

tion, but with the 22nd clause they entered upon what he might call the proposed new system of dealing with our bonds. Hon. members would observe that by the 5th clause of the present bill—which was a mere transcript of the 4th clause of the Loan Act, 1882—every debenture issued under the provisions of the bill shall bear interest at a rate “not exceeding five per cent. per annum,” but the 22nd clause of the bill now before the House provided that, when our borrowing shall be upon inscribed stock, such stock shall be issued upon the best and most favorable terms that can be obtained (subject to the provisions of the Act), provided that the interest on such inscribed stock shall “not exceed four per cent. per annum,” thereby making it plain to the world at large that the rate we intend to borrow in the future is four per cent., an assurance which, no doubt, would tend to enhance the value of our stock as security, and otherwise prove advantageous to the colony. When the House went into committee on the bill, as he hoped it would do, he would then be able to enter more into details; but he believed all hon. members were alive to the advantages which would accrue to the colony from this measure. It would be seen that it provided that the Crown Agents were to make the necessary arrangements, from time to time, for inscribing our stock and for effecting the conversion of debentures into inscribed stock, paying interest, managing transfers, and generally conducting our financial business at home. He believed all hon. members were agreed that, as financial agents, they were the best medium we could employ. Seeing that the colony would, as he trusted, before long be again in the money market, asking probably for a very large sum, or at any rate a considerable sum, upon loan, he thought the House would agree that we would do well in accepting the advice offered us in this matter by these skillful financiers, the bank managers in the first instance, and then the Crown Agents.

Motion for second reading agreed to *sub silentio*.

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

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Wednesday, 16th July, 1884.

Death of the Hon. J. H. Thomas—Adjournment.

THE SPEAKER took the Chair at seven o'clock, p.m.

PRAYERS.

DEATH OF THE HON. J. H. THOMAS.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser): Sir, I understand it is the general wish of the hon. members of this House, in order to show its respect for the memory of our late esteemed and hon. colleague, the Director of Public Works and Commissioner of Railways, that the business of the House should be suspended on this occasion, and that the House, at its rising, do adjourn until Friday evening. It is understood at the same time, I believe, that all the business on the notice paper for this evening and for to-morrow shall stand as for Friday night. I therefore formally move that the House do now adjourn until Friday evening next.

MR. STEERE seconded the motion.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. A. P. Hensman): Sir, before the question is put to the House, I desire to say a few words on the motion. It is probable that there is not a member of this House who had a shorter acquaintance with the late Mr. Thomas than myself; but, sir, I cannot allow this occasion to pass without saying a few words to express the great sorrow that I feel myself personally, and my sense of the loss which this House and the colony has sustained by the death of my dear friend, Mr. Thomas. Sir, I speak of him as a friend, for, although I only knew him for a little more than twelve months, I feel his death as if it were the death of an old friend. It fell to the lot of Mr. Thomas, sir, to have to inaugurate, I believe, the system of railways in this colony, and for some years he was engaged in presiding over a department of considerable difficulty and of novelty, and often under great difficulties. I do not wish to say anything of him in that capacity; I think it were better for me to leave that

to the judgment of others more qualified—and I believe I am safe in leaving him to the judgment of those best able to judge of his qualifications in that respect. But, sir, no one who knew Mr. Thomas can fail to have been struck with his personal qualities in some respects. Those who knew Mr. Thomas must have been impressed with the straightforwardness, the honesty, and the independence of his character; and, in an age when men sometimes succeed by dint of qualities the reverse of those I have alluded to, such characters are not too common. Mr. Thomas perhaps did not study the arts of the courtier, or those qualities which on the surface commend themselves to bystanders. Mr. Thomas formed his opinions, as I believe, honestly; but, when he had once formed his opinions, I believe that no power on earth would induce him to falter from the course which he thought was right. No considerations of fear or favor ever influenced the late Mr. Thomas. Sir, I do not wish to take up the time of this House, nor do my feelings carry me in that direction, for any length of time, but this I must say: I believe that Her Majesty and the public never, anywhere, either in this colony or elsewhere, had the services of an honest and more true-hearted gentleman than the late Mr. Thomas. With these few words I desire to support the motion before the House.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. J. Forrest): I wish, sir, to say that I agree with every word that my hon. and learned friend the Attorney General has said about our late colleague, and I think that what has been said will commend itself to all those who knew our departed friend.

The House adjourned at a quarter past seven o'clock, p.m.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Friday, 18th July, 1884.

New Members (Mr. Mason, Mr. Loton, and Mr. Davis)
 —New Telegraph Line between Fremantle and Perth—Correspondence relative to berthing of steamers at Fremantle—Address in Reply: adjourned debate—Naval Deserters Bill: second reading—Bank Holidays Bill: second reading—Regulation of Whipping Bill: second reading—Designs and Trade Marks Bill: second reading—General Loan and Inscribed Stock Bill: in committee—Excess Bill, 1883: second reading; referred to Select Committee—Adjournment.

THE SPEAKER took the Chair at seven o'clock, p.m.

PRAYERS.

NEW MEMBERS.

The following new Members took the oaths and their seats: Mr. Clayton Turner Mason, Director of Public Works and Commissioner of Railways (*vice* Hon. J. H. Thomas, deceased); Mr. W. T. Loton, a nominee member; and Mr. J. S. Davis, member for Geraldton (*vice* Mr. Wittenoom, resigned).

NEW TELEGRAPH LINE BETWEEN PERTH AND FREMANTLE.

MR. STEERE, in accordance with notice, asked the Colonial Secretary whether the tenders which were being invited for the erection of a new line of telegraph between Perth and Fremantle provided that the posts should be capable of carrying the necessary number of wires for public telephone communication, when required?

The **COLONIAL SECRETARY** (Hon. M. Fraser) replied that it had been so arranged that the posts could be utilised for the purposes of a telephone exchange for the general public.

BERTHING STEAMERS AT FREMANTLE: CORRESPONDENCE.

MR. STEERE, in accordance with notice, asked the Colonial Secretary to lay upon the table the correspondence that had passed between the agents of the direct line of London steamers and the Government with reference to the berthing of the steamers at the port of Fremantle.

The **COLONIAL SECRETARY** (Hon. M. Fraser) laid on the table the correspondence asked for.