

enough to pay the money when there was an appeal. A moderate sum put up, with a subsequent liability of £10 per member, ought to be satisfactory to employers and employees.

MR. VOSPER: The primary object of this Bill was to prevent strikes, and the more obstacles that there were put in the way of registration, the fewer would registrations be, and the fewer the registrations the greater would be the risk of strikes; consequently the amendment struck at the fundamental principle of the Bill. It would have the effect, if carried, of leaving out a very large number of workers, and the greater the number of workers left out, the greater was the danger of disputes leading to strikes.

MR. MORGANS: Looking at the observations of the member for the Canning (Mr. Wilson), he agreed with him to a large extent, although he regretted the hon. member was not a little more explicit as to what his views were regarding a definite amount being placed in the hands of the registrar or referee. Still, what he said seemed to be reasonable, and it would be time enough to ask the parties to put up the money when they asked for an examination of their claims. Judging the feeling of the House with regard to the matter, he did not think he should press the amendments, but he would defer action until they came to the clause referred to by the member for the Canning. They could then deal with the question. In the meantime, if it was the desire of the House, he would like progress to be reported.

THE ACTING CHAIRMAN: The hon. member had better ask leave to withdraw his amendment.

MR. MORGANS asked leave to withdraw the amendment.

THE ACTING CHAIRMAN: Both of them?

MR. MORGANS: Both.

Amendments by leave withdrawn.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL moved that in Sub-clause 5 the word "annual" be struck out and "half-yearly" inserted in lieu. This was a consequential amendment.

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

Progress reported, and leave given to sit again.

MESSAGE—ASSENT TO BILLS.

Message from the Administrator received and read, assenting to the Supply Bill (£500,000), and the Constitution Act Amendment Act Errors Bill.

MESSAGE—BILLS FROM LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

REMARKS.

A Message was received from the Legislative Council, transmitting the Slander of Women Bill and the Compensation for Accidents Bill, and asking for concurrence.

THE SPEAKER asked who was in charge of the Bills.

THE PREMIER: These were private members' Bills.

[No action taken.]

ADJOURNMENT.

The House adjourned at 10:34 o'clock, until the next day.

Legislative Council,

Wednesday, 26th September, 1900.

Paper presented—Question: Rechabites, Failure to furnish Return—Municipal Institutions Bill—Motion: Circuit Courts, further Legislation—Papers: Midland Railway Company, Copy of Agreements (adjourned)—Legal Practitioners Act Amendment Bill, Postponement—Registration of Births, Deaths, and Marriages Act Amendment Bill, in Com.—Public Service Bill, second reading (moved)—Federal House of Representatives W.A. Electorates Bill, first reading—Customs Duties (Meat) Repeal Bill, first reading—Adjournment.

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

PRAYERS.

PAPER PRESENTED.

By the COLONIAL SECRETARY: Bubonic Plague, General Sanitary Regulations passed by the Venice International Sanitary Convention, 1897.

QUESTION—RECHABITES, FAILURE TO FURNISH RETURN.

HON. J. M. DREW asked the Colonial Secretary: 1, Whether it is a fact that during the last four years the district secretary of the Independent Order of Rechabites has failed to furnish the Registrar of Friendly Societies with an annual general statement, called Return A, in accordance with the provisions of the Friendly Societies Act. 2, And if so, why has not the Registrar of Friendly Societies taken steps to compel the district secretary to furnish such annual general statement.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY replied:—1, The Return "A" for two years, due in February, 1898 and 1899, respectively, were not received by the Registrar of Friendly Societies until April, 1900. The matter was, in November, 1899, referred to the Crown Solicitor recommending that legal proceedings be taken. All the returns due were subsequently furnished. This also answered No. 2.

MUNICIPAL INSTITUTIONS BILL.

Introduced by the COLONIAL SECRETARY, and read a first time.

MOTION—CIRCUIT COURTS, FURTHER LEGISLATION.

HON. A. G. JENKINS (North-East) moved:

That in the opinion of this House, it is desirable that immediate provision should be made for holding Circuit Courts, and that the Government introduce the necessary legislation forthwith.

He said it was not his intention to make any long remarks and detain the House unnecessarily, because he hoped the matter was one which would commend itself to every member who had the principle of fair-play at heart.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. G. Randell): A Bill for the purpose referred to would be introduced next week.

Motion by leave withdrawn.

PAPERS—MIDLAND RAILWAY, COPY OF AGREEMENTS.

HON. J. M. DREW (Central) moved:

That the following papers be laid on the table of this House:—1, A copy of the original agreement between the Midland Railway

Company, Limited, and the Government of Western Australia for the construction of the Midland Railway. 2, Copies of all subsequent agreements between the Midland Railway Company, Limited, and the Government of Western Australia modifying or altering the terms of the original contract.

HON. W. MALEY (South-East): I second the motion.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. G. Randell): There is no objection on my part to the motion, but I believe the papers have been placed on the table of another place, and have also been produced here.

THE PRESIDENT: The hon. member (Mr. Drew) will find all these papers in the Votes and Proceedings, as printed.

HON. J. M. DREW: I would like to see the papers laid on the table of the House at this juncture.

THE PRESIDENT: If the papers are already in the Votes and Proceedings of this House, that is all the hon. member can ask for. I believe I am correct in saying the papers are in the Votes and Proceedings. Perhaps the motion may be deferred till the next meeting.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: I would like the motion deferred.

HON. J. M. DREW: Possibly some agreements have been made between the Midland Railway Company and the Government during the last few months.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: The hon. member can bring on the motion again, if he finds the papers are not satisfactory.

HON. J. M. DREW: In view of the intimation of the Colonial Secretary, I move that the motion be postponed until the next sitting.

Put and passed, and the motion postponed accordingly.

LEGAL PRACTITIONERS ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

POSTPONEMENT.

Order read, for third reading of the Bill.

HON. M. L. MOSS moved that the Bill be recommitted, for adding a clause.

THE PRESIDENT: It was distinctly understood on the previous day that if the Bill were recommitted, any amendment it was desired to submit should appear on the Notice Paper; and he was informed by the Clerk that the proposed

new clause had just now been handed in.

HON. M. L. MOSS: That was so; but the intention was, on going into Committee, to move that progress be reported with leave to sit again.

THE PRESIDENT: That procedure would be rather irregular, because it was distinctly understood that if the Bill were recommitted, any proposed amendments should appear on the Notice Paper.

HON. M. L. MOSS: With the consent of Mr. R. S. Haynes, who was in charge of the Bill, he moved that the third reading be postponed until the next Tuesday.

Motion put and passed, and the Order postponed accordingly.

REGISTRATION OF BIRTHS, DEATHS, AND MARRIAGES ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

IN COMMITTEE.

Bill passed through Committee without debate, reported without amendment, and the report adopted.

PUBLIC SERVICE BILL.

SECOND READING.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. G. Randell), in moving the second reading, said: This Bill is very clear and distinct, and easily understood. I need hardly say it is not a revolutionary measure, but only, if I may use the word, crystallises the prevailing practice in the public departments of the colony. That is one of the great advantages of the Bill, as it will present the regulations in a concrete form, and members of the civil service will know their privileges, duties, and responsibilities. Some of the clauses define the position of the civil servant, his duties and how he is to discharge those duties, indicate the permanency of his official status, and protect him to a greater extent than, perhaps, he is protected at the present moment under the regulations, which may be interpreted, in view of the custom which has prevailed, by the will of the Minister or of the head of the department if the latter be able to convince the Minister. The Bill deals with the question of leave, both annual and extended, after a certain number of years' service. Six years' service was mentioned originally,

but the period has been extended to eight years, after which the civil servant may have six months' leave on full pay and another six months' leave on half pay. The latter system of leave prevails, to a large extent, at the present time, and many members of the civil service have from time to time been permitted to take advantage of these terms, arrangements generally being made, unless the officer occupy one of the higher positions, for his duties to be carried out by his fellow officers. Another important departure in the Bill, and a departure in the right direction, is a provision for the appointment of an independent board. Say, for instance, something occurs in the Colonial Secretary's Department, and an officer is suspended and a charge laid against him, that officer will be tried by a board, probably appointed from other parts of the service by the Governor, or, at any rate, by an independent board not necessarily selected from persons in the civil service. The Bill also provides for an examination before entering the service, and this has been asked for for a long time by a great many people. It is thought such an examination will tend to increase efficiency and introduce young men of higher education, attainments, and ability than probably have been appointed in the past. It has been somewhat easy to get into the civil service here, and no doubt there are scattered up and down in the various departments men who are not highly educated, though at the same time they may be discharging their duties in the most efficient manner; in fact, I think it would not be difficult to put one's finger on some who, though not highly educated in the way we understand education, are yet quite capable of discharging their duties in the best interests of the colony. The Bill also provides for compulsory assurance; so that when an officer is appointed permanently, or rather before he is appointed permanently, he has to effect an insurance on his life in some recognised office of standing in the colony. The Bill also provides, as I intimated, for a larger number of officers being placed on the permanent staff. If hon. members have followed the debates on this Bill in another place, they will have found a strong consensus of opinion that a large number of those at present on the

provisional and temporary staff should be transferred to the permanent staff, and, no doubt, there is some justice in that contention. The principle has been not to be in too big a hurry to put men on the permanent staff, partly on account of the uncertainty which prevailed as to the necessity of continuing some of the officers in the service; but now that things have attained a more certain position, there should be no difficulty, or at any rate there should be less difficulty in appointing permanent officers. There is not a great deal in that point, however, because a man who is on the provisional and temporary staff, and continues in office for two or three years, is looked on as a permanent official, and, as is right and proper, is dealt with in exactly the same way as an officer whose name appears on the Estimates as a member of the permanent staff. In some cases, however, temporary and provisional officers have received a higher salary, simply on account of there being some little uncertainty as to their position; but of course being on the permanent staff will entitle them to other privileges. The Bill prohibits civil servants taking any active part in political questions, and also prohibits their improperly giving official information which they have gained in the course of their duties, to the Press or other persons outside. I am not sure, however, whether a provision of that sort will be effective, because gentlemen who represent the Press are so ubiquitous and so persevering that they remind me sometimes of what we read in the Old Testament, where the Syrian King's officers told him that any word he spoke in his chamber became known to Elijah the prophet. Such I believe is the case in the Government offices of the colony. It is astonishing how information gets abroad into the newspapers and into current conversation outside.

HON. F. WHITCOMBE: Ministers always contradict it afterwards.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: Not always.

HON. J. W. HACKETT: Misreported.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: I am afraid sometimes it is a little inspired.

HON. J. W. HACKETT: Then the officials can be dismissed.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: These are the principal points of the measure, as far as I have been able to glean from a careful perusal of the Bill; and although, as I have said, the measure is not revolutionary in its object, and makes no very great change in the conduct of the public service, yet I think the civil servants of the colony will hail with considerable gladness the fact that they have a Civil Service Bill at last, and I believe it will tend to promote the well-being of the service. At any rate, I think it is desirable that we should proceed carefully in this matter. We have not had an Act hitherto. I personally formed an opinion some time ago—before I was in office, and it has been confirmed by my being in office—that a step in this direction was desirable. The Bill does not point to a full-blown board. I believe that boards have not been satisfactory in the other colonies, and that they are open to very serious objections. The Bill on the lines now presented is on safe lines and is a move forward, and at some future time, if it is found necessary, or if the Bill does not fulfil all the objects desired by its framers, we shall be able to take a further step forward and remedy any defects found in the measure. I commend the Bill to the careful consideration of members, believing as I do that it is a much better Bill than that introduced last year, being much simpler and easier to work, and we incur no very great risk in adopting it. I move the second reading of the Bill.

HON. F. WHITCOMBE: I move that the debate be adjourned till Tuesday next.

Put and passed, and the debate adjourned.

FEDERAL HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES W.A. ELECTORATES BILL.

Received from the Legislative Assembly, and, on motion by the COLONIAL SECRETARY, read a first time.

CUSTOMS DUTIES (MEAT) REPEAL BILL.

Received from the Legislative Assembly, and, on motion by the COLONIAL SECRETARY, read a first time.

ADJOURNMENT.

On motion by the COLONIAL SECRETARY, the House adjourned at two minutes past five o'clock until the next Tuesday.

Legislative Assembly,
Wednesday, 26th September, 1900.

Petition: Perth Electric Tramways Lighting and Power Bill (private)—Question: Noxious Weeds in Victoria District—Slander of Women Bill, first reading—Compensation for Accidents Bill, 1r.—Federal House of Representatives (W.A.) Electorates Bill, third reading—Customs Duties (Meat) Repeal Bill, third reading—Kalgoorlie Municipal Loans Reappropriation Bill, first reading—Criminal Law Amendment Act Amendment Bill, first reading—Motion: North Perth Board of Health, to Create (adjourned)—Motion: Federation, Free Railway Passes for Life (negatived)—Motion: Midland Railway, to examine and value (negatived)—Motion: Sweeps and Consultations, to Abolish (withdrawn)—Privilege: Cattle Restrictions Inquiry, Soliciting Evidence—Motion: Railway Workshops at Midland Junction, to Construct forthwith, Division on Adjournment—Adjournment.

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

PRAYERS.

PETITION—PERTH ELECTRIC TRAMWAYS LIGHTING AND POWER BILL (PRIVATE).

MR. MOORHEAD presented a petition from the Perth Electric Tramways, Limited, praying for the introduction of a private Bill intituled "An Act to grant to the Perth Electric Tramways, Limited, Powers and Provisions for the Manufacture, Distribution and Supply of Electricity."

Petition received and read.

QUESTION—NOXIOUS WEEDS IN VICTORIA DISTRICT.

MR. MITCHELL asked the Commissioner of Crown Lands: Whether in view of the rapid growth and spread of lupin, stinkwort, and other noxious weeds in the Victoria District, more especially in the neighbourhood of Northampton, he

would send an officer to inspect and report upon the best and cheapest means of eradicating these weeds.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS replied: Instructions will at once be given for an inspection and report upon this question, as requested.

SLANDER OF WOMEN BILL.

On motion by MR. ILLINGWORTH (Bill having been previously received from Legislative Council), read a first time.

COMPENSATION FOR ACCIDENTS BILL.

On motion by MR. ILLINGWORTH (Bill having been previously received from Legislative Council), read a first time.

FEDERAL HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES W.A. ELECTORATES BILL.

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

CUSTOMS DUTIES (MEAT) REPEAL BILL.

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

KALGOORLIE MUNICIPAL LOANS REAPPROPRIATION BILL.

Introduced by MR. MORAN, and read a first time.

CRIMINAL LAW AMENDMENT ACT (1892) AMENDMENT BILL.

Introduced by the ATTORNEY GENERAL, and read a first time.

MOTION—NORTH PERTH BOARD OF HEALTH, TO CREATE.

MR. ILLINGWORTH (Central Murchison) moved:

That the resolution of August 30, 1899 (see *Hansard*, page 1065), granting the prayer of a petition from the residents of North Perth for the creation of a Board of Health (within six months from that date), be no longer delayed.

In August last a decision was arrived at concerning the petition for the creation of a board of health for North Perth; and in order to allow the City Council time to remove the cause of offence, he (Mr. Illingworth) moved that six months be given before it should be compulsory on the Government to grant the prayer of the petition. Twelve months had now gone by, and nothing, so far as he knew,