

corporated or not." He said that, as the salary of the Agent-General was to be £1,500 a year, the least to be expected from the holder of the office was that he should devote the whole of his time and attention to the duties of Agent-General.

MR. R. F. SHOLL supported the new clause, and said it was very desirable that the Agent-General should give all his time and attention to the business of the colony. It was not long ago, as hon. members would have seen from reports in newspapers, that the present holder of the office was entrapped into consenting to have his name placed on the prospectus of a mining company, and it appeared he afterwards had great difficulty, when his attention has been called to the matter, to get his name removed from the prospectus, and had actually to go to a court of law in order to get his name removed. If the fact were made clear, in the present Bill, that no Agent-General for this colony should, or could allow his name to be placed on the prospectus or the directorate of any company, the mining boomers would then know that it would be useless to approach the Agent-General for Western Australia.

MR. LEAKE asked the Attorney-General to consider the effect of the words in the proposed new clause. Were they not rather too sweeping? If the object was to prohibit the Agent-General from acting as a director on the board of any incorporated company, perhaps that object was commendable; but the amendment went further, by saying the Agent-General should not be a director of any company or syndicate, or hold any position in such. Would the Attorney-General, or the mover of the new clause, be good enough to define the meaning of the term "syndicate?" His own impression was that the term "syndicate" was merely a synonym for "partnership;" and the new clause might thus stop the Agent-General from indulging in any little venture at all. This House could not expect an Agent-General to—[THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS: Have no fun]—yes, could not expect him to have no fun at all. If the words, "or hold any position in," were struck out, the new clause would be less arbitrary.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt) said the proposed new clause raised a question so important, that notice of it ought to have been given. The Government, he might say, had no objection at all to what the mover was aiming at; and in fact the present Government had always contended that the

Agent-General should not, without the special consent of the Government, be a director of a joint-stock company. There might, however, be no objection to the Agent-General's holding the position of a director in London of an important bank—say the National Bank of Australasia—but in reference to joint-stock companies of the ordinary kind, such a thing should be prohibited entirely, and he might say it was prohibited at the present moment. In order that time should be given for considering the effect of the proposed new clause, it would be well to report progress at this stage. He therefore moved that progress be reported, and leave asked to sit again.

Motion put and passed.

Progress reported, and leave given to sit again.

ADJOURNMENT.

The House adjourned at 10.44 p.m.

Legislative Council,

Tuesday, 9th July, 1895.

Bankruptcy of Member: Notice of from Official Receiver—Export Duties Repeal Bill; first reading—Naval and Military Uniforms Bill; first reading—Excess Bill, 1894; first reading—Standard Time Bill; first reading—Adjournment.

THE PRESIDENT (Hon. Sir G. Shenton) took the chair at 4.30 o'clock p.m.

BANKRUPTCY OF MEMBER.

THE PRESIDENT (Hon. Sir G. Shenton): I have to inform hon. members that I have received the following letter from the Official Receiver:—

Supreme Court,
Perth, W.A.,
26th June, 1895.

The Hon.
The President of
The Legislative Council.

Sir,—I have the honor to inform you that Thomas Harry Marshall, of Cue, a member of the Legislative Council, was adjudged bankrupt on the 24th inst., and enclosed I send you an office copy order of adjudication.

I have the honor, &c.,
H. WAINSFORD,
Official Receiver.

I may add that the office copy of adjudication and the *Gazette* containing the declaration of the bankruptcy accompany the letter.

EXPORT DUTIES REPEAL BILL.

This Bill was received from the Legislative Assembly.

THE HON. S. H. PARKEtT: Sir,—The hon. Mr. Wittenoom who represents the Government in this House is unfortunately detained at Albany. He intended to have arrived here this morning by the train which left Albany last evening; but unfortunately, owing to there having been a case of small-pox on board the steamer, the mails were kept at Albany for the purpose of being fumigated, and the special train did not run. In consequence of this the Minister is not able to be in his place, and he has telegraphed asking me to move the adjournment of the House. I think, however, it would be better if we read the Bills we have before us a first time before adjourning. I therefore move that the Export Duties Repeal Bill be read a first time.

Question put and passed.

NAVAL AND MILITARY UNIFORMS BILL.

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

EXCESS BILL.

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

STANDARD TIME BILL.

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

ADJOURNMENT.

The House, at 4.15 o'clock p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, 10th July, at 4.30 o'clock p.m.

Legislative Assembly,

Tuesday, 9th July, 1895.

Amendment of the Education Act—Re-distribution of Seats—Disfranchisement of Settlers in the Central Electoral Province—Increased Payment to Jurors in Criminal Cases—Standard Time Bill; third reading—Agent-General Bill; further considered in Committee—Post Office Savings Bank Interest Bill; in Committee—Perth Mint Bill; second reading—Justices Appointment Bill; second reading—Correspondence re Resumption of Lands at Bunbury for Railway Purposes—Adjournment.

THE SPEAKER took the chair at 4 p.m.

PRAYERS.

AMENDMENT OF THE EDUCATION ACT.

MR. ILLINGWORTH, in accordance with notice, asked the Premier, whether it was the intention of the Government to bring in a Bill to amend the Education Act, by abolishing the present dual system and establishing a national system, free, secular, and compulsory.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) replied, as follows:—

The Government does not propose to deal with this question at present.

The Government are bound to recognise that those interested in the Assisted Schools have vested interests which have been built up under the law of the land during the past 25 years, and therefore, should it be considered necessary to make any alteration in the law which would affect those interests, the subject would require to be approached only after the fullest and most careful consideration, with a view of dealing honorably and equitably with the interests which have been legally created.

RE-DISTRIBUTION OF SEATS.

MR. ILLINGWORTH, in accordance with notice, asked the Premier, whether it was the intention of the Government to bring in a Bill to amend the Constitution Act, by providing for such a re-distribution of seats as would give more equitable representation in this House to the goldfields and other centres of population.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) replied that the Government did not propose to deal with this question at present.