

tion is to abolish the subsidies altogether. If they are not abolished, then I say that every board should receive a similar amount, a percentage on the rates collected, and there should be no differentiation whatever. I will strongly oppose any roads board subsidies when we get to the Estimates. The Government should take this means of saving a little towards paying off the deficit which the late Treasurer built up in such a masterly style.

On motion by Mr. Heitmann, debate adjourned.

House adjourned at 9.4 p.m.

Legislative Council,

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The PRESIDENT took the Chair at 4.30 p.m., and read prayers.

PAPERS PRESENTED.

By the Colonial Secretary: 1, Municipal By-laws of Northam-York; 2, Pharmacy and Poisons Act, 1894: Regulation 42; 3, Fremantle Harbour Trust: Regulation 117; 4, Port Regulations: Amendment of No. 59; 5, Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act Regulations.

QUESTION—MEDICAL OFFICER, MARBLE BAR.

Hon. R. W. PENNEFATHER asked the Colonial Secretary:—What steps are the Government taking to fill up the position of medical officer at Marble Bar?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY re-

plied: The District Medical Officer (Dr. Durack) obtained leave of absence, and Dr. Thurstan was appointed to act while the former was away. It was arranged for Dr. Durack to return to Marble Bar by 28th August, but owing to illness he was unable to leave Sydney. An endeavour was made to obtain a *locum* in Perth to relieve Dr. Thurstan (Acting District Medical Officer), who was compelled to return from Marble Bar on that date, but no medical man was available. Dr. Durack will leave for Marble Bar by the "Koombana," sailing from Fremantle on the 3rd instant. Dr. Thurstan was asked by telegram to remain until Dr. Durack returned, but he was unable to do so.

BILL—POLICE (CONSOLIDATION).

Introduced by the Colonial Secretary, and read a first time.

BILL—BILLS OF SALE ACT AMENDMENT.

Read a third time, and transmitted to the Legislative Assembly.

BILL—EMPLOYMENT BROKERS.

Second Reading.

Debate resumed from the previous day. Hon. G. RANDELL (Metropolitan): I do not propose to say very much with regard to this Bill. I am not entirely in sympathy with it, but as it passed this House last session I intend to offer no objection to it on the present occasion. I think a Bill dealing with this question should pass this House, and as nothing fresh has arisen since it was debated last session to induce me to oppose it, I will support the second reading.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee.

Hon. W. Kingsmill in the Chair.

Clauses 1 to 14—agreed to.

Clause 15—List of charges to be posted:

Hon. F. CONNOR: In what way were the charges to be made up? Would it not be better if the rates were fixed?

The Colonial Secretary: It was for the employment brokers to fix the rate.

Hon. F. CONNOR: Then any rate the broker fixed would be accepted?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: Yes. The clause under discussion and the two succeeding ones, together with Clauses 25 and 28, did not appear in the existing legislation. Complaints had been made about the charges made by brokers. In the first Bill introduced last year it was suggested that the charges should be fixed by the Governor-in-Council, but after discussion it was deemed that this course would be impracticable, and the clauses as they now appeared in the Bill were substituted for those printed hitherto. The clause set out that, "every employment broker shall deposit at the office of the Minister and at all times keep posted up in some conspicuous place in his registry office, so as to be easily read by persons using such office, a printed copy of the scale of payment or remuneration for the time being chargeable by and payable to such employment broker in respect of hiring of servants." It was considered that a sufficient protection would be provided to the employee if the list of charges were placed in the office of the broker, and it would be then for the employee to say whether he would do business with that office or not. Competition would regulate the charges just as they regulated the charges of any other broker or business person.

Hon. F. CONNOR: It was not his intention to raise any objection to the clause, but surely it would be better if there were a fixed scale, so as to prevent the employment brokers from charging too much. At present the public had very little protection against brokers, not only in the matter of charges but also in other directions, and it would be much more satisfactory if there were a fixed scale.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: The hon. member would readily understand that, in the first place, it would be a distinct innovation for the Government to fix a scale of charges for any private business.

Hon. F. CONNOR: The Government fixed the scale of fees and charges for many things, abattoirs for instance.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: The Government certainly fixed the fees for services rendered, as Mr. Connor instanced, at abattoirs or other institutions of the kind; but these brokers' businesses had to be treated as private concerns, and this being so it would be a new thing indeed for the Government to fix charges. Moreover if this were done altered circumstances might call for frequent amendments of the Act. And even if the fees were to be fixed by the Governor-in-Council, it would not be wholly satisfactory, if only for the reason that competition might well be relied upon to adjust the fees. In respect to the other matter complained of by the hon. member, he would find that it was attended to in Clause 25.

Clause passed.

Clauses 16 to 24—agreed to.

Clause 25—Penalty for false representation:

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: This was the clause to which he had directed the attention of Mr. Connor. It was a new clause in the Bill. As the hon. member had observed, there had at times been employment brokers guilty of sending a servant to an improper place, or of in some way misrepresenting the nature of the situation. There had been many complaints on this score.

Hon. G. Randell: Have you ascertained whether they were well founded?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: In some cases they had been well founded. A clause of this nature would not be feared by any honest employment broker. On the other hand it was very necessary to guard against those not quite so scrupulous.

Clause passed.

Clauses 26 and 28—agreed to.

Schedules. Title—agreed to.

Bill reported without amendment.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY moved—

That the report be adopted.

Hon. M. L. MOSS: The Minister's attention was required for a discrepancy in the Bill. A note should be made of it

and advice sought from the Parliamentary Draughtsman on the subject. Under the Third Schedule, when an employment broker's license was transferred, it was transferred from the day of transfer to the first day of the month following the next quarterly licensing meeting for the district. Going back to Clause 7 of the Bill, it would be found that a person who desired to obtain a license under the Bill had to give 14 days' notice of his intention to apply for a certificate; so that if a person were to apply for a transfer of that license, say 10 days before the licensing meeting, and the transfers were only made operative until the first day of the month following the next quarterly licensing meeting, he might be three months without a license. If the Parliamentary Draughtsman's attention were directed to this, he would probably draft another clause stating that if it should not be practicable to go to the next meeting of the justices, the applicant should go to the next practicable meeting at which such application could be made.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: The matter would be brought under the notice of the Parliamentary Draughtsman and if necessary the Bill could be re-committed for the purpose of making the suggested amendment.

Question put and passed; the report adopted.

ADJOURNMENT — BILLS BEFORE THE HOUSE.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: I intend to move that the House at its rising adjourn until Tuesday, 14th September. I would like to remind hon. members of the desirability of then going right on with the Health Bill. It is rather a big Bill, and it is necessary that it should get up to another place in good time.

Hon. G. Randell: Does it contain any amendments on the Bill of last year?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: There are a few which I mentioned yesterday. I may also say that if possible I will in the meantime have the Municipal Corporations Act Amendment Bill distributed to members.

Hon. W. Kingsmill: Is it a big Bill?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: No; merely half a dozen amendments. I will have it distributed in the interval.

Hon. M. L. Moss: Is it dealing with the rating clauses?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: Yes, it does deal with those clauses. I move—

That the House at its rising adjourn until Tuesday, 14th instant.

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 4.54 p.m.

Legislative Assembly,

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The SPEAKER took the Chair at 4.30 p.m., and read prayers.

PAPERS PRESENTED.

By the Premier: 1, Regulations under the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act. 2, Amended part Regulation No. 59. 3, Amended Regulation No. 117 of the Fremantle Harbour Trust. 4, Amended Regulations made under the