

## Legislative Council,

Thursday, 18th July, 1901.

Question: Mail Contract, North-West Ports; Papers in Federal Control—Question: Rabbit-proof Fence and Survey—Return ordered: Contour Surveys, Perth and Fremantle—Loan Legislation: Anticipation—Adjournment.

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

### PRAYERS.

### QUESTION—MAIL CONTRACT, NORTH-WEST PORTS.

#### PAPERS IN FEDERAL CONTROL.

HON. J. D. CONNOLLY, without notice, asked the Minister for Lands: Whether the Government intended to take any further action towards having the papers in connection with the mail contract from Albany to Esperance and from Perth to the North-West ports, laid on the table.

THE MINISTER FOR LANDS (Hon. C. Sommers) replied: Only the file is at present in the hands of the Government; the original papers being in possession of the Federal Government, by whom the Post Office has been taken over. We intend opening communication with the Federal Government, asking that the papers in respect of any matter previously controlled by this State should be available for the State Parliament when required.

THE PRESIDENT: I presume the question refers to a previous Notice of Motion put and passed on the 4th instant, as follows:

That all papers in connection with the late contracts entered into between the Government and the Adelaide Steamship Company, for mail service from Albany to Esperance, and from Perth to the North-West ports of this State, be laid on the table of the House.

THE MINISTER FOR LANDS: That is so; and I laid on the table what papers were in possession of the Government; but these papers are not the complete file, and, on asking the Postmaster General in Perth for the remaining papers, he communicated with the Federal Postmaster General, and received a reply that, the matter having passed out of the control of this State, the papers were now in the custody and were the property of the Federal Government. I may tell the

hon. member that the Government, seeing the contracts were arranged by this State, intend asking the Federal Government that the papers be given back to us to lay on the table in accordance with his request.

THE PRESIDENT: I understand the question was asked a day or two before the Federal Government took over the Post Office. In that case, I should think if the contract were accepted by the State before the Commonwealth took over the Post Office, the papers should certainly be laid on the table in accordance with the notice of motion agreed to by this House.

THE MINISTER FOR LANDS: That is certainly the opinion of the Government, and the Commonwealth Government will be asked to comply with our request.

THE PRESIDENT: This is a matter which has to do with the privileges of the House. I am informed, it may be incorrectly, that the tender was accepted three days before the Commonwealth took over the Post Office. If that be so, I think the papers belong to the State; and this House, having passed that resolution, has a right to ask that those papers be produced by whosoever has them.

THE MINISTER FOR LANDS: The Government are also of that opinion, and hope to be able to comply with the request that the papers be laid on the table.

### QUESTION—RABBIT-PROOF FENCE AND SURVEY.

HON. G. BELLINGHAM (for Hon. R. G. Burges) asked the Minister for Lands: If the Government intends fitting out a small party to examine, before the winter rains are over, the country along the suggested line of fencing from the Yilgarn Railway to the South Coast, proposed to be erected against the incursion of rabbits.

THE MINISTER FOR LANDS (Hon. C. Sommers) replied: The whole matter is at present before Parliament, and, pending a decision, it is considered inadvisable to do anything in the direction mentioned.

### RETURN—CONTOUR SURVEYS, PERTH AND FREMANTLE.

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

That a return be laid upon the table showing—1, The cost of the contour surveys, collection of data, and various investigations

in regard to both Perth and Fremantle, referred to in Answer 3 on Minutes of Proceedings for Tuesday, 16th July, 1901, the cost for each town to be shown separately; 2. The date of the advance of £40,000 mentioned in Question and Answer No. 4 on Minutes of Proceedings for Tuesday, 16th July, 1901; 3. Whether the works for which the advance of £40,000 has been made are surface or underground works, and if any underground works are included, the extent thereof.

The information was required for purposes with which hon. members would probably be made acquainted later in the session.

HON. H. BRIGGS (West) seconded.

HON. R. S. HAYNES (Central) supported the motion. However, the object of the mover would not be attained unless the jacket containing the information were produced. Better amend the motion by adding as paragraph 4, "That the papers be laid on the table." Without that, the motion seemed meaningless.

HON. M. L. MOSS, with the consent of his seconder, moved that the words suggested be added to the motion.

Question (as amended) put and passed.

#### LOAN LEGISLATION—ANTICIPATION.

THE MINISTER FOR LANDS (Hon. C. Sommers): I regret to announce that the anticipations formed by my colleagues in regard to the passage of the Loan Bill in another place were not realised last night; and I have again to inform hon. members that the Bill is not yet ready. I conferred with the Premier, who anticipates finishing the Bill to-night and having it ready for this House to-morrow; and in order that opportunity may be given hon. members of this House to discuss it, I move that the House at its rising do adjourn until 2:30 p.m. to-morrow.

HON. M. L. MOSS: You will be very fortunate if you get the Bill then, I think.

THE MINISTER FOR LANDS: I have just left another place, where the discussion on the schedule is progressing satisfactorily; and I do not anticipate any difficulty in getting the Bill through the Assembly to-night, and in discussing it here to-morrow. I trust hon. members will concur in the suggestion that we meet at 2:30, so that we may have plenty of time to discuss the Bill.

HON. J. M. SPEED: Will there be anything left then?

HON. R. S. HAYNES: Nothing for Subiaco.

Question put and passed.

#### ADJOURNMENT.

The House accordingly adjourned at 4:46 o'clock, until the next afternoon.

## Legislative Assembly,

Thursday, 18th July, 1901.

Question: Immigration, Relatives in Eastern States—Question: Railway Bridge, North Fremantle—Question: Vasse Jetty, Locomotives—Questions: Water Police, Fremantle, Quarters and Number of force—Question: Resident Magistrate for Boulder—Question: Medical Officer for Boulder—Question: Mines Inspection, Hannans—Question: Boilers Inspection, Certificates—Question: Fruit Inspection, Report—Loan Bill, Withdrawal—Loan Bill (No. 3), £3,500,000; Schedule showing amounts to be expended to September, 1902: first and second readings, Committee—Motion: Rabbit IncurSION, to carry out recommendations, debate concluded—Royal Visit: Address of Welcome—Joint Standing Orders 10 and 11, Amendment—Papers: Midland Railway Company, Agreements—Return: Royal Visit, Expenditure—Adjournment.

THE SPEAKER took the Chair at 2:30 o'clock, p.m.

#### PRAYERS.

#### QUESTION—IMMIGRATION, RELATIVES IN EASTERN STATES.

MR. R. HASTIE, without notice, asked the Colonial Treasurer: Has the Minister authority to devote a portion of the immigration vote to assisting the introduction, from the Eastern States, of the wives and families of residents in this State.

THE COLONIAL TREASURER replied: I cannot at present answer that question. I do not know; but I will make inquiries and inform the hon. member.

#### QUESTION—RAILWAY BRIDGE, NORTH FREMANTLE.

MR. D. J. DOHERTY asked the Commissioner of Railways: Whether it is the intention of the Government to imme-