

motion to the favourable consideration of the House.

HON. F. H. PIESSE (Williams): As leader of the Opposition, it gives me great pleasure to support the motion. I feel that in moving it the Premier has voiced the opinion of the House, and I must add my quota of appreciation. I also feel that in taking the course we have taken to-night, we are showing our loyalty and our devotion to our Sovereign, as well as our appreciation of the Royal visit which is so shortly to be made to this State. I have much pleasure in seconding the motion.

Question put and passed.

On farther motion by the PREMIER, resolution transmitted to the Legislative Council, and their concurrence desired therein.

THE PREMIER farther moved:—

That this resolution be communicated to their Royal Highnesses by the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly and the President of the Legislative Council.

Question put and passed.

STANDING ORDERS (JOINT)— AMENDMENT.

THE PREMIER (Hon. G. Leake) moved:—

That, in the opinion of this House, Joint Standing Orders Nos. 10 and 11 should be amended as follows:—No. 10: By inserting the words "or of the Legislative Assembly" between the words "Council" and "shall." No. 11: By inserting the words "Legislative Council, or by the Clerk of the," between the words "the" and "Legislative" in the last line thereof; and that the Joint Standing Orders Committee be requested to consider the matter accordingly.

The object of the alteration was to render it possible for the Clerk in either House to hold the office of Clerk of Parliaments.

Question put and passed.

Resolution transmitted to the Legislative Council, and their concurrence desired therein.

PAPERS—MIDLAND RAILWAY AGREEMENTS.

On motion by MR. HUTCHINSON (Geraldton), ordered that the following papers be laid on the table:—1, A copy of the original agreement between the Government of Western Australia and the Midland Railway Company, Limited, for the construction of the Midland Rail-

way; 2, Copies of all subsequent agreements between the Government of Western Australia and the Midland Railway Company, Limited, or any person acting for or on behalf of that company, modifying or altering the terms of the original contract.

RETURN—ROYAL VISIT, EXPENDITURE BY GOVERNMENT.

On motion by MR. NANSON (Murchison), ordered: "That a return be laid upon the table of the House showing in detail the sums expended from public funds, or the liability incurred, in connection with the Royal visit to Western Australia: the purposes for which such sums have been expended, or such liabilities have been incurred; and the date or dates at which the expenditure of such sums was sanctioned by the Government."

ADJOURNMENT.

On motion by the PREMIER, the House adjourned at 10:40 o'clock until half-past 2 the next afternoon.

Legislative Council,

Friday, 19th July, 1901.

Question: Water Supply for Geraldton—Loan Bill, £2,500,000; all stages—Royal Visit—Address from Parliament—Adjournment.

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

PRAYERS.

QUESTION—WATER SUPPLY FOR GERALDTON.

HON. R. S. HAYNES asked the Minister for Lands: Whether it is the intention of the Government to make provision for the construction of a water supply for Geraldton.

THE MINISTER FOR LANDS replied: No. The late Government having recognised the necessity for providing a suitable water supply for Geraldton, this Government will endeavour to construct the works out of surplus revenue. The Government, however, think the matter could be more advantageously dealt with by a general Act, authorising a municipal council to borrow money from the Government for the purpose.

LOAN BILL, £2,600,000.

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

Standing Orders suspended to enable the Bill to be passed through all stages at one sitting.

SECOND READING.

THE MINISTER FOR LANDS (Hon. C. Sommers): In rising to move the second reading of this Bill, I wish to inform hon. members it is absolutely necessary to raise the amount of money named therein, namely £2,600,000, in order to complete the public works now in progress. The Government are anxious to take advantage of the present state of the English money market, which, we are told, is entirely favourable to the floating of a loan; though it is not intended to float the whole of this amount at once, but merely to place upon the market an amount not exceeding one and a half millions. It appears that during the month of July large sums of money are remitted to England from abroad, being proceeds of or interest accrued on various loans throughout the world; and we are told by our Agent-General that now is a favourable time to float this loan; in fact, we have had several cables from him complaining of the delay, stating he had expected this Bill would be through some time since, and informing us that every day's delay was of importance. The clauses of the Bill are those generally found in Bills of this description, and call for no special comment, with the exception of Clause 3, which authorises simply the borrowing of this sum, but does not authorise the spending of it. Hon. members need hardly be reminded that, when the Loan Estimates come along, they will have every opportunity of

discussing the various items therein, and can take exception to anything they think worthy of comment. The schedule is the important part of this Bill, and shows what it is intended to do with the money. It contains no new works; the works therein mentioned have been initiated by the previous Government, though I believe there is one small exception, and therefore I shall deal with the schedule later on. The mandate from the people was that the Government should place the finances in order, and put them before the country in a form which could clearly and easily be understood; and I venture to say that the statement prepared by the Treasury, which is now before hon. members, clearly shows the position of affairs, and is a statement which has long been needed, and which will, I believe, be appreciated by the people generally.

HON. J. M. SPEED: It does not agree with the *Morning Herald*.

THE MINISTER FOR LANDS: Well, we cannot agree with everyone; and perhaps the fact of that particular paper disagreeing with us may be looked on by the Government with a certain amount of satisfaction. It does not always agree with us; and perhaps if we all agreed together, there would not be that healthy competition and rivalry which should exist. Hon. members have before them this statement prepared by the Treasury. The finances have been fully debated in another place; and as I presume hon. members have followed that debate, I will not weary them by going fully into the position. I would remind them, however, that on the 30th June last our gross debt was £12,709,429 11s. 3d.; and against this there is sinking fund, £429,226 14s. 7d., leaving a net debt of £12,280,202 16s. 8d. It must be borne in mind, however, that interest has to be paid on the gross debt, as the sinking fund cannot be used save for purposes for which it is provided. It has to be invested in other securities; and, though it really reduces the amount of the total debt, still the interest on that total has to be provided all the same. I may mention that the interest and the sinking fund provided last year were £486,799 18s. 10d. It is anticipated that another £1,000,000 loan will be required in connection with the Coolgardie Water Scheme

loan of £2,500,000; and in respect of that scheme, it will be necessary, as from 15th January next, to find a sinking fund amounting to £75,000 per annum, the interest on which will increase the total amount of interest and sinking fund to be paid to something like £486,799 18s. 10d. The present debt already amounts to £12,709,429 11s. 3d., which, taking the population at 180,000 persons, works out at about £70 12s. 10d. per head.

HON. R. G. BURGESS: The population is 187,000 by the last census.

THE MINISTER FOR LANDS: I am pleased to know it is over the number I stated.

HON. R. G. BURGESS: You wished to make it as bad as you could.

THE MINISTER FOR LANDS: I knew my friend was so well up in these matters that he would correct me. It has been a complaint that there are no new works proposed, but if hon. members will look at the schedule, and see the crop of old works to which the Government are pledged, they will agree with me, seeing that the borrowing powers of the Government are limited to one and a half millions, that it would be unwise at this juncture to propose any farther new works.

HON. R. G. BURGESS: What about the £10,000 for new lines?

THE MINISTER FOR LANDS: In the past it has been the custom to bring down a Bill sanctioning a railway, and the House has passed that Bill, and then the Government have sent officers into the country and made a survey; and after that the country is pledged to the line. It appears to me, and it must appear to all business members of the House, that the proper way when a railway is first thought of is to have a trial survey to see what the cost is likely to be, so that the estimates can be framed, and some idea formed as to whether the line is likely to be a payable one. For that reason the small amount of £10,000 has been placed in the schedule for making these surveys.

A MEMBER: A nice thing to keep before the electors.

THE MINISTER FOR LANDS: Yes. Perhaps the late Government would have made the sum larger. It is only a sum of £10,000, and later on hon. members will have an opportunity of discussing

what surveys should be carried out. I again remind hon. members that the Government are simply asking for authority to raise the money: the spending of it can be discussed when the Loan Estimates are before hon. members. I will now touch upon the schedule. The first item is "Boulder - Brown Hill Loop line, second and final instalment £17,000." These figures, I may tell hon. members, have been carefully checked. Then there is the Menzies-Leonora line, and members know the necessity which exists for this railway. The progress of the Mt. Margaret field is phenomenal.

HON. M. L. MOSS: Leave the items until we get into Committee.

THE MINISTER FOR LANDS: All right. Then I will take the total for "Railways and Tramways," which is £1,496,700. Next there are the Fremantle Harbour Works, for which it is necessary to provide money, and included in the amount of £316,100 is provision for a dock. Then we come to the Coolgardie Water Supply, £488,300, a refund of previous reappropriations. The Development of various Goldfields and Mineral Resources, including the erection of Public Batteries, is set down at £77,400; and the Development of Agriculture, £21,200.

HON. R. G. BURGESS: What, for nine-tenths of the country? How much of that amount is to go for drainage?

THE MINISTER FOR LANDS: Just as much as we can possibly get. I think a reasonable amount will be available for things other than drainage.

HON. R. G. BURGESS: Out of £21,000? You do not think much of the country, then.

THE MINISTER FOR LANDS: For Immigration £3,200 is set down, "Departmental" £95,000, and "Discounts on current Loan" £101,300. I am not going to weary hon. members, because they no doubt have followed the debate which has taken place in another place, where the items have been stubbornly fought. It has been shown that the £2,600,000 are absolutely necessary for these works. I shall content myself by formally moving the second reading of the Bill.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

IN COMMITTEE.

Clauses 1 to 5, inclusive—agreed to.

Clause 6—Advances on account:

HON. M. L. MOSS: Would the Minister explain what was meant by Clause 6, because, when referring to Clause 3 of the Bill, the Minister stated that all the moneys set out in the schedule were to be approved when the annual Loan Estimates came before members. The two clauses seemed to be somewhat contradictory.

THE MINISTER FOR LANDS: The clauses of the Bill were those usual in connection with a measure of this sort. It was well known that when works came down on the Loan Estimates, they had to be approved by the House, and members would then have ample opportunity of discussing the works. As far as he could see, there was nothing in Clause 6 that in any way cancelled what appeared in Clause 3. This might be one of those little legal troubles that some hon. members bothered their heads about.

HON. G. RANDELL: The Minister did not appear to see the point raised by Mr. Moss. In drawing attention to Clause 3, the Minister had said that the money could only be expended on works authorised by the Loan Estimates. That seemed to be the usual course, and it protected the House against the Government of the day to some extent; but to his (Mr. Randell's) mind, Clause 6 overruled Clause 3, and it was an axiom of law that the latest clause in a Bill prevailed if there were contradictions. It did not seem to be quite clear whether there was any control over the expenditure, because according to Clause 6 the Governor might authorise the spending of these moneys from time to time. Possibly the clauses were perfectly right, but they seemed at variance.

HON. M. L. MOSS: It was not desired to have any farther explanation, for on reference to the Loan Act of 1896 he noticed the same clauses were there as appeared in this Bill. Clause 3 was not new.

HON. J. M. SPEED: It was not whether Clause 3 was new or not, but whether it was right or wrong. If one clause contradicted another, there ought to be a proper explanation. We knew the present Government did not believe in Excess Bills, or spending money without

authorisation, and he did not think the Government could without authority of Parliament spend the money. He was of the same opinion as Mr. Moss appeared to be at first. Because something was done in 1896, it did not follow that it was right.

THE MINISTER FOR LANDS: The interpretation the Government placed on this clause was that it did not give them the power suggested, and the Government would not spend the money without the authority of Parliament.

HON. J. M. SPEED moved:

That it be a suggestion to the Legislative Assembly that at the end of the clause the following words be added: Provided such warrants are in conformity with the Annual Estimates.

HON. M. L. MOSS: The Committee should not agree to the suggestion which had been moved, for, if they did so, they would unduly hamper the Government, and be establishing a bad precedent. The Government, whoever they might be, must have a certain amount of latitude and discretion given to them to apply these loan moneys, and we hoped, as the Minister had told us, these moneys would be applied to the purposes for which they were ear-marked in the schedule. The only reason why he drew attention to the matter was that the Minister said Clause 3 was a new idea of the present Government.

THE MINISTER FOR LANDS: No.

HON. M. L. MOSS: Perhaps one was a little dense, but the hon. gentleman certainly led him to infer that. At any rate the Loan Bill before us now was similar to the Loan Act of 1896 and all other Loan Acts on the statute book, and it would be a great mistake to alter the form.

HON. J. W. HACKETT: It was to be hoped this suggestion would be withdrawn. It would be a serious matter for the Council to interfere with the machinery of a Loan Bill, and a great point to be considered was that if the Council sent down a suggestion, that suggestion must be on a matter of urgent importance. The Council possessed that right, but it was a right which was regarded with extreme jealousy. If the suggestion were put to the vote, he should vote against it. It appeared to him the Bill was right enough. Clause 3 expressly

declared that all sums paid out under this measure should be in conformity with the Annual Estimates for the expenditure of loan moneys sanctioned by Parliament. The measure gave Parliament the fullest authority to authorise this expenditure. Clause 6 was merely an impounding clause allowing the Governor to draw warrants, but apparently the Governor could only draw those warrants in accordance with the powers given him in Council. This clause supplemented Clause 3, and might have been put before it. It merely gave the Governor-in-Council power to issue warrants authorised under Clause 3.

HON. G. RANDELL: The hon. member would, he hoped, withdraw his suggestion. There was not the slightest chance of the suggestion being passed, and it would certainly delay consideration of the schedule of the Bill. The Bill was an exact copy of the former Act, and possibly all that was intended was to give the Governor power from time to time to issue warrants so long as he kept within Clause 3. In his opinion there was not the slightest risk that anything would happen to which exception could be taken, and he hoped the hon. member would see his way to withdraw the suggestion.

HON. J. M. SPEED: The hon. member who had just spoken knew well enough that the question whether he (Mr. Speed) would have a majority or a minority in a division would not cause him to withdraw or press any matter before the Council. If the Committee considered the assurances given by the Minister for Lands sufficient, he would be happy to withdraw the suggestion, but we had seen in the past that the Government had from time to time taken money which they really had no right to take. That was one of the serious allegations made against them.

HON. J. W. HACKETT: Let the hon. member give a case.

HON. J. M. SPEED: Never mind about giving cases. Time after time complaints had been made. It had been stated that large sums of money had been spent on matters in relation to which small sums were originally voted.

HON. J. W. HACKETT: Where were the cases in which the Governor had acted illegally?

HON. J. M. SPEED: Under the circumstances he would withdraw the suggestion.

Suggestion by leave withdrawn, and the clause passed.

Schedule, preamble, and title—agreed to.

Bill reported without amendment, and the report adopted.

THIRD READING.

Bill read a third time, and *passed*.

ROYAL VISIT—ADDRESS FROM PARLIAMENT.

The following resolutions having been received from the Legislative Assembly, the same were taken into consideration:

That the Parliament of Western Australia loyally extends to Their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York a hearty welcome to the State.

That Mr. Speaker and the President of the Legislative Council be authorised to convey the foregoing resolution to Their Royal Highnesses on behalf of the Parliament.

THE MINISTER FOR LANDS (HON. C. Sommers): I have much pleasure in moving that the resolutions be agreed to. It is unnecessary for me to add anything on the subject, for the matter is one on which I feel we are all agreed, and I am sure the visit of Their Royal Highnesses will be received with the greatest pleasure by the people of this State.

HON. A. JAMESON (Metropolitan-Suburban): It affords me much pleasure to second this motion, and the more so as I feel that every member of the House is thoroughly in accord with it, and that we are all loyal to the royal party whom we now welcome to our shores. I consider this a very important occasion, and one on which we ought to congratulate ourselves very largely, inasmuch as in the past we have been looked upon as the Cinderella of Australia; but now, perhaps for the first time, it very markedly goes forth to the whole civilised world that we take the same position as the Eastern States in regard to this royal visit. The tour is one extending throughout the whole of the British Empire, and it is gratifying indeed to show that we hold the same position as the other States of Australia, and those of Africa and Canada. It is quite unnecessary to say anything upon the motion. I know this House will

always support any measures that will be for the solidarity and dignity of the Britannic Empire, and that is really the work which is being done by the royal party at the present time, for by this visit to the various outlying parts they are unifying the Empire.

HON. S. J. HAYNES (South-East): I also have much pleasure in supporting the motion before the House. I am sure no State or Parliament is more loyal than the State or Parliament of Western Australia; and I am echoing the sentiments of all in saying no State will give their Royal Highnesses a more loyal reception than will the State of Western Australia and its Parliament.

HON. H. BRIGGS (West): I, too, have great pleasure in supporting the motion. I think there is a little informality in the words, for our Standing Orders say addresses to members of the Royal Family have to be transmitted through the Governor, and I think this Message states that the resolution is to be transmitted by the President of the Council and the Speaker of the Assembly.

THE PRESIDENT (Sir G. Shenton): The hon. member seems to forget that in the present case this is an Address to be presented to their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York, who will be here. Therefore, if the motion be passed, the Address will be presented by the President and the Speaker personally to their Royal Highnesses.

THE MINISTER FOR LANDS: I would like to say that, in a matter of this sort, it is necessary to consult the Governor, who will see that the proper course is adopted.

THE PRESIDENT: The Speaker has already communicated with the Governor.

HON. G. RANDELL (Metropolitan): I have much pleasure in supporting the motion for the presentation of an Address to their Royal Highnesses, and I am sure every member of the House concurs in the opinion that it is a right and proper thing to show our loyalty.

Question put and passed.

ADJOURNMENT.

THE MINISTER FOR LANDS moved "That this House, at its rising, do adjourn until Tuesday, the 27th August." This

was in accordance with the understanding that Parliament should adjourn over the holidays, and that the recess would give the Government an opportunity of preparing the necessary Bills, as against the next meeting.

Question put and passed.

At 3:40, the PRESIDENT left the Chair.

At 3:55, Chair resumed.

The House, by resolution, adjourned at 4 o'clock until Tuesday, the 27th August.

Legislative Assembly,

Friday, 19th July, 1901.

Questions (4), Fremantle Harbour: Wharves Construction, (2) South Quay, (3) Ferry Service, (4) Police Force—Question: Railway Expenditure—Question: Military Contingents, Expenditure—Question: Immigration, Relatives in Eastern States—Loan Bill, third reading—Return ordered: Bunbury Harbour Expenditure—Return ordered: Collie Coal, Carriage—Motions, Postponement—Adjournment till 27th August.

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

PRAYERS.

QUESTION—FREMANTLE HARBOUR, WHARVES CONSTRUCTION.

MR. A. J. DIAMOND asked the Minister for Works: Whether he can fix an appropriate date for the commencement of the construction of wharves on the North side of the Fremantle Inner Harbour.

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS replied:—That the work had already been commenced, and arrangements had been made for the supply of the necessary materials for the whole of it.

QUESTION—SOUTH QUAY, FREMANTLE.

MR. A. J. DIAMOND asked the Minister for Works: Whether it is the