

SUPPLY BILL.

Consequent on the foregoing resolutions:

Bill introduced; the first and second readings agreed to without remark.

IN COMMITTEE, ETC.

Clause 1—Issue and application of £491,375:

MR. MORAN: I am sure the country is now most anxious to know what is being done in the matter of public works. I wish to ask, how much of this money is in hand, or is there sufficient to keep going the works now in hand, while the political turmoil is unsettled.

THE PREMIER AND TREASURER: The hon. member will recognise that the question of the works to be carried on is governed by the authorisations of Parliament. Necessarily we have not authority to proceed with that number of works which perhaps we should like to proceed with; but there is no way of getting Parliament to authorise works until the Loan Estimates and the Public Works Estimates are brought forward. Therefore I cannot see any possibility of proceeding at a more rapid rate than the present, until a new Government has been established.

Clause put and passed.

Clause 2—agreed to.

Schedule, Preamble, Title—agreed to.

Bill reported without amendment, and the report adopted.

Read a third time, and ordered to be transmitted to the Legislative Council for concurrence.

ADJOURNMENT.

The PREMIER moved:

That the House at its rising do adjourn until this day week.

Question passed.

The House adjourned accordingly at 12 minutes past 4 o'clock, until the next Tuesday.

Legislative Council,

Tuesday, 29th August, 1905.

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THE ACTING PRESIDENT took the Chair at 4:30 o'clock p.m.

PRAYERS.

NEW MINISTRY.

THE ACTING PRESIDENT read a communication announcing the appointment of new Ministers, including the Hon. W. Kingsmill (Metropolitan-Suburban) as Colonial Secretary, and the Hon. M. L. Moss as Honorary Minister without portfolio.

HON. M. L. MOSS moved that the seat of the member for the Metropolitan-Suburban Province, the Hon. Walter Kingsmill, be declared vacant. It was doubtful whether, under Section 30 of the Constitution Act, this motion was absolutely necessary at the present time, in consequence of the House having adjourned since its last sitting for more than seven days; but to remove any doubt he submitted the motion.

Question passed; the seat declared vacant.

SUPPLY BILL (No. 2).

ALL STAGES.

Message from the Legislative Assembly received and read, with a Supply Bill amounting to £491,375 for the services of the year ending 30th June, 1906.

Bill read a first time.

Standing Orders suspended so far as related to the passing of a Supply Bill through all stages at one sitting.

Second reading agreed to without debate, and the Bill passed through Committee.

Third reading moved.

HON. R. F. SHOLL: Owing to the exigencies of the public service and the present position of politics, it is necessary that the new Government should have an amount of funds on trust. The amount already voted, together with the

sum authorised by this Bill, will be over one million pounds; and all this money is voted away practically without discussion. I realise that on an occasion like this it would be unfair, especially when Ministers have to seek re-election and the services of the country must be carried on, to move the rejection of this Bill; but under ordinary circumstances I should be inclined to do so.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a third time, and *passed*.

COMPLIMENTARY.

HON. M. L. MOSS (Honorary Minister in new Government): I may be allowed this opportunity of expressing in a few words our regard for the hon. member who has vacated the chief seat in the Chamber (Hon. J. M. Drew). Although political considerations may run high in another place, the members of this Chamber will agree that in the performance of the duties of leader of this House Mr. Drew has shown courtesy and consideration to its members to an extent which has been warmly appreciated. It is fortunate that in this Chamber we are able, in considering the country's business, to do this without members being actuated by party ties; and I think I may say, without reflecting in any way on another place, that our actions as a House are of a far more cordial character than is the case in another place. Consequently, now that our friend Mr. Drew, as part of the late Government, has been obliged to vacate the seat he has so ably occupied in this House, he takes with him the best feelings and the highest regards of the members of this Chamber. The hon. member will credit me with believing all I have stated with regard to the way in which he has carried out the duties as leader of this House.

HON. J. M. DREW (Central): I should like to say a few words in acknowledgment of the kind remarks which have fallen from Mr. Moss, as Honorary Minister in the new Government. I will say that when I accepted the position of leader of this House on behalf of the then Labour Government, I was informed by some of my friends that I would have a particularly bad time. But I knew the members of this Chamber from long experience, and I

felt sure that I should get every consideration from the members of this House in the duties I had to perform. I wish to state now, as I have stated on every occasion when called on to reply to the toast of the Legislative Council, that I have received the utmost courtesy and consideration from the members of this House, and that I have received that consideration seeing that I was in an absolute minority, when there would otherwise have been no prospect of my being able to carry any legislation through this House. The members here gave me greater consideration even than they had given to previous Ministers occupying the position I then did; and there was no consideration of party, while every help was given to enable me to carry through the measures which I placed before the House. In some instances there was strong opposition to particular measures, but as regards myself, every courtesy was extended, and I tried to extend the same courtesy to hon. members. I remember that on a few occasions I got somewhat heated, and made remarks which I afterwards regretted; but on the whole the most pleasant feelings have existed between myself and the members of this House. I sincerely thank the honorary Minister for the kindly remarks he has made concerning myself.

ORDERS POSTPONED.

Three Bills on the Notice Paper for third reading, one for second reading, and a notice for Question to a Minister, were postponed to the next sitting.

PAPERS—ABORIGINES INQUIRY.

Ordered, on motion by Hon. R. F. SHOLL: That all papers and correspondence in connection with the appointment of Dr. Roth as Commissioner to inquire into aboriginal matters in this State, and all papers and communications subsequent thereto and arising therefrom, be laid on the table of this House.

ADJOURNMENT, FIVE WEEKS.

On motion by the HONORARY MINISTER, the House adjourned till Tuesday, 3rd October.