

satisfied with getting his ice from the Perth Ice Company; and he further recommended the establishment of a railway printing office under the control of the department. All these facts showed an intended increase in railway expenditure, in railway works, and an increase of the capital accounts, but very little prospect of increased revenue, because the only new railway was the Leonora line, now in hand; and the further the railways were extended, the greater the difficulties of working and the less the profits. On working the railways these officers spent last year £74,000 above the authorisations, and if the expenditure were this year in the same ratio, there would be an unauthorised expenditure of £100,000, being a total expenditure out of revenue of about one million in working the railways this year. It would be no satisfaction to him (Mr. Holmes) to say at some future time, when the country was face to face with difficulty, that he had prophesied disaster. Let the Committee face the position now, introduce a new system, reorganise the whole of the service so that the position of the railways should be clear, and Parliament no longer misled with fictitious figures. In conclusion, he urged hon. members to put the Railway Department on a satisfactory footing before it brought financial disaster on the country, as it otherwise would do at no distant date.

MR. PIESSE moved that progress be reported.

Motion put and passed.

Progress reported, and leave given to sit again.

#### ADJOURNMENT.

At 10:36 o'clock, the House adjourned until the next day.

## Legislative Council,

Thursday, 1st November, 1900.

Papers Presented—Motion: Public Service, to grade and classify (adjourned)—Land Resumption Amendment Bill, second reading—Noxious Weeds Bill, second reading—Killing of Kangaroos for Food Bill, second reading—Streets (Victoria Park) Closure Bill, second reading—Coolgardie Exhibition Lands Repeal Bill, first reading—Exportation of Arms Bill, first reading—Loan Bill (£790,000), second reading—Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Bill, select committee (extension)—Adjournment.

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

#### PRAYERS.

#### PAPERS PRESENTED.

By the COLONIAL SECRETARY: 1. Metropolitan Waterworks Board, Annual Report; 2. Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board, Annual Report; 3. Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Bill, Cablegrams from Agent General.

Ordered to lie on the table.

#### MOTION—PUBLIC SERVICE, TO GRADE AND CLASSIFY.

HON. A. JAMESON (Metropolitan-Suburban): I beg to move:

That, in the opinion of this House, a Royal Commission should be appointed to grade and classify the members of the Public Service, and to fix their status and remuneration in the various classes.

As hon. members are aware, a Public Service Bill has already passed, and is about to become law. Clause 13 says:

The Governor shall, according to the work of each department, annually determine—(a.) The number of public servants required for the efficient working of each department; and (b.) the work to be done and the pay to be received by each.

It is the duty of the Government to do this, but it is quite impossible for them to do the work unless some material assistance is given. The whole of the civil service should be thoroughly investigated so that the Government may have some grounds and data to go on. I believe I am correct in stating that there is no public service in the world where the appointments, promotions, and dismissals of public servants are left to the haphazard method which exists in the service here. It is our duty to see that this is remedied, and particularly now when a large number of

departments have to be taken over by the Federal Government, which departments will undoubtedly be placed on a very sound and efficient working basis. If the departments which are taken over by the Federal Government are placed in a better position than the local service, undoubtedly our local service will suffer, because naturally the best talent will go to the Federal departments, therefore it is very important that every local department should be looked into, graded, and classified. I think this cannot be done in any better way than by having a Royal Commission appointed. Such a commission could go thoroughly into all the details of the service. In the first place the members of the commission would thoroughly examine and study the various reports made by other public service commissions throughout the Empire. Constantly commissions of this kind are held; in England a Royal Commission on the Public Service is held every two or three years; and such commissions are constantly held throughout the Australian colonies. The various reports of these commissions would be of the greatest value to any other commission in bringing forward the best method of classification and gradation of the service. These reports would be at the service of such a commission, and could be called for. Then I think the various members of the commission would do well to examine personally members of the different departments, and examine the details, personally, of the work that is done by every member of the service. Then, again, the commission could call evidence, and if the heads of the departments and important members of the civil service were called to give evidence on the various points required by the commissioners, a great amount of material would be obtained which would be invaluable to the commission in drawing up their report. It would in no way interfere with the functions of the Government to do this. I think "the Government," means the in-coming Government, and it would be of material assistance if, during the interval of six months before the next Parliament meets, the commission could sit. It should be a representative commission appointed to do real hard work; it should be composed of commercial and professional men with a hard-working secretary, who could go

into every detail as I suggest, and then their report would be of great value. I hope hon. members will see their way to support the motion. I know such a commission is felt to be a need, and I may say that even since bringing forward this motion, as I did on my own account, several civil servants have addressed me on the matter in regard to the very great desirability of such a commission being appointed. I hope there will be no difficulty. I should prefer a Royal Commission to any other form of gathering, such as a board; but at the same time if it is thought by hon. members, or the Colonial Secretary, impossible to appoint a commission, then I will take the best body I can get. I prefer to see a Royal Commission appointed for the purpose of considering the subject referred to in Clause 13 of the Bill, and to bring forward a report for the assistance of the incoming Government.

HON. J. W. HACKETT: You mean all branches of the civil service?

HON. A. JAMESON: Not the branches taken over by the Federal Government: all except those taken over by the Federal Government, which could be left, as they would be on a different basis.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. G. Randell): I would like to draw your attention, Mr. President, to Clause 13 of the Public Service Bill, which in the course of a few days will become an Act, and it will then be Section 13. It says:

"The Governor shall, according to the work of each department, annually determine--(a.) The number of public servants required for the efficient working of each department; and (b.) The work to be done and the pay to be received by each.

It seems to me the hon. member's motion goes directly in face of the provisions of the Bill which, as I have already said, will shortly become an Act. I do not desire to interfere for the purpose of obstructing the motion; but it is useless to carry a motion such as this if it is in opposition to the Public Service Bill that has been passed. I ask your ruling on the point.

THE PRESIDENT: Standing Order 110 says:

No question or amendment shall be proposed which is the same in substance as any question which, during the same session, has been resolved in the affirmative or negative.

The motion moved by Dr. Jameson, runs very closely to Clause 13 of the Public Service Bill which has just passed, therefore it is virtually dealing with a question which has already been decided by the House. I think the hon. member will have to withdraw the motion and bring forward his proposal in some other way, as the wording of the present motion certainly clashes with Clause 13 of the Public Service Bill.

HON. A. JAMESON: Does not the motion suggest that a commission should be appointed to assist the carrying out of Clause 13? The report of such a commission would allow the clause to be more thoroughly carried out; therefore the motion does not clash or contend with the clause in any way.

THE PRESIDENT: The last part of the motion is dealt with in Sub-clause d. of Clause 13. That portion of the motion distinctly clashes with Clause 13.

HON. J. M. SPEED (Metropolitan-Suburban): May I be allowed to submit that I think the commission would have no power to determine any question, but only recommend what the Government should do. A Royal Commission could do no more than report to the Governor.

THE PRESIDENT: I suggest that the hon. member withdraw the motion and alter the wording.

HON. A. JAMESON: Would you allow me to alter the motion slightly by saying "to recommend" instead of "to grade and classify"?

THE PRESIDENT: I think the hon. member had better get someone to move the adjournment of the debate, so that he can alter the motion.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: May I suggest to Dr. Jameson that it will possibly meet all he desires if he asks for a board to be appointed by the Government during the recess. I think it very unwise to leave this matter to a commission. I do not believe in commissions, because they are utterly incompetent to deal with matters of this kind. A board appointed by the Government would be the best thing. I understand the hon. member wishes the report before next year's Estimates are brought forward. If the hon. member leaves this question until the new Parliament comes in, it will be impossible to deal with it. I wish to express the opinion that it is desirable

that a board should be appointed for the purpose of grading the civil service.

On motion by HON. J. W. HACKETT, debate adjourned.

#### LAND RESUMPTION AMENDMENT BILL.

##### SECOND READING.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. G. Randell), in moving the second reading, said: It is not necessary for me to say anything about the Bill, which is a short one for the purpose of adding two or three works to those which may be undertaken under the Land Resumption Act of 1894. I shall have to move a short amendment to include two other classes of works. The Bill will commend itself to hon. members; it deals with drainage works and cemeteries. I shall have to move an amendment, when in Committee, to add "or fix pipe track." I move the second reading of the Bill.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

#### NOXIOUS WEEDS BILL.

##### SECOND READING.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. G. Randell), in moving the second reading, said: This Bill repeals an Act which has virtually been a dead letter, and which was passed in 1874, called the Spanish Radish and Scotch Thistle Prevention Act. I believe that Act was passed very much in the interests of Geraldton.

HON. F. WHITCOMBE: Is that why you are repealing it?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: The Act was passed in the interests of the district of Geraldton, where these weeds were a great nuisance; but from some cause or another, principally because the Roads Boards which were entrusted to carry it out have never taken steps in that direction, and, perhaps, because some of the powers were too drastic, the Act has not been operative. This is a very moderate Bill; in fact, it has been stated by some that it is not drastic enough, but the feeling of the Legislature has been all along that they will not pass a very drastic measure on the subject. The Bill almost leaves the whole question open, because the responsibility is thrown entirely on Roads

Boards and municipalities to recommend to the Governor what weeds shall be termed noxious weeds, excepting in the case of two which are named in the schedule—namely, the stinkwort and the Bathurst burr. The Bill provides that failing the performance of the duty on the part of these public bodies, the Minister may recommend to the Governor that certain weeds which are found to be obnoxious or injurious shall be proclaimed, and provision is made for the proclamation to be carried into effect. An inspector or inspectors will be appointed to serve notice on the owner or occupier of the land calling upon him to take steps to eradicate weeds not only on his own land, but also for half a chain on the road adjoining.

HON. J. W. HACKETT: Supposing the owner is out of the colony?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: Then it will be the occupier.

HON. J. W. HACKETT: Supposing both are away?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: In such case provision, I believe, is made that the agent is to be served with notice.

HON. J. W. HACKETT: But that is not provided in the Bill.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: I am not able to speak exactly on the point, but we can attend to that in Committee. If the owner or occupier is not here, the inspector will, no doubt, report, and the Minister or the local body may recommend that the land be cleared, and the owner or occupier be charged, whether he be in or out of the colony. In the event of the owner or occupier neglecting or refusing to take steps after notice has been served, the officers have power to employ labour and eradicate the weeds, charging to the owner or occupier the cost of extirpation. Clause 10 divides the responsibility as to payment on certain principles between the owner and occupier. In the one case the occupier has to pay for the whole, if he has not been long in possession of the lease, and in the other case, if he has only two years to run the owner will have to pay the expenses. In South Australia and other parts of the colonies noxious weeds have become a great curse. Some four or five years ago, when visiting South Australia, I was very much taken with a very pretty plant growing on some of the rich flats

round about Adelaide, but on making inquiries I found it was the celebrated stinkwort, of which I had often heard and never seen. Like many other things of fair appearance, the stinkwort is liable to lead one astray; and I almost felt tempted to take some seeds in order that I might have a nice plant growing in my garden in Western Australia; but after hearing the character of the plant, I, of course, did nothing of the kind. I am glad of the opportunity to refer to this matter, because the other day when at Midland Junction, or Helena Vale as some people call the place, I saw, to my astonishment, the stinkwort growing profusely in the streets, and I thought it a shame on the part of the local authority that they did not take steps to eradicate this dangerous and obnoxious weed, because so rich is it in bearing seeds, that in a short time it will distribute itself over the cultivated lands of the Swan, and extend into the eastern districts and all over the colony. There must be people in Midland Junction who know the weed very well, and how it has thrown lands out of cultivation in some parts of South Australia. The Bathurst burr I do not know, and have not seen.

HON. J. W. HACKETT: It is in dozens of places.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: If these weeds are eradicated by some such measures as are proposed by the Bill, that will be a great benefit to the country at large. The Bill imposes no very great obligations on owners or occupiers, and it is certainly in the interests of these that the weeds, which will ultimately spoil the lands, should be cleared. Mr. Harper, in the Legislative Assembly, described this Bill as a very mild measure, and as he is one of the best authorities on these matters in the colony I am sure hon. members will be quite inclined to take his opinion. Mr. Harper, when speaking, said:—

The objection a great many have made to the Bill is that it is not sufficiently drastic, but from past experience it is very evident the House will not pass anything more drastic.

This Bill may, however, be a beginning of measures which may lead to more drastic means for the eradication of these noxious weeds and plants. I do not propose to go into Committee on the Bill to-night because several members who are interes-

ted in agriculture are not present. The Bill is very simple in its construction, and I see nothing to object to in the way of carrying out the object which the framer had in view. The penalty of from £5 to £50 may seem large, but that clause is hedged about with protection for the public bodies of the colony, and every precaution is taken to prevent the Bill being vexatious or oppressive.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

#### KILLING OF KANGAROOS FOR FOOD BILL.

##### SECOND READING.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. G. Randell) in moving the second reading, said: I believe representations have been made that natives and others should be allowed, during any close season which may be proclaimed in a district or part of a district, to kill kangaroos for food; and this is a principle which hon. members will, I think, be quite in accord with.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

#### STREETS (VICTORIA PARK) CLOSURE BILL.

##### SECOND READING.

HON. J. M. SPEED (Metropolitan-Suburban), in moving the second reading, said: This is a Bill for closing two streets on a portion of land in Victoria Park which has been purchased by the municipality for the purpose of a recreation ground. These two streets form part of the ground described in the plan deposited in the office of the Commissioner of Titles in Perth; and it is necessary, for the more beneficial use of this reserve by the public, that the streets should be closed, and so far as I know no private rights are injured by the Bill.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

#### COOLGARDIE EXHIBITION LANDS REPEAL BILL.

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

#### EXPORTATION OF ARMS BILL.

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

#### LOAN BILL, £790,000.

##### SECOND READING.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. G. Randell), in moving the second reading, said: The first part of the Bill contains the usual provisions for the proper way of carrying out the schedule, which is the important part of the measure. The Bill authorises the raising of £790,000 by loan for various public works, which it is desired to carry to completion as many of them as have already been begun. I need not say much about the Bill, because I suppose hon. members have already seen the speech of the Premier in another place, though I will refer shortly to the various items in the schedule. The first item is "Fremantle Harbour Works £120,000." These works have been in hand for some considerable time, and are of the greatest consequence to the interests of the country at large. It is claimed, especially by the Fremantle representatives, that this is not a Fremantle work, but a work of colonial importance.

HON. H. BRIGGS: A national work.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: I do not know how the hon. member uses the word "national."

HON. H. BRIGGS: The work is of state importance.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: However, it is claimed this is a work of national importance, because the benefits to be derived are not confined to Fremantle, but are participated in by other parts of the colony.

HON. H. BRIGGS: By the whole State.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: I believe the works will ultimately be found to benefit the whole of the population in the colony. I dare say the raising of the money will involve a considerable expenditure for interest.

HON. J. W. HACKETT: What are you going to do with the £120,000?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: I will tell the hon. member presently. That will involve the raising of a sum of money which the Government are prepared to obtain at 3 per cent. The works have already been begun, and the design is to be continued until completed.

HON. J. W. HACKETT: How long?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: I cannot answer the hon. member, but I think very good expedition has been made

with the work in hand. It is a surprise to anyone who has visited Fremantle previously, and who now comes here—captains of steamers and others—to see the work that has been executed in the time, it is something marvellous. A harbour into which previously a whale boat could scarcely enter at some seasons of the year is now accessible to steamers of the largest size. Vessels up to 8,000, 10,000, and 12,000 tons are berthed alongside the wharves which have been erected at Fremantle. I am sure hon. members will pass this Bill to provide the Government with the sinews of war for this work. The amount in hand at the present time is £24,000, and this added to the £120,000 which has to be expressly raised for the Fremantle Harbour Works is expected to carry us some distance into the next financial year. I believe this amount does not include anything for the graving dock: that will have to be a separate loan, to be raised at a subsequent date.

HON. J. W. HACKETT: How far will this amount carry you?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: I cannot tell you what will be accomplished by the £144,000, but if it is desired I will endeavour to get the information for hon. members.

HON. J. W. HACKETT: It will be on the Loan Estimates, no doubt.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: It will be in detail there. It is necessary to get the Bill through before the Loan Estimates can be laid on the table of the Legislative Assembly. I do not think I need at all labour the item for the Fremantle Harbour Works; every member of the House is as well aware of what is going on there as myself. Every member, especially the hon. member (Mr. Briggs), is delighted with the progress made; in fact the mail steamers are calling at Fremantle now with our mails regularly. It is proposed to erect two small light-houses on the two moles at the entrance to the harbour, and to place a beacon light on Woodman's Point. This, it is stated, will enable steamers and other vessels to come in at night time as well as in the day time. It is also proposed to put a better light on Breaksea Island, and it is also intended from this amount to place a light at Cape Naturaliste, 60 miles from the Leeuwin. As we have the

mail steamers coming to Fremantle, and as there is a rather ugly reef to the north of Cape Naturaliste, not in the path of the mail steamers, still it is desirable that the mail steamers should fix their position by a light at Cape Naturaliste which will enable them to come along more speedily than they could if there was no light there. Members will agree with me that we cannot have the coast too well lighted in the interests of those who sail at sea and carry goods and passengers, also in the interests of the human life on board the vessels. We should do all we can in accordance with what is done by other civilised nations in lighting up the coast line. The next item is one of £30,000, which is to carry out a number of small works. A stock jetty and approaches are to be built at Point Hampton, near Cossack, to cost £12,000. Hon. members who know Cossack—Mr. Richardson and Mr. McKay—are aware that the steamers have to lie some distance off the land to take in stock and passengers. The other day I read in the newspaper that a place had been found where cargo and passengers could be landed, and live stock placed on board the steamers without the loss of life which does occur at this place. Albany harbour works are set down for £3,000. I am not very clear what is to be done with that amount. There is a small sum for Carnarvon harbour works which is to complete the work already begun, to enable the people from the town to reach the end of the jetty: it is a causeway that is being erected, and £1,500 is required to complete the work.

HON. J. W. HACKETT: Is not there some dredging to be done at Albany?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: I believe I stated the other day that a dredge was to go to Albany, and I gave the estimated cost and the time that the dredge will be occupied there. I think the £3,000 is for that work. The Derby harbour works are to have £6,000 expended on them in consequence of the jetty there having very nearly collapsed. It is also to repair the approaches to this important port from a stock-owner's point of view. Then there is £4,500 for the Fremantle sea wall and esplanade, and £3,000 for the Ashburton River water supply. It is intended to put a dam across the river two or three miles

from Onslow. It is hoped that by placing a dam there the salt water will be prevented from going higher up the river, and that a large body of fresh water will be impounded and retained through the summer season. There is a large quantity of good land higher up, and considerable shipments of stock take place from time to time at this port. The next item is one of £335,000 for railways. For additions and improvements to opened lines, £70,000 is put down; the Boulder railway duplication and construction, second instalment, and the Boulder-Brown Hill loop line together amount to £34,000. One of these works has been in hand for some considerable time. There is a large amount of passenger traffic on the Boulder line, and it is one of the best paying portions of the railways in the colony.

HON. F. WHITCOMBE: Is that where the Government are going to authorise a tramway in opposition to the railway?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: I believe so. The Government, with their usual large heartedness, do not want to keep everything to themselves. I have never found that competition of this kind has ever hurt anyone, to speak of. To give facilities for people to move about, both on sea or land, almost always increases traffic, and probably there will be enough traffic for both lines. The tramway is a private enterprise, and the Government, I think, would be to blame if they put any difficulty in the way of those who wished to construct these modes for the transit of passengers. It has been suggested that the Government should give no encouragement in the direction of private enterprise for the conveyance of goods or passengers because we have railways running through the country.

HON. J. M. SPEED: Are the Government in favour of private railways?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: They are not in favour of private railways, only trams at the present time.

HON. J. M. SPEED: A difference without a distinction.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: This is a large question to go into, but up to the present we have had a bitter experience of private railways in this colony. I am sure that Parliament is not prepared at present to encourage private railways unless on some different system to

that which private lines have been granted in the past. I have only to mention two private railways which we have had for general purposes. I am not referring to timber railways, but those which carry goods and passengers—the Great Southern railway and the Midland railway, which Mr. Whitcombe is so anxious the Government should get rid of, and purchase the lands through which the railway runs. There is an amount of £5,000 for the Dounybrook towards Bridgetown railway, final instalment; I believe the work is done and the money has simply to be paid. Northam towards Goomalling railway, final instalment, £20,000; that is to complete the railway, which I see by to-day's newspaper the people are anxious to have finished as they have some good crops. The next two items for rails and fastenings, and rolling-stock which are urgently needed, and must be obtained. The rolling-stock item is for a small amount, but in the future, if the Government find it is not sufficient, we shall only have to come to Parliament and ask for another sum of money. There is a small item—£6,000—for surveys to new lines, including Malcolm to Laverton and Fremantle *via* Jundakot to the South-Western railway, and Boulder to Kalgoorlie *via* Boulder and Kalgoorlie racecourses, also preliminary inspection of route from Kalgoorlie to Eucla.

HON. J. W. HACKETT: Will you be able to do all that for £6,000?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: Not much will be spent on the route, because other items will take a large amount. But one is only an inspection, and the others are trial surveys, I take it.

HON. F. WHITCOMBE: Could you get anything nearer to the details before the Committee stage is taken on Tuesday.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: I will try to get further details. I may mention generally the items of this Bill have been very carefully considered, and have been reduced to the lowest possible point for carrying out the works indicated in the schedule. The third part of the schedule is for the development of gold-fields and mineral resources—£60,000; of which £30,000 is down for the erection of public batteries. I think the department has over-spent to the amount of £6,000 on public batteries. A con-

siderable discussion has taken place in another place on this item, but the consensus of opinion is that although public batteries do not pay they contribute to the benefit of the people. Thousands of ounces of gold have been obtained which would have remained in the stone but for these batteries. I may confess that when the principle was first initiated, I was somewhat opposed to it, on the ground that I was afraid it would lead to considerable expense and other difficulties, and that the returns would not be in any way commensurate with the danger, as I thought at that time, of establishing public batteries.

HON. F. WHITCOMBE: Are the returns commensurate now?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: The principle has worked out much better than I anticipated, and I am convinced now that the trial has been fairly satisfactory, it should be extended. That I believe is the general consensus of opinion on the goldfields. The batteries are of assistance to the poor man, and there are many "shows" which would never have been developed but for public batteries, while at the same time it has been demonstrated in some cases that the stone in certain localities was not worth the establishment of a battery. These disappointments, however, meet us at every turn in life, and we cannot always ensure success in our undertakings. The £20,000 for "development generally" will be applied to the construction of telegraph lines in different parts of the colony. A telegraph line has recently been constructed from Mt. Malcolm to Mt. Sir Samuel and a little beyond Lake Way, and it is intended to construct another line from Menzies to Mt. Malcolm in a direct line, the traffic now being so large that one line is unable to cope with it. As hon. members know, a telegraph line has been extended from Mt. Malcolm to Laverton, Mt. Morgan, and some of the other places on the route, while a line has also been constructed at Phillips River. It is proposed to erect a telegraph line from Cane Grass Swamp to Mulline through Siberia, as it has been termed, though it is now called Waverley, and through centres such as Mount Higgins. The sum of £15,000 is put down for the development of agriculture, including drainage; and I believe it is in-

tended, under skilful engineering control, to expend a considerable sum of money in making drains in some portion of the South-Western district, where a large extent of good land may be reclaimed from a condition of swamp and brought into profitable occupation; and hon. members, who have always exhibited a desire to assist in the development of agriculture, will cordially agree to this item. The item "Departmental, £30,000," is required to carry out various works. In regard to item 6, "Discounts on Loans (to be distributed as may be necessary over items on loan schedules), £200,000," hon. members are aware that our three-per-cent. loans have been raised at discount, which amounts to the sum of £200,000 mentioned here, and it is absolutely desirable or necessary this should be recouped to general revenue. Of course, when the estimates were framed it was intended we should get the full value of £100 for the £100 debenture; but that has not been obtained, and there have been flotation and other expenses.

HON. J. W. HACKETT: Will this make up the full difference?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: I believe it will, and it also includes discount which may be anticipated—I believe I am correct in stating this—in connection with the proposed loan. We have had to go to the money market when it was not desirable to do so, and we have suffered a little; but on the whole our loans have been floated not much below the loans, generally speaking, of the Eastern colonies.

HON. J. W. HACKETT: Once we were rebuffed.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: It is quite true we were once rebuffed. I do not think I need say anything more to commend this Bill to the consideration of hon. members. The money must be had, and I believe hon. members will be quite willing that it should be voted. I hope the works enumerated will commend themselves to the good judgment of hon. members, who will give the Government credit for not desiring to go into the English market for a larger sum than is absolutely necessary at the present time.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.



INDUSTRIAL CONCILIATION AND  
ARBITRATION BILL.

SELECT COMMITTEE, EXTENSION.

HON. J. M. SPEED moved that the time for the presentation of the report of the Select Committee on this Bill be extended to the next Tuesday. He would like to say that, although he was a member of the Select Committee, he was not in any way responsible for the delay.

THE PRESIDENT: It was not necessary for the hon. member to make that statement. All he need do was to move for an extension of time.

HON. J. M. SPEED said he wished the House to understand his position.

Question put and passed.

ADJOURNMENT.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY moved that the House do now adjourn.

HON. F. WHITCOMBE suggested that as Tuesday next was to be a public holiday, it would be a convenience to hon. members if the House adjourned until half-past seven in the evening instead of half-past four in the afternoon.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY accepted the suggestion, and moved that the House at its rising do adjourn until the next Tuesday at half-past seven o'clock, evening.

Question put and passed.

The House adjourned at 5:30 o'clock until the next Tuesday evening.

Legislative Assembly,

Thursday, 1st November, 1900.

Papers presented—Sessional Order—Guano Leases Bill first reading—Exportation of Arms Bill, second reading, etc.—Coolgardie Exhibition Lands Repeal Bill, second reading, etc.—Trustees (Colonial Securities) Bill, second reading, in Committee reported—Kalgoorlie Roads Board Tramways Bill, select committee (change of member)—Cottesloe, etc., Electric Light and Power Bill (private), second reading (amendment passed, six months), Points of Order—Distillation Bill, Council's Amendments—Annual Estimates, in Committee of Supply, Railways vote (debate adjourned)—Adjournment.

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

PRAYERS.

PAPEES PRESENTED.

By the PREMIER: 1, Fire Brigades Board, Report for 1899; 2, Perth Municipal Council, By-laws (general traffic); 3, Metropolitan Waterworks Board, Annual Report; 4, Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Bill, Cablegrams.

Ordered to lie on the table.

SESSIONAL ORDER.

ADDITIONAL SITTING DAY.

THE PREMIER, in moving that Monday be an additional sitting (from 7:30 p.m. onward), said: There seems to be a general consensus of opinion in favour of meeting on Monday evening, in order to expedite the work of the session.

Question put and passed.

GUANO LEASES BILL.

Introduced by the PREMIER (for the Commissioner of Crown Lands), and read a first time.

EXPORTATION OF ARMS BILL.

SECOND READING.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. R. W. Pennefather), in moving the second reading, said: This is a Bill that has been introduced, I may say, almost simultaneously in all the other colonies, to prevent the exportation of arms to foreign countries with which Great Britain may be at war. The initiation of this legislation is due to the recent war in China. Similar complications may arise, and for the protection of the Queen's forces it has been deemed advisable to