

AGRICULTURAL LANDS PURCHASE
BILL.

AMENDMENT ON REPORT.

The Bill having been reported, with amendments,

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt) moved, in reference to Clause 13, that the words, "payable in advance," be added after the word "money," in line 4.

Amendment put and passed.

Report adopted.

STREETS AND ROADS CLOSURE
(EASTERN RAILWAY) BILL.

IN COMMITTEE.

Clauses 1 and 2—agreed to.

Schedule:

THE COMMISSIONER OF RAILWAYS (Hon F. H. Piesse) moved, as an amendment, that section 6 of the Schedule be struck out, and the following words be inserted in lieu thereof:—"All that portion of Edward-street, containing 1 rood, 12·3 perches (more or less), starting from the intersection of the southern side of the said Edward-street with Claisebrook-street, thence 3 degrees 41 minutes 82½ links along the western side of Claisebrook-street to the northern boundary of Edward-street, thence along the north-eastern boundary of Edward-street 298 degrees 19¼ minutes 387·5 links, thence by a line 245 degrees 17¼ minutes 95 links to the south-western boundary of Edward-street, thence along that street's south-western boundary 118 degrees 12½ minutes 479 links to the starting point. All bearings being true or thereabouts—the measurements more or less.

Amendment put and passed, and the Schedule, as amended, agreed to.

Preamble and title—agreed to.

Bill reported, with an amendment.

ADJOURNMENT.

The House adjourned at 5 o'clock, p.m., until next day.

Legislative Council,

Wednesday, 29th July, 1896.

West Australian Turf Club: petition from—Companies Act Amendment Bill: second reading—Powers of Attorney Bill: first reading—Agricultural Bank Act Amendment Bill: first reading—Summary Jurisdiction (Married Women's) Act Amendment Bill: first reading—Adjournment.

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

NEW MEMBERS.

THE PRESIDENT (Hon. Sir G. Shenton) notified to the House that he had received returns to the writs which he had issued for the election of members for the Metropolitan Province, the Western Province, and the South-Eastern Province, and that it appeared from such returns that the Hon. H. J. Saunders, the Hon. A. B. Kidson, and the Hon. C. A. Piesse had been re-elected for the respective Provinces.

The Hons. H. J. Saunders, A. B. Kidson, and C. A. Piesse were then introduced, and took the oaths prescribed by law.

WEST AUSTRALIAN TURF CLUB—
PETITION FROM.

THE HON. S. H. PARKER presented a petition from the West Australian Turf Club, praying for leave to introduce a Bill to repeal the West Australian Turf Club Act, and for other purposes.

Ordered that the petition be received.

COMPANIES ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

SECOND READING.

THE HON. F. M. STONE: This Bill, Mr. President, is a very short one, and it proposes to alter Sub-clause 3 of Section 198 of the principal Act. Under this clause a declaration can only be made before a notary public or a British consul, and I propose to add the words "vice-consul, consular agent, commissioner for taking affidavits in the Supreme Court of the said colony" after the words "British consul," in the second line. I may say it has been found in London that the clause in the principal Act does not work well, because declarations cannot be taken before Commissioners of the Supreme Court. The amendment I propose alters this. It will also be a considerable con-

venience to the profession, and I do not think hon. members will have any objection to it. The principal clause of the Bill I am asking the House to agree to is the 4th. Hon. members will see by Section 203 of the principal Act, that any foreign company carrying on business in this colony, contrary to the provisions of the Act, is liable to a penalty of £20, besides which it cannot proceed in any court of law without first showing that it has complied with previous sections of the Act as to registration, &c. In the case of a foreign company wishing to sue for any small debt, it is necessary to call an officer of the Supreme Court to prove the registration of the company and other matters, and this involves considerable expense without any necessity for it. On the goldfields especially it is very difficult for a company to sue unless it is prepared to go to the expense of bringing an officer all the way from Perth. I propose to rectify this by providing that when a foreign company is registered here, and has complied with the Act, the Registrar shall issue a certificate, which shall be evidence in any court of law of the incorporation of the company, as in the case of local companies. I do not propose to carry the Bill beyond the second reading to-day, because I wish to make Clause 4, as it appears in the Bill, somewhat clearer before we go into committee. I now move that the Bill be read a second time.

THE HON. S. H. PARKER: I desire to say that I have gone through this Bill, and I think it contains very desirable amendments. I had the honour of drawing the Companies Act for the Government, and I regret that it did not strike me to insert such clauses as these at the time. At Cue I fail to see how a company could sue at all for a small debt, because the expense of bringing an officer of the Court as a witness would probably exceed the amount of the debt. Under this Bill the necessary formalities may be proved in the case of a foreign company in the same way that they are proved in the case of a local company—namely, by the production of the certificate of registration which is issued by the Registrar.

THE MINISTER FOR MINES (Hon. E. H. Wittenoom): I move that the debate be adjourned until the next sitting of the House.

Motion put and passed.
Debate adjourned accordingly.

POWERS OF ATTORNEY BILL.

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

AGRICULTURAL BANK ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

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

SUMMARY JURISDICTION (MARRIED WOMEN'S) ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

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

ADJOURNMENT.

The House, at 4:55 o'clock p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, August 5th, 1896, at 4:30 o'clock p.m.

Legislative Assembly,

Wednesday, 29th July, 1896.

Deeds of Arrangement Bill; first reading—Motion: Inquiry into causes of high price of meat—Agricultural Lands Purchase Bill; third reading—Municipal Institutions Act Amendment Bill; second reading—Adoption of Children Bill; in committee—Constitution Act Amendment (Redistribution of Seats) Bill; second reading—Adjournment.

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

PRAYERS.

DEEDS OF ARRANGEMENT BILL.

Introduced by Mr. Moss, and read a first time.

MOTION—INQUIRY INTO CAUSES OF HIGH PRICE OF MEAT.

MR. HARPER, in accordance with notice, moved "That a Joint Select Committee of both Houses be appointed to inquire into the causes of the present high price of meat, and to suggest such means