

Legislative Council,*Thursday, 23rd December, 1897.*

Papers Presented—Police Act Amendment Bill: Legislative Assembly's Amendment; division—Excess Bill, 1896-7: first, second, and third readings—Complimentary Remarks—Assent to Bills—Prorogation.

THE PRESIDENT took the Chair at 12 o'clock noon.

PRAYERS.

A short interval ensued.

PAPERS PRESENTED.

By the MINISTER OF MINES: (1.) Addition to Clause 2 of the Mineral Lands Regulations. (2.) Return showing the capacity and measurements of the Perth Reservoir.

Ordered to lie on the table.

POLICE ACT AMENDMENT BILL.**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY'S AMENDMENT.**

An amendment made by the Legislative Assembly was considered.

IN COMMITTEE.

Amendment—Strike out Clause 3:

THE MINISTER OF MINES moved that the amendment made by the Legislative Assembly be disagreed to. This clause which had been struck out by the Assembly referred to the games played on the racecourse, such as the "spinning jenny" and so forth. The clause was an essential portion of the Bill; for in the intervals between the races the people assembled would spend their money in one way or another, and it was far better to have this little gambling recreation than to have drinking. Of the two evils, the "spinning jenny" was the lesser.

HON. C. E. DEMPSTER: The spinning wheels were run in a way in which the public were cheated. The owner of the gambling wheel could stop the indicator at any number, by the aid of a brake.

HON. G. RANDELL: The ground taken up by the Minister of Mines would hardly bear looking into. We should not try to remove one evil by creating another.

Question put, and division taken with the following result:—

Ayes	6
Noes	3

Majority for ... 3

AYES.		NOES.	
The Hon. H. Briggs		The Hon. C. E. Dempster	
The Hon. F. T. Crowder		The Hon. D. McKay	
The Hon. A. H. Henning		The Hon. G. Randell	
The Hon. J. E. Richardson		(Teller).	
The Hon. E. H. Wittenoom			
The Hon. D. K. Congdon		(Teller).	

Question thus passed, and the Assembly's amendment disagreed to.

Resolution reported, and report adopted.

A committee, consisting of the Hons. E. H. Wittenoom, F. T. Crowder, and A. H. Henning, drew up the following reasons:—

Because the introduction of the wheel totalisator on racecourses will materially reduce indulgence in alcoholic drinks, by engaging the attention of the public between the events; and, of the two evils, the recognition of this game is the lesser.

Reasons adopted, and a Message accordingly transmitted to the Legislative Assembly.

EXCESS BILL, 1896-7.

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

SECOND READING.

THE MINISTER OF MINES (Hon. E. H. Wittenoom), in moving the second reading, said: The particulars set forth will show hon. members the way in which the money has been spent. The amount is not a large one. The expenditure amounts to £619,399 2s. 1d., and the particulars are shown in Schedule A. It is hardly a constitutional way to spend so much of the funds of the colony without authority; but I feel confident hon. members will bear in mind the circumstances under which the expenditure was incurred. The colony was progressing at a very rapid rate; the population was increasing very fast, and there were great demands on the Government for developments in every direction. Had the Government not taken advantage of the opportunity and endeavoured to meet the calls made upon them, the business of the colony would have been kept back for some considerable time. Under the circumstances there is very little to be

said in connection with the expenditure, which was incurred under exceptional circumstances. I do not suppose the expenditure will ever occur again. At the same time I venture to hope that, should similar circumstances again arise, the public money will be spent in the same advantageous manner. Schedule B, which deals with the general loan fund, shows an expenditure of £92,149 18s, 9d. With these few remarks I beg to move the second reading of the Bill.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

IN COMMITTEE.

Clause 1—agreed to.

Schedule A :

Item—Provisions, washing for patients, etc., in hospitals :

HON. G. RANDELL: The large sum of £16,236 spent under this head showed the exceptional circumstances of the last twelve months. No Government were worth their salt who were not willing to meet circumstances which arose, and the expenditure could only be justified by showing it had been incurred in the best interests of the colony. That, he believed, had been the case. If the items were minutely gone into, some, no doubt, could be found to which exception might reasonably be taken; but on the whole the Government were justified in incurring the expenditure. No Government could have guarded against the particular expenditure under review, in the face of the increase of sickness and necessity for hospital provision.

Item passed.

Item—Gratuity to Mrs. McKeown, mother of the late principal warder, Fremantle Lunatic Asylum :

HON. F. T. CROWDER: There was no particular objection to this item of £100, but there was to the principle under which the gratuity was given. As he had pointed out on the previous day, there was a sum of £500 voted to the widow of the late doctor of the asylum, and yet the estate of the deceased gentleman was sworn at £9,000. Such a vote as this latter was incomprehensible; and the Council should put its foot down and prevent the granting of such gratuities.

HON. G. RANDELL: The hon. member should not regret this vote of £500,

simply because it appeared in the newspapers that the deceased gentleman's estate had been sworn at £9,000. That was the gross value of the estate, and it would be understood that the net value might be very much less.

Item passed, and the schedule agreed to.

Schedule B—General Loan Fund :

Item—Charges and expenses of raising loans :

HON. A. P. MATHESON: The Premier had been severely criticised for his action in floating the 4 per cent. Treasury bills at the price he did. That criticism was most unjustifiable, when the alternative was considered. What he (Mr. Matheson) understood was done was that 4 per cent. Treasury bills to the amount of £500,000 were placed for two years at 1 per cent. premium. That brought the interest down, as the Premier properly put it, to 3½ per cent. for the two years. The only possible alternative which the Premier apparently had before him would have been the placing of a loan for £500,000 at 3 per cent. for 40 years. That loan could only have been placed at £93, which would have been £7 discount; and during the 40 years a deficiency of £35,000 would have had to be made up for repayment at the end of the term. Under such a loan of £500,000 the colony would have received only £465,000; and, therefore, it was only fair to add a portion of the deficiency to the interest in each year. That operation, worked out by simple division, showed £875 each year to be added to the 3 per cent. interest on the total face value of the loan. As a matter of fact, if a loan of £500,000 at 3 per cent. had been placed, this colony would have to pay 3½ per cent. as interest and sinking fund on the loan. The only difference between that operation and the one the Premier did carry out was a matter of £500 for two years. The Premier might be congratulated on making a successful financial transaction. There was every probability that, before two years were out, sums of money could be raised on general loan account at a very much higher price, so that the colony would benefit materially by this temporary expedient. He was anxious to say those few words, because he saw nobody had defended the Premier's action.

Item passed, and the schedule agreed to.

Preamble and title—agreed to.

Bill reported, and report adopted.

THIRD READING.

Bill read a third time, and *passed*.

At 1:25 p.m. the PRESIDENT left the Chair.

At 2:30 p.m. the PRESIDENT resumed the Chair.

COMPLIMENTARY REMARKS.

THE MINISTER OF MINES (Hon. E. H. Wittenoom): Before we break up, I would like to thank hon. members for the support they have given to the measures brought before the House, and the interest and care with which they have considered them. I think I have said before that the colony is to be congratulated for the manner in which hon. members carry out their duties in this House. The only objection this session has been one of small attendance. That may be accounted for when we remember the inconvenient time Parliament was called together. Those whose occupation necessitates their remaining in the country of course could not leave, and therefore I think every excuse should be made for them. Those who did attend have gone very carefully to work, and I think the colony is to be congratulated on the way in which they have done their work. Of course in all partings there are bound to be some changes. As far as health is concerned, I hope we shall all meet together as well as we are now. As to those who are going up for re-election, I hope they will be returned, and that their constituents will recognise the good work the members have done for them, and return them to those duties with which they are now thoroughly acquainted. If their place should be taken by better men, the colony will have every reason to congratulate itself on having obtained better men. I hope when we meet together again hon. members will all be in good health. It is almost superfluous to wish hon. members the compliments of the season, but I trust all hon. members will have the usual "merry Christmas and happy New Year." On behalf of hon. members, I

may be permitted to return our thanks to the President for the manner in which he has conducted his duties during the present session. His unvarying courtesy and amiability of temper fit him for the position. I will take this opportunity of thanking him for the courtesy shown towards hon. members.

THE PRESIDENT: I thank the Minister of Mines for his kindly reference to myself, for the way in which the business has been conducted this session, so far as the Chair is concerned. It has always been my wish to carry out the duties as expeditiously as possible, without interfering in any way with the freedom of debate. I should like now to mention to hon. members who have taken their seats this session for the first time in the Council, that I thank them for their unvarying courtesy to the Chair. Being new to their work, they had at times to be called to order, for the President simply has to keep order in the House according to the rules laid down. I thank hon. members for their courtesy towards me. We are about to part for the session. During recess the one-third of the members will go up for re-election, and I hope to see them back again after they have passed through the ordeal of an election. Before parting, I desire to wish members "a happy and merry Christmas," and I hope we shall meet again next June in good health, to undertake the important duties entrusted to us.

At 2:35 p.m. the PRESIDENT left the Chair.

At 3 o'clock, p.m. the PRESIDENT resumed the Chair.

THE MINISTER OF MINES (Hon. E. H. Wittenoom): I omitted, just now, to include the thanks of hon. members to the officers and others connected with the working of the House, all of whom have been exceedingly attentive, and have carried out their work exceedingly well. The officers of the House are always willing and ready to afford information to hon. members; and I, therefore, offer the thanks of the House to those gentlemen.

THE PRESIDENT: I thank the Minister of Mines for the expression of

good feeling towards the officers of the House. Their wish is to do all in their power to assist the work of the House, and render every assistance and information to hon. members. Before sitting down, I should like to express my thanks to the Minister of Mines as leader of the House, for the manner in which he has conducted the business during the session. In expressing these thanks, I am only echoing the feeling of every member of the House. I hope that next session we may find Mr. Witteboom representing the Government and conducting the business of this House.

PROROGATION.

His Excellency the Governor entered the Chamber, and having commanded the attendance of members of the Legislative Assembly, who arrived with their Speaker,

HIS EXCELLENCY gave assent to the following Bills:—

"An Act to apply a sum out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund and from Moneys to Credit of the General Loan Fund to the Services of the Year ending the last day of June, One thousand eight hundred and ninety-eight, and to appropriate the Supplies granted in this Session of Parliament."

"An Act to provide for the Inspection and Regulation of Steam Boilers."

"An Act to provide for the Registration of Firms."

"An Act for the Regulation of Cemeteries."

"An Act for the Regulation of Employment Brokers."

"An Act to amend the Wines, Beer, and Spirit Sales Amendment Act, 1884."

"An Act to provide Statistics of Agricultural, Pastoral, and other Industries."

"An Act to place certain Restrictions on Immigration."

"An Act to amend the High School Act, 1876."

"An Act to provide for the Registration of certain Persons who shall be imported into Western Australia for Employment within the territorial Dominion thereof, and for certain other matters in connection therewith."

"An Act to further amend the Auctioneers Act, 1873."

"An Act for the holding of Courts at places distant from the Court House of the Supreme Court."

"An Act to give greater Security to Workmen for obtaining Payment of their Wages."

"An Act to authorise the closing of certain Roads and Streets."

"An Act to authorise the Construction of a Railway from the South-Western Railway to the Collie Quarry."

"An Act to authorise the Construction of a Railway from the Bunbury-Boyanup Railway to the Bunbury Racecourse."

"An Act to authorise the Construction of a Railway from Kalgoorlie to Gnamballa Lake; and also a Loop Railway from the Kalgoorlie-Gnamballa Lake Line to the Boulder Townsite."

"An Act to extend the provisions of the Sharks Bay Pearl Shell Fishery Act, 1892, to other places."

"An Act to secure an annuity to Dame Mary Ann Broome for Life."

"An Act to confirm a provisional order authorising the Construction of Tramways in the City of Perth."

"An Act to authorise the Construction of a Railway from Fremantle to Owen's Anchorage."

"An Act to further amend the Railways Act, 1878."

"An Act to permit Mining on Private Property."

"An Act to amend the Agricultural Lands Purchase Act, 1896."

"An Act to amend the Companies Act, 1893."

"An Act to confirm certain Expenditure for the Year ending 30th June, One thousand eight hundred and ninety-seven."

HIS EXCELLENCY was pleased to speak as follows:—

MR. PRESIDENT AND HONOURABLE GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,—

MR. SPEAKER AND GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,—

"I am glad that you have been able to arrange the public business so as to enable me to release you from your parliamentary duties before Christmas.

"Owing to the short time at your disposal, many matters of importance have had to be postponed; but I hope that it will be possible to summon you

"earlier than usual next year, when these subjects will, I feel sure, receive your early and careful attention.

"MR. SPEAKER AND GENTLEMEN OF THE
"LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,—

"I thank you for the liberal provision you have made for the Public Service.

"MR. PRESIDENT AND HONOURABLE
"GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE
"COUNCIL,—

"MR. SPEAKER AND GENTLEMEN OF THE
"LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,—

"The export of gold continues to be highly satisfactory, and for the year ending 31st December will reach the value of over two-and-a-half millions sterling, being considerably more than double the export of last year. The season has been a fairly good one, both for the agriculturist and pastoralist, though the rainfall has been less than the average.

"I now prorogue this Parliament till Wednesday, the 4th day of May next."
The session then closed.

Legislative Assembly,

Thursday, 23rd December, 1897.

Papers Presented—The Missing Mail Bag: Ministerial Statement—Question: Stability of Fremantle Railway Bridge—Police Act Amendment Bill: second and third readings—Companies Act Amendment Bill: second and third readings—Companies (United Kingdom and British Colonies Registers) Bill: Speaker's Ruling—Discharge of Orders: Fire Brigades Bill, Metropolitan Waterworks Act Amendment Bill, Mines Regulation Bill—Discharge of Orders (five Bills)—Excess Bill, 1896-7: second and third readings—Motion: Reorganisation of Agent General's Department—Motion: Bonus to Discoverers of Colliery Coal—Police Act Amendment Bill: Legislative Council's Message re Amendment; division—Complimentary Remarks—Prorogation.

THE SPEAKER took the Chair at 12 o'clock noon.

PRAYERS.

PAPERS PRESENTED.

By the PREMIER: 1. Addition to Clause 2 of the Mineral Lands Regulations. 2. Report of the Bureau of Agriculture on Adulteration of Milk.

By the ATTORNEY GENERAL: Report of the Registrar of Patents, Designs, and Trade Marks for 1896.

By the PREMIER (in response to a previous motion by Mr. Illingworth): Report of the Bureau of Agriculture on the adulteration of milk.

Ordered to lie on the table.

THE MISSING MAIL BAG.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT.

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION (Hon. H. B. Lefroy): I should like to make an announcement to the House. The missing mail bag from Coolgardie, about which we had some discussion yesterday, has been discovered. (Mr. LEAKE: Hear, hear.) I can assure the House no one is more pleased at this fact than I am. I have also instructed the Postmaster General to inform those persons who had letters in the bag, so that they may acquaint their friends in other colonies by sending telegrams to them free, in regard to letters that have been thus delayed. The occurrence is a dreadful one, but I am sure that hon. members will feel glad to learn that the missing bag of letters has been found.

MR. LEAKE: In what part of the railway station was the bag found?

THE SPEAKER: The hon. member must put a question to the Minister, if he wants further information.

MR. LEAKE: I will tell the House that the missing bag was found in a dark corner of the Post Office.

QUESTION—STABILITY OF FREMANTLE RAILWAY BRIDGE.

MR. CONOLLY, for Mr. Holmes, in accordance with notice, asked the Director of Public Works:—1. How many times river cargo boats and steamers had collided with the present Fremantle railway bridge. 2. Whether the Government had lately had the whole structure examined, and if so, when; and whether the Government would submit to this House the report furnished by the examiners. 3. Whether the responsible advisers of the Government were perfectly