

necessitate a lesser amount of haulage than on the York route. The revenue earned on this railway, from my experience, will be chiefly derived from the coaching traffic, and not from freight; that is as far as the fields are concerned, and we must therefore look to the quality of the land through which the line will pass to supply that which will be deficient as regards the fields. I may also say that we must not load up the Yilgarn fields with too great a cost of construction, but if we can pick out a track, near which people will settle and turn out produce, it will be all the better. To my mind neither Northam nor York must be considered at all in this matter. It is a line to the fields, and should be constructed at a minimum of cost, consistent with obtaining the largest returns. I know both routes, but I cannot say which is the better of the two at the present time.

MR. CLARKSON: At this late hour it is not my intention to say much on this subject. Like my hon. friend the member for York, I am not prepared to express an opinion on the route. I admit I have formed an opinion, but if it can be proved to me that I am in error I am willing to alter my present view. I regret the turn the controversy on the subject has taken, for it is not a matter between York and Northam, but one affecting the whole colony.

MR. PARKER: I just desire to say what I omitted before as to some assertions which have been made in a newspaper. I may assure the hon. the Premier that I have never written a line or instigated a line being written or published in the papers on this subject.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest): I hope the hon. member does not think I was referring to him.

Question—That the bill be now read a second time—put and passed.

MR. PARKER: I now move that the Bill be referred to a select committee.

Question—put and passed.

A ballot having been taken, the following members, in addition to the Mover, were elected to serve upon the Committee:—The Hon. H. W. Venn, Mr. Piesse, Mr. Throssell, Mr. Symon, Mr. Randell, and Mr. Traylen.

Ordered—That the Select Committee may adjourn from time to time and from

place to place; may sit on those days over which the House is adjourned; may call for persons, papers and records, and report upon Tuesday, 5th January.

ADJOURNMENT.

The House adjourned at 11:30 p.m.

Legislative Council,

Friday, 18th December, 1891.

Mineral Lands Bill: first reading—Police Bill: report of select committee—Adjournment.

THE PRESIDENT (Sir T. Cockburn-Campbell, Bart.) took the chair at 3 o'clock p.m.

PRAYERS.

MINERAL LANDS BILL.

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

POLICE BILL.

THE HON. J. W. HACKETT brought up the report of the select committee on this Bill, and moved that it be printed.

Question—put and passed.

THE HON. J. W. HACKETT then moved that the report be considered in committee of the whole House on Monday, 21st December.

Question—put and passed.

ADJOURNMENT.

The Council at 3:10 p.m. adjourned until Monday, 21st December, at 8 o'clock p.m.