

the whole House, disagreeing with the amendments in question.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: In that event, why were the other two Bills not treated by the House in the same manner? They had gone through precisely the same stages as the Redistribution of Seats Bill, and yet they were returned to the Assembly by message automatically.

THE PRESIDENT: No; we had returned those Bills with certain amendments and our reasons, and those Bills had not been returned to us.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: Neither had this Bill been returned to us. The cases were identical. We passed the other two Bills through the stage which this Bill had now gone through, but we postponed this Bill until the present. The Redistribution of Seats Bill was now in precisely the same stage as the other two Bills.

THE PRESIDENT: Those were only the first returns. This would be the second return.

HON. J. W. HACKETT: The matter was to be considered on Wednesday. He understood the reasons were to be considered for the course we had taken. Would not Tuesday suit the leader of the House?

THE PRESIDENT: For the sake of information, on the Notice Paper for next Wednesday would appear "Redistribution of Seats Bill: Consideration of Committee's report."

HON. J. W. HACKETT: Could we not meet on Tuesday instead of Wednesday?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: There was no objection.

HON. J. W. HACKETT: It would expedite matters.

HON. G. BELLINGHAM: Wednesday would suit country members.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY altered his motion to read—

That the House do adjourn until 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday next.

Question (as altered) put and passed.

The House adjourned accordingly at 6:49 o'clock, until the next Tuesday.

Legislative Council,

Tuesday, 12th January, 1904.

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THE PRESIDENT took the Chair at 7:30 o'clock, p.m.

PRAYERS.

PAPER PRESENTED.

By the **COLONIAL SECRETARY:** By-laws of North Coolgardie Roads Board.

Ordered, to lie on the table.

QUESTION—BLIND PASSENGER ON A STEAMSHIP.

HON. E. McLARTY (without notice) asked the Colonial Secretary: Whether the Government were aware that the Adelaide Steamship Company had made a regulation preventing the carrying of blind persons from the North by their steamers. The reason for asking was that on the last trip of the s.s. "Bullarra" from the North, a man who had lost his eyesight was brought on board at the Gascovne, to come South for medical treatment. The man had plenty of money and was prepared to pay his passage, and friends were ready to take charge of him on the boat; but he was absolutely refused permission to travel, the captain stating that his instructions prohibited him from allowing the man to travel. There were two men on board prepared to take charge of the blind man, so that he would be of no trouble to the ship's officers, and there was any amount of money behind him, for he had been in the service of one of the largest squatters in the North for many years. Great sympathy was felt towards the man. He (Mr. McLarty) felt the matter keenly, because a couple of years ago one of his brothers lost his sight in Kimberley, and came South on one of the steamers. He felt this a very hard case when he realised that his brother might have been treated in the same way. He hoped the Colonial Secretary would make inquiry.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY replied: The Government, and he personally, were not aware of such a regulation being in force. He would have pleasure in making inquiries, and would see what powers the Government had in the matter and what remedy there was.

GOVERNMENT RAILWAYS BILL.

Order read for third reading of the Bill.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: It was his intention to have the Bill recommitted for amendment; and in order to meet the wishes of another place, which he understood was waiting for our message on the next order of the day, he moved that this order be postponed until after Order No. 2.

Question passed, and the order postponed.

RECOMMITTAL—TICKET-SCALPING.

Later in the sitting,

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY moved that the Bill be recommitted. Events which happened since this Bill was last dealt with had brought before the Government the necessity for making farther amendment.

Question passed, and the Bill recommitted.

Clause 45—Penalties for offences relating to tickets, etc.:

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY moved that after "purchases" in Sub-clause 4 the words "or offers to purchase" be inserted. Members who travelled by train, especially by the goldfields train, might have had the experience of being accosted by various persons who wished to buy the return halves of tickets. This had happened to himself. Persons who made such offers belonged to the fraternity known as "ticket jobbers," and it was the desire of the Government to as far as possible put down ticket scalping. It was absolutely necessary in the interests of the railway service that this crime, whereby the Government suffered a great deal of loss, should be put down as firmly as possible; and the amendment was proposed with the object of deterring not only the persons who purchased but those who offered to purchase tickets in this way from pursuing their avocation.

Amendment put and passed.

Bill reported with a farther amendment, and the report adopted.

REDISTRIBUTION OF SEATS BILL.

AMENDMENTS NOT AGREED TO.—REASONS.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. W. Kingsmill): In moving for the appointment of a committee to draw up reasons, I have to State to the House, first and foremost, that it is the paramount wish of the Government that these Bills should appear on the statute book. In order to achieve this object and put an end to the somewhat unhappy state of affairs which has arisen between two parts of the legislature, I think it would be as well if both Houses were to meet each other for this purpose. I can give this Chamber the assurance that if this Bill is forwarded to the Legislative Assembly, the Government in that branch of the Legislature will undertake to propose that a conference on the three Bills shall be held; not alone that, but that the wishes of the conference shall be expressed in the Bills as they leave Parliament, or that the Bills shall be dropped. I hope this solution of the difficulty will recommend itself to the members of this House. I now, having said what I think ample—if I spoke for half an hour I do not think I could say more—beg to move:

That a committee to draw up reasons be appointed, and that the committee consist of the following members—Hon. Dr. Hackett, Hon. G. Randell, Hon. J. D. Connolly.

HON. J. W. HACKETT (South-West): My hon. friend must be aware that in regard to two or three of the amendments, I am not in accord with the action of the Council. I can hardly serve on a committee which will have to find reasons for certain actions of which I disapprove.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: In that case I would like Mr. Loton to take Dr. Hackett's place.

HON. W. T. LOTON (West): The Colonial Secretary was a party to one of the chief amendments being insisted on, the main one in the Message; therefore he should act on the committee.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: I feel, unfortunately, that I have on these Bills been out of sympathy with a num-

ber of members of this House; and if it should fall to the lot of this House to appoint managers to a conference, I would like, if I may use a colloquial expression, to get cut out. I most certainly would not like to act, even if the House did me the honour to elect me, if there should be a conference.

HON. J. W. HACKETT: I am sure that after the very generous offer of the hon. gentleman, the House will feel itself in a real difficulty if it cannot see its way to agree to the hon. gentleman's proposal. For my part, I thank him heartily for this offer to settle a great difficulty, which might assume proportions none of us would like to see it assume; and to settle it in this reasonable, fair, and generous fashion. I am satisfied my hon. friend speaks with all sincerity; and members may rely that not on this occasion alone but that at the later stage he will assist us by every means in his power in bringing to a happy and reasonable solution the problem of constitutional reform, which has occupied the attention of both Houses for the last two sessions. I have much pleasure in supporting the proposal.

HON. J. T. GLOWREY: Are the committee to act?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: No; to draw up reasons.

HON. G. BELLINGHAM: Mr. Connolly, who has been nominated, cannot be here to-day.

THE PRESIDENT: The committee must meet to-night.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: My reason for nominating Mr. Connolly was that he is really the author of the amendments with which the Legislative Assembly disagrees. It is imperative, I think, that the goldfields people, who feel rather keenly on this subject, should be represented on the committee to draw up reasons. I therefore beg to move that Mr. Glowrey be on the committee in the place of Mr. Connolly.

HON. J. T. GLOWREY: No; I refuse to act.

[A MEMBER suggested Mr. Jenkins, but he signified his unwillingness.]

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: Mr. Bellingham—will he act? I am sorry there is so much reluctance.

[Mr. BELLINGHAM assented.]

Question—That the Hon. G. Randell, Hon. W. T. Loton, and Hon. G. Bellingham be appointed a committee to draw up reasons for insisting on the Council's amendments Nos. 4, 15, and 16, and disagreeing to a farther amendment by the Assembly in No. 13—put and passed.

The committee conferred, and brought up reasons as follow:—

No. 4.—In consideration of the Legislative Council agreeing to the separation of the Redistribution of Seats Bill from the Constitution Bill, the insertion of this clause was accepted by the Hon. the Colonial Secretary.

No. 15.—It is believed that the amendment made by the Legislative Council will ensure a more equitable representation of the various interests involved.

No. 16.—Consequential on No. 15.

No. 13.—Consequential on the Council's amendments Nos. 15 and 16.

Reasons adopted.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY moved that the Bill with the Council's reasons be returned to the Legislative Assembly.

HON. G. RANDELL (Metropolitan): I think it is only right to give expression to my own feeling, at any rate, in this matter. In my opinion we have met the Legislative Assembly in a very honourable and straightforward way, and to a certain extent we are placing ourselves in the hands of the Government and of the Legislative Assembly. Although we have had the assurance of the Minister, and I believe behind him the assurance of the Government, that they will do their best to obtain a conference upon all three Bills, yet it may not be possible for them to obtain the consent of the Legislative Assembly to that course; therefore I take it we are doing this in the utmost good faith, relying on the honour of the Government and the honour also of the Legislative Assembly to meet us in an honourable and straightforward way. We have given up a position which was very strong, and which I think was for the good of the State at large—the varied interests as distinct from any particular interest. Therefore it is only right I should make mention of this thus publicly, so as to protect the action of the Legislative Council from future animadversion or future questioning, if unfortunately the Council should not be met in the same spirit as that in which

we are endeavouring to meet the wishes of the Government and the Legislative Assembly.

Question passed, and the Bill returned accordingly.

ADJOURNMENT.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: It was necessary and advisable that from now onwards to the prorogation, which he hoped we should accomplish in the next day or two, the two Houses should sit as nearly as possible at the same time; therefore he moved that the House at its rising do adjourn to 3 o'clock tomorrow afternoon. He hoped members would receive this motion favourably, so that the conference which he had spoken of might be arranged without undue delay.

Question passed.

The House adjourned at 8-23 o'clock, until the next afternoon.

Legislative Assembly,

Tuesday, 12th January, 1904.

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

PRAYERS.

PETITION—RAILWAY TRAINS, GOLD-FIELD SUBURBS.

MR. JOHNSON presented a petition from residents of Kalgoorlie and Boulder, and suburbs, praying for alteration in suburban railway train service between Kalgoorlie and Boulder.

Petition received and read.

PAPERS PRESENTED.

By the **PREMIER:** By-laws of Kookynie Municipality.

By the **MINISTER FOR WORKS:** By-laws of North Coolgardie Roads Board. Alteration to Railway Classification and Rate Book.

Ordered, to lie on the table.

QUESTION—ROYAL COMMISSIONS.

MR. STONE asked the Premier: 1, How many Royal Commissions have been appointed during the past three years. 2, The objects for which they were appointed. 3, The names of members of Parliament and others who served on such Commissions. 4, What remuneration each member of Parliament received for such services. 5, What members of Parliament refused remuneration for their services. 6, Whether members of Parliament are entitled to receive remuneration in such cases.

THE PREMIER replied: 1, Seven. 2, See column 2 of attached return. 3, See column 3 of attached return. 4, See column 4 of attached return. 5, None. 6, Yes.

BILLS—AMENDMENTS AND PROCEDURE.

ELECTORAL BILL, POSTPONEMENT.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Walter James): I purpose to ask the House to adjourn; but we shall have to meet formally at half-past seven this evening, to enable us to transmit to the Legislative Council a message conveying our reasons for disagreeing with some of the Council's amendments in the Factories Bill, this message having been suspended since we last met. Instead of moving that the House do now adjourn, I will ask that Mr. Speaker be good enough to leave the Chair, if the House agrees with me in this course, so that we can meet again formally at half-past seven without placing on members the burden of then attending to make a quorum merely for two minutes, whilst a messenger passes from this House to the Council with our message regarding the Factories Bill. To enable members to now discuss this matter if they so desire, I propose to move that consideration of order No. 1 [Electoral Bill, Council's Message No. 51] be postponed till the next sitting of the House. When the House rose on the 23rd