

otherwise be grossly libellous, and that having been thus protected they had afterwards taken the opportunity of publishing portions of their speeches, which were calculated to prove somewhat injurious to the individuals attacked. This clause seemed to him to be so worded as to admit of members of that House doing the same thing here, if they should be so disposed. He was not sure whether it was desirable to give this protection even to hon. members of that House. He understood this clause was intended to cover the publication by the newspapers of any remarks that might be made in that House by a member in his place; but it seemed to him to go further, and to throw a cloak possibly over people who ought not to have such a cloak thrown over them. He was not prepared with an amendment, but he wished to draw attention to the clause as worded.

MR. CANNING said it seemed to him that the clause referred only to persons acting under the orders of the House, and that it only protected such persons. He took it that the clause would not extend the privileges of Parliament to any person publishing a report of the proceedings on his own responsibility, or any extracts from members' speeches, if they were of a libellous character.

MR. TRAYLEN thought there was a clear distinction between the protection afforded by this clause and the protection afforded by the first clause. The latter clearly dealt with persons who published reports under the authority of the House, such as the Government Printer, and was intended to bar all proceedings, civil or criminal, against persons so authorised. But this clause referred to persons publishing extracts or abstracts from the reports of the proceedings, and it appeared to him it would open the door to abuses.

THE CHAIRMAN: Is the hon. member prepared with any amendment?

MR. TRAYLEN: No, sir.

Clause put and passed.

The remaining clauses were agreed to, without comment.

The House adjourned at 9 o'clock, p.m.

Legislative Council, Tuesday, 3rd February, 1891.

Notice of motion; point of Order—Blackwood Tin mining areas: question—Telegraph Department office hours: question—Perth-Busselton Railway: map of proposed route—Eastern Goldfields: yield of gold from—Adjournment.

THE PRESIDENT (Sir T. C. Campbell, Bart.) took the chair at 3 o'clock.

PRAYERS.

NOTICE OF MOTION—POINT OF ORDER.

THE HON. J. MORRISON: I beg to give notice that on Tuesday next I shall move, That previous to undertaking any portion of a line of railway to the eastward of the present railway system of Western Australia by means of loan moneys, the Government be requested to call for tenders for a through line of railway from Fremantle to Eucla; the tenders to state the number of acres per mile for which the specified work would be completed and equipped. That tenders should be publicly invited by advertisement from Europe, America and Australasia.

THE PRESIDENT: I do not think the hon. member will be in order in moving such a resolution at the present time. The Loan Bill will shortly be brought before the House, and then if any hon. member does not agree with the schedule, he will have an opportunity of giving his reasons, but at present I consider the hon. member is out of order in giving this notice of motion.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. G. Shenton): The Bill is not yet before the House.

THE PRESIDENT: The hon. member does not know anything about the Bill yet.

THE HON. J. MORRISON: This motion is intended to be independent of the Bill, and it simply asks for the opinion of the House whether such a railway should be carried out from loan moneys or on the land grant system.

THE PRESIDENT: I think it would be better for the hon. member to wait until the Loan Bill is before the House. I have, I may say, written out an elaborate ruling on what the powers of this House are. At the proper time that

ruling will be read to the House, and then hon. members will be able to act on it.

THE HON. J. MORRISON then withdrew his notice of motion.

BLACKWOOD TIN MINING AREAS.

THE HON. J. W. HACKETT asked, Whether the Government have considered, with a view to their removal, the obstacles which have retarded the development of the tin bearing areas near the Blackwood; and what steps the Government are prepared to take to encourage the tin mining industry in that district.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. G. Shenton): In reply to the hon. member I have to state that the matter is now receiving the consideration of the Government.

THE HON. J. W. HACKETT: Will the hon. the Colonial Secretary be able, at a later date, to state what the intentions of the Government are?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. G. Shenton): At a later date I shall probably be able to furnish some information; but up to the present, owing to the preparation of the Estimates, the Government have not had time to go fully into matters of this kind.

TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENT OFFICE HOURS.

In reply to the question asked by the Hon. T. BURGESS on the 30th January,

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. G. Shenton) said: I have to state, that the door of the main entrance to the Post Office will be kept open a short time longer in the afternoons than heretofore, but at present it is not considered practicable to extend the time to 7 p.m., as it would necessitate the employment of an extra caretaker. The extension of the working hours of the Telegraph Department from 7 to 10 p.m. would cause such an increase in the expenditure that the Government does not feel justified in incurring it.

PERTH-BUSSELTON RAILWAY—MAP OF PROPOSED ROUTE.

THE HON. M. GRANT moved, That a map showing the lands alienated within a radius of 10 miles from the proposed route of railway from Perth to Busselton be laid on the Table.

THE HON. T. BURGESS seconded.

THE HON. J. W. HACKETT: What is the proposed route, sir? We certainly have nothing now before us to show where it is, and that being so I fail to see how the Government can draw a map showing the alienation of land within a radius of 10 miles of a non-existent line.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. G. Shenton): I think I know what the hon. member intends. He requires, I take it, a map similar to the one hung up in another place. There is no objection on the part of the Government to the motion.

THE HON. J. W. HACKETT: If the Government can supply such a map, it will certainly give us more information than we now possess. Does the hon. member mean, when he says "proposed route," the route which was surveyed five years ago?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. G. Shenton): There is a map in another place showing the land alienated within a radius somewhere near the proposed route. That is what I understand the hon. member requires.

Question—put and passed.

YIELD OF GOLD FROM YILGARN.

THE HON. M. GRANT moved, That a return of the number of ounces of gold obtained from the mines now working at the Yilgarn Goldfields be laid upon the Table.

THE HON. T. BURGESS seconded.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. G. Shenton): The Government will endeavor to supply as much information as possible; but I may say that at the present time the Government have no authentic information to lay before hon. members.

THE HON. M. GRANT: Surely the Government have not been so neglectful as to take no return of the gold obtained at this field, especially as they are projecting a large work there, which will involve a very great expense.

Question—put and passed.

ADJOURNMENT.

The House, at 3.15 p.m., adjourned until Friday, 6th February, at 3 o'clock.