

resolution is adopted we shall be in the position I have stated: we shall either have to postpone the commencement of this work for several months or else we shall have to build a portion only of the line, so far as the money authorised will take us. I have no objection myself to postpone this item for a few days, if it is the wish of members, and let them have more time to consider it. But it will not alter the position in any way. As, however, there seems a general desire for a short adjournment, I have no objection, and, if it is the wish of the House, I will now move that progress be reported, and that we sit again say this day week.

Agreed to.

Progress reported, and leave given to sit again on Wednesday, 9th March.

ADJOURNMENT.

The House adjourned at ten minutes to 10 o'clock p.m.

Legislative Council,

Thursday, 3rd March, 1892.

Protection of Women and Girls Bill: third reading—Public Health Act Amendment Bill: third reading—Aborigines Protection Act Amendment Bill: recommittal—Wonnerup Roads Bill: first reading—Electric Lighting Bill: first reading—Customs Bill: first reading—Married Women's Property Bill: in committee—Goldfields Act Amendment Bill: in committee—Adjournment.

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

PRAYERS.

PROTECTION OF WOMEN AND GIRLS BILL.

This bill was read a third time and passed.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

This bill was read a third time and passed.

ABORIGINES PROTECTION ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

RECOMMITTAL.

THE HON. R. E. BUSH: After talking over the amendment I proposed at the last sitting (*vide p. 654*) with those who supported me, we have come to the conclusion that it will be unwise to go on with it for the reason that we think the Government has tried to meet us in bringing in this bill, and further because I do not see much good in amending what I think is a false system of legislation in regard to the employment of natives. I therefore beg to withdraw the amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

The bill was then reported.

WONNERUP ROADS BILL.

This bill was received from the Legislative Assembly, and was read a first time.

ELECTRIC LIGHTING BILL.

This bill was received from the Legislative Assembly and was read a first time.

CUSTOMS BILL.

This bill was received from the Legislative Assembly and was read a first time.

MARRIED WOMEN'S PROPERTY BILL.

This bill was considered in committee, and agreed to without amendment.

GOLDFIELDS ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

IN COMMITTEE.

Clause 1 agreed to.

Clause 2—No miner's right or lease, &c., to be granted to any Asiatic or African alien:

THE HON. J. MORRISON said that he intimated the other evening that although this bill was intended to favor Europeans as opposed to Asiatics and others, it had not that effect. Hon. members were aware that a large area of auriferous land in this colony was situate within the tropics, where colored labor was essential. Under the bill they were precluded from working as servants, and he did not think it was really in-

tended to go as far as that. The Colonial Secretary said that was not so; but it was generally understood that no man could work on a mine unless he possessed a miner's right. Under this bill miners' rights would not be issued to Asiatics; and therefore, he took it, they would not be allowed to work.

THE CHAIRMAN: The question is that the clause be agreed to.

THE HON. J. MORRISON asked whether there was to be no explanation given on the subject. Was the Government above giving it? If he could not get one he would move to report progress.

THE HON. G. W. LEAKE said he thought the difficulty could be got over by inserting the words, "except as a servant to any person holding such right." He would propose that amendment.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. G. Shenton) said the Act was brought forward to prevent any alien having a license; but there was nothing to prevent them from working.

THE HON. T. BURGESS said the bill provided that licenses should not be granted to aliens, but he could see nothing to prevent them from working as servants.

THE HON. J. MORRISON said that even if this were so, it was handicapping the white man; because while the Asiatic could work without a license, the European could not do so. They might prohibit the employment of this colored labor now, but they would eventually find, as Queensland had done, that these tropical parts could not be worked without European labor. The Colonial Secretary said there was nothing to prevent Asiatics working; but if that be so, why not make them pay a license the same as Europeans.

THE HON. E. T. HOOLEY said that as far as he understood the matter, all men employed at mines, whether on the surface or below, were bound to have miner's rights. That being so, he failed to see how Asiatics could work without a license.

THE HON. T. BURGESS said that if this were the case it seemed to be very harsh.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. G. Shenton) said the only explanation he could give was that the intention of the

bill was to prevent any Asiatic from taking out a license.

THE HON. J. MORRISON said he quite saw this; but it also had the effect of preventing Asiatics from working at all, and this he objected to. He moved to report progress, in order that the Government might consider the matter.

THE HON. R. E. BUSH said that as the bill opened up a far wider issue than appeared on its face, he felt strongly inclined to support the motion to report progress. The bill appeared to prevent the employment of colored labor; and it was recognised that the Kimberley mines could never be developed without it.

Question—That progress be reported—put and passed.

THE CHAIRMAN: I take it that what hon. members wish to know is, whether this clause will prevent white miners from employing Chinese or other aliens as their servants.

THE HON. T. BURGESS: Yes, as their servants or laborers.

ADJOURNMENT.

The Council at 8:30 o'clock p.m., adjourned until Friday, 4th March, at 3 o'clock p.m.