

which the development of the mining industry and the increase of population put on them; they needed repair and upkeep. Distance prevented goldfields residents from running to the Minister's back-door every other day, and so they were forgotten. A third of the vote was spent on ten or a dozen miles of road in the Perth-Fremantle district, while hundreds of miles of road in the goldfields districts were starved.

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS: The hon. member's arithmetic was bad. A third of the vote was not allotted to Perth-Fremantle roads.

MR. WALKER: The treatment accorded to the goldfields was utterly unfair. What was the use of opening up mines without roads to them? The goldfields could do without roads if they got railways, but unfortunately they got neither. The Minister knew nothing about the country outside the metropolitan area, otherwise he could not honourably have neglected these important goldfields districts; and yet members wondered why the goldfields complained of the avarice and selfishness of the coast.

MR. STONE: The Committee should now divide.

MR. HOLMAN: Would not the Minister give any farther explanation?

THE MINISTER had given the hon. member all the information available as to this road.

MR. BATH: What about the policy of road construction out back?

THE MINISTER: In allocating grants the roads were taken in what was considered their order of importance. This road, and the Boulder-Kalgoorlie road, were probably the most deserving in the State. He regretted that many roads like the Bardoc-Broad Arrow road could not be provided for, but that was no reason for objecting to this item.

MR. HOLMAN: Those roads were more necessary than this.

THE MINISTER: If any cases of manifest injustice were brought before him, he would be glad to provide something out of the general vote; but he had endeavoured to be fair. Members' ideas as to the relative importance of various roads might differ, but he was entitled to his opinion, and there was no reason for asserting that he unduly favoured his own constituency.

Amendment (to reduce the item by £650) put, and a division taken with the following result:—

Ayes	...	...	...	10
Noes	...	...	...	17

Majority against ... 7

AYES.	NOES.
Mr. Bath	Mr. Angwin
Mr. Collier	Mr. Boltou
Mr. Holman	Mr. Brebber
Mr. Hudson	Mr. Brown
Mr. Layman	Mr. Daglish
Mr. Stone	Mr. Davies
Mr. Stuart	Mr. Eddy
Mr. Underwood	Mr. Ewing
Mr. Walker	Mr. Gordon
Mr. Scaddan (Teller).	Mr. Gregory
	Mr. Male
	Mr. Mitchell
	Mr. S. F. Moore
	Mr. Price
	Mr. Verryard
	Mr. F. Wilson
	Mr. Hardwick (Teller).

Amendment thus negatived.

Works Vote suspended at p. 62, Item 58, re-vote.

Progress reported, and leave given to sit again.

ADJOURNMENT.

The House adjourned at 11:22 o'clock, until the next day.

Legislative Council,

Wednesday, 21st November, 1906.

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THE PRESIDENT took the Chair at 4:30 o'clock p.m.

PRAYERS.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

On motion by the **HON. J. T. GLOWREY**, leave of absence for one month was

granted to the Hon. W. Oats, on the ground of ill-health.

BILL—MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS.

IN COMMITTEE.

Resumed from the previous day.

Title—agreed to.

Bill reported with amendments.

RECOMMITTAL.

Bill recommitted for amendments.

Clause 6—Interpretation:

On motions by the COLONIAL SECRETARY, the definition of "occupier" was amended by striking out the words "and includes leaseholder or holder under an agreement for a lease." Also the definition of "road district" was amended by inserting the words "under the local government of a road board," after "a district." Clause as amended agreed to.

Clause 20—How division or alteration in the number of councillors affects the council—amended verbally so that any alteration shall not affect the seats of councillors until the next annual election; also by adding Subclause 2, namely:—

In case such order affects the councillors for one or more wards but not for the whole municipal district, then all the councillors for the ward or wards affected shall go out of office on such day, but the election of councillors shall not be otherwise affected. In every other case in this section mentioned all the councillors shall go out of office on such day.

Clause as amended agreed to.

Clause 24—Signature of petition:

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY moved an amendment—

That in lines 2 and 3 of paragraph (e) of Subclause 1 the words "a majority of the owners, or not less than twenty owners of rateable land," be struck out, and the following inserted in lieu, "not less than twenty, or by a majority of owners of rateable land (if any)."

Amendment passed; the clause as amended agreed to.

Clause 43—Retirement of councillors:

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY moved an amendment—

That in line 4 of Subclause 2, after "November" the words "in the year" be inserted.

This was to overcome the difficulty where a new council was formed just previous to November, so that the councillors should not be required to go out of office until November twelve-months.

THE HONORARY MINISTER: In the case of Wagin, the election took place in October and two councillors had to go out in November.

HON. J. W. LANGSFORD: Suppose the election were held in July, would the councillors hold office until the following October twelve-months? Where a municipality started in October, it was only right the councillors should hold office until the following November twelve-months, but if the election took place in June they should go out in November.

HON. M. L. MOSS: Considering the number of amendments already dealt with, and seeing the number of amendments on the Notice Paper, he suggested that the Bill should not be allowed to pass into law this session. So many amendments had been made that the Bill had practically been redrafted. How it had come to this House requiring so many amendments he did not understand. He had been unable to follow the amendments as they were being made. The Government should allow the Bill to rest until next session. It would be wise to drop the measure now, or some pledge should be given that no attempt would be made to bring the Bill into operation until after next session.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: The Bill had received very careful consideration, and he was not prepared to give any pledge that if the Bill passed through the Council the Government would delay it until next session. The measure was badly needed, and it would be a good workable measure when passed. Although there were a great number of amendments on the Notice Paper they had been before members for several days, and the amendments were chiefly consequential on the amendment striking out the rating on unimproved value. There was no risk in passing the amendments.

HON. G. RANDALL: Having given attention to the amendments on the Notice Paper, so far as he could see they were all necessary and would improve the Bill. The present Act was defective in some respects, therefore it was necessary that the measure should go through.

HON. W. T. LOTON: There was something in the point raised by Mr. Langsford. Supposing a municipality were formed early in the year, the councillors would sit for 18 or 19 months. It would be well to insert after "municipality" the words "formed after the first day of July." Perhaps the Minister would withdraw his amendment to allow this to be put right.

Amendment withdrawn temporarily.

HON. W. T. LOTON moved an amendment—

That after "municipality" in line 1 of Subclause 2, the words "formed after the first day of July in any year" be inserted.

Amendment passed.

On motions by the COLONIAL SECRETARY, farther amendments made by inserting the words "in the year" after "November;" also in Subclause 3 by inserting after "municipality" the words, "or an election is held consequent upon all the members of the council going out of office."

Clause as amended agreed to.

Clause 75—Return of mayor and councillors at first election or after union, etc.:

On motion by the COLONIAL SECRETARY, clause amended by inserting after "councillors" the words "or all the councillors," and in line 5 by inserting after "councillors" the words "or the whole number of councillors, as the case may be."

Clause as amended agreed to.

Clause 77—(Election) when held—amended by inserting after "shall," in Subclause 2, the words "on nomination day."

Clause 118—Application of moneys deposited on nomination—amended verbally in paragraph (a).

Clause 160—Business at ordinary meeting—amended by adding to paragraph (d) the words "or any other Act administered by the council."

Clause 176—Purposes for which by-laws may be made:

HON. C. SOMMERS moved an amendment—

That paragraphs (b) and (c) of Subclause 19 be struck out, and the following inserted in

lieu:—(b) For the regulation and control of bills, placards, or advertisements attached to or pasted or painted on hoardings, whether the same are erected upon private property or upon any public place; (c) For the regulation and control of hoardings erected upon private property, and for the removal by the council or any person acting under their authority of any such hoarding, or of any bill, placard, or advertisement attached to or pasted or painted thereon, which in the opinion of the council is dangerous or objectionable, and for the recovery of the expenses thereof.

This amendment was desired by the Perth Council. It had been submitted to Mr. Sayer and approved as regarded drafting, and it was an improvement on the existing clause.

Amendment passed.

HON. C. SOMMERS moved a farther amendment—

That the following be added to Subclause 29: (m) Prescribing fees to be charged for playing any game on any park lands or public reserve.

This amendment also was desired by the Perth Council. It appeared from paragraph (l) that a council could prescribe fees to be charged the public for admission to park lands and public reserves, also the occasions when such fees should be payable, and could prohibit admission therein on such occasions. This amendment would enable the council to make a charge where any particular game or entertainment took place.

HON. J. W. LANGSFORD: This would be a new feature in our municipal life. It did not seem to give the idea of physical exercises, if all boys who went to our park lands and public reserves to play cricket and football might be charged for so playing. The clause might stop footballers and cricketers from playing.

HON. C. SOMMERS: Only on very rare occasions would this be put in force, and it was practically following on the same lines as paragraph (l). The Perth council might be trusted in this matter, and in country districts the authorities were still more liberal. It might be necessary to charge a bowling club, or to impose a fee for settling disputes between rival clubs.

HON. G. RANDELL: This power might safely be left with the councils, and might sometimes be useful.

Amendment put and passed.

On farther motion by the Hon. C. SOMMERS, paragraph (d) of Subclause 30 was struck out, and the following inserted in lieu:—

Fixing the rates and fares which may be taken by the owners or drivers of licensed vehicles in respect of any hiring made within the municipality, and the mode of computation of time or of distance in respect of any such hiring.

Subclause 31 amended verbally.

Clause as amended agreed to.

Clause 178—Licenses:

On motion by the Hon. C. SOMMERS, Subclause (s) amended by adding the words "and for attaching to, pasting, or painting thereon bills, placards, or advertisements."

Clause as amended agreed to.

Clause 245—Power of council to improve parks, lands, etc.—amended by striking out the second paragraph (to be reinserted as Clause 9).

Clause 278—Footways may be flagged, kerbed, and paved, at expense of owner:

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY moved an amendment—

That the words "not exceeding one-half," in the amendment passed, be struck out, and that the words "not exceeding one-half if the footway or pathway is nine feet in width or under, or one-third if the footway or pathway exceeds nine feet in width," be inserted after "thereby."

This would take the place of Mr. Randell's amendment, the draftsman preferring the new wording.

Amendment passed; the clause as amended agreed to.

Clause 283—Council may require owners and occupiers to make and repair crossing:

Hon. C. SOMMERS moved a lengthy amendment for removing certain ambiguities in the wording and making the meaning clear, the amended form being approved by the Perth Council.

Hon. R. F. SHOLL: The object was to compel property-owners to pave rights-of-way leading to their properties. This work was now done by the council at the expense of the owner, but the amendment would compel the owner to keep the crossing in repair. The repairs should surely be effected by the council.

Hon. C. SOMMERS: The crossings were made purely for the owner's convenience, and the existing Act empowered the council to charge him with repairs.

Amendment passed; the clause as amended agreed to.

Clause 286—Plans of buildings to be approved by council:

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY moved an amendment—

That all the words after "feet" in line 12 be struck out.

This was an amendment inserted in another place. At first sight it might appear that people should not have the right to build fronting a street 25 feet wide, but the provision would inflict great hardship on people who had built in or near such streets in the past. Probably they would have to remove the buildings.

Amendment passed; the clause as amended agreed to.

Clause 296—Party-walls to be of brick or of stone:

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY moved an amendment—

That in line 3 of Subclause 1 the words "built after the tenth day of September 1884" be struck out.

This would make it clear that the clause did not refer to buildings already erected.

Amendment passed; the clause as amended agreed to.

Clause 334—Council may provide baths, etc.:

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY moved an amendment—

That in line 4 the word "council" be struck out and "Minister" inserted in lieu.

The clause contained a new power given to municipal councils, and to safeguard that power it was compulsory to obtain the approval of the Minister. The word "Minister" was previously struck out and "council" inserted in lieu. He wished to restore the word "Minister."

Hon. R. F. SHOLL: Would it not be better to insert "Governor."

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: It would be a rather roundabout process for this purpose.

Hon. W. T. LOTON: The word "Governor" was more suitable than

"Minister." In other clauses the word "Governor" was used.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY withdrew his amendment and moved—

That the word "council" be struck out and "Governor" inserted in lieu.

Amendment passed; the clause as amended agreed to.

Clause 366—What shall be rateable property:

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY moved an amendment—

That in line 1 of Subclause 2, after "used" the words "or held" be inserted.

This would give church authorities power to hold a block of land for the erection of a church, and it would not be rateable. The provision would not cover endowment lands.

HON. R. F. SHOLL: A limit should be placed on the area of church land held. After a townsite was proclaimed church authorities obtained blocks of land from the Government, which they subsequently sold for large amounts, and the money was used for other purposes.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: The land was granted, and if it was not used within a certain time the Government took it back again.

HON. W. T. LOTON: Recent Governments had been anything but liberal in making land grants to religious bodies. During the past 10 years, especially on the goldfields, the Government had granted only a quarter of an acre of land on which to erect a church. The Government should grant sufficient land for the erection of a church and a clergyman's residence.

HON. G. RANDELL: The practice now was that the land was reserved for some time, and if not made use of the authorities were called upon to show cause why the land was not built on. If good cause were shown a farther extension was granted.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: During the past five years the Government had carried out the practice pointed out by Mr. Randell. It was a pity that in new townships a reasonable area of ground for church purposes was not granted. He would bring the matter under the notice of the Government.

Amendment put and passed.

Subclauses 2, 3, and 5 amended verbally.

Clause as amended agreed to.

Clause 367—Annual valuation of rateable property:

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY moved an amendment—

That all the words after "The council" to the end of paragraph (b) be struck out, and the following inserted in lieu: "may, in or before the month of December in each year, make a valuation of the annual value, and when necessary a separate valuation of the capital value, of all rateable land within the municipal district."

This was the wording in the present Act, and was preferable now in consequence of the alternative rating on unimproved capital value of land being struck out of the Bill.

Amendment passed; the clause as amended agreed to.

Clause 370—Valuation of Tramways:

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY moved an amendment that the following subclause be added:—

(8.) This section shall not apply to the tramways constructed under the Fremantle Municipal Tramways and Electric Lighting Act 1903, and the same shall not be liable to be rated.

At a previous sitting Mr. Moss drew attention to the fact that although the Fremantle tramways were a municipal concern, there had to be an Act passed in which "the promoters" were specified. These trams went through several municipalities, which would make it rather awkward if one municipality insisted on striking a rate for tramway purposes. To make it clear that the people were not liable to pay such rates in any particular municipality, he moved the addition of this subclause.

Amendment passed; the clause as amended agreed to.

Clause 371—Valuation of gas mains and electric lines:

HON. R. F. SHOLL moved an amendment—

That the words "ten shillings," in Subclause 4, be struck out.

This was a tax proposed to be imposed on gas companies and electric light companies at the rate of $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum. These companies had done their duty, for they stepped in at a time when

the municipalities were unable to undertake these works, and had supplied light to the different customers and to the municipal councils. They had run the initial risk. Times had since become prosperous, and certain municipalities might now wish to construct works for the supply of electric light and gas, and might thus impose a heavy burden on existing lighting enterprises. Take the Perth Gas Company, which also supplied electric light. One per cent. on the gross sales of electric light and gas for the year would come to £574. In addition to that the municipality had an advantage over the local consumers of 10 per cent. reduction, which gave them £187. When the agreement was made with the municipality in the early years, this advantage was given to the municipality for the right to put mains along public streets; though that condition was not put in the Bill—in which respect this was like the understanding about the Transcontinental Railway. No record had been kept of it, but those who worked this business with the municipality informed him that such was the original intention. That would give the municipality £761. The Gas Company of Fremantle was now opposed by a municipal scheme of lighting. It would be most unfair that such companies should have to pay $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of revenue to the council after stepping into the breach when the municipality was not financially in a position to supply these services. The only other municipality the proposal might affect was Claremont, the works having been constructed by a private firm within the last few years. The rates in Claremont were not heavy, but if a tax of $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. were imposed, it would make the burden excessive. It should be remembered that these companies paid to the Government also 5 per cent. under the dividend tax. One per cent. at present paid by the Perth Gas Company would give £761; and as the output was annually increasing, this tax would increase in total amount.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: What were the company's receipts?

HON. R. F. SHOLL: It did not matter.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: What re the gross receipts?

HON. R. F. SHOLL: Their gross receipts for electric light and gas amounted to £57,411.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: And what would 1 per cent. on that amount to?

HON. R. F. SHOLL: As already stated, £574. In addition to that the council got a rebate of £187 over ordinary consumers.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: The hon. member ought not to calculate that.

HON. R. F. SHOLL: It appeared to him that in this country, when any local enterprise became successful, people forgot what the promoters had gone through in the early days; they forgot the time when the company's shares were worth a few shillings, and tried now to squeeze out of the company as much as they could. That was one of the curses of Australian legislation. No one knew when it was safe to invest in a local enterprise. In the old country, one could invest in gas shares and know that, except in time of trouble or something of that kind, taxation would not vary in the slightest degree. The amount of £761 was quite as much as the Perth company should pay to the municipal authority. If it were increased to one and a-half per cent. of the gross receipts the amount would be £1,048, and still the output was annually increasing. He wished to point out, however, that it was not the Perth Gas Company, the Fremantle Gas Company, or any other company which would have to pay, but it would be the consumer. The consumer could not expect to get a cheaper illuminant if these enterprises were called upon to pay these heavy contributions to municipalities. The municipalities had been unable to undertake these works themselves, but owing to an accident, the discovery of gold and the prosperity of the State generally, they now began to look around and wanted to obtain without any risk to themselves an advantage which he did not think they were entitled to, namely excessive contributions.

HON. H. BRIGGS had been requested by several people in Fremantle to support this amendment. The figures as produced before him bore out fully what Mr. Sholl now said. The Fremantle company's figures, which he had not here to quote, did astonish him. A good deal of the income of that company was

derived not only from gas supplied but from rent for meters and the sale of fittings and by-products. He strongly supported the amendment.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: The clause was not intended to impose any heavier burden on the Perth Gas Company. The rate would of course increase with their assets. The 10 per cent. discount allowed to the Perth council was not a contribution towards rates, for any equally large consumer would be allowed that rebate. Last year the council received from the company £796 5s. The receipts of the company for the year ended 30th November 1905 were: gas, £14,750 16s. 5d.; electric current, £44,485 5s. 9d.; total, £59,240 2s. 2d. One and a-half per cent. of that sum would be £888, or £92 more than the company now paid in rates; but that would be the maximum amount, not necessarily levied. The present rate was 1·34 per cent. By the amendment the gas company would gain about £300 a year. There was no intention to crowd out the company.

HON. G. RANDALL: The company paid in duty tax and other rates about £1,200 a year.

HON. W. T. LOTON: Apparently the present arrangement was considered satisfactory by the company, who paid in rates last year £800, and if the proposed thirty-shilling rate were struck, would pay some £88 more. That was not much to complain of. Such companies should not be taxed too high; but we must remember they had many privileges.

HON. T. F. O. BRIMAGE: What would the company pay if the contribution were reduced by 10s.?

HON. W. T. LOTON: About £250 less. The contribution was computed in this manner in lieu of ordinary rating. He, as a shareholder in the company, did not consider the rate too high. Last year the company paid in rates to the Perth council £570 odd.

HON. R. F. SHOLL: No.

HON. W. T. LOTON: The hon. member was including the rebate allowed to the city council. If a reduction was desirable, make the rate 25s. instead of 30s.

HON. R. F. SHOLL: The 10-per-cent. rebate gave the council a 10-per-cent. advantage over the ordinary consumer.

The Bill would affect all gas companies and all electric lighting companies in the State. Last year till July, the Perth Gas Company's receipts were: electric light, £42,592; gas, £14,819; total, £57,411. On this the rate would represent £574, or with the ten-per-cent. rebate £761, an annually increasing tax. The new proposal would press even more harshly on the Fremantle Gas Company, which had now to face municipal competition; and there was another struggling company at Cottesloe. The maximum rate would be made the minimum. If one and a-half per cent. were added to £761, the Perth Gas Company would be paying £1,000.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY was surprised at any objection being raised. The provision placed the gas company on a better footing. It taxed them on their gross receipts, and if they did not do any business, they would not pay anything, while under the present system, whether they did business or not they had to pay. The clause also exempted all lands and buildings, while under the present system buildings and lands were not exempted.

Amendment put, and a division taken with the following result:—

Ayes	...	...	...	4
Noes	...	...	...	9

Majority against ... 5

AYES.		NOES.	
Hon. H. Briggs	(Teller).	Hon. G. Bellingham	
Hon. W. Maley		Hon. J. D. Connolly	
Hon. J. W. Wright		Hon. V. Hamersley	
Hon. R. F. Sholl		Hon. E. Laurie	
		Hon. W. T. Loton	
		Hon. W. Patrick	
		Hon. C. A. Piessse	
		Hon. G. Randall	
		Hon. J. W. Hackett	(Teller).

Amendment thus negatived.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY moved an amendment that the following subclause be added:—

(7.) This section shall not apply to any electric lines or works erected or acquired under the Fremantle Municipal Tramways and Electric Lighting Act 1903, and the same shall not be liable to be rated.

Amendment passed; the clause as amended agreed to.

Clause 411—Power to lease land on which arrears of rates are due:

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY moved an amendment—

That in line 5 the word "two" be struck out and "three" inserted in lieu.

This clause related to leases. It was a new power to lease land on which rates were not paid. Two years was too short a period, and he wished to increase it to three.

Amendment passed; the clause as amended agreed to.

Clause 412—Procedure:

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY moved an amendment—

That in Paragraph (a) of Subclause 5, the words "twenty one" be struck out, and "seven" inserted in lieu.

This reduced the term for which the council could lease land on which rates were in arrear.

Amendment passed; the clause as amended agreed to.

Clause 416—When land may be sold—amended in line 4 by altering "four" to "five," thus providing that if rates were not paid for five years the council could sell the land.

Clause 438—Vote of owners, how taken—amended by adding the following words to Subclause 4: "with the number of votes to which the owner is entitled endorsed thereon."

At 6:30, the CHAIRMAN left the Chair.
At 7:30, Chair resumed.

Clause 447—Investment of interest of sinking fund—Amended by the words "debentures, consols, or stock interest on mortgage" being struck out, and the words "inscribed stock or other securities" inserted; also line 4 amended, and consequential amendments to follow in other clauses.

HON. W. T. LOTON: The word "government" should be inserted before "securities."

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY noted the point.

Clause as amended agreed to.

Clauses 448, 9, 450, 6, 7—amended consequentially.

New Clause—Boards of parks and reserves:

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY moved that the following be inserted as Clause 9:—

Nothing in this Act shall be deemed to confer any power on the council to control or manage any park or reserve committed by the Governor to a board of parks and reserves appointed under the Parks and Reserves Act 1895.

Question passed.

Bill reported with farther amendments.

RECOMMITTAL.

On motion by the COLONIAL SECRETARY, Bill farther recommitted for amendments.

Clause 371—Valuation of gas mains and electric lines:

HON. J. W. WRIGHT moved an amendment—

That the word "ten" in Subclause 4 be struck out, and "five" be inserted in lieu.

HON. W. T. LOTON supported the amendment, having already signified his willingness to reduce such companies' contributions to 25s. per cent. on the gross receipts.

HON. C. SOMMERS supported the amendment.

Amendment put, and a division taken with the following result:—

Ayes	...	...	...	7
Noes	...	...	...	5

Majority for 2

AYES.	NOES.
Hon. H. Briggs	Hon. J. D. Connolly
Hon. R. Laurie	Hon. J. T. Glowrey
Hon. W. T. Loton	Hon. V. Hamersley
Hon. G. Randell	Hon. C. A. Piesse
Hon. C. Sommers	Hon. W. Patrick (Teller).
Hon. J. W. Wright	
Hon. W. Maley (Teller).	

Amendment thus passed; the clause as amended agreed to.

New Clause—List of Ratepayers and Owners to be furnished to Electoral Registrar:

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY moved that a new clause be added, providing that in December of each year the town clerk must prepare a list of all ratepayers and owners and forward same to the Electoral Registrar. This was purely a machinery clause, to preserve and improve the existing system by which town clerks were required to furnish annually the names of ratepayers to

the Electoral Registrar. Though provided in the Electoral Act, there was no mandate in the Municipal Act for the town clerk to do so. It was essential, especially as to voters for the Legislative Council, that the names of all municipal ratepayers should be sent to the Electoral Registrar. A subclause provided that a list of all owners be compiled. This was not already provided for in the Electoral Act, which merely provided for a list of ratepayers being supplied, no mention being made of owners, and of course some ratepayers might be occupiers and not owners. It was also provided in this clause that the list should be furnished to the Electoral Registrar in December. At present the lists were frequently not sent in time to be printed on the rolls for Legislative Council elections in April or May. If a town clerk failed to furnish the list he would be subject to a penalty under the Act.

Question passed, the clause added to the Bill.

Schedule—New schedule No. 7 added consequentially.

Bill reported with farther amendments; the report adopted.

BILL—PERTH TOWN HALL (SITE).

ASSEMBLY'S MESSAGE.

A Message was received from the Legislative Assembly acquainting the Council that the Assembly was unable to consider the Council's Message in regard to the Perth Town Hall Bill, for the reason that Section 46 of the Constitution Act Amendment Act 1899 gave no power to the Council to insist upon a request, and that the request so insisted upon would assume the nature of a demand, and thus violate the principle of the procedure prescribed.

The consideration of the Message was made an order for the next sitting.

PAPER PRESENTED.

By the COLONIAL SECRETARY: Report of the Department of Agriculture for year ended June.

ADJOURNMENT.

The House adjourned at two minutes past 8 o'clock, until the next Tuesday.

Legislative Assembly,

Wednesday, 21st November, 1906.

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THE SPEAKER took the Chair at 4-30 o'clock p.m.

PRAYERS.

QUESTION—LABOUR BUREAU, OFFICERS.

MR. BATH asked the Treasurer (in absence of the Premier): 1, Is he aware that prior to the Superintendent of the Government Labour Bureau going on leave in 1905, it was understood that on his return he would resign that title in favour of the clerk who had done the work since the Labour Bureau was started? 2, Why was that arrangement not carried out? 3, What extra pay did the acting-Superintendent get during Mr. Longmore's absence from the State? 4, What is the salary of the official who conducts the correspondence and acts as registrar? 5, Has this official made a claim for 10s. per diem, which is the recognised pay of temporary clerks according to the Public Service Commissioner? 6, Is he aware that both these gentlemen have worked overtime for many months continuously to carry on the work of the office? 7, What remuneration have these officers received for their overtime work? 8, How many other male clerks are employed in the Labour Bureau? 9, What portion of his time is the Superintendent of the Labour Bureau employed in the Labour Bureau office, and what duties does he carry out there?

THE TREASURER replied: 1, No. 2, Because no such arrangement was