

## Legislative Council,

Wednesday, 21st December, 1921.

Assent to Bills ... ..	Page 2529
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The PRESIDENT took the Chair at 3 p.m., and read prayers.

### ASSENT TO BILLS.

Message received from the Governor notifying assent to the following Bills:—

- 1, Reciprocal Enforcement of Maintenance Orders.
- 2, Bank Holidays Amendment.
- 3, Gold Buyers.

House adjourned at 3.3 p.m.

## Legislative Assembly,

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Question: Goldfields Water Supply Mains	Page 2529
Select Committee: Hospitals Bill, Extension of Time	2530
Assent to Bills	2530
Motion: Want of Confidence in the Government	2530
Standing Orders, Suspension	2581
Bills: General Loan and Inscribed Stock Act Amendment, 1A.	2581
Sale of Liquor Regulation Act Continuance, 1B.	2581
Closer Settlement, 3B.	2581
Industrial Arbitration Act Amendment, 3B.	2581

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

### QUESTION—GOLDFIELDS WATER SUPPLY, MAINS.

Mr. MULLANY (for Mr. MacCallum Smith) asked the Minister for Water Supply: 1, Are the goldfields water mains in a satisfactory state of repair? 2, What is the cost of repair of the 30-inch goldfields main water pipe line? 3, What is the nature of the repairs? 4, Is it the case that the steel mains are becoming so pitted and corroded that their life is now greatly limited? 5, If so, how long is it estimated such mains will last?

Hon. P. Collier: But this was your business.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: At any rate, I know nothing about it. I will go into the matter and find out if I was there when this matter was decided, but in the meantime, all I can say is that I do not know anything about this matter going through. I do not complain of the Opposition turning up Ministers' speeches made some years ago. That is all fair game, and I only regret that we unfortunately gave them such good ammunition.

Hon. P. Collier: I only gave you a few lines. I was merciful.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: I do not know that I need dwell further on this matter. I have been hurt very much during this debate this evening. I do not like talking sentimental piffle. I am essentially a man to whom loyalty is the main question, and I have been hurt indeed at hearing reflections cast upon my Premier. I do not always agree with him nor does he always agree with me, but I say, believing and knowing it to be true, that he has acted absolutely honestly and honourably all through this matter. If he is to receive any censure at the hands of this Chamber, let me have some of it too.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: You will get some of it.

Hon. P. Collier: You come in first in the motion. The Premier is only concerned in the secondary censure.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: The Premier has behaved, so far as I know, in a manly and straightforward way to all members of the Cabinet regarding this matter. I do not believe there is the slightest foundation for the suggestion that he has purposely hidden this matter so as to get it through in the small hours of the morning, when the House was not fully aware of what was going on. Sir James Mitchell has too much sense of honour to stoop to matters such as that, and I am sorry indeed he has had to listen to statements of that description. Be that as it may, the House can judge in this matter. Let members go through the files. Let them not be satisfied with a mere cursory examination, but let them get the four or five files dealing with this matter and connect them up and see where the truth lies. If the House decides that the appointment of a Royal Commission to investigate this matter is justified, I think it will be due to the late Attorney General, Mr. Robinson, that he shall have some say in the matter. He may be able to advance a different point of view from that held by members of the Opposition, and in some respects from that which appeals to me. I have given to the House, with what ability I have, a straightforward plain statement and I ask the House to accept it.

On motion by Mr. Underwood, debate adjourned.

House adjourned at 10.55 p.m.