

he bears. I have occupied more time than I intended, because hon. members have forced me to do so by interruptions; but I rose particularly to say that I think we ought to pass this Bill into the Committee stage, that we should vote on it almost at once; and I shall be glad to vote on it without speaking. I think we should get into Committee as soon as we can, make these amendments, get it into the Council, and get it to the people; and then let hon. members make as many speeches as they like in their own constituencies.

MR. MITCHELL (Murchison): I think many hon. members have a ground for complaint in reference to this session of Parliament. We have been brought here by false pretences. I was under the impression we were brought here to discuss whether or not to send the Bill to the people, and not to discuss the merits or demerits of the Bill. I wish to say I have in no way changed my opinion as to the merits of federation from the point of view of Western Australia. I still think that to federate would be the greatest mistake that could possibly be made; but at the same time, I have never been opposed to sending the Bill to the people, though it is true I stood out for a three-fifths majority; and I will stick out for that still, if anyone will propose it when we go into Committee.

MR. ILLINGWORTH: A three-fifths majority?

MR. MITCHELL: Yes; I should like to have that. But it is no use kicking against the pricks; and I say, let us finish this debate, and send the Bill to the people with the hope that they will exercise their wisdom in voting "no" to what must be the ruination of this colony; and that they will not only vote "no," owing to that consideration, but will vote "no" as a protest against what has been said in some of the other colonies. What did Mr. Lyne say the other day? He said: "I have no objection to the alteration of the Bill as regards the Privy Council, but I strongly object to any alteration being made in the Bill for the benefit of Western Australia." Is that a federal sentiment? No, sir. But that is what we shall find when once we put our necks in the noose by joining the federation. I do not want to prolong the agony. I hope hon. members will

bring this debate to an end, let the Bill get into Committee, and see what alterations we can make there.

On motion by **MR. HARPER**, debate adjourned till the next sitting.

ADJOURNMENT.

The House adjourned at 19 minutes past 10 o'clock until the next day.

Legislative Council,

Thursday, 31st May, 1900.

Paper presented—Question: Post Office for South Perth—Question: Public Works Officers, disrating and dismissal (alleged)—Adjournment.

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

PRAYERS.

PAPER PRESENTED.

By the **COLONIAL SECRETARY**: Regulations (Railway Department) for controlling traffic on bridges over the Swan River at Fremantle.

Ordered to lie on the table.

QUESTION—POST OFFICE FOR SOUTH PERTH.

HON. R. S. HAYNES asked the Colonial Secretary: 1, If it is the intention of the Government to proceed with the erection of a post office at South Perth. 2, If so, when. 3, If there is any reason for the long delay that has taken place.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY replied:—I may premise my remarks by stating that the question is out of the hands of the Postal and Telegraph Department and in those of the Public Works Department, and this is the reply I have received. 1, Yes. 2, A larger building than the one originally proposed has been designed. The plans are now

complete, and tenders will be called this week. 3, There has been no long delay. The work of the office has not permitted earlier attention to this particular building, as it had to take its turn with other works.

QUESTION—PUBLIC WORKS OFFICERS, DISRATING AND DISMISSAL (ALLEGED).

HON. F. WHITCOMBE asked the Colonial Secretary: 1, If the attention of the Government has been called to a letter published in the *Sunday Times* of the 20th May, referring to the disrating of Mr. H. W. Hargreave and the dismissal of James McCarthy from the positions held by them in the Coolgardie Water Supply Branch of the Public Works Department. 2, Whether the attention of the Director of Public Works has been called to the circumstances of such disrating and dismissal. 3, If not, will the Minister make inquiry into the causes leading up to the same?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY replied: 1, No. 2, No. 3, Yes.

ADJOURNMENT.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: In mentioning the adjournment, he proposed that the House should reassemble on Tuesday; but he desired to announce, for the information of hon. members who were from the country, and who perhaps would not be able to attend on Tuesday, that it was not his intention to take the second reading of the Enabling Bill then, should the measure reach this House on Tuesday, but simply to take the first reading and to proceed to no further stage on that day.

HON. R. S. HAYNES: If the Bill were not reached on Tuesday, the House would adjourn till Wednesday; therefore, would the Colonial Secretary say he would take only the first reading on Wednesday in that case, so that there would be no necessity to send telegrams?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY said he was perfectly willing to take the second reading on the day after the Bill was introduced. He moved that the House do now adjourn.

Put and passed.

The House adjourned at 4:40 o'clock until the next Tuesday.

Legislative Assembly.

Thursday, 31st May, 1900.

Appropriation Message (Federation Enabling Bill)—Question: Electoral Registration Arrangements—Question: Mining Rents Unpaid—Question: Mining for Lead, Tin, Copper, Coal—Question: Voting Illegally at Elections—Privilege: Member for Geraldton; a Point of Order overlooked—Federation Enabling Bill, second reading; in Committee, Clauses 1 to new clause, progress—War Telegram, an interlude—Adjournment.

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

PRAYERS.

APPROPRIATION MESSAGE—FEDERATION ENABLING BILL.

Message from his Excellency the Administrator was read, recommending appropriation for the purposes of the Federation Enabling Bill, in regard to taking the referendum.

QUESTION—ELECTORAL REGISTRATION ARRANGEMENTS.

MR. DOHERTY, without notice, asked the Premier, Whether it was the intention of the Government to advertise in the public Press of the colony information as to the best means for facilitating the enrolment of persons entitled to be registered under the new Electoral Act.

THE PREMIER replied: There would be no difficulty in any one getting on the electoral roll who was entitled to be registered, if such person would make application to the Electoral Registrar in his or her district. In addition to this, it was proposed to instruct those persons who would be appointed under the Federation Enabling Bill for issuing new certificates to electors, to also ask each person so applying to fill up a form by which he or she might be also registered on the Parliamentary electoral roll. By this means a large number of persons would have a ready facility provided for getting their names placed on the Parliamentary roll, at the same time that they applied for electoral rights to be exercised in the referendum on the federation question; and it was probable that each adult person (not already on the roll) who applied for the new electoral right would also fill up the form for getting his or her name registered on the Parliamentary electoral roll. Further,