

but the owner cannot be found. These blocks were taken up for mining purposes 30 or 40 years ago, but the owners have paid no attention to them. The mines have remained unworked and the owner has paid no revenue to the country. These blocks are locked up from the public now. I may say in reference to the Government, and what position I may take up and where I intend to sit, that I am prepared to assist the Government in every reasonable and fair measure they may bring forward. The country has been asking for a change for a long time, and that change has now come about; therefore I think it is only reasonable and fair that the Government in power should have a chance of looking into matters and getting into the running in a fair way. I am not a believer in putting the Government out without there is some serious cause, and as long as I consider the Government are going on in the right way, and are bringing forward wise measures, I hope to support them. I shall not vote for the sake of putting them out of power.

On motion by MR. QUINLAN, debate adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT.

The House adjourned at 10.45 o'clock, until the next Tuesday.

Legislative Council,

Tuesday, 9th July, 1901.

Member Sworn—Address-in-reply, Presentation—Question: Sewerage for Perth and Fremantle, Finances—Question: Railway Passes, Technical School—Leave of Absence: Debate on Attendances, Divisions (adjourned)—Motion for Papers; Midland Railway, Agreements, etc.—Motion: Railway Employees' Strike, to debate; farther motion, point of order—Supply Bill, £1,250,000; all stages—Adjournment.

THE PRESIDENT took the Chair at 4.30 o'clock, p.m.

PRAYERS.

MEMBER SWORN.

The HON. W. G. BROOKMAN (Metropolitan-Suburban), who had not attended previously in this session, took and subscribed the oath, and signed the members' roll.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY—PRESENTATION.

At 20 minutes to 5 o'clock the PRESIDENT, accompanied by honourable members, proceeded to Government House to present the Address-in-reply to the opening Speech of His Excellency; and having returned, the PRESIDENT reported that

His EXCELLENCY had been pleased to reply as follows:—

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

I thank you for your Address-in-reply to my opening Speech, and for the assurance of your desire to deal with all questions that come before you in such a manner as to promote the advancement and welfare of the State.

QUESTION—SEWERAGE FOR PERTH AND FREMANTLE, FINANCES.

HON. M. L. MOSS asked the Minister for Lands: 1. Whether any portion of the sum of £150,000, appearing in the schedule to "The Loan Act, 1896," for sewerage for Perth and Fremantle, has yet been raised. 2. Has the said amount of £150,000, or any part thereof, been reappropriated by Parliament, and if so, what amount, and by what Act and for what purpose. 3. Has any part of the work for which the said sum was allocated, and if so, what part, been undertaken. 4. Has the Government advanced or granted to the City Council of Perth any amount, and if so, how much towards drainage works. If any amount has been advanced, what are the terms on which the money has been lent. 5. Have any moneys been granted to the City Council of Perth for drainage works out of General Revenue since 1896. If so, what amount. 6. Have any such grants been sanctioned by Parliament. 7. Have any grants or loans been made out of the said loan moneys or from revenue to the Fremantle Municipality for drainage purposes; and if so, what amounts, the dates of the grants, and the authority for the grants or loans.

THE MINISTER FOR LANDS (Hon. C. Sommers): I will give a reply on Thursday. At the same time I would ask that hon. members requiring details of expenditure should move that returns be laid upon the table of the House.

QUESTION—RAILWAY PASSES,
TECHNICAL SCHOOL.

HON. W. MALEY asked the Minister for Lands: 1, If in view of the action of the Minister for Railways in refusing to renew passes to students at the Government Technical School, the Government will refund the fee of £25 paid in advance for the two years' tuition thereat. 2, If the action referred to is part of a plan to close up the school.

THE MINISTER FOR LANDS: replied: 1, No; 2, No; the Railway Regulations do not admit of the issue of pupils' tickets to persons attending classes such as shorthand, book-keeping, music, etc. Complaint was made of the issue of tickets to pupils attending the Perth Technical School who were not school pupils in the ordinary meaning of the term, and some tickets which were irregularly issued were not renewed on their expiry.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE—DEBATE ON
ATTENDANCES.

HON. M. L. MOSS (West) moved:

That leave of absence for two months be granted to Hon. D. McKay, on account of his absence from the State through illness.

HON. J. W. HACKETT (South-West): Nothing was more abused than the permission given to members to absent themselves from the proceedings of the House. Unfortunately, we had a six-years tenure, and hon. members (he spoke feelingly) presumed to absent themselves frequently from the deliberations of this Chamber. Members were removed from the direct instructions of their constituents, and availed themselves of the privilege and frequently absented themselves for the whole term of the sittings of the House. Before a motion of this kind was agreed to, the hon. member (Mr. Moss) should give some reasons why Mr. McKay should receive leave of absence, and should state whether Mr. McKay had, in the past,

received any leave of absence, whether the hon. member had absented himself during any full session, so that the House would feel itself in a position to say whether leave of absence should be granted as a matter of course, or whether good and solid arguments had been advanced why such privilege should be granted. He would oppose any such motion of the kind unless reasons were given. Nothing gave a handle which our enemies, and we had such, were more anxious to avail themselves of than the unwarrantable absences of members from the House during the greater part of a session, or during the whole of a session. Perhaps some member would move the adjournment of the debate to enable Mr. Moss to give figures as to the attendances of Mr. McKay, and then hon. members would be in a position to consider the motion.

THE PRESIDENT: Speaking as President, he was glad this matter had been brought under the notice of the House by Mr. Hackett. There should be some strict rule enforced by the House as to the granting of leave. Several members thought they could take the leave as a matter of course, and go away for the greater part of a session, relying on the grace granted by the Constitution Act. In applying for leave, members should state specifically the grounds on which the leave was asked for. It had been reported almost officially that two members of the House were absent through illness: of course, that was a legitimate reason for being away. There was another phase of the question. Members should bear in mind that they were now paid officials of the State, receiving annual salaries from the State to attend to their parliamentary duties. Therefore in honesty to the State, if members drew their salaries they were bound to give their attendance in the House.

HON. R. S. HAYNES moved, and HON. A. G. JENKINS seconded, that the debate be adjourned.

Motion put, and a division taken with the following result:—

Ayes	...	...	...	11
Noes	...	...	...	5
				—
Majority for	...	...	...	6

AYES.

Hon. W. G. Brockman
 Hon. J. W. Hackett
 Hon. R. S. Haynes
 Hon. A. Jameson
 Hon. A. G. Jenkins
 Hon. H. Lukin
 Hon. E. McLarty
 Hon. B. C. O'Brien
 Hon. C. Sommers
 Hon. J. M. Speed
 Hon. W. Maley (Teller).

NOES.

Hon. H. Briggs
 Hon. T. F. O. Brimage
 Hon. M. L. Moss
 Hon. G. Randell
 Hon. J. E. Richardson
 (Teller).

Motion thus passed, and the debate adjourned till the next sitting.

HON. H. ERIGGS (West) moved :

That leave of absence for two months be granted to the Hon. A. B. Kidson, on account of urgent private business in England.

Mr. Kidson had been a most regular attendant, and, with one exception when he went to Colombo on account of the illness of his wife, had not absented himself from the Chamber. He (Mr. Briggs) was the colleague in the representation of the West Province with Mr. Kidson, and the privileges of the House were not so much at stake as the rights of the electors whom Mr. Kidson represented: the electors ought to be the first to cry out if they were not being properly represented. He had never heard a word from the electors of the West Province as to finding fault with Mr. Kidson for absenting himself from his duties; in fact, all commiserated him on the cause of his absence. There had been a change of officers of this House, and one could not obtain any particulars of Mr. Kidson's attendances in the past. Still, it was in the recollection of every member that Mr. Kidson was regular and attentive to his duties. The motion stated that urgent private business was the cause of moving for leave of absence. Mr. Kidson was taking his wife and children to England; he wanted to place his children at school, and as a parent could not place his boys and girls in the care of stewards or stewardesses on ocean boats, Mr. Kidson carefully took them to England himself. Mr. Kidson was not opposed at the last election.

HON. M. L. MOSS (West) seconded the motion. The practice of granting leave of absence was abused occasionally, but in the present instance the House, he thought, would see fit to grant the leave of absence asked, as members were allowed to absent themselves for two months without asking for leave, while in this instance the motion had been moved two months before it was

necessary. Mr. Kidson was a regular attendant at the House. Although members might not agree with that member in everything he said, everyone would agree that Mr. Kidson was attentive to his legislative duties, and took an interest in all that was going on. It was a bad practice for members to continually absent themselves from the proceedings of the Chamber, and it became very pronounced in the case of some members—he would not name them—it was bordering on scandal. But in the case of members who really were attentive and took an interest in the work, no objection should be taken to a motion of this kind.

HON. J. W. HACKETT: Did hon. members draw their salaries while they were absent?

THE PRESIDENT: There was nothing to prevent their doing so.

HON. R. S. HAYNES (Central): There was no obvious reason why the House should make fish of one member and fowl of another. On the motion just discussed, that leave of absence be granted to Mr. McKay, information had been asked for which was not forthcoming, and in this case similar information was lacking. Mr. Moss said Mr. Kidson had been constant in attendance at the House; in other words, that he had discharged his duties in the past; but that would not warrant neglect of his duties in future. Mr. Briggs said the hon. member had gone to England to put his children to school; but at that rate, all hon. members with large families might be absent at different seasons of the year for the same purpose. Hon. members must either be satisfied with the education to be obtained in Australia, or why select the very time required for their parliamentary duties for visiting England? As a fact, the reason was not because the time was suitable, but because it was the pleasantest season of the year in England. He (Mr. Haynes) had been able to visit England and get back in time for a session of Parliament. Mr. Kidson had taken an active part in his legislative duties; but it should be an inflexible rule that good cause must be shown before the House would grant leave of absence. The particulars wanted were the date of the hon. member's departure, the probable date of his return, whether he had been absent during any session or part of a session,

and the number of his attendances, of which attendances the Clerk kept a record. If the mover had not come prepared with the facts, let the motion be withdrawn. If pressed, the application should be refused. Better adjourn this debate also.

THE PRESIDENT: As there was yet another application for leave, it would be better to deal with all three notices on the same night, and if necessary refer them to a select committee; the committee to take evidence, and report to the House as to whether leave should or should not be given. Hon. A. E. Richardson had given notice of a motion that leave be granted to another member.

HON. J. W. HACKETT (South-West): To give time to consider that suggestion, he moved that the debate be adjourned.

Motion put, and a division taken with the following result:—

Ayes	...	...	...	10
Noes	...	...	...	5
Majority for				5

AYES.
 Hon. W. G. Brookman
 Hon. J. W. Hackett
 Hon. R. S. Haynes
 Hon. A. Jameson
 Hon. A. O. Jenkins
 Hon. H. Lakin
 Hon. E. C. O'Brien
 Hon. C. Sommers
 Hon. J. M. Speed
 Hon. G. Bellingham
 (Teller).

NOES.
 Hon. H. Briggs
 Hon. T. F. O. Brimmg
 Hon. M. L. Moss
 Hon. G. Randell
 Hon. E. McLarty (Teller).

Motion thus passed, and the debate adjourned till the next day.

MOTION FOR PAPERS—MIDLAND RAILWAY, AGREEMENTS, ETC.

HON. B. C. O'BRIEN (Central) moved:

That all papers that have passed between the Government of Western Australia and the Midland Railway Company, since the last papers in connection with same were produced in this Chamber, be laid on the Table of the House.

The object was to get the papers which had passed between the Government and the company, so that hon. members might become familiar with the arrangements and agreements between the parties. It would appear that considerable ignorance prevailed amongst members. [Hon. R. S. HAYNES: Hear, hear.] Seeing the matter was likely to claim the attention of members during the session, it was

their duty to make themselves as familiar as possible with the position. He had reason to believe the original agreement and other papers had been asked for last session by the Hon. J. M. Drew, who had informed him that he (Mr. Drew) had not obtained the desired information. It therefore appeared that hon. members had not seen the papers, and did not know the nature of the arrangements. If in order, he would ask that the Clerk, in producing the papers, see that the original agreement and other papers asked for by Mr. Drew were produced at the same time.

THE PRESIDENT: The hon. member was in error. The answer given to Mr. Drew's motion had been that all previous correspondence appeared in the Votes and Proceedings; and, if this motion were carried, the Clerk would look up the papers in question. By the rules of the House, it was not customary, after papers had once been printed, to lay them on the table again.

HON. R. S. HAYNES (Central) seconded the motion. Had not these papers been printed with the Votes and Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly, not of the Council?

THE PRESIDENT: They would be looked up by the Clerk.

HON. R. S. HAYNES: The papers had been shown him by the Clerk of the Assembly.

THE PRESIDENT: If the motion were carried, he would see that the Clerk searched the Votes and Proceedings, and laid on the table everything contained therein, and any other correspondence which might have passed.

Motion put and passed.

MOTION—RAILWAY EMPLOYEES' STRIKE, TO DEBATE.

HON. J. M. SPEED (Metropolitan-Suburban): I beg to move that the Council do now adjourn. I admit that under —

THE PRESIDENT: The hon. member having moved that the Council do now adjourn, there can be no speech about it. I will refer him to Standing Order No. 122, which reads:

A motion "that the Council do now adjourn" shall always be in order, if made so as not to interrupt a member speaking; and on

being moved and seconded without discussion, shall be immediately determined.

HON. J. M. SPEED: I beg to refer you to Order 100, page 28.

THE PRESIDENT: That reads:

A question may be superseded: 1, By the adjournment of the Council, either on the motion of a member "that the Council do now adjourn," or on notice being taken and it appearing that a quorum of members is not present; 2, By a motion "that the Orders of the Day be now read;" 3, By the "previous question" being proposed and affirmed.

That must be put at once without debate. Does anyone second the motion that the House do now adjourn?

HON. W. G. BROOKMAN (Metropolitan-Suburban): I second that.

THE PRESIDENT: I shall now put the motion without debate.

Motion put and negatived.

FARTHER MOTION.

HON. J. M. SPEED: I beg to move that the House at its rising do adjourn till next Tuesday.

THE PRESIDENT: That is in order.

HON. J. M. SPEED: I move it in order to bring before the House the position of the country in regard to this present strike. I may say at once I am not in favour of strikes, and by any means in my power would always do my utmost to prevent or obviate them; but I shall not now treat of the past, as we have to deal with the present. We know the exact position in which we are: we know there is in progress a strike which, in many different ways, will bring calamity upon us. We know also that the loss to the country, if the demands of the strikers be acceded to—if it be a loss to give men what many people consider a living wage—will be £12,500 a year. I believe we are now losing during every hour—

POINT OF ORDER.

HON. G. RANDELL: I rise to a point of order. Order 89 reads:

A debate on any subject which may be considered of pressing importance, and of which no notice has been given, may be allowed on the motion that the Council at its rising adjourn to a future day, provided that it be moved before the regular business of the day has been called on.

I contend that such business has already been taken.

HON. R. S. HAYNES: But, by the practice of this House, such motions are

always made after the questions have been asked, and before the Orders of the Day are read. That has been the practice; because I once moved a similar motion, and had to wait until after the questions had been put and answered.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. The Orders of the Day are the regular business of the sitting.

HON. J. M. SPEED: Am I in order now?

HON. A. G. JENKINS: The routine of business is surely laid down in Standing Order 45, which provides that the ordinary business of the Council shall proceed in the following routine: presentation of petitions, asking questions without notice, giving notices of motion, and questions after notice.

THE PRESIDENT: I think Mr. Jenkins is right.

HON. J. M. SPEED: Am I out of order?

THE PRESIDENT: You are out of order, by Standing Order 45.

HON. J. M. SPEED: You have already held that I was in order.

THE PRESIDENT: Mr. Jenkins has clearly defined the position.

HON. J. M. SPEED: Does that mean that it is the intention of the Council not to allow any discussion of the matter?

HON. A. G. JENKINS: If you move in the proper way.

THE PRESIDENT: You can give notice of motion for to-morrow. We shall have to sit.

HON. J. M. SPEED: Will you allow me to give that notice now?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

HON. R. S. HAYNES: The hon. member will move his motion immediately you take the Chair, and before the questions are asked—immediately after Prayers?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

SUPPLY BILL (£1,250,000).

Received from the Legislative Assembly, and on motion by the MINISTER FOR LANDS, read a first time.

STANDING ORDERS SUSPENSION.

On motion by the MINISTER FOR LANDS, Standing Orders suspended to allow the passage of Bill through all stages.

SECOND READING.

THE MINISTER FOR LANDS (Hon. C. Sommers): I move that the Bill be read a second time. It is the usual Bill that is brought down at this period of the session, to provide a sum of money for carrying on the affairs of the State.

HON. J. W. HACKETT: It is for a very large amount—one-third of the whole year's revenue.

THE MINISTER FOR LANDS: The amount is absolutely necessary. It will carry us on for only two or three months, at the outside.

Question put and passed,
Bill read a second time.

IN COMMITTEE.

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

THIRD READING.

THE MINISTER FOR LANDS moved that the Bill be read a third time.

HON. J. W. HACKETT moved that the debate be adjourned. He wanted to point out that supply was being granted for the whole instead of only for a portion of the year; and as the House must meet to-morrow, the delay would make no difference.

THE MINISTER FOR LANDS: It was usual for the House to pass a Supply Bill as soon as received. The measure was urgent, and had been delayed several days on account of the adjournment of the Assembly; and supply was badly needed for current expenses.

HON. J. W. HACKETT: Rather than put the Government to inconvenience, he would withdraw the motion.

Motion by leave withdrawn.

Bill read a third time, and *passed*.

ADJOURNMENT.

The House adjourned at 5-50 o'clock until the next day.

Legislative Assembly,

Tuesday, 9th July, 1901.

Election Petition (Kalgoorlie), Result — Question: Farm Labourers, to supply deficiency—Question: Railway Carriages reserved for Racing Committee—Question: Royal Visit, Expenditure — Question: Canning Jarrah Railway, Purchase — Question: Domestic Servants, Importation and Cost—Question: Boulder Railway, Booking Tickets, etc.—Question: Government Geologist, to appoint Assistant—Question: Onslow Water Supply—Question: Midland Railway, as to Purchase—Question: Cue-Nanning Railway, Progress of Construction—Motion: Railway Employees' Strike, to Debate; point of order, Speaker's Ruling—Supply (temporary); Supply Bill, all stages—Chairman of Committee, Appointment—Address-in-reply, 5th day, debate resumed, adjourned—Adjournment.

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

PRAYERS.

ELECTION PETITION (KALGOORLIE),
RESULT.

THE SPEAKER informed the House that he had received a letter from Mr. Justice Stone, Acting Chief Justice, forwarding the minutes and evidence taken in regard to the petition presented by Mr. C. J. Moran against the return of Mr. W. D. Johnson for Kalgoorlie. The papers were on the table, and any member who desired to read them could do so.

Letter read by the **CLERK**.

QUESTION—FARM LABOURERS, TO
SUPPLY DEFICIENCY.

MR. QUINLAN asked the Premier, What measures the Government proposed to take for the introduction of a supply of farm labourers.

THE PREMIER replied: No scheme has yet been definitely formulated.

QUESTION—RAILWAY CARRIAGES RE-
SERVED FOR RACING COMMITTEE.

MR. T. F. QUINLAN asked the Commissioner of Railways: 1, For what reason are carriages reserved for the W.A. Turf Club Committee and other persons, without the State receiving payment for same. 2, Will he put a stop to this practice forthwith, and insist upon fair-play to the general public.

THE COMMISSIONER OF RAILWAYS replied: Carriages are not reserved for the W.A. Turf Club Committee or other persons without payment.