

adjourn until to-morrow morning at 11-15 o'clock.

Question passed.

[Sitting suspended.]

At 9 o'clock, Chair resumed.

CONFERENCE—THE RESULT.

HON. J. W. HACKETT (South-West): I have to report, on behalf of the managers appointed by this House to confer with an equal number of managers for the Legislative Assembly, that we met in Conference to-day, and that we have been unable to come to an agreement. A fuller report will be made to the House to-morrow.

THE PRESIDENT: It is desired, then, that the deliberation shall stand over until to-morrow morning?

HON. J. W. HACKETT: Yes.

THE PRESIDENT: As members present in the earlier part of the proceedings are aware, it was proposed that the House should adjourn until 11-15 o'clock to-morrow morning. I understand it is intended that matters shall stand in abeyance until then.

HON. J. W. HACKETT: Yes.

ADJOURNMENT.

The House adjourned at two minutes past 9 o'clock, until the next forenoon.

Legislative Assembly,

Thursday, 14th January, 1904.

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THE SPEAKER took the Chair at 11 o'clock, forenoon; and after stating that the meeting was formal for initiating the Conference between managers on behalf of the two Houses, he left the Chair.

[Sitting suspended.]

At 8 o'clock, Chair resumed.

The Conference not having concluded, the SPEAKER again left the Chair.

[Sitting suspended.]

At 9-15, Chair resumed.

CONFERENCE—THE RESULT.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Walter James): I regret to have to inform the House that the result of the Conference which was agreed to by the two Houses has not been satisfactory, the Conference having terminated without an agreement being arrived at. Since 11 o'clock this morning, the managers appointed on each side have been in consultation, and have only just risen—so recently, in fact, that I am not in a position to place before members the formal written report as to the result of the proceedings. I now desire to state the fact that the Conference has been held, and has not resulted in any agreement. To-morrow I will present the formal report intimating that fact. I propose to move that the consideration of the three Bills, the subject of the Conference, be made an order of the day for to-morrow; and members will then have an opportunity of discussing the questions involved. My one idea now is most heartily and sincerely to thank hon. members for their attendance here during the course of the past few days, while this Conference was being arranged and held—a kindness which I highly appreciate. I have also to express, both personally and on behalf of my fellow managers appointed by this House to attend that Conference, our thanks for the courtesy with which we were treated by the managers for the Legislative Council, who obviously desired to arrive at a settlement. The fact is that both parties, acting in support of what they believed to be essential principles, found themselves at difference as to those principles, and could not have come to an agreement except at the cost of what one side or other would have deemed an undue surrender. I think we can return to this House, assuring its members that throughout the course of a long sitting we did our best to arrive at a settlement, conscious at all times that this House had

reposed in us very great power, and anxious to do nothing which would lead this House for one moment to think that we had lost sight of its privileges, or of those principles which members here believe to be essential. I therefore beg to move that the consideration of messages from the Legislative Council relating to the Constitution Bill, the Redistribution of Seats Bill, and the Electoral Bill be made orders of the day for to-morrow. I will then place on the table the report of the Conference.

Question put and passed.

ADJOURNMENT.

THE PREMIER: It was intended to meet at 11 o'clock to-morrow forenoon; but I think now that if we meet in the afternoon at 3 o'clock we shall have ample time to dispose of the business of the session before the House rises in the evening. I fix 3 o'clock because I have at 2:30 an engagement with a deputation from a country district, which I wish to keep. I shall therefore be glad if members will support me in now moving that the House at its rising do adjourn until three o'clock to-morrow afternoon.

Question put and passed.

The House adjourned accordingly at 9:20 o'clock, until the next afternoon.

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Friday, 15th January, 1904.

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THE PRESIDENT took the Chair at 11:20 o'clock, forenoon.

PRAYERS.

URGENCY MOTION—MINISTERIAL PROMISE, HOW MADE.

HON. J. T. GLOWREY (South): I wish to move the adjournment of the House, to discuss a matter of urgency.

THE PRESIDENT: To what date? Under Standing Order 89, any matter of pressing importance can be dealt with by moving that the House do adjourn until a certain date.

HON. J. T. GLOWREY: I move that the House at its rising do adjourn until to-morrow. Last Tuesday the leader of the House, speaking on the Redistribution of Seats Bill, the Electoral Bill, and the Constitution Act Amendment Bill, made a statement on behalf of the Government, and induced members of this House to send the Redistribution of Seats Bill to another place on a distinct understanding, and he made the statement clearly and distinctly.

HON. A. G. JENKINS: Can you give the words?

HON. J. T. GLOWREY: The hon. member will no doubt remember the words: they will be fresh to his memory as they are to every member of the House. The Colonial Secretary said that if we sent that Bill on to another place, the Assembly would ask for a Conference of both Houses, and that unless an arrangement was arrived at satisfactory to both Houses the whole three Bills would be dropped.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: No.

HON. J. T. GLOWREY: That is distinctly the statement made by the Colonial Secretary; and I should like to know if the hon. gentleman has any statement to make to the House, or whether he has any reason to believe that the arrangement will be carried out. Unless that arrangement is carried out, there will be a distinct breach of faith, and the hon. gentleman should not for one moment longer retain his position as leader in this House unless his promise is carried out. I feel sure many members of the House would have raised some objection to the Bill leaving this Chamber only for the statement made by the Colonial Secretary on that occasion. I felt some reluctance myself in accepting the statement, as I thought the Colonial Secretary was not only pledging the Government but the Legislative Assembly. However, we received the promise of the