

HON. F. WHITCOMBE: Yet the balance-sheet of the department showed a profit of £20,000 for last year.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: The rolling-stock was required partly for new lines and partly for those already built.

Item put and passed.

HON. F. M. STONE said he would move that "£520,000" be struck out and "£450,000" inserted. This would reduce paragraph 2 of the schedule in accordance with the resolutions already passed.

THE PRESIDENT: There was no occasion to do so, as the House never touched the totals. The necessary alterations were made by the Legislative Assembly.

Part III.—Development of goldfields and mineral resources:

Item, Public batteries £30,000—agreed to.

Item, Development generally £20,000—agreed to.

Part IV.—Departmental:

Item, Departmental £26,000—agreed to.

These votes completed the schedule.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY moved that the Chairman do report that the Committee recommend that the Bill be returned to the Legislative Assembly, with a message conveying the suggestions agreed to; and that the Committee have leave to sit again on receipt of a message in reply from the Legislative Assembly.

Motion put and passed.

Resolutions reported, and the report adopted. Bill accordingly returned to the Assembly with suggested amendments.

#### ADJOURNMENT.

The House adjourned at 10 o'clock until the next day.

## Legislative Assembly,

Wednesday, 13th December, 1899.

Paper presented—Supreme Court, Site for Building, Report—Fremantle Water Supply Bill, third reading—Sunday Labour in Mines Bill, third reading—Totalisator Act Amendment Bill, third reading—Bank Holidays Amendment Bill, third reading—Sluicing and Dredging for Gold Bill, Council's Amendments—Fisheries Amendment Bill, Council's Amendments—Constitution Acts Amendment Bill, Council's Amendments—Health Act Amendment Bill, second reading—Fire Brigades Amendment Bill, second reading, Division (no quorum)—Adjournment.

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

PRAYERS.

#### PAPER PRESENTED.

By the PREMIER: Report of Registrar General, Industrial Statistics.

Ordered to lie on the table.

#### SUPREME COURT, SITE FOR BUILDING.

##### JOINT COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

HON. F. H. PIESSE brought up the report of the Joint Select Committee, as follows:

The Committee have considered the question, and have agreed to the following resolution, which they recommend to the House, "That the proposed new Law Courts be erected upon the site occupied by the present Supreme Court."

Report received, and to be considered next day.

#### FREMANTLE WATER SUPPLY BILL.

Read a third time, and transmitted to the Legislative Council.

#### SUNDAY LABOUR IN MINES BILL.

Read a third time, and transmitted to the Legislative Council.

#### TOTALISATOR ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Read a third time, on motion by MR. MONGER, and transmitted to the Legislative Council.

#### BANK HOLIDAYS AMENDMENT BILL.

Read a third time, on motion by MR. MONGER (for Mr. Higham), and returned to the Legislative Council with an amendment.

## SLUICING AND DREDGING FOR GOLD BILL.

## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL'S AMENDMENTS.

Schedule of three amendments, made by the Legislative Council, considered.

## IN COMMITTEE.

THE MINISTER OF MINES moved that the amendments be agreed to. There was really no necessity for the first amendment—to the effect that in Clause 5, sub-paragraph (b), line 2, after the word “prescribed” the words “by regulations” be inserted—because Clause 2 of the Bill provided that all the expressions should have the same meaning as the same expressions in the Goldfields Act of 1895, which distinctly laid it down that “prescribed” should mean prescribed by regulations. However, the amendment would do no harm, and to agree to it might facilitate the passage of the Bill.

Question put and passed.

Resolution reported, and the report adopted.

## FISHERIES AMENDMENT BILL.

## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL'S AMENDMENTS.

Schedule of twenty-two amendments, made by the Legislative Council, considered.

## IN COMMITTEE.

No. 1, Clause 1, line 1, strike out all words after “cited,” and insert, “as the Fishery Act Amendment Act 1899, and shall be read as part of the Fishery Act 1889, hereinafter referred to as the principal Act, and shall come into operation on the first day of March, one thousand nine hundred.”

THE MINISTER OF MINES moved that the amendment be not agreed to. It was desirable the Bill should come into operation on the 1st January; otherwise nobody would be benefited by the new law.

Motion put and passed, and the amendment not agreed to.

Nos. 2 to 4, inclusive—agreed to.

No. 5, Clause 3, sub-paragraph 7, line 1, strike out all words after “fisheries,” and insert “appointed under the principal Act.”

THE MINISTER OF MINES moved that the amendment be agreed to.

MR. KINGSMILL: The amendment ought not to be agreed to, because the

assistance which would be given to the chief inspector and sub-inspectors by members of the police force would be very material; and further, if persons were willing without remuneration, with the simple object of preserving the fish of the colony, to act as honorary inspectors, the department ought to be only too glad to avail themselves of such services, seeing that the department did not provide sufficient inspectors or give the present inspectors the means of locomotion.

THE MINISTER OF MINES: The Commissioner of Crown Lands was desirous the Bill should pass, and that was probably the reason he did not oppose this amendment by the Council. No doubt it was advisable to give every possible means of inspection; but it would facilitate the passage of the Bill if the amendments were agreed to, unless, of course, the member for Pilbarra (Mr. Kingsmill) had strong grounds for adhering to the Bill as sent to the Council.

MR. KINGSMILL: The principal reasons for disapproving of this amendment had already been stated; but considering that next session there would in all probability be introduced a Bill amending and consolidating the law relating to fisheries, it might be as well to agree to the amendment in view of the desirability of bringing the Bill into operation at once.

MR. LOCKE: This was one of the most important clauses in the Bill; and in the Sussex district, having an extensive coast line, it would be of great advantage to have honorary inspectors appointed.

THE MINISTER OF MINES withdrew his motion, after the reasons given.

MR. KINGSMILL moved that the Council's amendment be not agreed to.

Motion put and passed, and the amendment not agreed to.

On motions by the MINISTER OF MINES, amendments 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 14 to 22, inclusive—agreed to.

Amendment No. 10, clause 5, strike out the proviso and insert “and no persons shall fish with a seine net unless he is the holder of a fisherman's license”—on motion by MINISTER OF MINES, not agreed to.

No. 13, Clause 5, sub-paragraph 2, after “seine” in line 2 insert “or with a seine net”—on motion by MINISTER OF MINES, amendment not agreed to.

Resolutions reported, report adopted, and a committee consisting of Hon. R. W. Pennefather, Mr. Kingsmill, and Hon. H. B. Lefroy, as mover, was appointed to draw up reasons for disagreeing to certain of the amendments.

Reasons presented and adopted, and a message accordingly transmitted to the Legislative Council.

#### CONSTITUTION ACTS AMENDMENT BILL.

##### LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL'S AMENDMENTS.

Schedule of nine amendments made by the Legislative Council considered.

##### IN COMMITTEE.

Amendments 1 to 6, inclusive—agreed to.

No. 7—Add new clause, to stand as No. 22:

*Absence of Speaker provided for.*—In the case of the absence of the Speaker upon leave of absence granted to him by the Legislative Assembly, or by reason of illness or other unavoidable cause, the Assembly shall thereupon elect some other member to fill the office and perform the duties of the Speaker during such absence.

THE PREMIER moved, as an amendment on the Council's amendment, that after "cause," in line 2, the following be inserted: "the Chairman of Committees shall perform the duties and exercise the authority of the Speaker in relation to all proceedings of the House as Deputy Speaker, and in the absence of the Chairman of Committees." The amendment would provide for the appointment of a deputy in the absence of the Speaker, or in the absence of the Chairman of Committees. The last-mentioned difficulty had recently been experienced in Sydney, with the result that the House could not proceed with business. The amendment would be in accordance with the existing Standing Order providing that the Chairman of Committees be Deputy Speaker in the absence of the Speaker, and it would also meet the case of the absence of both officers.

Question put and passed, and the amendment as amended agreed to.

Nos. 8 and 9—agreed to.

Resolutions reported, the report adopted, and a message accordingly transmitted to the Council.

#### HEALTH ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

##### SECOND READING.

MR. A. FORREST (West Kimberley) rose to resume the debate.

THE SPEAKER: The hon. member could not speak again on the second reading, as he had adjourned the debate. When a member moved the adjournment of a debate, he must not say anything else; and he would then have a right to speak when the debate was resumed.

MR. A. FORREST said he had not made a speech.

THE SPEAKER: Undoubtedly the hon. member made a speech.

MR. A. FORREST: Only a few words.

THE SPEAKER: One word was sufficient.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

#### FIRE BRIGADES AMENDMENT BILL.

##### SECOND READING.

THE COMMISSIONER OF RAILWAYS (Hon. F. H. Piessé): In rising to move the second reading, very few words are needed from me. It is sought to amend Section 18 of the Fire Brigades Act of 1898, which provides that the money borrowed by the Fire Brigades Board shall not at any time exceed £5,000. Representations have been made to the Government that this limit restricts the board, because they find it necessary to expend more money than is permitted by the Act to be borrowed; therefore they ask for a further provision to enable them to borrow up to £10,000. I may say the board have already secured land in Perth at a cost of about £3,500, on which to erect the necessary premises.

MR. A. FORREST: By what authority did they buy the land?

THE COMMISSIONER OF RAILWAYS: The money is also required to provide equipment, and generally to efficiently carry out the work of the board. I therefore beg to move the second reading.

MR. A. FORREST (West Kimberley): I intend to oppose the second reading, on the ground that the Ministry are now introducing a Bill in which the Government have practically no interest. The Government contribute one-ninth of the upkeep of the fire brigade.

**THE PREMIER:** We have been asked to introduce the Bill.

**MR. A. FORREST:** You have not been asked by the municipality of Perth, which provides most of the funds for the Perth brigade. The City Council have never been asked to provide this money. The City Council provide four-ninths of the upkeep of the fire brigade; and the brigade have premises under the Town Hall, for which they pay a nominal rent. Although the Government contribute only one-ninth of the upkeep, they nevertheless propose to permit the board to expend £10,000, in the first instance to purchase land in close proximity to the Town Hall for £3,500, and to erect a building at a cost of another £3,000 or £4,000, in addition to the cost of the upkeep of the brigade. It is only due to those who represent the ratepayers of Perth to pause and say whether the ratepayers are going to pay four-ninths of the purchase price of this land, and four-ninths of the further cost of the buildings to be put on the land, without any attempt by the Government or the Fire Brigades Board to ask the ratepayers whether they are prepared to join in the cost of buying this land close to the Town Hall (in Pier-street), and to further join in the cost of erecting buildings thereon. It is unheard of that the Government should introduce a Bill of this character when they have got out of their share by paying only one-ninth towards the cost of upkeep, and asking the insurance companies and the ratepayers to pay the remainder. The fire brigade is an efficient body, I admit, but if the board goes on at the present rate of expenditure, this system will take all the rates of Perth to maintain the brigade. It has become a byword in the City Council that ratepayers have to pay this large amount of money; and although the City Council have the right to name three persons to represent the ratepayers on the board, it was never intended that the contribution of the City Council should run to such a large amount as it has already done, and here is a further large expenditure proposed in the Bill.

**THE PREMIER:** The present premises are unsuitable for the fire brigade.

**MR. A. FORREST:** We are asked to pass a Bill allowing this irresponsible board—

**THE PREMIER:** They are doing it with their own money, four-ninths.

**MR. A. FORREST:** They are spending the ratepayers' money, and what is the use of three members nominated by the City Council against those other members, the Government having also one member who is practically chairman of the board. [The PREMIER: No, no.] He is. The insurance companies represent four-ninths, the City Council four-ninths, and we are asked to contribute funds for the upkeep of this brigade not only to purchase land in Pier-street at a high price, but also to erect buildings on it; and yet in arranging about this land, no reference has been made to the City Council.

**THE COMMISSIONER OF RAILWAYS:** Three members represent the City Council on the board.

**THE PREMIER:** Did not your three members tell you all about it?

**MR. A. FORREST:** I do not think they did. If they did, this Bill is brought in to agree to a loan of £10,000, and the City Council are to be responsible for four-ninths of the cost of the land and the proposed buildings. I say it is an unheard-of thing that the Government should introduce such a Bill. In the first instance, the Government should pay their fair third. Last year £500 was allocated by the City Council as their contribution towards the expenses of the fire brigade; but I may inform members of this House that the cost to the council for their share last year was £1,500, and this year we shall have to pay, I suppose, another £1,500, besides paying four-ninths of the purchase of this land and four-ninths of the cost of the buildings, neither the land or the buildings being really required at the present time. If the member for West Perth (Mr. Wood) intends to allow this as a representative of the city—if he intends to allow the ratepayers of Perth to be made responsible for this proposed large expenditure without any attempt being made to obtain their consent—I hope the ratepayers will take note of such action at the next election. The member for East Perth (Mr. James), and the member for Perth (Mr. Hall) who has just come in, should realise their position on this question. Under the present constitution of this board, and seeing the way the board are

going on, it must be evident that the whole rates of the city will soon be mopped up in maintaining this expensive establishment; and I believe the Fire Brigades Board are also talking about establishing branch stations in other parts of the city.

**THE PREMIER:** Do you think the insurance companies will stand it?

**MR. A. FORREST:** I think this Bill should be read a second time this day six months. I have made my protest against it on behalf of the city.

Question put, and a division being called for by Mr. A. Forrest, it was taken with the following result:—

Ayes	...	...	...	8
Noes	...	...	...	6

Majority for ... .. 2

AYES.	NOES.
Sir John Forrest	Mr. A. Forrest
Mr. Illingworth	Mr. Hall
Mr. Lefroy	Mr. Locke
Mr. Pennefather	Mr. Mougier
Mr. Piesse	Mr. Wood
Mr. Solomon	Mr. Kingsmill (Teller).
Hon. H. W. Venn	
Mr. Quinlan (Teller).	

**THE SPEAKER:** By the result of this division, my attention is called to the fact that there is not a quorum of members present. Standing Order 39 says:

If it shall appear, on the report of a division of the House by the tellers, that a quorum of members be not present, the Speaker shall adjourn the House, without a question being first put, till the next sitting; and no decision of the House shall be considered to have been arrived at by such division.

According to that Standing Order, the House is now adjourned.

#### ADJOURNMENT.

The House was thus adjourned at 5:40 o'clock, until the next day.

Legislative Council,  
Thursday, 14th December, 1899.

Petitions: Peppermint Grove, etc., Water Supply Bill (private)—Motion (urgency): Want of Accommodation for the Council—Motion: Standing Orders, Suspension—Motion: Question and Answer to be expurgated—Motion: Government Business, Precedence—Constitution Acts Amendment Bill, Assembly's further Amendment—Mines Regulation Amendment Bill, Assembly's Amendment—Fremantle Water Supply Bill, first reading—Sunday Labour in Mines Bill, first reading—Bank Holidays Amendment Bill, Assembly's Amendment—Totalisator Act Amendment Bill, first reading—Companies Act Amendment Bill, in Committee, motion, Division (no progress)—Fire Brigades Amendment Bill (borrowing), first reading—Mineral Lands Amendment Bill, second reading, in Committee, reported—Perth Tramways Amendment Bill, second reading, in Committee, third reading—Land Act Amendment Bill (Mining), second reading, in Committee, reported—Loan Bill (as amended), third reading—Resolution: Storage Sheds for Agricultural Produce—Mining on Private Property Amendment Bill, second reading, etc.—Metropolitan Waterworks Amendment Bill, second reading, in Committee, progress—Peppermint Grove, etc., Water Supply Bill, second reading—Appropriation Bill, first reading—Patents, Designs, and Trade Marks Bill, Assembly's Message—Beer Duty Amendment Bill, second reading, etc.—Pearl Dealers Licensing Bill, second reading—Supreme Court, Site for Building, Report—Adjournment.

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

#### PRAYERS.

PETITIONS—PEPPERMINT GROVE, ETC., WATER SUPPLY BILL (PRIVATE).

**HON. F. WHITCOMBE** presented petitions from ratepayers of Peppermint Grove, Cottesloe, and Buckland Hill, also the Buckland Hill Roads Board and the Cottesloe Roads Board, against the Bill.

Petitions received and read.

MOTION (URGENCY)—WANT OF ACCOMMODATION FOR THE COUNCIL.

**HON. F. M. STONE** moved "That the House at its rising do adjourn to this day three months." He did so for the purpose of drawing the attention of members to the disgraceful state of the barn we were in, and the terrible inconvenience we had gone through during the last three days. In winter the place was very cold, almost reaching freezing point; and directly we got into the hot weather we were obliged to sit in the building and steam in it the whole time. It was almost impossible, under the circumstances, to carry on the business properly. Members got irritated with the extreme heat, and he thought a good deal of what