

point out that the circumstances of the city of Perth were altering very much, and such legislation as might have suited the circumstances of the city a few years ago did not apply now. He thought it was very desirable that their legislation should at any rate keep pace with the times, and that it should be of a progressive character.

MR. SPEAKER at this stage pointed out that there was no quorum, and that unless the required number of members were present within five minutes it would be his duty to adjourn the House.

Shortly afterwards the quorum was made by the entrance of the hon. member for Murray and Williams; and

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. J. Forrest) moved the adjournment of the debate until August 31st.

Agreed to.

VOLUNTEER FOREIGN SERVICE BILL.

This bill passed through committee without discussion or amendment.

DOG ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Read a third time and passed.

DAME BARLEE'S ANNUITY BILL.

This bill passed through committee *sub silentio*.

LAW AND PARLIAMENTARY LIBRARY ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

This bill was further considered in committee.

MR. STEERE moved that the following new clause be added to the bill: "This Act and the Law and Parliamentary Library Act, 1873, shall be read together as one Act." The hon. member said he moved this new clause in pursuance of a suggestion which fell from the Attorney General when the bill was before the committee the other day.

The clause was agreed to.

MR. STEERE also moved the introduction of the following new clause: "The Law and Parliamentary Library Amendment Act, 1881, shall be and the same is hereby repealed."

Clause agreed to.

Preamble amended and agreed to.

Title—agreed to.

Bill reported.

The House adjourned at half-past eleven o'clock, p.m.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Monday, 31st August, 1885.

York-Beverley Railway: compensation for land resumed—Commonage Reserve at the Hamelin—Police Protection at North Fremantle—Eastern Railway Further Extension Bill: first reading—Message (No. 22): confirming new Standing Order—Municipal Councils Titles Bill: in committee—Volunteer Foreign Service Bill: third reading—Dame Barlee's Annuity Bill: third reading—Adjournment.

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

PRAYERS.

YORK-BEVERLEY RAILWAY: COMPENSATION FOR LAND RESUMED.

MR. HARPER asked the Commissioner of Railways, if compensations due on the York-Beverley section of the Eastern Railway had been settled; if not, why?

THE COMMISSIONER OF RAILWAYS (Hon. J. A. Wright) replied that such amounts as were found to be legally due for compensation in respect of land taken for the York-Beverley Section would be paid within a few days. The delay which had arisen had been owing to the time required for investigating the matter.

COMMONAGE RESERVES AT THE HAMELIN.

MR. LAYMAN asked the Commissioner of Crown Lands to lay on the table of the House a copy of the correspondence with the Government, in reference to the reserves set apart for a commonage at the Hamelin, near Port Augusta; such copy to include tracings. The hon. member was understood to say

that he moved for this correspondence in order to show the House the grievances of two very old settlers, owing to the resumption by the Government of portions of their pastoral leases, for the purposes of a commonage.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. J. Forrest) promised to furnish the correspondence as soon as it was copied.

POLICE PROTECTION AT NORTH FREMANTLE.

MR. PEARSE asked the Colonial Secretary if it was the intention of the Government to station a Police Constable at North Fremantle?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said that the Superintendent of Police would make the best arrangement in his power for the police protection of North Fremantle; but no additional funds could be allotted for the purpose beyond the extra provision for Fremantle police which appeared on the 1886 Estimates, to be laid before the House.

EASTERN RAILWAY FURTHER EXTENSION BILL.

THE COMMISSIONER OF RAILWAYS (Hon. J. A. Wright) moved the first reading of a bill to authorise the further extension of the Eastern Railway.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

MESSAGE (No. 22): CONFIRMING NEW STANDING ORDER.

MR. SPEAKER announced the receipt of the following Message from His Excellency the Governor:

"The Governor has the honor to inform the Honorable the Legislative Council that he has confirmed the amended Standing Order No. 19, passed by Your Honorable House on the 14th instant.

"2. The authenticated copy of the Standing Orders is returned herewith.

"Government House, Perth, 31st August, 1885."

MUNICIPAL COUNCILS TITLES BILL.

On the order of the day for the committal of this bill,

SIR T. COCKBURN-CAMPBELL said he had asked the Colonial Secretary to include the Municipality of Albany in

the bill, and he hoped hon. members would not object. He should not have asked that Albany should be erected into a Mayoralty had it not been for the introduction of this bill; but, as a bill had been brought forward dealing with the town of Geraldton, and seeing that Albany was a larger town than Geraldton—(MR. CROWTHER: No, no)—it had a larger number of inhabitants—he considered he should not have been doing his duty to his constituents if he were not to seek to place them upon an equality with the town upon which it was proposed to confer this honor.

MR. S. H. PARKER: Why not extend the provisions of the bill to every Municipality? It simply alters the name of the presiding officer from Chairman to Mayor. It gives the corporation no higher status or no greater privileges; it does not even make the councillors Aldermen. All it does is to entitle the Chairman of the corporation to style himself a Mayor; why not let them all have that pleasure?

The House then went into committee on the bill.

Clause 1—Changing the style of the corporation of Geraldton into that of Mayor, councillors, and burgesses:

MR. RANDELL said that for his own part he should like very much to see the town of Albany included in this clause, and also the town of York. Albany had not only a larger population than Geraldton, its income was rather more than double that of the northern municipality. Moreover it was a very important seaport town, and likely to increase in importance, and he thought it would be a graceful compliment to the town to include it in this bill. He noticed that objection had been taken by the Press to what he had stated the other day, when the bill was read a second time, as to making it apply to all the Municipalities in the colony. It had been stated that the result would be to bring the title of Mayor into contempt. No doubt some of these municipalities were very small, but as to its bringing the title of Mayor into contempt,—if that argument was followed up to its logical conclusion it would apply with as much force to erecting these small townships into full-blown Municipalities, as it did to styling their presiding officer a Mayor.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. A. P. Hensman) said he understood that an amendment was about to be proposed with a view to insert the town of Albany in this clause. There would be no objection whatever on the part of the Government to that amendment. But as to what had fallen from the hon. member for Perth with regard to extending the provisions of the bill to every municipality in the colony, the Government were not prepared at present to go so far as that. But there would be no difficulty hereafter in extending the provisions of the bill to other municipalities, should it be considered desirable to do so: all that would be necessary was an order in Council and a *Gazette* notice. He understood that in most of the other colonies the smaller municipalities did not enjoy the privilege of styling their presiding officers Mayors.

MR. BROWN said there were differences of opinion both in the House and outside the House as to the desirability of styling the Chairmen of the smaller municipalities throughout the colony Mayors; but it would seem that these Chairmen themselves appeared to like the change, and no harm whatever that he could see would be done. As had been already said, their status would be in no way altered, and there was something to be said in favor of it. He certainly was not himself opposed to granting this privilege—if it be a privilege—to the principal outports or the principal country towns in the colony, and he did think if they extended the privilege to the town of Geraldton that the town of Albany ought to be included. As had already been pointed out, it contained a larger population, and its municipal income was double that of Geraldton. He had been asked to move an amendment in the clause, so as to make it apply to Albany. He should not have taken it upon himself, of his own mere notion, to have moved the amendment, for he thought it was a very small matter indeed; but inasmuch as it was proposed to make the bill apply to Geraldton, he also thought it ought to be extended to Albany. The hon. member then moved some verbal amendments to that effect—(Vide "Votes and Proceedings," p. 106)—which were agreed to, and the clause as amended put and passed.

Progress was then reported, and leave given for the further consideration of the bill on Friday.

MUNICIPAL INSTITUTIONS AMENDMENT BILL.

On the order of the day for the resumption of the debate on the motion for the second reading of this bill,

MR. BROWN said he regretted very much that it was incumbent upon him to ask the House to postpone the consideration of this measure. There had been a great many postponements this session, and one and all must regret the occasion for these frequent postponements, but in this case he thought hon. members generally would acknowledge the desirability of postponing the further consideration of this important bill, which had been so ably introduced by the hon. member in charge of it. It was a most important measure, as affecting the interests of other Municipalities as well as Perth, and the debate upon the motion for the second reading had been adjourned until that evening. For his own part he was perfectly prepared to go on with the bill, but a communication had been made to him that day by the Mayor of Fremantle and also by one of the members for that town, to the effect that they much desired further time for the consideration of this bill. The Mayor informed him that a draft of the bill had been sent to him by the Mayor of Perth, but that he only had it in his hands such a very short time that he had been quite unable himself to grasp its provisions, and that he had not had time to submit it for consideration of his council. Great interest, it appeared, had been manifested in the bill since its introduction and the Fremantle council desired to meet and discuss its provisions. He was also informed by the member for Fremantle that it was likely that a public meeting of the inhabitants of that town would be held to consider the bill, some of the provisions of which were certainly sweeping provisions. He himself approved of many of them, but at the same time they were provisions the consideration of which ought to be entered upon with a great deal of care, and he thought hon. members would agree that it was desirable that, at any rate for the sake of the town of second importance in the colony,

the inhabitants should have an opportunity of considering the provisions of the bill and of expressing an opinion upon it, before that House proceeded to deal with the question. He had himself spoken to the hon. member in charge of the bill (Mr. Randell), and he had no objection whatever to the debate being adjourned. Indeed had the hon. member not been precluded by the rules of the House from speaking again upon the motion—being in the position described the other day by the Attorney General as that of an “exploded volcano”—the hon. member would himself have made the motion which it was incumbent upon him now to make,—that the debate be adjourned for a week, so that the town of Fremantle might have an opportunity of expressing its wishes with regard to the bill.

MR. WITTENOOM said the town of Fremantle was not the only town in the colony, and probably there were other municipalities who would like to have an opportunity of considering this bill before it became law. He quite concurred with the hon. member for the Gascoyne that some of the clauses were of a very sweeping nature indeed. Not having had any experience in municipal matters himself—he had never even aspired to be an alderman—he could not say whether these provisions were good ones or not. The bill at any rate did not seem to commend itself very much to one ex-Mayor, and it seemed that the Mayor of Fremantle was not very much enamoured of it. He should also like to have an expression of opinion from the municipality of Geraldton on the subject, and he thought the bill ought not to be proceeded with at all this session, but that the various municipal councils of the colony should first have an opportunity of considering it.

MR. S. H. PARKER said he was sure the hon. member who had introduced the bill had no wish or intention to rush the bill through the House—(MR. RANDELL: Hear, hear)—or to take any advantage over country municipalities, and would have no objection to the debate being adjourned. He had not been aware himself that there was anything in the bill that would materially affect the interests of country towns; he had been under the impression that it was more particu-

larly applicable to the city of Perth and the town of Fremantle.

The motion for the adjournment of the debate for a week was then put and passed.

VOLUNTEER FOREIGN SERVICE BILL.

Read a third time and passed.

DAME BARLEE'S ANNUITY BILL.

Read a third time and passed.

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

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Wednesday, 2nd September, 1885.

Ecclesiastical Grant: how expended—Compensation for land resumed on 3rd section Eastern Railway—Gun Licensing Bill: first reading—Estimates, 1886: Financial Statement—Explosives Bill: report of Select Committee—Sanitation and Water Supply (Message No. 7): further consideration of—Superannuation Act Amendment Bill: second reading—Eastern Railway Further Extension Bill: second reading—Adjournment.

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

PRAYERS.

ECCLESIASTICAL GRANT: HOW EXPENDED.

MR. GRANT, in accordance with notice, asked the Colonial Secretary what portion of the Ecclesiastical Grant is expended in the North (including the Gascoyne, Roe-bourne, and Kimberley districts), and what portion of the grant is expended in and around Perth. The hon. member said he asked for this information in the interests of the Northern districts, as he was not aware that sixpence of the grant had ever been expended there; and, as those districts contributed very largely indeed towards the general revenue, from which the ecclesiastical grant was paid, he thought it was time to draw attention to this matter.