

o'clock to-morrow forenoon. This was necessary to enable us to initiate the conference with another place. He would then ask the Speaker to leave the Chair until 8 o'clock.

The House accordingly adjourned at 13 minutes past 9 o'clock, until the next forenoon.

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The PRESIDENT took the Chair at 11 o'clock, forenoon.

PRAYERS.

BUSINESS SUSPENSION—CONFERENCE.

THE PRESIDENT: In accordance with last night's resolutions, I purpose leaving the Chair until 4:30 p.m., to give an opportunity to the managers for the Council to meet the managers for the Assembly, in Conference.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: In accordance with the wish of the House, I do not intend to ask members to sit this evening, but that when we meet at 4:30 this afternoon, and having no work to go on with, we shall adjourn till 11 o'clock to-morrow forenoon. Whatever the result of the Conference may be, that result will have to be embodied in the Bills in another place. We shall receive a message from another place when we meet to-morrow forenoon, and we will have to deal with it in the usual course. I shall ask members to meet to-morrow forenoon, in order practically to close the session. It will not be necessary for us to meet this evening, because we will have no work to do until we receive a message from another place, which other place will meet at eight o'clock this evening.

HON. J. W. HACKETT: The result of the Conference will have to be notified to this House.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: Yes; by message from the Assembly.

HON. J. W. HACKETT: The managers must report to this House.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: Yes.

HON. J. W. HACKETT: At what time will they report?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: At 4:30 o'clock, I hope.

THE PRESIDENT: I will take the Chair at 4:30 o'clock. If the managers are not then ready, we can adjourn and meet later. I understand from the Colonial Secretary that it is not intended to deal with any other business this evening. We have yet to receive from the Assembly replies to our messages *re* the amendments to the Factories Bill, the Roads Act Amendment Bill, and the Government Railways Bill.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: Those Bills are at their last stage.

THE PRESIDENT: The Assembly must either agree to our amendments or not. I will leave the Chair until 4:30 o'clock.

[Sitting suspended.]

At 4:30, Chair resumed.

PAPER PRESENTED.

By the COLONIAL SECRETARY: The Land Act Amendment Act, 1902—Permission to construct a timber tramway.

BUSINESS SUSPENSION.

THE PRESIDENT informed members that the Council managers at the Conference had not yet concluded their labours; therefore he would leave the Chair until half-past five.

[Sitting suspended.]

At 6:15, Chair resumed.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY informed members that the Conference had not yet concluded its labours; and in order that the prorogation of Parliament might take place as soon as possible, he was regretfully obliged to ask members to attend again this evening. He also moved that the House at its rising do

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.

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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