

an account to Parliament of any funds entrusted to them. Provision is also made for the burial of poor persons. A justice of the peace is enabled to give a certificate that the relatives of a deceased person are poor and unable to pay the charge for burial, and he may order the deceased to be buried in any cemetery free of charge. There is power also to make by-laws and regulations for the carrying out of the various provisions of the Bill. There is nothing in the measure that will offend anyone, and it seems to me that it puts the whole question of the cemeteries of the colony upon a safe and sure footing. I know from my own knowledge that this Act is very much required, and there is nothing of the kind at the present time in the colony. The existing Act is a very old one, and is altogether unsuitable for our present requirements; and I believe this Bill will be found very useful in the larger places, such as Perth, Fremantle, Coolgardie, and Kalgoorlie. It is founded on a law existing in other colonies of Australia; and if hon. members have read the Bill, they will see that everything that is necessary and that is likely to require attention has been provided. I beg to move the second reading of the Bill.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

ADJOURNMENT.

The House adjourned at 10:30 p.m. until the next day.

Legislative Council.

Tuesday, 2nd November, 1897.

Papers Presented—Question: Land Excluded from Operation of Goldfields Act—Address-in-Reply: Presentation—Companies Act Amendment Bill: first reading—Perth Gas Company's Act Further Amendment Bill: first reading—Steam Boilers Bill: second reading: in Committee—Registration of Firms Bill: first reading—Adjournment.

[Last previous sitting of the Council, 14th October; adjourned to the 19th; further adjourned to the 2nd November.]

The PRESIDENT (Hon. Sir G. Shenton) took the Chair at 4:30 o'clock, p.m.

PRAYERS.

PAPERS PRESENTED.

By the MINISTER OF MINES: 1. Scale of survey fees under Mineral Lands Act, 1892. 2. Despatch from Secretary of State *re* Visit of Colonial Premiers to London. 3. Perth Museum, Report for 1896-7. 4. Victoria Public Library, Report for 1896-7. 5. Commissioner of Police, Report for 1896-7. 6. Agricultural Bank, Report for 1896-7.

QUESTION—LAND EXCLUDED FROM OPERATION OF GOLDFIELDS ACT.

The HON. H. BRIGGS (for the Hon. H. G. Parsons) asked the Minister of Mines:—1. Whether a large portion of the known auriferous belt on the East Coolgardie goldfield has been recently excluded from the operation of the Goldfields Act by inclusion within the town-sites of Kalgoorlie and the Boulder. 2. If so, what is the object of transferring any considerable portion of the principal goldfield of the colony from the control of the Mines Department to that of the Lands. 3. Whether, in view of recent alluvial discoveries, and of the evidence recently given by Mr. Pitman, of New South Wales, before the Royal Commission, relative to the probable occurrence of deep leads in the neighbourhood, the Government will refrain from making any further such exclusions, pending inquiry. 4. Whether residence areas are still being granted on surrendered leases to the north of the town of Kalgoorlie, and within the auriferous belt. 5. Whether it is intended to continue (under the operation of Section 30

of the Goldfields Act, 1895) to lessen the facilities generally granted to prospectors and mining investors under a miner's right. 6. If so, whether it is the intention of the Government to introduce, at an early date, a Bill providing for mining on private property. 7. Whether the Kalgoorlie municipality, the Boulder municipality, the warden of the East Coolgardie goldfield, or the Kalgoorlie Chamber of Mines, was consulted in any way as to the advisability of the above-mentioned extensions of the townsites. 8. Whether deputations have arrived, or are to arrive, in Perth from the Kalgoorlie municipality and the Boulder municipality, protesting against such extensions as discouraging both to legitimate settlement and to mining investment, as well as being fatal to prospecting. 9. Whether, in future, the Kalgoorlie Chamber of Mines will be consulted whenever possible, before radical changes affecting the mining industry of the district are effected. 10. Whether the registration of residence areas adjoining the Boulder municipality has been stopped by the extension of the townsite. 11. Whether the Department of Mines is desirous of checking the settlement of miners' families on the fields for the sake of a temporary increase in the revenue collected by the Lands. 12. Whether the intention of the Government (to wit, to cause the cessation of land-dummying) would not be best achieved by the encouragement of a free issue of residence areas held on long leases (improvements alone to belong to the lessee), and granted on conditions which should in no way discourage mining.

THE PRESIDENT: I would like to draw attention to the fact that question 12 is an infringement of Standing Order 83, which states: "In putting any such question, no argument or opinion shall be offered, nor any facts stated, except so far as may be necessary to explain such question." There is certainly an opinion expressed in question 12.

THE MINISTER OF MINES replied:—1. The boundaries of the Kalgoorlie and Boulder townsites have been considerably extended. The extension embraces an area lying principally north and west of these townsites, and is not supposed to contain any large portion of the known auriferous belt. 2. The objects were:—

a. To prevent mining leases being taken up or held in close proximity to the townsites, for the speculative values of their surface rights. b. To enable the Government to reap some benefit from enhanced values of land, if dealt with as town lots and submitted to auction. c. To prevent promiscuous registration of residence areas prior to survey. d. To see that due provision for the reservation of lands for public and other purposes is made. e. To have the area subdivided on approved designs. 3. Great care will be taken in making further exclusions. 4. No areas have been granted except those pegged previous to extension of town boundaries. 5. Question being considered. 6. Yes, if time permits. 7. No; only the Lands Department and the Inspecting Surveyors. 8. Yes. 9. Yes, when considered necessary. 10. Yes. 11. No. 12. I am unable to give a reply to this.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY—PRESENTATION.

At 4:40 o'clock the President and members proceeded to Government House to present the Address-in-Reply to the Governor's opening Speech; and, having returned at 4:50 o'clock,

THE PRESIDENT announced that the Address-in-Reply (adopted by the Council on the 14th October) had been presented to the Governor, and that his Excellency had been pleased to make the following reply:—

MR. PRESIDENT AND HONOURABLE GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

I thank you for your Address-in-Reply to my opening Speech, and for the assurance of your desire to deal with all questions that come before you in such a manner as to promote the advancement and welfare of the colony.

Government House, Perth,
2nd November, 1897.

COMPANIES ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Introduced by the **HON. H. G. PARSONS**, upon leave given, and read a first time.

PERTH GAS COMPANY'S ACT FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL.

Received from the Legislative Assembly, and read a first time.

STEAM BOILERS BILL.

SECOND READING.

THE MINISTER OF MINES (Hon. E. H. Wittenoom), in moving the second reading, said: The Bill I have to submit to the consideration of hon. members is entitled "An Act to provide for the inspection and regulation of steam boilers." Such a measure as this has become necessary, owing to the fact that throughout the colony, in almost all directions, a large number of steam boilers are being used. It is necessary for the preservation of life that some conditions should be imposed to ensure that those boilers may be worked in safety. It will be within the recollection of hon. members who were in this House last year, or the year before, I forget which, that a Bill was introduced which, to a very large extent, embraced the provisions of this Bill; but, as there were some matters in connection with that Bill which did not meet with the approbation of hon. members, the measure was thrown out. Consequently there is no legislation in this colony for the regulation of steam boilers. A great deal of inconvenience has been felt, especially in the Mines Department, in connection with the Mines Inspection Act, owing to the fact that the Governor-in-Council has no power to appoint inspectors of boilers. The present Act gives power to appoint inspectors of mines, but no power to appoint inspectors of boilers. It was under these circumstances that the previous Bill was submitted. The object of the present Bill is to provide the necessary inspection of boilers, and the measure is based, to a large extent, on English legislation, which has been found to do good in that part of the world. The inspection provided for in the Bill is limited to districts which are to be named by the Governor and gazetted. The measure will not apply to any engine or boiler outside the gazetted district, with one exception, which will be found in Clause 8, wherein it is provided that everyone who has a boiler has to report the fact to the inspector. The obvious reason for this is that the inspector and the Government may know what boilers there are in the colony, and what portions of the colony it may be necessary to add to the proclaimed districts already gazetted. This Bill will apply to all

boilers, excepting in two cases. It is not intended the Bill shall apply to vessels propelled by steam, for the simple reason that an Act already exists providing for the inspection of boilers and engines on boats. The other exception is provided for in Clause 45, which sets forth that the Bill "shall not affect any boilers belonging to and used for travelling with any locomotive engine, nor shall this Act affect any statutory powers of inspecting and regulating steam vessels and their boilers and machinery." This clause, however, is not quite clear, and I propose to amend it by including some words to this effect, that "this Act shall not affect boilers belonging to or used for travelling with any locomotive engine under the Railways Act in force for the time being." Every other engine will be affected. If this clause remained as it now appears, no tram engine—if there were such a thing—could be brought within its provisions, or no locomotive engine in connection with agricultural works.

HON. G. RANDELL: No contractor's engine could be affected.

THE MINISTER OF MINES: In fact, no locomotive engines could be touched at all, unless some such amendment as I have indicated were made. This Bill makes provision for the appointment of inspectors; and the Governor-in-Council decides what powers the inspectors shall have. The Governor-in-Council has also power to make regulations, which in the usual manner will be gazetted, and within fourteen days of the assembling of Parliament will be laid on the table of both Houses for the approval, or otherwise, of hon. members. As soon as this Bill becomes law—it is provided to come into force on the 31st December—within 60 days from that time every owner of a boiler has to give notice to the inspector that he has a boiler in his possession. Should he transfer that boiler to anyone else, or anyone acquire a boiler after the coming into operation of the Act, then, within 30 days, notice of the fact must be given to the inspector. It will thus be thoroughly well known to the inspector who own boilers and who do not. The little penalty of £10 is attached by way of a reminder to those who omit to see that these directions are given attention to. A person who sells or lets out a boiler on hire must give notice within one

month, or be liable to a penalty of £10. It is provided that any defective boilers are to be made good with certain fittings, which are set forth in the Bill. In the meantime in the case of a boiler which is not held to be dangerous, and with which work can be carried on, a certificate entitling the owner to use the boiler may be given for six months after the coming into force of this Act; thus enabling owners to have time to put their boilers in really good order. The owner will always be *primâ facie* responsible for any accident, but if he points out to the inspector, and proves that he has taken reasonable precautions, and given proper directions, and that an accident has been caused through the negligence of his servants, or those whose duty it is to attend to the boiler, then the fault is removed to those other persons, who may be prosecuted. An additional power is given to the inspector to proceed at once against the person through whose negligence the accident has been caused, instead of against the owner. All boilers are to be inspected once every twelve months, and a certificate will be given to that effect by inspectors; but the certificates, although they may be given for twelve months, may be amended if, on a subsequent examination, it be found that the boiler is not in the same good state of preservation or good repair, as it was at the time it was examined. People who do not give notice of having a boiler, or who work a boiler without a certificate, are liable to a penalty not exceeding £50, and persons who work a boiler at a higher pressure than is set forth in the certificate, or who omit to have the necessary certificate posted in a conspicuous position, are liable to a penalty not exceeding £20. If, during the time those boilers are worked without a certificate, an accident occurs which occasions loss of life or injury, the owner is liable not only to a fine, but imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years. Provision is also made that a record book shall be kept of all examinations of boilers, to which every owner of a boiler shall have the right of access to examine. Clause 31 provides that, in the event of an explosion, notice is at once to be sent to the inspector, and to the Minister under whom the Act is worked. The inspector will immediately proceed to the place of the accident; and if there

has been any loss of life, everything is to be left exactly in the same condition until the inspector has seen the place, and has given authority for matters to be altered. If carelessness is shown, or there is any reason to think that ordinary precautions have not been carried out, power is given to the Minister to appoint a board of inquiry, that board to consist of the resident magistrate and a boiler expert. Section 37 sets out the necessary fees for inspection, which are detailed in Schedule 6. These are just a few remarks in connection with the Bill, which I hope will have the favourable consideration of hon. members. I feel confident they recognise how desirable it is that a statute of this description should be in operation in a colony where so much steam power is being used for the development of our resources.

HON. G. RANDELL: I rise to second the motion for the second reading of this Bill; and would like to make a few remarks, although probably they will deal with matters more of detail which might be better discussed in committee. Still it may perhaps assist hon. members if I say a few words on some of the clauses of the Bill. Many of the boilers at work in this colony have been introduced by their owners, and therefore Clause 9, which provides that a person who sells or lets on hire any boiler shall give notice within one month of such sale or letting, may come as a hardship on those who make boilers in the colony, or who import them and sell them here. Probably it is intended to make doubly sure that the possession of a boiler shall be registered, but I hardly think it necessary that the seller of a boiler should be called on to report the sale. I quite agree with the provision that those who purchase a boiler for use on their premises should notify the fact at once to the inspector. There is a slight error, I think, in the second paragraph of Clause 10. This clause provides that after six months from the commencement of this Act every boiler shall be fitted with certain fittings and mountings, amongst these "one glass water gauge, fitted with cocks and valves complete." The word "and," I think, should be "or." Then amongst the prescribed fittings are "two gun metal test cocks." These are considered nowadays to be old-fashioned, and

one of the new water gauges should be provided. Another fitting prescribed is "a suitable connection to enable force pump or feed pump to be applied in testing a boiler by hydraulic pressure." It would be desirable for the Minister of Mines to confer with the Engineer-in-Chief, so that a more definite statement might be made as to what is a suitable connection. As the clause stands at present, it opens the door to some little difficulty. If the inspector should happen to be a man who wishes to magnify his office, he might be able to do so at considerable annoyance and disadvantage to the owner of the boiler. Then in Clause 11, the proportions of further accessories are not set forth as they should be. The clause says "the combined area of the two valves shall be in proportion to the fire-grate area and safe working pressure, and shall not be less than two inches in diameter." Something more definite should be stated here. Generally the proportion is, I think, one square foot of fire-grate surface to a half-inch of valve area. It would be as well if the attention of the Engineer was drawn to this, and something more definite inserted. Clause 14 speaks of "the nominal horse-power of a boiler," etc. Now, "horse-power" is a term makers of boilers or engines eschew as much as possible. What is "horse-power" is not quite well defined. Different makers have different ways and means of arriving at the horse-power of their engines. It depends a good deal on the pressure carried in the boiler. If the boiler is intended to be worked at 50lb. pressure to the square inch, or 100lb. pressure to the square inch, possibly the area of the grate may be just about the same in both cases. The latter part of Clause 15 is considerably involved, and I do not know whether I am quite able to catch its meaning. Possibly the intention is that the inspectors shall ascertain by pressure on the boiler with the valves fastened down, as to whether the valves are acting properly—whether there is any defect in them, which will not show the true pressure in the boiler. I think the word "sufficiency" should rather be "efficiency" in the phrase "the inspector shall also satisfy himself as to the sufficiency of the boiler and safety valves under full steam, and firing with all stop valves

"closed." There are some valves which it is not desirable to have, valves which, when opened, are found to be cumbered with contrivances inside. The "wing" valve is specially liable to that sort of thing. It does not open enough area for the steam to escape, and if the fire is in, the steam must raise the pressure in the boiler considerably, even after the safety valve has been opened. Clause 22 provides that "the inspector may test any boiler by hydraulic pressure, where the parts are difficult of access, and may in like manner test any boiler where he may think it necessary, in addition to any other test that may be required, in which cases the owners shall furnish all appliances required by the inspector." I think that provision undesirable. The inspector should have his own test apparatus. I have been told of a case which occurred in the old country, I presume, where, in a contract for a bridge building, a test had to be applied. The boiler-maker was allowed to make his own testing apparatus. Something, however, created suspicion in the mind of the inspector, the test rising rather too highly to please him, and he said, "All right, so far to-day, but I think we will leave it over until to-morrow before we finally decide, and I will bring my own testing apparatus." The inspector did bring his own test apparatus, and he found the boiler would not stand the test. It is most desirable that the Government should supply in every case the testing apparatus for the inspector to test the boilers. I hope the Minister of Mines will take special notice of this point. The provision as it stands is very undesirable, opening as it does the door to a great deal of fraud perhaps, or at any rate to suspicion. It is desirable that, in all cases, the hydraulic pump and other means of testing boilers should be supplied by the Government themselves. Immunity from accidents and explosions cannot, of course, be secured by the appointment of inspectors. All the boilers which we read of as exploding in the old country have been inspected, and some of them have exploded almost the day after inspection. But I concur in the principle of the Bill that it is desirable, especially in a country like this, to have inspectors. I remember once having a boiler of my own tested

by an inspector, first by pressure of steam on with fires up. Then the steam was ordered by the inspector to be blown off, and the boiler immediately filled with cold water. Hon. members who know anything about boilers, and the contraction which would take place under such circumstances, will see that such a course is very destructive to a boiler. Such cases as that must occur. I take it that in almost all cases the inspector will test by hydraulic pressure first as the proper and safer course, and that afterwards, if he think it necessary, he will test it by steam pressure. I think there should be another word or two inserted in Clause 31 after the words "save so far as is necessary to relieve the injured." The words I would propose should be inserted are "or to remove the dead." Possibly that would be done as a matter of course, but it would be as well to insert those words there. The concluding paragraph of Clause 35 reads:—

If and so far as not otherwise provided for, all costs and expenses incurred by the Minister, including any remuneration paid under this section, and any costs ordered as aforesaid to be paid by the Minister, shall be paid out of moneys to be provided by Parliament.

The Bill should contain in it provision for the expenses. That, I think, is the usual course in Bills of this kind, and I commend the suggestion to the Minister in charge of the Bill. I had intended to refer to Clause 45, but the Minister has anticipated my remarks on that, and has indicated his intention of enlarging the scope and power of the provision. With these few exceptions, I think the Bill will be of use to the country. It is intended that every boiler shall be registered, and inspectors will, therefore, have an opportunity of dealing with isolated cases, such as boilers at farm-houses, saw mills, and places of that kind. It is desirable that boilers of this class should be occasionally seen by the inspectors, and such inspection comes, I think, within the scope of the Bill. I know that provision has been made for the registration of engine-drivers on the goldfields, but I am not quite sure whether that applies to country places generally. I cannot, on the spur of the moment, express an opinion as to whether that registration should be made general or not. We know it is desirable that, as far as possible,

Parliament should make provision against accidents—the result of improper persons being permitted to drive engines or allowed to tamper with safety valves, or the putting on of too high pressure by either the driver or owner of the boiler.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

IN COMMITTEE.

Clause 1—agreed to.

Clause 2—Interpretation:

HON. C. A. PIESSE asked whether the term "district" would cover boilers on coasters and other vessels.

THE MINISTER OF MINES said there was already an Act providing for the inspection of boilers on vessels, which were specially exempted from the provisions of the Bill now before the House.

HON. G. RANDELL said the word "owner" was too wide in its scope. The clause defined owner as a person "having the control or managing of any boiler or of any premises." A man might have charge of the premises, and have nothing to do with the boiler. He (Hon. G. Randell) would prefer to hand over this Bill to a Select Committee, or defer it for a day or two to enable members to consider its provisions. He was afraid, however, that it was now too late to refer the Bill to a Select Committee. Of course, if "premises" meant the building or shed in which the boiler was placed, it might be a different matter.

THE MINISTER OF MINES suggested that the clause should be allowed to pass; that the Bill could be re-committed; and in the meantime he would endeavour to get the information for the hon. member.

Put and passed.

Clause 3—Governor may proclaim districts in which this Act is to be in force:

THE MINISTER OF MINES moved, as an amendment, that after the word "districts" the following words should be added:—

Except so far as is otherwise expressly provided, nothing in this Act shall apply to any part of the colony which shall not be situate within a proclaimed district.

The intention of this clause was that the Governor might proclaim districts, but it did not follow that the Bill was limited to those districts. The desire was to make the point clear, and therefore he pro-

posed the addition of the words. To give hon. members an opportunity of considering the matter, he now moved that progress be reported.

Progress reported, and leave given to sit again.

REGISTRATION OF FIRMS BILL.

SECOND READING.

HON. G. RANDELL: In rising to move the second reading of this Bill, I desire to mention that, with the exception of one clause, it is a precisely similar measure to that unanimously passed through the Legislative Assembly last year. In introducing this Bill I have the support and sanction of the business members and legal members of the Assembly, and the late Attorney General (Mr. Burt) has given me considerable help in adapting the Registration of Firms Act of Victoria to the circumstances of this colony. I have been requested by the Chamber of Commerce of Perth to re-introduce the measure, as one which the mercantile and trading community consider highly desirable. The Bill gives a certain amount of security to those engaged in business as to the firms with whom they may have to deal; for instance, to wholesale houses which have to deal with retail dealers in different parts of the colony. The Victorian Act has been in operation for three or four years, with, I am told, highly satisfactory results. When the Bill was before Parliament last session, objection was taken to one clause which I have excised from the present measure. There is now nothing in the Bill objectionable to anyone. We may reasonably ask persons carrying on business in firm-names to be registered. The Bill, as printed last session, provided that the Act should come into operation on the first of March, 1897. That date has been retained in the present Bill by mistake, and will have to be altered. My intention was to leave a blank, and let hon. members decide when the Bill should come into operation. I think, however, that as the session this year is a late one, the date might be made the first of May, 1898, which would give a further three months in which persons carrying on business in the colony under firm-names could register, and prevent

anything like hardship occurring. This, however, is a matter that can be considered when we get in committee on the Bill. The fourth clause refers to firms and persons to be registered. I do not think I need detain the House to explain the clauses, which are all exceedingly simple, containing, as they do, nothing vague or indefinite. Clause 5 provides that registration need not take place under certain circumstances, such as when a firm is created for a temporary contract not extending over a period of more than twelve months. Clause 6 provides for the manner and particulars of registration. Clause 7 sets forth the particulars to be written by persons registering, those particulars to be attested. The persons before whom this attestation is to be made are, if in Western Australia, a justice of the peace, a commissioner of the Supreme Court, or a solicitor; and if elsewhere than in West Australia, a British consul or notary public, or the Agent General or his secretary. The words "or his secretary" were inserted on the advice of the late Attorney General, Mr. Burt. I propose to add a marginal note to paragraph 2 of this clause, as follows: "partner may sign," and to paragraph 3 I propose to place a marginal note, "authorised person may sign." This third paragraph reads:—

If there is in Western Australia carrying on, or intending to carry on a business carried on under a firm-name, the foregoing provisions of this section shall be deemed to be sufficiently complied with if the said statement is signed or acknowledged by any person who has previously filed, in the office of the Registrar of Companies, a statutory declaration that he is duly authorised by and on behalf of such persons as are described in such declaration to carry on the business the firm-name of which he desires to have registered.

The clause also provides for a fee of five shillings to be paid to the Registrar of Companies on the filing of this statutory declaration. Clause 8 provides that new firms must register before they commence business, and also that firms and persons who have carried on business in Western Australia before the commencement of the Act shall be deemed to have sufficiently complied with its provisions if they register within three months after such commencement. Clause 9 provides that the registered name of the firm has always to be used. Clause 10 provides

for a change occurring in the circumstances of a registered firm. The marginal note, "registration on change of firm's name," does not clearly convey the provision in the clause, and I propose to make it read, "Statement to be made on change of members of firm," which I think will be sufficient indication of what the clause contains. If a firm changes its name, it has to be registered as if it were a new firm. The penalties for default in registration are not to exceed five pounds for the first offence, and not to exceed £100 for second and subsequent offences. Clause 13 provides that persons in default, who bring an action in any court, shall be ordered by the court to register. I consider this a very valuable clause. For making false returns, a person becomes liable, on conviction, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years. Clauses 15 and 16 provide for the method in which the Registrar of Companies is to discharge his duties. Clause 18 sets forth that regulations may be made by the Governor. Certificates of registration can be obtained from the Registrar of Companies on payment of a fee of five shillings, and for each folio of 72 words a fee of sixpence, or such fees as may be prescribed by the Governor. These are the principal features of the Bill. The regulations made by the Governor are to be put before Parliament within one month after they have been made, and if Parliament be not sitting, then within fourteen days of the commencement of next session. Clause 20 reads: "For the purpose of making the statements required by this Act, the forms in the schedule of this Act, or any prescribed forms to the like effect, may be used, and if used, shall be sufficient." This Bill, I think, will meet a want very seriously felt in this colony. Instances might be given—though I think it unnecessary to give them—showing it would have been important to have had such a measure in operation. Every business man recognises that a law like that proposed is desirable for reasons which were given when the Bill was introduced last session.

THE MINISTER OF MINES moved the adjournment of the debate until the next day.

Put and passed, and the debate adjourned accordingly.

ADJOURNMENT.

The House adjourned at 5:35 p.m. until the next day.

Legislative Assembly

Tuesday, 2nd November, 1897.

Message: Excess Bill, 1896, first reading—Question: Deep Drainage for Fremantle—Question: North Fremantle Bridge—Question: Legislation re Custody of Inebriates—Question: Site and Designs for New Houses of Parliament—Return: Report on Abrolhos Guano—Perth Gas Company's Act Further Amendment Bill: third reading—Cemeteries Bill: in Committee—Circuit Courts Bill: second reading; referred to Select Committee—Employment Brokers Bill: second reading—Industrial Statistics Bill: second reading—Sale of Liquors Amendment Bill: second reading—Papers Presented—Noxious Weeds Bill: second reading—Adjournment.

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

PRAYERS.

MESSAGE—EXCESS BILL, 1896.

THE PREMIER presented a Message from the Governor, recommending an appropriation for the purposes of this Bill, and the Message was read by the Clerk.

At a later stage,

THE PREMIER, upon leave given, introduced the Excess Bill, appropriating £493,378 for the service of the year ending June 30, 1896.

Bill read a first time.

QUESTION—DEEP DRAINAGE FOR FREMANTLE.

MR. SOLOMON, in accordance with notice, asked the Director of Public Works: 1. Whether any system of deep drainage had been decided upon for Fremantle. 2. If not, whether in view of the increasing population of the port, and the widely spreading locality, the Govern-