

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt) said this point was very much argued in select committee, and, personally, he objected at the time to reducing the period from six months to three, but the voice of the committee seemed to be largely in favor of reducing it to three. After all, he did not think it was of very much importance, as most securities here were payable on demand. The alteration was made in select committee, and this was the committee's report.

Amendment—put and passed.

Schedule, as amended, agreed to.

Preamble and Title:

Agreed to.

Bill reported with amendments.

ADJOURNMENT.

The House adjourned at 3:50 p.m. until Wednesday, January 27th.

Legislative Council,

Wednesday, 27th January, 1892.

Death of the Duke of Clarence and Avondale: message from the Administrator—Sharks Bay Pearl Shell Fishery Bill: third reading—Bills of Sale Act Amendment Bill: third reading—Geraldton-Mullewa Railway Bill: second reading—Adjournment.

THE PRESIDENT (Sir T. Cockburn-Campbell, Bart.) took the chair at 8 o'clock.

PRAYERS.

DEATH OF THE DUKE OF CLARENCE AND AVONDALE.

THE PRESIDENT: I have to inform the Council that I have received a communication from His Excellency the Administrator, informing me that the Address of Condolence to Her Majesty the Queen, adopted by the Council on the occasion of the death of the Duke of Clarence and Avondale, has been transmitted by cablegram to the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

SHARKS BAY PEARL SHELL FISHERY BILL.

This bill was read a third time, and passed.

BILLS OF SALE ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

This bill was read a third time, and passed.

GERALDTON-MULLEWA RAILWAY BILL.

SECOND READING.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. G. Shenton): I have now to move the second reading of this bill. Hon. members are aware that this is one of the works included in the Schedule to the Loan Act of last session, and since the passing of that Act the necessity for constructing the line has become more important than ever, owing to the great discoveries of gold that have taken place on the Murchison—a discovery, I feel sure, that will tend greatly to develop the latent resources of that portion of Western Australia. It is of immense importance that we should get on with the construction of this line as soon as possible. I have already laid on the table a plan showing the base line of the railway, and by clause 3 of the bill the Commissioner is given power to deviate from that to the extent of five miles on either side. The final surveys are not yet made, but as soon as the bill passes they will be taken in hand. The line will commence at a point on the Geraldton to Greenough Railway, 6 miles and 75 chains, or thereby, from its commencing point on the Geraldton to Northampton Railway, and proceeding thence in an east-north-easterly direction for a distance of 60 miles or thereabouts; and terminating at or near Mullewa Spring. This railway will get over the great difficulty which now exists in conveying material to Mullewa and the Upper Murchison. It will bridge over what is known as the sand plain, on the other side of which, I believe, there is a good road right up to the fields. I trust hon. members will agree to the second reading of the bill this evening so that the Government may get on with the final surveys as soon as possible.

THE HON. M. GRANT: I have much pleasure in supporting the second reading of this bill, because I think there is a vast future before this railway, inasmuch as it will not only serve the goldfields, but will also open up a large extent of pastoral country. I quite applaud the efforts of the Government for bringing this matter before us, and I hope they will endeavor to commence the work at the earliest possible date. What with the grand pastoral country beyond and the rich goldfields there, the line should be one of the best paying in the colony, and I venture to prophesy that it will be.

THE HON. T. BURGESS: I, too, have much pleasure in supporting this bill. Since we met last year the discovery of gold in this district, to my mind, shows a far greater necessity for this line than even there was before, and I hope the Government will have it constructed as soon as possible. We have the assurance of experts that there are large and extensive reefs of payable gold on the Murchison, and these must be developed. Hitherto the great drawback to them has been the great difficulty in getting machinery up to them. There is machinery now on the way which has been in the district for the last two months, and which is only now being carted to the fields, and it will be some time before it reaches its destination. The mines cannot be worked without plant, and therefore if the Government will get on with the railway as soon as possible they will be conferring a great boon, not only on the district, but on the colony generally. In fact, I think I might almost say that it would be in the interests of the colony if this railway were taken in hand before the Yilgarn line, owing to the extremely rich prospects that are before us in this locality.

Question—put and passed.

ADJOURNMENT.

The Council, at 8:25 o'clock p.m., adjourned until Friday, January 29th, at 3 o'clock p.m.

Legislative Assembly,

Wednesday, 27th January, 1892.

Petition: John Slattery—Petition: Wesleyan Church, re certain provisions of the Police Bill—Motion for adjournment: Commission on Technical Education—Bankruptcy Bill: further consideration in committee—Municipal Institutions Act, 1876, Amendment Bill: consideration of Legislative Council's amendment—W.A. Turf Club Bill: second reading—Married Women's Property Bill: second reading—First readings—Return of all moneys paid to Roads Boards during 1891—Adjournment.

THE SPEAKER took the chair at 7:30 p.m.

PRAYERS.

PETITION (JOHN SLATTERY): REWARD FOR DISCOVERY OF KIMBERLEY GOLDFIELDS.

MR. BAKER presented a petition from John Slattery (with reference to the reward offered by the Government for the discovery of a payable goldfield), and moved that it be printed and referred to a select committee.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest): I do not know what the object is; I should be very sorry to interfere in any way with the wishes of the hon. member for East Kimberley, but I would remind him that the printing of this petition will cost something, and referring it to a select committee will give a great deal of trouble; and I would ask him to tell the House whether he thinks there is anything in it that would justify us in sending it to a select committee. I also thought that, under the rules of Parliament, nothing is to be sprung upon the House without due notice; and I think if the hon. member intended to move to refer this petition to a select committee he should have given notice of it.

THE SPEAKER: We have no such rule at present, but I think it would be a very good thing if there were such a rule.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest): I know the facts of this case pretty well, and I can assure the House that there is nothing in it,—that even on the facts they do not prove their case. I do not know that I am in order in speaking to this subject now.

THE SPEAKER: Yes.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest): I may inform the House that there was