

## Legislative Council,

Tuesday, 17th February, 1891.

Destruction of Rabbits: question—Joint Committee on Public Works Bill: first reading; Bill withdrawn—Loan Bill (£1,350,000): second reading—General Loan and Inscribed Stock Act, 1884, Amendment Bill: first reading—Audit Bill: first reading—Census Bill: committee—Adjournment.

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

## PRAYERS.

DESTRUCTION OF RABBITS—  
QUESTION.

THE HON. M. GRANT asked, Whether the present Government are prepared to carry out the Rabbit Act, and so cause the destruction of rabbits on the mainland and islands adjacent to the coast?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. G. Shenton): Cheyne Beach, the only locality on the mainland where traces of rabbits were reported to have been seen during the past year, was visited by a Government party, but without any signs of rabbits being met with. Steps will be taken to clear Bald Island, the position of which is in close proximity to the coast, and to prevent rabbits being brought to the mainland from any island on which they may exist.

JOINT COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS  
BILL.

THE HON. J. MORRISON: In accordance with notice I have to move the first reading of a Bill to provide for the constitution of a Joint Parliamentary Committee to investigate and report upon all proposals for Public Works.

Question—put and passed.

THE HON. J. A. WRIGHT: I would like to ask, sir, whether there is any probability of this Bill passing through all its stages this session. If not, would it not be better to defer its consideration until next session?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. G. Shenton): Of course I can give no reply to this question at the present time. The Bill is not yet printed, and, until it is, it is impossible to say what will be done with it.

THE PRESIDENT (Sir T. C. Campbell, Bart.): It may be desirable that I

should say a few words on the subject of this Bill. If the hon. member had conferred with me before putting his motion on the notice paper, I certainly should have pointed out to him that the course he was pursuing was likely to do more harm than good to his cause. In the first place the remark of the hon. Mr. Wright deserves some consideration. This Bill is bound to be contested in another place, and how then can it be expected to pass through all its stages before the end of the week, which is the time Ministers wish to prorogue. Apart from this, although I do not say it is unconstitutional for a private member to bring in a Bill of this kind, it is most unusual and against the ordinary practice. I am sure all those hon. members who have studied the politics of the other Australian Colonies will agree with me that it is almost impossible for a measure of this kind to become law unless it is brought in by the Ministry. In New South Wales, where a similar Act is in force, it was brought in by the Government. There the circumstances were different to ours. They had an unwilling House and they were unable to go through their Loan Schedule. Members were pressed by their constituents, and they in turn pressed the Government, and as this was likely to lead to all sorts of jobbery, Ministers sought the protection of a measure of this description. Our circumstances are different. Here there is not one member of either House who cannot give a fair opinion, according to his own light, on any measure of public works that may be brought forward. The time, however, may be ripe even here for such a measure, but Ministers will most certainly resent a private member forcing it through. If such a Bill were passed Ministers could not do other than take it as a vote of want of confidence in their ability to protect the public. I have, therefore, a suggestion to make to the hon. member, which I hope he will take in good part. It is that he will allow this Bill to be set aside and table a motion somewhat in the following terms: That joint committees of both Houses, to investigate and report upon Public Works of magnitude having, apparently, in some of the Eastern Colonies, proved of much use and benefit, both to their Governments and to the

general body of taxpayers, this House is of opinion that the working of such Committees, and their efficiency, should be inquired into, and trusts that the Ministers proceeding to the Federal Convention will inform themselves, as far as possible, upon the subject with a view of determining the desirability, or otherwise, of introducing a similar system in Western Australia.

**THE HON. J. MORRISON:** I certainly take the suggestion in the spirit you have made it. I did not intend the Bill to operate in any way as a want of confidence in the Ministry, but I thought this was an opportune time to bring the matter forward. We cannot tell what is before us, and, therefore, I thought it would be as well if we had such a measure on our Statute Book. It would prevent pressure being brought upon Ministers to bring forward undesirable Public Works, and it would also tend to prevent friction arising between the two Houses. However, after your suggestion I will, by leave of the House, withdraw the Bill for the present, and give notice of the motion you have prepared.

Bill, by leave, withdrawn.

#### LOAN BILL (£1,336,000).

**THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. G. Shenton):** In moving the second reading of the Loan Bill it may be well that I should make some explanation to this House as to the reasons which have actuated the Government in bringing it forward. When the question of Responsible Government was before the country in years past, one of the great reasons urged in favor of the change was, that the Government of the day should be in a position to bring before the Legislature Bills for raising public moneys, and that on such Bills being passed by the Legislature the Governor should have power to assent to them without a reference to the Secretary of State, and thus avoid the delays that had occurred in the past owing to all such Bills having to be referred Home. From the tone of the speeches that were delivered at the general elections it was apparent, as all must acknowledge, that from one end of the Colony to the other there was a consensus of public opinion that one of the first duties of the new Government would be

to introduce a comprehensive scheme of public works. Such being the case, and the present Government having faith in the stability of the Colony, and each member of the Government having what all hon. members present have, an individual interest in it, and their welfare being as closely connected with the welfare of the Colony as that of hon. members, we felt in bringing forward this Bill we were doing that which was for the advancement and development of the Colony. Now, in a large country of the extent of this, it is impossible to carry out all the public works required from revenue. Our revenue is not large, and the extent of the country is very large, and, therefore, the only manner in which the Government of the day can carry out public works is by means of loans. We have a large estate on which we can borrow money. The area of the country which has been handed over to us by the Imperial Government is 1,060,000 square miles, or about one-third of the continent of Australia. Having such an estate at our back, surely we are in a position to borrow money for works of public utility. Reference has been made in the debate, either here or in the other House, to Tasmania. In making a comparison between that country and this one, we shall find that having only an area of 24,650 square miles their debt is £4,109,000. Their revenue, from the last returns I have been able to obtain, was about £600,000, or about one-third more than ours. Even if we add to our present indebtedness the loan which is now proposed—£1,336,000—our public debt will only then be a little more than half that of Tasmania. Taking the two countries, it will be seen that we have an immense area for settlement in comparison to the Colony I have named, and we have every reason to hope and believe that our revenue will very shortly be equal to theirs. Before going into the details of the loan it may be as well if I lay before hon. members a few figures relating to the imports and exports of the Colony. Taking the past four years it will be seen that the Colony has steadily progressed. In 1886 the imports were £758,000 and the exports £630,393; in 1887 the imports were £882,213 and the exports £604,656; in 1888, which was one of the years of depression, the imports

were £786,250 and the exports £680,345; in 1889 the imports were £818,127 and the exports had risen to £761,391. Therefore, in a period of four years, our exports have increased by £130,000. It is as well, I think, that I should bring before the notice of hon. members the figures showing how the general trade of the Colony has been gradually increasing, as shown by the imports and exports. The revenue also shows a similar expansion. I will not commence with the year 1882 when the Tariff was revised, for that would make an unfair comparison; but taking the year 1883 the revenue was £284,363 19s. 7d. Included in that amount was the Imperial Grant of £8,250. This grant, hon. members will remember, gradually died away, until four years ago it became extinct. In 1890 the revenue was £387,313 19s. 2d., and in this amount I do not take into account the £27,000 realised by the sale of lands at Hampton Plains. It is simply the ordinary revenue of the Colony. This shows an increase of £103,000 in the ordinary revenue during the past seven years. The revenue for the years 1883-4-5 was very good, and was brought about by the opening up of the Kimberley country, and when large amounts were received from rents and also the sales of town grants. In 1885 there was a land boom, and a large amount of town land was sold. But in 1887-8 there was a serious falling off. In 1887 this was caused by the falling off of the land revenue from Kimberley. That fell off nearly £28,000. Hon. members will remember that a large number of leases were thrown up in that year, and it was thought that the district would be almost deserted. Then 1888 was also a bad year for revenue. The Customs receipts fell off £22,000 and the railway receipts fell short of the estimate by £12,700. In 1889 the revenue recovered, and although there was a sum of £60,000 paid back to revenue from loan, we actually received, without this sum, £382,725, or an increase of £25,000 over the revenue of the previous year. In 1890 the revenue still further increased, and we received £387,313, without taking into account the £27,000 from the sale of the Hampton Plains land. The revenue has, therefore, shown signs of a permanent recovery. The imports during the present year are on the increase owing to the Midland

Railway and other works which are in course of construction, and if this Loan Bill be carried and other public works be commenced, the revenue from Customs will undoubtedly largely increase. So in like manner will the traffic on the railways, owing to the material which must be carried over a certain portion of the Government lines. I think the depression during 1887-8 was caused, not altogether by the cessation of public works, but to a great extent on account of the large amount of capital that was invested in mining speculations, and also in the land boom in the previous year, when a great deal of land was invested in by persons of limited incomes, and who had a difficulty in realising when the time came for them to meet their engagements. At the same time during these years there was a serious decline in the value of wool, and all these circumstances will explain why the revenue during these two years fell off. Although I think we should guard against raising a fictitious prosperity by means of loans, we should, at the same time, endeavor by every means in our power to foster the advancement of the Colony by direct as well as by indirect means, the revenue from loans being, to a certain extent, an indirect source of income. Having explained to hon. members the way in which the imports and exports and the revenue have expanded, I may now say that the Government of the day felt that, in view of the public utterances throughout the Colony, they were justified on taking office in bringing forward the Loan Bill, which is now before the House. I may also state that in taking office we found demands from all parts of the Colony for public works. When all these were put down they involved a very large expenditure, and some had to be struck out, works that the Government did not consider of immediate necessity. I refer to Houses of Parliament and public buildings of that kind. It was considered to be a part of the duty of the Government to introduce a comprehensive railway scheme. The first item of that scheme is the Perth-Bunbury-Busselton Railway. This line will open up a large amount of country; and although it has been stated it will run through all private land, I think, if hon. members will look at the map, it will be seen that instead of

its being all private land, there is still a large extent of country belonging to the Crown. We have only to look at the Great Southern Railway to see how the country has been opened up. When the line was first constructed, there was very little traffic and very little settlement. Now one has only to travel by the line to see how the traffic has increased, and how villages are springing up all along it. We also hear that the Company is selling large quantities of land; and surely the Government have every reason to expect similar results on this South-Western line, which it is proposed to construct. At the base of the Darling Range there is good land fit for orchards, and further down there is plenty of land suitable for growing wheat. I remember in my younger days that large quantities of the flour consumed in Perth came from Bunbury; and when this railway opens up the country, and the farmers can be brought within easy access of the principal towns, I have every reason to believe that similar results will accrue in the future. With regard to the railway to Yilgarn, the Government felt that—although we had every reason to believe that there was a large and payable goldfield—to a certain extent it was isolated owing to the great difficulty of communication with the settled districts, and that unless something were done to provide cheap and quick means of transit, the fields would never be permanently developed. In order that hon. members might be placed in possession of some facts, the Government sent out the Government Geologist, whose report hon. members have now had before them. In giving him his instructions, the Commissioner of Crown Lands asked Mr. Woodward the following question: “Are the prospects of Yilgarn Goldfield such as to enable you to express an opinion, whether such goldfield, if its development is assisted and expedited judiciously by the Government, is likely in the near future to be capable of sustaining a large mining population?” If hon. members refer to the report they will see that the Government Geologist states that “the extent of gold-bearing country has now been proved to run in a North and South line for over eighty miles, and although the fields are separated by patches where no gold

“has yet been found, these are gradually getting lessened by intermediate discoveries.” And further down he says:—“This goldfield will never make a great stride until it is connected by railway with the settled districts, as the enormous price charged for carriage of goods to the field is a very serious consideration to a field in course of development.” Further on he says:—“An impetus might also be given to the field by the Government subsidising sinking, as is done in the other Colonies, either so much for the first shaft opening up payable stone, at say 500 feet, or so much per foot for deep sinking, to prove the reefs to that depth; or, the Government might subsidise the mine that puts in the lowest tender to sink to a depth of 500 feet. Any of these methods would prove the field in depth, on which now only an opinion can be expressed. The reason why this field will probably prove permanent in depth is the great extent of gold-bearing country in a North and South direction; the length that individual reefs can be traced at the surface; the length over which they carry gold; their great size and well-defined character in depth; the settled nature of the country; the length of the shoots of gold-bearing stone which have proved to go down, as far as tested, in the mines which have been worked.” I think that, to a great extent, this report will tend to remove the impression that has existed that it was an unwise step on the part of the Government to include this railway in the schedule of the Loan Bill. I think we have adopted the proper course. The surveys will take close on a year, and if in the meantime some unforeseen accident should happen by which it may be proved that these fields are useless, and that the Government Geologist is wrong, then when the Government come down and ask for the approval of the Legislature to the Bill authorising the construction of the line, the House will have a full opportunity of saying whether the work shall be carried out or not. But with the information now before hon. members everyone will admit that the Government is justified in placing this work upon the loan schedule. In the report of the Government Geologist he says he believes there will be a

large population on these fields. What we want is a large population—a consuming population, to encourage people to take up the land and go in for further wheat-growing. If we can get this consuming population at Yilgarn, they will require a large amount of flour, and consequently there must be more land taken up to grow cereals. With regard to the Mullewa Railway it has been suggested to the Government that owing to the sand plain between Geraldton and the beds of the Greenough and Murchison Rivers, the carting of wool and stores is such a heavy item that it tends to retard the progress of that part of the country. The Government, therefore, propose to construct a railway across this sand plain to Mullewa which is now the depot for that part of the country. It is hoped that by this means the settlers will be able to still further extend their industries into the interior. A suggestion has been made that the line should be taken to join the Midland at the Upper Irwin; but anyone looking at the map will see that that cannot be the proper route, on account of the distance, besides which we must remember that Geraldton is a port, and all Government railways should, if possible, be brought into the seaports of the Colony. Among the other works enumerated in the Schedule is improvements to the Eastern Railway and Stations. For a long time past we have heard a great cry about the cost of the upkeep of this railway. One of the great causes of this is, not so much on account of bad management, but by faulty construction.

THE HON. J. A. WRIGHT: Hear, hear.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. G. Shenton): Every engineer who has been here has drawn our attention to the heavy cost of upkeep which is necessarily entailed through the heavy grades. Our hon. friend, Mr. Wright, when he first came to the Colony expressed the same opinion, and said that it was impossible to work them on an economical basis. The Government hoped by this expenditure to improve a portion of the line and thus reduce the annual expenditure in future. Additional rolling stock is also required, and a sum has been placed on the schedule to provide it. Then £10,000 is put down

for surveys. A great fault in our railway construction in the past has been the want of proper surveys, and on behalf of the Government I can promise the House, that before the construction of any of these lines is undertaken, proper and careful surveys will be made. Of the £150,000 put down for harbor works at Fremantle, £30,000 will be devoted to the extension of the present jetty with the necessary appliances, such as steam cranes, moorings, etc.; £20,000 to opening up the river, and the balance, £100,000, to commencing Sir John Coode's smaller scheme of harbor works. This extension to the jetty will enable the largest vessels trading to Fremantle to go alongside and discharge, as it will be carried out into 24ft. of water. It has been stated that the extension of the jetty will interfere with the harbor works scheme, but when we consider that any large scheme will take from 7 to 10 years to construct, something must be done to provide shipping facilities in the immediate future, otherwise the trade will be diverted to other ports. Various telegraphic extensions, harbor accommodation at Geraldton, and increased shipping facilities at some of the Northern ports, are also provided for. £50,000 has been put down for the purpose of a steam dredge, which will be used at the entrance of Princess Royal Harbor and other places where it may be required. The development of the goldfields and mineral resources has also been provided for by the Government. In the report of the Government Geologist he proposes that a bonus might be offered to the first mine which sinks to a depth of 500ft. That I think is a good suggestion, for if once we can prove that these reefs carry gold to the depth of 500 feet we need have no further fear of the field. £10,000 has been provided for a lighthouse at Cape Leeuwin, and also a sum for roads and bridges in the country districts. I have now, I think, shortly gone through the different items in the schedule, and I have every confidence in placing them before hon. members for their consideration, feeling assured, as I do, that they will tend to develop the Colony and her resources. The Government have every reason to hope and believe that this loan can be raised, and the interest paid, without any increased taxation whatever, be-

cause as the country is opened up and settlement takes place, so will the revenue increase. At the present time each inhabitant of the Colony contributes £4 per head to the Customs, and seeing the way the revenue has increased during the past 7 years, we can fairly hope that during the next 7 years there will even be a very much larger increase. During the last 10 years the development of the Colony has been very great. About that time the railway to Fremantle was only being commenced; but now we have a railway from Albany to Fremantle, and with the Midland, which is under construction, we shall shortly be in communication with Champion Bay, and the railways, now proposed by the Government, will still give a further extension. We have lines of telegraph all round our coast and a telephone system in Perth and Fremantle. In Perth we shall shortly have water laid on, and provision has been made for similar boons at most of our shipping ports. Before I conclude, I would remind hon. members of a simile which, although used before, seems to me so appropriate an one that I will remind hon. members of it again. The Imperial Government has handed over to us this large territory without any restriction whatever—a territory aptly described as a huge skeleton, and it is the wish, and will be the endeavor, of the present Government to bring forward such measures as will provide the sinews and flesh and bring the skeleton to life, so that the Colony, before long, will be able to take its stand on equal terms with its neighbors. The federation of Australia is now much talked of, and it is the desire of the present Government to do all they can to develop our latent resources and induce population and settlement, so that even if we are not very shortly equal to the sister Colonies, we shall not be far behind them. I trust that this House will pass this Bill through its second reading without any delay. It has been a source of much gratification to the Government to find this Bill carried through the Legislative Assembly without a division taking place. An idea has got abroad that there will be opposition in this House, but I hope that it will not be found to be the fact; for we must remember that the eyes of Australia are now directed to the policy of the Govern-

ment. The Legislative Assembly has agreed to the proposals of the Government without a division, and the interests of the Colony would be materially injured by any opposition on the part of this House. Our population is already increasing; every steamer that arrives brings us large additions to our number; there is already a revival in trade, and land sales have again commenced. I may say that the stamp duties for the month of January yielded no less than £1,000, and this may be taken as a good criterion of the way in which trade has revived. In a short time the Government land on the Great Southern Railway can be thrown open for selection, and we may take it that as the Land Company are making large sales of their land, the Government will also be able to dispose of some of theirs. I now move the second reading of this Bill with the confident hope that the House will accept it, and pass it, with as little delay as possible. The members of the other House have sat long in order to get it through, and it being the wish of everyone that the Colony should be represented at the Convention which will meet on the 2nd of March, I hope this House will follow their example, and push the Bill through its various stages as soon as possible.

THE HON. G. W. LEAKE: We have to congratulate, sir, the Hon. the Colonial Secretary on making his first financial statement to this House, and to give him credit for the able manner in which he has completed his task. I hope I shall not be accused of factious opposition, for I may say that I do not intend to oppose this Bill, but considering the extraordinary ease with which it passed through the Lower House I do contend that we, at any rate, should give it a full measure of consideration here. The Bill has not, I believe, even been before a Select Committee, and I shall, therefore, before I sit down move that this debate be adjourned until to-morrow. I am quite aware that it is outside the province of the Upper House to do more than discuss the Monetary Bills which are introduced, and that is the reason why we should take greater pains with them. By what is called constitutional practice we are thus hampered, but when we find so large a sum as £1,336,000 proposed to be expended on Public Works, we have

something like a right to have the minutiae of them brought before us; not that we may oppose them, but that we may discuss them. We are not here to represent constituencies, but the whole colony. I do not propose to say that this Bill has been hastily passed by the Lower House, but I do think that more details and particulars should have been vouchsafed to us by the Government. It is not, I believe, the intention of any member of this House to obstruct, or oppose, the passing of this Bill; but I should like, and others would like, the details of the various items in the schedule so placed before us that we may discuss them. I, therefore, move the adjournment of the debate until the next sitting of this House—not, however, as I have said, in any captious spirit, or with the object of in any way impeding the passage of the Bill.

**THE HON. J. H. MONGER:** I second the motion of the hon. member.

**THE HON. J. A. WRIGHT:** I would like to know, sir, what good the hon. member can possibly hope to do by adjourning the debate, for he must know as well as I do, that our mouths are shut; that we can do nothing by way of amendment, and in fact we have either to swallow it holus-bolus, or throw it out. Surely it is very much better for the hon. member to swallow the leek.

**THE HON. G. W. LEAKE:** You will swallow the leek, my friend.

**THE HON. J. A. WRIGHT:** I shall have to, and so will the hon. member, and, therefore, I cannot possibly see what benefit is to be derived from adjourning the debate. I came here not with the object of adjourning the debate, but with the idea that we should suspend the Standing Orders and pass the Bill at once through all its stages. We are in a most unenviable position. We may think many of the works objectionable. I think so myself, and I am sure there are not sufficient funds, or anything like it, to carry out these works, and hence another Loan Bill is staring us in the face; but we cannot object to any particular item—we must accept the Bill *in toto*, or throw it out. I have thought a Loan Bill was required for some years past, but it was found impossible to have it, and, therefore, under the circum-

stances we should be thankful for small mercies, and I should recommend the House to accept it at once, unless they care to take the responsibility of throwing it out altogether.

**THE HON. J. MORRISON:** The hon. member says that there are only two courses open to us—either to pass the Bill or throw it out. Your ruling, sir, was that there were four courses; either to reject it, or to pass it, or to send it back with suggestions, or to seek a Conference with the Assembly. I shall support the motion for adjournment.

**THE HON. E. R. BROCKMAN:** I see nothing that can be gained by adjourning the debate. We know as much now on the subject as we are likely to to-morrow, and I shall therefore oppose the Hon. Mr. Leake's motion.

**THE HON. W. D. MOORE:** I think it would be wrong to conclude the discussion on this Bill now. It passed the Lower House in two days, and to pass it in this House in one night would be dealing with the borrowing of over a million of money in an altogether too slovenly manner.

**THE HON. T. BURGESS:** The question before the House is an important one. The Hon. Mr. Wright has told us that our mouths are shut, and that we must swallow the Bill as it is. Undoubtedly our hands are tied to some extent. We cannot deal with it certainly as the Assembly has done; but we owe a duty to the colony at large not to pass the Bill hastily. It behoves us not to pass it as the other House has done, but to give it due and deliberate consideration. We are here to represent the colony, and it is our especial duty to consider such matters as these carefully and fully, and not to be any party to hasty legislation. I am fully aware, as I said at the opening of this session, that it was quite necessary a policy of this kind should be introduced, and I congratulate the Government on introducing it; but we must be careful how we commit the country to the items which are proposed.

**THE HON. J. A. WRIGHT:** We have no voice in it.

**THE HON. T. BURGESS:** If we have not, we should have. We may not have in the way we would like; but still it is

within our province to offer certain suggestions to the other House, and I think they would be willing to receive them, and give them due consideration. This Bill has only been before us for a couple of days, and we have had too short a time altogether to consider it before agreeing to commit the colony to so large an expenditure. In my remarks on the Address-in-Reply, I said that this loan policy would be received by the country with some hesitation, and I repeat that statement now; not that a loan is not required, but because the amount proposed is not sufficient to carry out the works in the Schedule, and hence another Loan Bill must be contemplated. Therefore, I think great caution must be exercised in the mode of expenditure. The country generally is in favor of a loan, the only question being how it is to be spent. I have every confidence in the country. I believe it is capable of borrowing a great deal more than £1,336,000; but it is not because we are in a position to borrow, that we should spend in a reckless manner. I wish to see any money we borrow spent judiciously and carefully, and for the benefit of the country at large. No doubt railways are necessary, but with many of the works in the Schedule this House may not agree. The only item I disagree with is that of Harbor Works at Fremantle. £150,000 is placed in the Schedule to be spent in this way; and I think we should hesitate before we agree to it. Fremantle is not going to be made a port to accommodate vessels at all seasons of the year for £150,000; it will cost more like £500,000 to do it, and, such being the case, I say, sir, that caution is necessary before any expenditure is approved of. Perhaps the Ministry have sufficient information in their possession which, if the Bill be sent back, may be afforded, and which may prove satisfactorily to the country that the item is a judicious one. This House has no desire, as far as I am aware, to stand in the way of the progress of the country. Our desire is to work with the Assembly, and for the benefit of the colony at large. Still we are here as the guardians of the public estate; and it is our duty to see that all measures brought before us have due consideration, and, this being the case, I shall support the motion of the Hon.

Mr. Leake; not that I object to borrowing £1,336,000, but to afford more time to hon. members to consider the Schedule.

THE HON. J. G. H. AMHERST: Hon. gentlemen who have spoken to this amendment for the adjournment of the House, have harped on the fact that they have had very little time to consider this Bill. Now as a matter of fact it has been on the table for about a fortnight, and has also been thoroughly thrashed out in another place. I would ask hon. members, supposing they adjourn for 24 hours will they evolve anything new? Against the amendment is the point put by the Hon. the Colonial Secretary, that unless we get through the work here quickly, it will be almost impossible to send Delegates to that most important Convention that is about to take place. It is now early in the afternoon, and I see no reason why those who are anxious to speak on this Bill should not do so without further delay.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. G. Shenton): If it is the wish of hon. members to adjourn the debate I shall not oppose it, but as was stated by the last speaker this Bill has really been before the House for a fortnight. In addition to this, many hon. members, to my knowledge, were present when the measure was being discussed in the other House; those who were not, had an opportunity of reading the debates, and, therefore, I cannot possibly see what benefit is to be obtained by adjourning. There is yet plenty of time this afternoon for us to pass the second reading, and then to-morrow we can go into the schedule. I do not see what is to be gained by postponing, although I have no intention of dividing the House if an adjournment is pressed. To pass the second reading would expedite the work of the other House, and if this colony is to be represented at the Federation Convention we must finish the work this week, otherwise the Government cannot attend. If we are not represented it will be a calamity to this colony especially at the present time, when we have just entered upon the privileges of Responsible Government.

Question—That the debate be adjourned—put and declared negative.



THE HON. G. W. LEAKE called for a division, with the following result:—

Ayes	...	...	8
Noes	...	...	6

## AYES.

The Hon. T. Burges  
The Hon. R. E. Bush  
The Hon. M. Grant  
The Hon. R. W. Hardey  
The Hon. J. H. Monger  
The Hon. W. D. Moore  
The Hon. J. Morrison  
The Hon. G. W. Leake  
(Teller).

## NOES.

The Hon. J. G. H. Amherst  
The Hon. E. R. Brockman  
The Hon. J. W. Hackett  
The Hon. E. Hamersley  
The Hon. G. Shenton  
The Hon. J. A. Wright  
(Teller).

Majority of two for the Ayes. Debate adjourned.

### GENERAL LOAN AND INSCRIBED STOCK ACT, 1884, AMENDMENT BILL.

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

## AUDIT BILL.

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

## CENSUS BILL.

## IN COMMITTEE.

## Clause 2—Interpretation:

THE HON. G. W. LEAKE said that since he had moved that progress be reported, he had had an opportunity of further perusing the Bill. He was not going to set himself up as a critic of the Bills of Ministers and, therefore, he would withdraw any opposition. He would, however, call the attention of the Government to the fact that this Bill expressly repealed the Act under which the Census, not only of the population, but of the resources of the colony generally, had previously been taken. He thought steps should be taken to obtain the number of aboriginals in the colony particularly those employed, how they were employed, their wages, whether they were satisfactory as laborers, and what was their treatment. He had pointed out before that no provision was made to include in the enumeration those who were sleeping in the open air on the day of the taking of the Census. They were told that this was to be provided for

by the Return. Such might be the case, but if the form was not in accord with the Bill it would be avoidable and able to be evaded by those who wished to do it. He merely pointed out these matters, but he would not seek to amend the Bill.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. G. Shenton) said he had referred the point raised by the Hon. Mr. Leake at the last sitting of the House to the Attorney General, who stated that this Bill was in exact accord with the Bills passed in the other Colonies, and that the same forms were to be used all over the Colonies. The Government, therefore, wished the Bill to stand. In the forms every thing was provided for, including the quantity of stock in the colony and the amount of land under cultivation.

The clause was then agreed to.

The remaining clauses of the Bill were put and passed without amendment. The Bill was reported, the report adopted, and the third reading made an Order of the Day for the next sitting of the House.

## ADJOURNMENT.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. G. Shenton) moved, That the House at its rising adjourn until Wednesday, 18th February, at 8 o'clock p.m.

THE HON. J. G. H. AMHERST seconded.

Question—put and passed.

The Council then, at half-past 4 o'clock, p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, 18th February, at 8 o'clock, p.m.