,

Friday, 9th December, 1927.

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BILL—PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSIONER'S SALARY.*Second Reading.*

THE CHIEF SECRETARY (Hon. J. M. Drew—Central) [3.0] in moving the second reading said: Except in South Australia, the Western Australian Public Service Commissioner is the lowest paid in Australia. The rates paid elsewhere are:—New South Wales (a board of three), £5,500; Victoria, £1,250; Queensland, £1,500; and South Australia £800. The last increase to our Public Service Commissioner was from £850 to £1,000 from the 1st July, 1920. It was impossible to increase his salary with that of others during the recent classification as the amount in his case is statutory. It is not proposed to date the increase back to July, 1926 (the date of the re-classification), but to the 1st January, 1927, only. The Public Service Commissioner was appointed in April, 1917. During his 10 years' occupancy of the office his work has been very strenuous. There have been two re-classifications of the service, and a great deal of re-organisation consequent upon varying conditions has been undertaken, and the work has been successfully carried out. The office is a responsible one. The classification of the positions of permanent heads was raised to a maximum of £960 as from the 1st July, 1926, and the amount prescribed in the Bill provides a reasonable margin between this maximum and the emoluments of the office of Commissioner. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee.

Hon. J. Cornell in the Chair; the Chief Secretary in charge of the Bill.

Clause 1—agreed to.

Clause 2—Amendment of Act No. 22 of 1920, Section 2:

Hon. Sir WILLIAM LATHLAIN: I have no objection to this increase, nor to its being made retrospective. I feel, however, that the recent increase in the salary of the Auditor General should have been made retrospective on the same basis as that of the Public Service Commissioner.

The **PRESIDENT** took the Chair at 3 p.m. and read prayers.