

Legislative Council,

Thursday, 16th August, 1894.

Defence Forces Bill: third reading—Bankers' Books Evidence Bill: committee.

THE PRESIDENT (Hon. Sir G. Shenton) took the chair at 4:30 o'clock p.m.

PRAYERS.

DEFENCE FORCES BILL.

THIRD READING.

This Bill was read a third time and passed.

BANKERS' BOOKS EVIDENCE BILL.

IN COMMITTEE.

Clause 7—"Court or Judge may order inspection."

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. S. H. Parker): I have since our last meeting considered the amendment proposed by the hon. member for Albany (Hon. S. J. Haynes). I have also conferred with the hon. gentleman, and I have agreed to accept the amendment with certain alterations. If, therefore, he will withdraw his original amendment, I will substitute another which I think will be more suitable.

THE HON. S. J. HAYNES: I beg leave to withdraw my amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. S. H. Parker): I move, in line 6, the insertion of the following words "by delivering a copy of the order to an officer of such Bank at the principal or branch office having the custody of the book of which inspection is desired."

Question put and passed. Clause as amended agreed to.

The remaining clauses were passed and the Bill reported.

ADJOURNMENT.

The House at 4:45 o'clock p.m. adjourned until Wednesday, August 22, at 4:30 o'clock p.m.

Legislative Assembly,

Thursday, 16th August, 1894.

Yilgarn Railway Contract and Bonus—Defence Forces Bill: first reading—Expenditure of Loan Money on Goldfields, &c.—Contract for Construction of Mullewa-Nannine Telegraph Line—Small Debts Ordinance Amendment Bill: second reading—Registration of Births, Deaths, and Marriages Bill: second reading—Marriage Bill: second reading—Adjournment.

THE SPEAKER took the chair at 4:30 p.m.

PRAYERS.

YILGARN RAILWAY CONTRACT AND BONUS.

MR. JAMES, in accordance with notice, moved that all papers in connection with the following matters be laid upon the table of the House:—

1. The conditions of contract for the construction of the Yilgarn railway.
2. Correspondence in connection with the taking over of the line in sections, or the waiving of that right.
3. Correspondence and agreement (if any) relating to the payment of the bonus.

It might be in the recollection of members that he asked a question a few days since with reference to this matter, and he understood from the answer then given that this line was to have been taken over by the Government as each section was completed, but that that right had been given up by the Government in favour of a stipulation for the completion of the whole line at an earlier date than the time fixed by the contract. He wanted to know what time was gained by that arrangement; and he wanted to know why, after the Government giving up this valuable right of taking over the line in sections, they paid the contractor (or had agreed to pay him) a bonus of £2,500, when the line was not completed? The Government must have known, when they gave up the right of taking over the line in sections, that by so doing they had delayed the completion of the line? [THE PREMIER: No, no.] Was it not notorious that the contractor, instead of hastening the completion of the line and handing it over, had been making a lot of money for himself by running trains along it?