

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Monday, 3rd January, 1876.

Trespass Act, 1872, Amendment Bill: third reading—Closing of Streets in Perth Act: in committee—Railway from Fremantle to Guildford: in committee—Prorogation.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at 12 noon.
PRAYERS.

TRESPASS ACT, 1872, AMENDMENT BILL.

Third Reading.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. H. H. Hocking) moved that the Bill be now read a third time.

The Bill was read a third time and passed.

CLOSING OF STREETS IN PERTH ACT.

In Committee.

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. A. O'Grady Lefroy), with leave, moved a resolution authorising the Governor to expend a sum not exceeding £500 in connection with the Bill passed to provide for closing certain streets in Perth, and with the view of effecting certain improvements at Claisebrook, such as the erection of a bridge over the water there, the formation of a Botanic Garden and recreation ground,—accessible by land and water,—the erection of a cottage for the use of the caretaker of the mulberry plantation, and the formation of a pond of water suitable for the acclimatisation of fish.

Question put and passed.

RAILWAY FROM FREMANTLE TO GUILDFORD.

In Committee.

Mr. MARMION moved a resolution requesting His Excellency to introduce a Bill, if possible, this session, or failing that, at the next session of Council, providing for a guarantee of 6 per cent. per annum for a period of 10 years, on the amount of capital necessary for the construction of the above proposed railway and works.

Question put and passed.

Sitting suspended from 12.45 to 3.45 p.m.

PROROGATION.

His EXCELLENCY arrived at the Council Chamber at 3.50 p.m. He was attended by the

Commandant and Mr. O. Burt, Private Secretary, and, having entered the Council Chamber, desired the members who had risen on his entrance to be seated. He then said—

MR. SPEAKER, AND GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,—

In relieving you from further attendance in Council, I have to express to you my acknowledgments for the attention which you have bestowed upon your legislative duties, and my satisfaction at the large amount of important business which has been transacted during the Session.

I have already informed you, by message, of my assent to the following Acts:—

An Act to amend "The Capital Punishment Amendment Act, 1871."

An Act to further amend the Law of Evidence.

An Act to empower the Governor under certain circumstances to authorise persons to have and use Distilling Apparatus without a license.

An Act to confirm the Expenditure for the services of the year One thousand eight hundred and seventy-four, beyond the grant for that year.

An Act to amend "The Colonial Passengers' Ordinance, 1861."

An Act to further amend the Administration of Justice.

An Act to make it lawful to close up certain streets in the City of Perth.

An Act to amend the Bastardy Laws.

An Act to make provision for the maintenance of Discipline among the Crews of Coasting Vessels.

An Act to amend the Law relating to Election Petitions, and to provide more effectually for the prevention of Corrupt Practices at the Election of Members of the Legislative Council

An Act to further amend "The Wines, Beer, and Spirit Sale Act, 1872."

An Act to make further provision for the Conservation and Improvement of Roads in the several Districts of the Colony.

An Act to make further provision for the regulation of the Pearl Shell Fishery.

An Act to make provision for the higher Education of Boys.

An Act to regulate the Execution of Warrants of Arrest.

An Act to enable the Trustees of the Fremantle Lodge No. 1033 of Freemasons to raise money on Fremantle Town Lot 870.

An Act to declare valid a certain rate made by the Perth City Council on the Twenty-eighth day of June, One thousand eight hundred and seventy-five, and commonly called the Drainage Rate.

An Act to appropriate the sum of One hundred and fifty-eight thousand eight hundred and sixty-three pounds three shillings and twopence out of the General Revenue of the Colony for the service of the year One thousand eight hundred and seventy-six.

I now, in Her Majesty's name, assent to the undermentioned Bills, which have since been presented to me by the Speaker:—

An Act to amend "The Trespass Act, 1872."

An Act to amend the Law concerning the remission of Penalties.

The Bill entitled *An Act for raising the sum of Twenty-six thousand pounds by Loan for the completion of the Railway between Geraldton and Northampton*, I reserve for the signification of Her Majesty's pleasure thereon. I regret that it should be necessary to have recourse to a further loan for the purpose of completing this work in a proper and satisfactory manner, but I agree with Your Honorable House that the suggested alterations and improvements are essential to the future success of the undertaking, and I shall therefore be prepared to recommend the Bill for Her Majesty's favorable consideration.

I heartily congratulate you on the many valuable Acts which have been passed during the present Session. Foremost in importance are the Acts to place a check on habits of intemperance by amending those sections of the Licensing Act which relate to the supplying of liquor to persons in a state of intoxication, and to illicit traffic in liquor; to provide more effectually for the prevention of corrupt practices at the Election of Members of the Legislative Council; to amend the Bastardy Laws; to enable the Governor to make Regulations for the management of the Pearl Shell Fisheries and the better protection of the persons employed in diving; and to make provision for the higher education of boys; and I thank you for your attention to the public business which has resulted in the enactment of these highly beneficial measures.

It is unnecessary for me to speak in terms of commendation of the admirable manner in which your deliberations have been conducted, for the measures which you have considered and adopted are now before the Country, and afford in themselves the best evidence of the results which have happily been accomplished.

I thank you for the liberal supplies which you have granted for the use of the public service. The well-merited additions which you have sanctioned to the salaries of certain—for the most part subordinate—officers, and the provision which you have made for the appointment of a Civil Engineer who, under the Commissioner, shall be responsible for the direction of all public works for the future, meet with my entire approval. The amount set apart for the purchase of a suitable vessel for service on the North West Coast will doubtless be amply sufficient; while the additional sums which you have placed at my disposal for surveys and public works, roads, bridges, education, and other important purposes, will enable me to carry out the general administration of the Government with increased efficiency and success.

In consequence of your having been obliged to appropriate out of next year's revenue the large sum of £18,000 for the further construction of the Telegraph Line to Eucla, the margin left for contingencies is smaller, perhaps, than it ought to be; but it is my intention that the strictest economy shall be exercised in every Department of the Government, and I do not hesitate to assure you that our means shall not be exceeded.

I have taken immediate steps to give effect to your wishes in the matter of Immigration, by requesting the Secretary of State to authorize the sending out of further batches of Emigrants in vessels trading to Fremantle, and I will continue to expand your votes for this purpose so long as the new comers find employment in a manner which shall indicate that their presence is required in the Colony.

No time shall be lost in taking action upon your Resolution on the important subject of Harbor Works. You are aware, from my opening address, that I entirely concur in the expediency of referring the whole question to some competent authority in England, on whose character and experience we may rely for a practical solution of the difficulty; and I hope that when your Honorable House next meets I may be in a position to report that satisfactory progress has been made in a matter of such vital importance to the Colony.

I have further to thank you for the consideration which you have given to the proposed Regulations for the disposal of the Waste Lands of the Crown in the Northern and Eastern Districts, as well as to the difficult question of placing the small farmer in a better position than at present as regards the depasturing of his stock. Aided by the Report of your Select Committee, I will endeavor to direct the framing of Regulations which shall

meet the requirements of the case, and will submit them for the decision of the Secretary of State without unnecessary delay.

I have received your Addresses and Resolutions with reference to the proposed revision of the Tariff, the amendment of the law relating to Proxy Voting, and the appointment of additional Judges; all of which subjects shall receive my careful attention.

I have also received your Resolution of this date with reference to the projected Railway from Fremantle to Perth and Guildford, and requesting me to introduce a Bill, "if possible at this Session, or failing that, in the next Session of Council, providing for a guarantee of six per cent. per annum for a period of ten years, on the amount of capital necessary for the construction of the said Railway and Works." In view of the important preliminaries which admittedly remain to be considered, it has appeared to me that it would be impossible to move any further in the matter during the present Session of the Legislature; but I can assure you that I am fully alive to the many advantages to be derived from the proposed undertaking, and I shall be quite prepared, if necessary, to summon this Council to meet again at a period somewhat earlier than usual, should it be decided that the scheme is one which can properly be put forward by Government on the basis of a Government guarantee.

Impressed with the conviction that a mutual spirit of confidence and respect for the opinions of others is essential to the proper

working of our Constitution, I assured you at the opening of the Session that the wishes of the people, as expressed through their representatives in Council, would at all times receive at my hands the most careful and impartial consideration. You will, I trust, admit that the sincerity of that assurance has been vindicated, while for my own part I cordially acknowledge the statesmanlike care and attention which have been extended to the measures brought forward by my Government, and the great assistance and advantage which, in the perfecting of those measures, we have derived from your local knowledge and experience.

In returning to your homes, and to the encouragement and protection of those who look to you for precept and example, you may indulge a well-founded hope that your labors in this place will be productive in many important respects of substantial advantage to the community. I look forward to the pleasure of making myself personally acquainted, at no distant date, with various parts of the Colony which I have not yet had an opportunity of visiting, and meanwhile I would ask you to convey to the people my best wishes for their welfare and happiness in the districts which you severally represent.

This Council is now prorogued to Tuesday, the fourth of April next.

Which being concluded, a copy of the Speech was delivered to Mr. Speaker.

His Excellency the Governor then left the Council Chambers, and the session closed.