

Resolution reported; the report adopted.

ADJOURNMENT—DATE OF PRO-ROGATION.

The PREMIER moved—

That the House at its rising do adjourn to 4.30 p.m. on Monday next.

For the information of members he might state that he hoped with their assistance to be able to prorogue Parliament on Tuesday next.

Question passed.

House adjourned at 4.55 a.m. (Saturday).

MOTION—LIQUOR LAW ABUSE, COLONIAL WINE.

Hon. E. McLARTY (South-West): I would like to move, without notice, if I have your permission, Mr. President, on a matter which is I think of considerable importance at the present time. The motion I would submit without notice reads—

That in the opinion of this House the law relating to the sale of colonial wine should be so amended as to permit of the sale taking place only upon premises where such wine is manufactured or upon licensed premises.

The Colonial Secretary: What do you mean by licensed premises.

Hon. E. McLARTY: Licensed for the sale of this liquor. It will be within the recollection of hon. members that last session the law was amended, or liberalised, so as to allow manufacturers of colonial wine to sell this article by the single bottle. This has led to great abuse in the country. I anticipated that this would happen at the time the matter was brought forward, and I declared then that it was not a step in the right direction, and that it was not the intention or the wish of the hon. members of this House, or another place, to encourage drunkenness as it was declared that amendment would do. The result has been just what was predicted, and through the action of Parliament the people now are disposing of wine by carting it about and erecting a shanty of a few sheets of iron where public works or railways are being constructed, and selling this wine to the employees on these works. The effect is that the people in the place are kept in a state of drunkenness, and the police declare that they have neither control nor supervision. For instance, on the Pinjarra-Marradong railway a man has put up a place some five or six miles along the railway line, and he carts the wine to this place, sells it, and at this locality there have been some disgraceful scenes. Men are continually getting drunk and knocking each other about, and hon. members know that this is brought about, to a very large extent, by so-called wine, which is only a mixture of soapsuds and vinegar; it drives the people mad and has the most disastrous

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Monday, 20th December, 1909.

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

PAPERS PRESENTED.

By the Colonial Secretary: 1, Report of the Commissioner of Police for 1909. 2, Cattle Trespass Act, 1882; Scale of fines and poundage fees for Municipalities of Perth and Claremont. 3, Municipality of city of Perth, By-laws. 4, By-laws of Local Boards of Health of Greenbushes and Kundip.

effects. It has had a very bad effect on the gangers and officers engaged on this railway, and some of the men there have been drunk for days, and they become in such a state that when they get over their spree they are unfit for work, and they are consequently dismissed. The effect is also very bad on the butcher and grocer, because the men have no money with which to pay their bills. All this is taking place to say nothing of the demoralising effect it is having on the men themselves. Such a state of affairs should be remedied as quickly as possible. I brought the matter under the notice of the Inspector of Police, and he told me that he was well aware of what was going on, but that he was powerless to interfere. The amendment of the Act he stated, had taken the matter out of their hands, and men could sell in these places with impunity. I hope the leader of the House will look into the matter, because it is very serious indeed that people should be able to cart rubbish like this wine to where public works are being carried out, and to sell it to those engaged there, as has been done along this Marradong line. I have heard a great number of complaints about other places, but I have no personal knowledge of what has taken place there. Besides all this, it is not fair to the licensed publicans, who have to pay a heavy license and who are hound down by all sorts of restrictions. It is not, however, in the interests of the publican that I am speaking, but it is in the interests of the public generally. I think the matter is one well worthy of urgent consideration.

Hon. G. RANDELL (Metropolitan): I have much pleasure in seconding the motion; and, assuming the facts, as stated by the hon. member, are correct, it reveals a state of things which should not be tolerated for one moment. I believe the police are controlled by the leader of the House, and I hope that he will see into the matter, because there is no saying how far the demoralising effect will go. I might mention a matter which took place only yesterday along the Mount's Bay road in the vicinity of the Swan Brewery, where, it is stated, that carts were almost blocking the roadway.

This, of course may be a little exaggerated, but it is a fact, I understand, that they were carting out stuff from the brewery to the hotels for the purpose of sale. The abomination should be stopped with a high hand, and I hope that will be done.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. J. D. Connolly): I can scarcely think that the hon. member has been correctly informed, because I do not think the Licensing Act permits what he states.

Hon. A. G. Jenkins: I am perfectly sure about it.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: I understood the Licensing Act provided that intoxicating drink could be sold only on premises that were licensed. A license is not given to a person to go about in a travelling cart and sell just where he likes. I know there is greater freedom in connection with the granting of licenses for colonial wine than there is with regard to beer or spirits; yet I can scarcely think that the Licensing Act allows a person to take wine in a cart along the route of a new railway and dispose of it just as he would other goods. I will promise the hon. member that the law will be strictly enforced. I will see that the police will take notice of what has been said, and if the law is as it has been reported to be, I will bring the matter under the notice of the Government, so that such a state of things may be remedied when the Licensing Bill comes before Parliament next session.

Hon. T. F. O. BRIMAGE (North-East): On portions of the goldfields, especially on the wood lines where men congregate, there have been canvassers with loads of beer taking them from camp to camp. Some of them are working for licensed victuallers, but there are others who buy the beer at a cheap rate from some source or other, not generally from the reputable breweries, and they take it along the line and sell it to the wood cutters. I trust the Minister will look into the matter.

Hon. J. F. CULLEN (South-East): I think the hon. member would be wise to withdraw the motion, having accomplished his purpose by getting a promise

from the Minister. In the first place the motion is informal, and in the second place we cannot take the responsibility of voting on it without looking into it more closely. It is being sprung upon us without notice. As a matter of fact I do not think that Mr. President can receive it. However, I think the object of the motion having been accomplished, it would be much better if the hon. member withdrew it.

Hon. E. McLARTY (in reply): I am not prepared to say what is in the Act, or what the Act permits; but I am prepared to say the statement I make as regards the abuse of the Act is perfectly correct. I do not blame the police because I am informed by an inspector of police that the police are powerless in the matter. The Act, therefore, must permit it, or cognisance would have been taken before of this matter. However, having the assurance of the Colonial Secretary that he will look into it, I beg leave to withdraw the motion.

Motion by leave withdrawn.

QUESTION—PUBLIC SERVICE INVESTIGATION.

Hon. S. STUBBS asked the Colonial Secretary:—1, Has any report been received from the Public Service Commissioner and Mr. McGibbon, who were some months ago appointed to assist the Public Service Commissioner in inquiring into certain questions connected with the civil service of this State? 2, If so, will he lay such report on the Table of the House?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY replied: An interim report has been received but has not yet been considered.

QUESTION—AGRICULTURAL REPORT, NORSEMAN AND ESPERANCE.

Hon. T. F. O. BRIMAGE asked the Colonial Secretary: 1, Have the Government any recent reports dealing with the agricultural resources of the country between Norseman and Esperance? 2, Is

it the intention of the Government to send an officer to report early next year?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY replied: No recent reports have been received, but the Government are aware of the existence of a certain area of land in this part of the State suitable for agriculture, and therefore it is not considered necessary to send an officer specially to report on the matter. The land south of the Dundas goldfield, except where held under pastoral lease, is open for conditional purchase, and that within any goldfield may be obtained under miners' homestead leases.

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#### QUESTION—INSPECTION OF MACHINERY AND MINES.

Hon. T. F. O. BRIMAGE asked the Colonial Secretary: Is it the intention of the Government to amalgamate the Machinery and Boiler Inspector's Department with the office of the State Mining Engineer? If not, why not?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY replied: No decision has been arrived at with reference to the suggested amalgamation.

#### BILL—PERMANENT RESERVES REDEDICATION (No. 2).

*All stages.*

Received from the Legislative Assembly and read a first time.

*Second Reading.*

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. J. D. Connolly) in moving the second reading said: There are certain reserves classified as Class A. That means they are under the Permanent Reserves Act and dedicated to certain purposes, and once they are dedicated to certain purposes they cannot be altered from those purposes unless by Act of Parliament. Every year it is found necessary to bring in a Bill to alter the purpose of certain reserves. This Bill covers six reserves in different parts of the State, and I particularly draw hon. member's attention to the lithographs of these reserves I have had placed on the wall of the Chamber so that they may be accessible

to hon. members. The Permanent Reserves Act is undoubtedly a good enactment inasmuch as it preserves to the people at all times certain lands such as King's Park, and no Government, no matter how anxious they may be, can sell or lease an inch of these reserves without the consent of Parliament. I think these reserves should be guarded as much as possible—they are well guarded—and, believing that, I am always very anxious to get the fullest information to place before members when any alteration is proposed. I have therefore taken the precaution of getting these lithographs for members so that they can see the particular reserves to be dealt with, and so that they may offer any objection if they so desire. The first reserve is for the Claremont electric lighting station. The municipality asked for a further three quarters of an acre in order that the land might be utilised for storage purposes. I have seen the reserve. It is on the ocean side close to the Claremont railway station. No doubt hon. members have noticed the electric lighting station there close to the railway station. This extension of area is to give them room for the works, and for storage. They are close up to the boundary on the railway side, and this alteration will give them a very useful addition. I do not know that the land is at all wanted for any other purpose. It is so small that it cannot be said to be park or reserve in that sense, and I do not think any objection can be offered. I need hardly say this is brought in at the request of the local authority. The second rededication is of a portion of Reserve 1790, containing 83 acres, at Mount Barker. It is proposed to cut off 13 acres and give it to the Railway Department for water supply purposes, as it is necessary for the Railway Department to have a good water supply at Mount Barker. It is done with the consent of the local authority, and the Railway Department are paying the local authority £100 for the costs of the improvements placed on this particular land. The third reserve dealt with is a much bigger one. Hon. members are no doubt aware that on the Gold-

fields Railway near Parkerville there is a big area of land reserved for a National Park. I think, speaking from memory, it consists of 3,200 acres.

Hon. J. W. Hackett: Is it Parkerville or Smith's Mill?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: It lies in between the two. It does not go further south than York-road which runs parallel between the Goldfields Railway and the old line by way of Smith's Mill, and it extends across the main line for some distance. It is proposed to take off 410 acres from the South-East corner.

Hon. W. Kingsmill: Is that the piece cut off by York-road?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: It is not exactly cut off by the road; it is in the South-East corner, and runs along the York-road. It contains very good orchard land, and will make excellent working men's blocks, for which there is a good demand. It is proposed to cut the land up into orchard blocks of five acres, and into working men's blocks. These are sold by auction on condition that certain improvements are carried out on five years' terms. The National Park it is considered will still be sufficiently large without the 410 acres, and all the natural beauties for a park are contained in the balance of the reserve.

Hon. J. W. Hackett: What about the water?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: The waterfalls are on the other part of the reserve. I think Jane Brook runs through the park. The next reserve dealt with is also at Parkerville. To-day we have 15 acres reserved for a park near Parkerville station. It is desired to cancel this and substitute an adjoining block containing 53 acres. In this case we are adding to the park lands rather than taking from them.

Hon. J. W. Hackett: What is it for?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: The land proposed to be exchanged is not only a larger block, but there is a miniature waterfall on block 97, and it is much better for park purposes than the block which is now reserved. There are two lots, and it is proposed to give them in lieu of the one taken. There is a small block, 76, containing 15 acres 2 roods,

which it is proposed to be cancelled and in lieu of that block 93, containing 4 acres, and block 77, containing 46 acres 3 perches, it is proposed to substitute. This is also done at the request of the local authority. The fifth clause deals with reserve No. 7077. This was reserved originally for a recreation ground at North Fremantle, and also, I understand, it was reserved many years ago to preserve the cliffs on the Swan river. It is that part of the Swan river known as Rocky Bay, and where the Rocky Bay quarries used to be, but when the harbour works were in operation, extensive quarries were opened up which destroyed the cliffs and that Class A reserve was intended to protect. It is now flat ground lying on the Perth side of the Western Australian Iron Works. It is proposed to shift the general Government stores here, to make room for abattoirs and other purposes, which are not suitable for the sea, and it is proposed to give the site at Rocky Bay for general stores for the Government.

Hon. J. W. Hackett : It will be a great eyesore.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY : I do not think it will be an eyesore, because the quarry there now has taken down the cliffs. It is immediately on the Perth side of the Western Australian Iron Works. I do not think it will be an eyesore. I doubt if you will see it from the river and you will not see it from the railway side. The sixth reserve is No. 4991, and consists of certain park lands at Bunbury. Mr. Beigel has arranged with the municipal council, subject to the consent of Parliament, to purchase a portion of the recreation reserve ground, coloured blue on the litho. and marked F. Mr. Beigel has the adjoining block and unintentionally erected some buildings on the portion of the reserve coloured blue, believing the land to be his own, but it was the reserve.

Hon. W. Kingsmill : Will this be a precedent ?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY : The municipal council are quite willing to sell him the land. It is vested in the council but they have no power to sell. It is proposed to sell him this 16 perches, and

the balance, coloured green, or a portion of the roadway, is not wanted now and it will be vested in the council and will be offered by public auction. These are the six reserves dealt with. I again draw members attention to the maps on the wall so that they may be fully cognisant as to where the reserves are situated. I move—

*That the Bill be now read a second time.*

Hon. J. W. HACKETT (South-West) : It is well known what an interest I take in these matters, and although one is loath to interfere with these questions brought to this House, which, it is claimed, are dealt with in consequence of public exigencies, no doubt the Minister has submitted cases which are unanswerable. My objection to this kind of legislation is that there is no opportunity to find out what the answers are.

The Colonial Secretary : What answers ?

Hon. J. W. HACKETT : I say it is easy for the Government to present unanswerable cases, and the late hour at which such a Bill is brought in makes it impossible for us to satisfy ourselves on the other side of the question. I want to give the hon. gentleman credit for this, that if there are any weak points in his case it is not likely that he would point them out to the House. I am certain he calculates upon us all being in favour of his proposals and not opposed to them. Therefore, when Bills of this kind are brought here dealing with the public estate and dealing with an Act of an important character, an Act to which, I believe, we owe the preservation of nearly all the reserves around Perth and Fremantle, we should be given an opportunity of looking into these matters more closely. The case the hon. gentleman puts forward has something to say for it : it would not appear here otherwise. At the same time I do most strongly urge that when the Legislature has taken the forethought to preserve as much as possible these beauty spots, which are becoming too few already, for the recreation and enjoyment of the public, we ought to be given more time than we are to consider them.

The Colonial Secretary: You can adjourn the debate until to-morrow morning.

Hon. J. W. HACKETT: To-morrow morning? At what hour, two or three o'clock?

The Colonial Secretary: Eleven o'clock.

Hon. J. W. HACKETT: I am prepared to accept the hon. gentleman's assurance. We all know that he represents for the most part one side of the question; the other side we could represent if time was given to us. With regard to the reserves, the hon. member made out a good case for all of them except the one at North Fremantle, and the larger permanent reserve at National Park. With regard to National Park, 3,200 acres is by no means too large a space. The National Park reserves in the neighbourhood of other capitals, both in America and Australia, are of a very much larger character than this. They ought not to be frittered away by taking off 400 acres at one stroke. I hope this is the last time that this park, containing great national beauties, easily accessible from the capital of the State, and which is capable of immense beautification and which can be made a perfect beauty spot of will be interfered with.

Hon. M. L. Moss: What is the reason it is taken?

Hon. J. W. HACKETT: It is explained that it contains good orchard ground, but 3,200 acres is by no means a sufficient space to set apart for a national park, and all our beauty spots in the ranges are gradually disappearing into the hands of private individuals for railway and other purposes. I wish the Government would give more thought to such matters as this and present better arguments in support of them. I can assure those members not acquainted with the site, that this is one of the most charming in the State, and if we allow five-acre blocks all along the line it will take away from the natural beauty. To my mind it is far more important that hundreds of thousands of persons should have access to a reserve like this, which they can call their own, easily reached in the day, with an early return at night, than that orchardists should be added, for the

greater part of the blocks sold for orchard purposes in the ranges have not been improved, or have had a single fruit tree planted on them.

Hon. J. W. Langsford: Has this park been interfered with before?

Hon. J. W. HACKETT: This is the first infringement. It is one of the gifts of Sir John Forrest to the State, and I know how proud he was of securing this against any desecration. Certainly when that clause comes before the Committee I shall vote against it. With regard to North Fremantle, we shall have to put up with what had been done. There was nothing more beautiful in the reaches of the Swan river than Rocky Bay before the vandals got hold of it. I am afraid, from an engineering point of view, it was thought more of. We should prevent these beauty spots being made an eyesore of, but it is done and I suppose it should be allowed to go. As to the Bunbury town lot, I want to ask if the municipality has agreed to it?

The Colonial Secretary: Yes.

Hon. J. W. HACKETT: And if there is an agreement or an assent is it on the Table?

The Colonial Secretary: I have not it here, but I have it from the Under Secretary for Lands.

Hon. J. W. HACKETT: That just points out the importance of what I am saying, that we ought to have had an early opportunity of considering this Bill. I ask the hon. gentleman, perhaps his memory will serve him, how many reservations under Class A have been made; does he remember one being made since his membership with the Moore Government?

The Colonial Secretary: Oh, I think so.

Hon. J. W. HACKETT: I am doubtful. In any event I would point out that we are whittling down in all directions these class A reserves. It is a good old principle obtaining in some countries that where you cut down a tree you are compelled to plant two others. I think that where the Ministry sees such advantage as to induce them to apply to Parliament for the dissolution of a reservation they should feel that their duty impelled them

to set apart two acres for every one sacrificed. I would conclude by pointing out that not only has the present Ministry not added a single acre to the class A reserves—

The Colonial Secretary: I do not think you are right in saying that.

Hon. J. W. HACKETT: Well I will with draw that statement if the hon. member wishes it, but I have not noticed any such addition. I would also point out that other towns of the State have been very remiss in looking after class A reserves. The town represented by my hon. friend opposite will lose another of its reserves if it does not exercise care. I should have liked to see that statement about the Bunbury permission; I think it is an obligation the Minister has to us who represent that town and district.

Hon. M. L. MOSS (West): There is no reason in the wide world why this Bill was not before the House two months ago. This is not dependent upon the getting through of the Estimates, or any other part of the Government policy. This is one of the pieces of legislation that, in accordance with the policy laid down in the Permanent Reserves Act of 1899, members should have ample opportunity of making investigation into—of thoroughly considering these reserves, in respect to which it is sought to lift the reservation. I quite agree with what has fallen from the last hon. member, namely, that we should very carefully watch any attempts made to interfere with these Class A reserves. Subject to what I may hear from any other hon. members, I am prepared to support the Bill, except that part of it relating to the third schedule, that is the National Park. I think that to take 410 acres out of that area for the purpose of having four or five more orchards planted there, particularly in view of the evidence disclosed in the speech of Dr. Hackett—I think there is no argument that would justify us in taking anything out of too small a reserve for a purpose of this kind. Take the Centennial Park in Sydney—when we are looking at these things we may well look to the date when we will have half a million people within a radius of 10 or 12 miles of the

Perth Town Hall—what kind of an outcry would there be if an attempt were made to take 410 acres out of that Centennial Park reserve? I think it would be want of foresight on the part of hon. members to listen to a proposal of this kind. I regret that I was not present to hear the Minister in his speech, because he probably told the House what amount of money the Government stood to obtain by the sacrifice. In any case it must be trivial as compared with the injury that would be done if this were to go through. I regret that at the end of the session, for small reasons, an attempt is to be made to excise so large a portion of this reserve. Schedule 3 is the only part of the Bill to which I propose to offer any opposition, but I think for reasons given by Dr. Hackett the Committee will be justified in striking that third schedule out.

Hon. W. KINGSMILL (Metropolitan-Suburban): As a rule when Bills of this description are brought down some specific reason is given for each case. With regard to the proposition to take a portion of the National Park, an area which, as hon. members have remarked, is already too small, no such specific reason has been given. The reason given is what I might term a general one, namely, that the Government propose to take this land out of the Park for the purpose of selling it. They do not even know that they can sell it: they are simply taking it to offer it for sale. In view of the fact that there is a very large area of land in that district available for selection, and that as the area under the Canning Mills timber concession is cut out a great deal of that country will come within the public reach—country which, I venture to say, is very much more suitable for the purpose to which this land is about to be devoted—in view of these facts I certainly think there is no reason at all why this National Park should be encroached upon. Considering these things, and the fact that it would be an almost criminal act to take anything from this National Park, I, as well as other hon. members, beg to enter a strong protest against the proposal of the Government in this con-

nction. I think we have been very lucky indeed in securing what reserves we have close to the city; but undoubtedly the time will come when people will seek to go further afield, to go into a different class of country than is provided in these reserves around Perth. And I cannot forget that we have on the South-West line a huge area of 70,000 acres called the flora and fauna reserve, the purpose of which has been absolutely ruined by the permission given to timber cutters to cut timber thereon—the flora are being destroyed and the fauna frightened into other parts of the country. This, I think, forms an additional reason why we should act with extreme caution in licensing of this sort. In regard to the change of purpose of portion of the reserve 7079, that is, the reserve on Rocky Bay, if I understand the Minister aright, the Government Stores will be erected in a position in which they will be practically invisible from either side. At all events they will not be any more prominent, nor any greater offence to the eye, than the Mount Lyell Phosphate Works and the Westralia Iron Works. I do not think there can be any very great objection to that, although I must say I object in the strongest possible way to the incentive the Government have for shifting their stores, namely, the provision for an abattoirs at North Fremantle which, to my mind, is an entirely unsuitable site. However, as Kipling says, that is another story. With that reservation I will support the Bill, but I trust that this third schedule will disappear in Committee.

Hon. J. F. CULLEN (South-East): My first concern is the proposed change of the Mount Barker reserve, which, I understood the Minister to say, the local authority has agreed upon.

The Colonial Secretary: Yes, they are going to accept the £100 with improvements.

Hon. J. F. CULLEN: With regard to this attempt to lay hands on the National Park, for the sake of a few pounds, I am sure the Minister will be content to strike that out. Mr. Moss has referred to the Centennial Park in Sydney. In addition to the Centennial Park and some

thousands of acres scattered over the city of Sydney, we find there a National Park of 35,000 acres, to the South of the city. When was that dedicated—it is difficult in the early days of the city to get the people to understand the need for keeping large spaces as breathing space—it was supposed to be an extravagant dedication, but since then there has been set apart another 35,000 acres to the North-West of Sydney. Sydney has national parks covering 70,000 acres, in addition to the thousands of acres throughout the city, and in a few years hence people will thank those who had the foresight to see, apart from these splendid areas. It will be the same in regard to Perth. Why should the Ministry lay hands on a few little fertile patches which will be the beauty spots of this little National Park? I hope that, instead of this, as soon as possible the Government will look around and reserve, not 3,000 acres, but 10,000 or 20,000 acres in suitable places. I am sure the Committee will strike out that clause when they come to it.

Hon. S. J. HAYNES (South-East): Like other hon. members I am impressed with the necessity for retaining that National Park. The present area is not very extensive. I know where it is situated and I am informed that we have on it beauty spots something similar to those of the National Park, Sydney. I trust that when the Bill gets into Committee Schedule 3 will be struck out. I am also impressed with the necessity for these Class A reserves being approached in a most serious manner, and dealt with in a most conservative way. They have been solemnly dedicated to the public after serious consideration, and they would not have been put into Class A unless the Government of the day had been impressed with the belief that they absolutely suitable to go into that class. I trust these reserves will be interfered with as little as possible, and I trust also that large areas will be appropriated for public purposes, so that in the future when the State reaches that stage of great importance, which I am sure it will reach, the people of those days will have occasion to be thankful to those who set apart these reserves.



Hon. F. CONNOR (North): I am opposed to Clause 3 which has been referred to by other members. A better example of the necessity for members to vote against that clause could not be given than that supplied by Mr. Cullen, who referred to the magnificent park established by the New South Wales Government for the people of that State. At the time that concession was made by the Government it was thought that there was more land than would be required, but now it is realised that the area is too small. No place in Australia has given greater facilities to the people for recreation and health purposes than that particular spot, and there is no reason why this park at Parkerville, which is 500 feet up, and where the air is beautiful and healthy, should not be equally beneficial to the people of this State. Any interference with that estate should be opposed to the utmost. When the Bill is in Committee I shall vote against the clause. An argument used by the Minister in connection with the Rocky Bay reserve that it would be utilised for abattoirs was one of the worst that could possibly have been used in the circumstances. If his view is carried out it would be one of the greatest mistakes ever made. I do not want to oppose this portion of the Bill, but I refer to it because the Minister made it one of his particular points. I speak from particular knowledge in this matter, and I suppose I know more about it than any other member; but no greater mistake could be made than if that scheme were carried out. There are three or four sites much more suitable, but I will deal with that question at some more appropriate time. I combat the arguments of the Minister that this is a good reason for the buildings to be removed. I do this in the interests, not only of the trade which is affected, but also in the interests of the public generally. I strongly object to any interference with ground which belongs to the people, and which they have the right to. I challenge the House who have sent this proposition before us to show that in our action we are not taking a more liberal stand than they did, in fact a more democratic or even socialistic stand than they did.

Hon. A. G. JENKINS (Metropolitan): I shall strongly oppose Clause 3 of the Bill. We cannot be too careful of these reserves, and I think that when we dedicated them there should have been a provision to prevent their natural beauties from being interfered with. Also care should have been taken to provide that the historical places of the State should be preserved. I have a case in point in my mind, that is the hills around Buckland Hill, including the historical Monument hill. I believe portion of that hill was dedicated to the University Endowment trustees, who to get a few paltry pounds, have allowed the hill to be spoilt. It is defaced, and work is being allowed to go on there to within 40 feet of the old Monument. I do not know whether the University trustees have also obtained the other hill which has been allowed to be cut away. Although strong protests were made by the neighbouring councils, North Fremantle in particular, the Government have allowed a beauty spot to be turned into an eyesore. I hope the House will see that the bodies who get endowments shall not use them in such a shameful manner.

Hon. J. W. LANGSFORD (Metropolitan Suburban): I support members in their strong protest against the proposition to reduce the reserve for the national park. I did not know there was a national park before, and I do not think the great majority of the people know anything about it. The Government have kept it pretty quiet. I do not know why all these privileges and benefits should be kept for those who come years after. In other places national parks are constructed for the pleasure and use of the people and visitors. There is a national park in Adelaide where thousands of people go on Saturdays and holidays, and it is the duty of our Government to make the park at Parkerville known to the people. As to the reserve proposed at Claremont to be dedicated for municipal purposes, the land is next to the electric light station, and could not be used for any other purpose than municipal. Reference has been made to the proposal to hand over to the Federal authorities some part of the Point Walter reserve for naval purposes. I do

not know whether any promise has been made, but I presume a matter of that kind will come before this Chamber.

Hon. M. L. Moss : The Federal authorities can take it compulsorily if they like.

Hon. J. W. LANGSFORD : I hope strong objection will be taken by all having the welfare of this State at heart to a proposal of that kind.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (in reply) : I give way to no member in the desire to keep our reserves intact. There is not the least doubt that the Permanent Reserves Act is one of the best enactments ever passed in the State, as it gives to the people for all time these splendid reserves. Ever since I have held office, I have always, when one of these reserves came up for rededication, been very careful to get full information about it. This morning I spent a good deal of time with the officers of the Lands Department. I insisted on getting the lithographs, shown on the walls of this Chamber, so that members might have full information. I am quite aware that big as the national park is, it is to a certain extent unknown by many people. I cannot agree, however, with the remarks of Mr. Langsford that the Government have in anyway hidden the locality. There is a station close by. It is on the main line, and is well known to travellers. I have pointed it out to hundreds of people myself when passing along in the train. No money has been spent on the park for none has been available. I have endeavoured to give the House full information on this matter, which has been thoroughly discussed. I have said what the reserve consists of, and that the desire is to cut out 410 acres of it for utilisation as working men's blocks of 5 acres each, so that a certain number of families may be settled there. Members must not forget this, that when these reserves are cut out they are gone for all time. Is it wise at this stage to cut into the reserve for a national park ? The information I have obtained is that the corner, which will be rededicated, is not wanted, and that its absence will not interfere with any of the natural beauties of the spot.

Hon. J. W. HACKETT : What do you think of the proposal yourself ?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY : It is not the amount of money we shall get out of the proposal, but it is to afford a chance of settlement for a number of working men to establish small orchards there. There is no principle at stake in this matter, but it is my duty to put fairly before the House all information so that they can decide whether it will be wise or not to cut a portion out of the reserve.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

#### *In Committee.*

Clauses 1 and 2—agreed to.

Clause 3, change of purpose of portion of reserve A 7537.

Hon. T. F. O. BRIMAGE opposed the clause. Although he had travelled over the railway line a large number of times, he had not known there was a national park at Parkerville. It would be a great pity to interfere with that park by cutting 400 acres out of it. It was on the York road and it was a beautiful part of the reserve.

Clause put and negatived.

Clause 4—Change of purpose of reserve :

Hon. J. F. CULLEN : What was the cancellation of this reserve ?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY : The block the hon. member referred to was not suitable for a park, and the other two were eminently suitable, and also fronted the railway line. This would increase the area from 15 to 53 acres.

Hon. J. W. HACKETT : The manner suggested in the clause was not the way in which these lands were brought under Class A ; they were brought under Class A by an Order in Council.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY : The reason it is put in the Bill in this instance is that in cancelling one you are getting the other.

Clause put and passed.

Clauses 5 and 6—agreed to.

Schedules 1 and 2—agreed to.

Schedule 3—negatived.

Title—agreed to.

Bill reported with amendments ; the report adopted.

*Third Reading.*

Read a third time and returned to the Legislative Assembly with amendments.

**BILL—INTERPRETATION ACT, 1898,  
AMENDMENT.**

*All Stages.*

Received from the Legislative Assembly and read a first time.

*Second Reading.*

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. J. D. Connolly) in moving the second reading said: 'This is a small amendment to the Interpretation Act, 1898. It brings the law, as far as it relates to the posting of official documents, into line with the law of the Commonwealth and the other States. The Interpretation Act provides that all notices sent out shall be sent out by registered letter. This entails an enormous expense to the Government, and quite an unnecessary expense, if it has to be applied in connection with the notices under the Land and Income Tax Assessment Act, 1907. The Bill provides for the striking out of the word "registered" and it will simply mean that a notice can be sent out in the ordinary way through the post. As I have said, it will save unnecessary expense and will bring the legislation into line with that of the Commonwealth and other States. I move—

*That the Bill be now read a second time.*

Hon. W. KINGSMILL (Metropolitan-Suburban): I would like to ask whether the drafting of the Bill is not somewhat peculiar. Would it not be a better course to put in the intention of the notice to be served as a proviso? It would be better if that clause were to read—"Section 9 of the Interpretation Act, 1898, is amended by the addition to the sections of the following proviso:—Provided that the word 'registered,' as used in this section, shall not apply to notices sent out under the Land and Income Tax Assessment Act, 1907, or any amendment thereof." It seems peculiar to put into an enactment part of the clause what should appear in the amendment of the Act.

Hon. M. L. Moss: It would be better to do it by way of proviso.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (in reply): The clause may be peculiarly worded, but that is no fault of the Parliamentary Draftsman, because when the Bill was first introduced it simply provided for the word "registered" being struck out and an amendment was carried in another place to make it apply only to the Land and Income Tax Assessment Act.

Hon. M. L. Moss: It is clumsy now.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: Yes; it is clumsily worded.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

*In Committee.*

Clause 1—agreed to.

Clause 2 Amendment of 62 Victoria, No. 30, s. 9:

Hon. J. W. HACKETT: Did the clause refer to lines 9, 12, and 16 of the Interpretation Act, or the Land and Income Tax Assessment Act.

The Colonial Secretary: The Interpretation Act.

Hon. J. F. Cullen: That is sufficiently expressed.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: It might be clumsily worded, but the meaning was clear.

Hon. J. F. CULLEN: There was no urgency about the Bill, and he would recommend the Minister to let it drop. The Legislative Council should not prejudice its dignity by passing such a Bill as this. He proposed to amend a certain section of an Act by striking out certain words as far as they referred to something else. That was absurd. As there was no urgency for it the whole thing should stand over. If the Minister insisted on going on with the Bill he ought to report progress and redraft the clause.

Hon. W. PATRICK: So long as the clause expressed what it intended to express, although it was a little clumsy, there was no objection. It was said this clause would save £300, and he cared little about dignity so long as we passed a Bill, however small, which would result in some advantage to the State.

(Sitting suspended from 6.7 to 7.30 p.m.)

The COLONIAL SECRETARY moved  
an amendment—

*That all the words after "amended" in line one be struck out, and the following inserted in lieu:—"Provided that notice required to be served by the Land and Income Tax Assessment Act of 1907, and any amendment thereof, shall be deemed to be duly served if posted in an unregistered prepaid letter."*

Amendment put and passed: the clause as amended agreed to.

New clause:

Hon. M. L. MOSS moved—

*That the following be added as a new clause: "Section 11 of the principal Act is hereby amended by striking out the word 'both' in the twelfth line of the section and substituting in lieu thereof 'either.'"*

The alteration would bring the Interpretation Act into line with the Federal Acts Interpretation Act, and the effect was this: in a vast number of statutes passed there were very extensive powers given to make regulations, and the effect of the regulations was that unless both Houses of Parliament passed a resolution for disallowance these regulations had the force of law. It was recognised in the Federal Parliament if either House disallowed the regulations by resolution these regulations ceased to have the force of law. That was a more logical basis to put the regulations on. In the passing of an Act of Parliament it was necessary to obtain the assent of both branches of the Legislature, and it seemed logical therefore if there was any objection to regulations, either House of Parliament should have the right to express its dissent. This House had passed a motion of dissent from regulations, and it was entirely nugatory. No reasonable objection could be taken to the Federal method of dealing with the question.

The Colonial Secretary: What was the practice in the other States?

Hon. M. L. MOSS had not consulted the Interpretation Acts of the other States.

New clause put and passed.

Title—agreed to.

Bill reported with amendments, and the report adopted.

### *Third Reading.*

Read a third time and returned to the Legislative Assembly with amendments.

### BILL—DISTRICT FIRE BRIGADES.

#### *In Committee.*

Resumed from Thursday, 2nd December.

Message from the Legislative Assembly received notifying that the amendments requested by the Council had been made.

Title—agreed to.

Bill reported, and the report adopted.

### *Third Reading.*

Bill read a third time and passed.

### BILL—AGRICULTURAL BANK ACT AMENDMENT.

#### *In Committee.*

Resumed from Friday, 17th December.

Message from the Legislative Assembly received notifying that the amendments first requested by the Council had been made without modification.

Title:

Hon. M. L. MOSS: The Bill was now in something like reasonable shape. He had only risen to say that the large principle which we had been contending for was now achieved, and the statute book was not disfigured as it would have been if the Bill had been agreed to, as some hon. members had desired, in a totally different shape. Motives of expediency should not be allowed to actuate members in their desire to knuckle down when great principles were at stake.

Hon. B. C. O'Brien: Is the hon. member in order?

The CHAIRMAN: The hon. member had not yet connected his remarks with the title.

Hon. M. L. MOSS: All that was left to be said was that had the Bill been accepted in another shape it would have called for a different title.

Hon. J. F. CULLEN: Certainly the Bill was now in harmony with its title. Once one stood up for principle in the final stages of a measure which had to be agreed upon by both houses, a certain measure of compromise had to be recognised. When as in the final stages of a contentious measure, the two houses were sitting practically as one, it was only reasonable that even a majority of one House should not expect to have things entirely their own way. He was not prepared to allow Mr. Moss to reflect on the conscientious action of his fellow members who were just as staunch in their principles as was Mr. Moss, but who had tempered their staunchness with reason.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: As for the title of the Bill, the discarded amendment, it might have been argued, was foreign. But he did not argue in that direction. He had said before that there was a big danger of the Bill being lost if the amendment were not agreed to. However, we now knew exactly when a Bill could be received by another place and when it could not. We had in this a precedent that would be a valuable guidance in the future.

Title put and passed.

Bill reported, and the report adopted.

### *Third Reading.*

Read a third time and passed.

## BILL—ROADS ACT AMENDMENT.

### *In Committee.*

Clauses 1 and 2—agreed to.

Clause 3—Rating of timber tramways:

Hon. E. McLARTY: There was no desire to raise the old complaint at this late hour. The Roads Act had been before the country for the last three years, and proposed amendments had been discussed at every conference. The Bill should certainly have been brought down at an early stage in the session. Clause 3 was very undesirable, for it would work an injustice to a certain portion of the community. It had been inserted to meet the specific cases of the firewood tramways on the goldfields. However, it would affect also the timber companies

of the State, who would have to pay heavy rates.

The Colonial Secretary: I understand they are paying already.

Hon. E. McLARTY: They would pay on the value of their leases. He knew one timber company in the South, which was paying £70 a year to the roads board. In his own district a company was paying £80 a year to the roads board, and that was only a portion of the rates being paid.

The Colonial Secretary: Does not that include their railways?

Hon. E. McLARTY: No; it was simply the rates on their lease. It would be absolutely unfair to pass the clause and impose such a rate on the timber mill owners. He could understand it in the goldfields district where tramways were laid down to supply the mines with firewood, and where those tramways passed through Government lands. In such cases it was only fair that they should contribute something to the roads board. But it was a different matter altogether in respect to the timber mills, for they were paying a fair rental and were also rated by the roads boards.

Hon. A. G. Jenkins: I suppose they get something for that rate.

Hon. E. McLARTY: If they did he did not know what it was. Most of the large timber mills made very little use of the public roads. The provision might be made to apply to firewood lines but should not include timber mills which were already paying rents and heavy rates to the roads boards. He moved an amendment—

*That the following proviso be added to the clause: "So that nothing contained in the section shall apply to tramways and railways constructed within the area of timber leases or sawmill permits under the Land Act, 1898, and its amendments."*

The timber mills paid to almost every roads board in the South. At Greenbushes, for instance, one company paid £70 a year in rates.

Hon. A. G. Jenkins: They pay the Government little enough.

Hon. E. McLARTY: That cry was often raised by people who knew little about the position. Stop the timber

mills and a state of affairs would be brought about which people would be very sorry to see. When the industry closed down for a few months it brought disaster to the State. The timber companies were the backbone of the southern districts: they kept the railways going, they brought scores of ships into Fremantle and Bunbury, they employed hundreds of men, and they distributed hundreds of thousands of pounds yearly. Members need not begrudge any dividends the shareholders received. The mills had been working for years at a loss but now with increased output and slightly increased charges they had been able to pay the long suffering shareholders a small dividend. One company paid £40,000 a year for fodder for their teams. The expenses of the companies ran into something like £700,000 a year in wages and for the upkeep of the mills.

Hon. S. J. HAYNES: There should be another amendment before the proviso. The clause seemed unreasonable even as regards the firewood railways. In their case there should be a deduction for interest on capital and repairs and maintenance. The companies were fully entitled to that reduction, for until that was made one could not arrive at a fair proposition on which rates should be paid. His amendment would be prior to that of Mr. McLarty.

The CHAIRMAN: Unless Mr. McLarty was willing to withdraw his amendment none other could be proposed.

Hon. E. McLARTY asked leave to withdraw his amendment temporarily.

Amendment by leave withdrawn.

Hon. S. J. HAYNES moved an amendment—

*That in line 7 after the word "depreciation" the following be added:—  
"Repairs, maintenance, and interest on capital at the rate of 5 per centum per annum."*

Hon. J. F. CULLEN: Was the clause intended to apply to timber temporary tramways within the lease? If so, it was a monstrous thing. The roads board valued on unimproved land values.

The Colonial Secretary: Not necessarily.

Hon. J. F. CULLEN: That was the rule with almost every roads board. A timber tramway would be laid to last perhaps six or twelve months, or even two years, then it was picked up and put down again in new country within the lease. Was it rational that 5 per cent. on the cost of a part of their equipment, the implements of trade, should be taken as the basis for values over and above the legitimate values? It was a sort of grab-all, that no real financier would permit of insertion in an Act of Parliament.

Hon. T. F. O. BRIMAGE: The clause should be struck out. It was an iniquitous thing to ask a company to pay on a railway they put thorough the country to get either firewood or timber. As a rule roads boards were miles away from these concessions.

The CHAIRMAN: The member must confine himself to the amendment. If the amendment were made members would have an opportunity to speak to the clause as amended later on.

Hon. T. F. O. BRIMAGE: The amount asked was too high. They should not be asked to pay a tax at all for the reason that they were taxed in other ways, and they were also large employers of labour.

Hon. M. L. MOSS: It would be better to make the interest  $4\frac{1}{2}$  or 4 per cent. If it were made 5 per cent., unless we said it was to be computed over one year it might be argued that it was for the period those improvements had been made, and the interest would have been calculated and the annual value would go away to nothing.

Hon. S. J. HAYNES: By the permission of the Committee he would withdraw the amendment so as to permit of a discussion on the whole clause.

Amendment by leave withdrawn.

Hon. S. J. HAYNES: The clause was inequitable and unjust. These bush tramways were constructed almost entirely through lands held by the companies as timber leases or on permits. In those circumstances the tramways were not used for the purpose of revenue therefore it seemed unreasonable to mulct them beyond the amount they

were leasing land from the Government for. If the clause was passed it would attack these bush tramways, and it would prove a burden, and would be oppressive.

Hon. E. McLARTY moved an amendment:—

*That the following proviso be added: "Provided also that nothing in this section contained shall apply to tramways or railways constructed within the area of timber leases or sawmill permits under the Land Act, 1898, and its amendments."*

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: The clause would not work the hardship hon. members believed. A great many of these sawmill companies paid on their railway lines at the present time. At Karridale the report of the roads board auditor showed that there they paid on the value of their line, and also on the rental they paid for the leases. If the amendment were agreed to, it would exempt all these people because at the present time sawmilling was allowed on permits and not on leases, so that they would be free altogether. Most of the timber leases were freehold, and others were let under the Land Act at £20 per square mile per annum. For some years past they had been let on sawmill permits, and if the clause were not agreed to these sawmills would not pay anything at all. Mr. McLarty had been misinformed when he stated that a certain sawmill in the Murray district paid £80 per annum to the Murray roads board, and that to the two or three adjoining roads boards they paid an equal amount. If we computed £20 per square mile in order to pay £80 they must own over 80 square miles, and he did not think they had anything like that amount of country. In order to get the rate that Mr. McLarty spoke of, they would be paying it now on their railway lines. On the goldfields, where there were many timber tramways, a case was recently decided on appeal, and the decision of the Court was that there was no power to rate the railways. Therefore, in order to put the roads boards in the position they thought they were in, the clause had been inserted in the Bill. Firewood companies complained at first, but when

they found it only amounted to a few hundred pounds spread over the whole of them they did not object. The biggest company on the goldfields would pay about £62.

Hon. E. McLARTY: The jarrah timber companies now paid on the leases. One company paid £80 to a roads board of which he was a member. That company had 200 miles of private railways, 85 miles being in one stretch. They were now paying a fair amount and did not utilise the public roads. The rate would be a hardship on the timber companies. They paid their rates cheerfully enough now. However the clause was inserted to meet the case that cropped up on the goldfields, and was only applicable to the firewood companies where the trams passed over Crown lands and no rates were paid. Certainly in those cases they should pay rates; but it was entirely different where the same people paid £20 a square mile and were already rated on that amount.

Hon. C. SOMMERS: Was it proposed to tax companies that already paid the annual rate, or only those on the gold fields who did not pay?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: It would tax wood companies, whether sawmill or firewood, on the capital value of their railways. The effect of the amendment would be to exclude every sawmill and leave the rate entirely on the wood tramways; it would exempt the whole of their railways from rating. There was no reason why the sawmills should not pay it the same as the goldfields wood companies. The rate was very small. Even for the jarrah Combine it would not be more than £250. That was not a big impost, and Mr. McLarty need not talk of it being a serious burden. At any rate the amendment would nullify the clause.

Hon. M. L. MOSS: The amendment should be rejected. The Government would be obliged to reduce the amount of grants to roads boards, and this was a very fair means of getting additional taxes for local purposes. The Combine had nothing to complain of as to the way they had been dealt with by the Government. Concessions in railway rates to

the amount of thousands of pounds had been given them. The money that would be derived from this rate would be for the construction of roads for the employees of the timber companies. At any rate the timber companies should pay a fair amount towards the upkeep of the roads in their districts.

Hon. E. McLarty : So they do, a very fair proportion.

Hon. M. L. MOSS : This was a new proposal to pay on a different basis instead of on the basis of a hypothetical tenant. It would be exactly on the basis we adopted in municipal taxation of gas companies and tramway companies. The amendment would neutralise the clause altogether.

Hon. S. J. HAYNES : The proviso suggested seems to be very reasonable. It would limit the rate within the timber lease or sawmill permit. As regarded the concessions made to the Combine, the railway rates had recently been raised.

Hon. E. McLarty : It was a matter of rating people who paid no license for the land and those who did. It was all very well to talk of being kind to the Combine, but the Combine had been very kind to the country and had conferred benefits on a large section of the community. If we closed down the timber mills we would find a very different state of affairs in the country. Of course, the £200 spoken of was not a great deal to the Combine ; but if it was an injustice, it did not matter whether it was 200 shillings. The roads boards did not want to deal unfairly with anybody. However, the present object of the Government seemed to be to fleece the country in every way possible in regard to roads boards rates, until people were really sick and tired of holding land. He paid an enormous amount of rates and not received one shilling's worth in return. He challenged the roads board in his district to show that for all the years he had been paying rates that they had spent £5 on the two different roads going through his property. In this matter the Government had gone mad. The timber companies were the first to pay their rates and they paid pretty large amounts. To the Murray roads board an amount of

£80 a year was paid, and not a penny was levied on the tramways or railways. The companies had to put down these tramways themselves, and they were pretty well taxed. No Roads Board Act had yet been framed which was suitable alike to the coastal districts and the goldfields.

Hon. M. L. Moss : Was it intended that this rate should be in addition to or in substitution of the present rate ?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY : It was most certainly intended that this rate should be in addition to any rating power contained in the Act. Mr. McLarty had not objection to taxing the goldfields wood lines but he objected to taxing the sawmill lines. For years past no sawmill permits had been granted, so that all the sawmills would go scot free if the amendment were carried. There was no rental to assess them on and the companies would be placed in a better position than they were to-day.

Amendment put and negatived.

Clause put and passed.

Clause 4—Power to establish or subsidise hospitals :

Hon. J. W. LANGSFORD : Was there any demand from the country districts that the roads boards should be able to contribute towards the maintenance of public hospitals ? There was a similar provision inserted in the Municipal Bill recently passed.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY : There had been numerous requests from roads boards. At Beverley a hospital had been built and the people there wished to open it : if the roads board contributed a certain amount, with the Government subsidy, the hospital could be kept open. At York the people were waiting to take over the hospital if this power was granted. Another case was that of Narrogin. The maximum was 7½ per cent. so that the roads boards could not contribute too large a sum.

Clause put and passed.

Clause 5—Power to subsidise ferry services :

Hon. J. F. CULLEN : There was a limitation in Clauses 4 and 6 but there was no limitation in the power to subsidise ferry services. If there was good



ground for limiting the power in connection with the two clauses there was just as good ground for limiting the power in this case.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: This power could only apply to a limited number of roads boards. This provision was brought in at the request of the Melville Park roads boards to subsidise a ferry service.

Hon. M. L. MOSS: The board might make an agreement for a ferry service for a very long period. He moved an amendment—

*That after the word "subsidise" the words "for a period not exceeding two years at any one time" be inserted.*

Hon. J. F. Cullen: That would make it impossible to go beyond two years.

Hon. J. W. LANGSFORD: A provision of that kind was absolutely necessary. The board referred to by the leader of the House was only one of half a dozen which might be affected in the metropolitan area. There were the Swan, Belmont, Bayswater, Melville Park, Buckland Hill, and others. Especially in regard to the Melville Park board there might be a number of members on the board deeply interested in the district, and who might unduly subsidise a ferry service if this provision were not put in.

Hon. J. F. CULLEN: Notwithstanding what had been said, he would again recommend Mr. Moss to withdraw his amendment and put in the much more business like proviso "by annual vote."

Hon. M. L. MOSS: The trouble appealing to him was that whereas a contractor might contract for a period of two years, he might not think it worth while to contract for one year.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: There would not be any danger in leaving the clause as printed. At the same time there was no real objection to the amendment proposed by Mr. Moss. The Melville Park board was the only board to which the clause would apply, and they were limited in their rate, while, it went without saying, they could not spend all their revenue in the one direction.

Amendment put and passed.

Clause as amended agreed to.

Clause 6—agreed to.

Clause 7—Power to dissolve district if revenue under £200:

Hon. T. F. O. BRIMAGE moved an amendment—

*"That the words, 'providing no board has a greater radius than thirty miles,' be added."*

Such a radius was quite sufficient for any board. In the Menzies Road district the ratepayers were subjected to taxes for Malcolm, Leonora, and Murrin Murrin and did not know anything about it. The officers of the board went round and collected taxes, and the ratepayers did not see the work at all.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: In the first place the amendment was foreign to the clause altogether. The clause provided that a roads board whose revenue fell below a certain amount should cease to be a roads board, whereas the amendment dealt with the area of a roads board district. In any case there was no necessity for the amendment, because, in the roads district spoken of by the hon. member, if it was found that the district was too large an application could be made for the creation of a separate roads board, and another district could be constituted.

Amendment put and negatived.

Clause put and passed.

Clause 8—Amendment of Section 25:

Hon. G. RANDELL: This was an invitation for the people not to pay their rates before the last month.

The Colonial Secretary: On the other hand it was an invitation to pay up at the last moment.

Clause put and passed.

Title agreed to.

Bill reported with an amendment; report adopted.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY moved

*That the Bill be now read a third time.*

Hon. S. J. HAYNES moved an amendment—

*That the Bill be recommitted.*

The desire was that Clause 3 should be further considered, for the reason that even if objection might be taken to "interest on capital" there certainly could be no reasonable objection to

adding the words "repairs and maintenance."

Amendment put and negatived.

Question put and passed.

### *Third Reading.*

Read a third time and transmitted to the Legislative Assembly.

## ADJOURNMENT—PROROGATION ARRANGEMENTS.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY moved

*That the House at its rising do adjourn to 10.30 a.m. to-morrow.*

The only other matter to be brought before the House this session would be the Appropriation Bill, which would be before members at 10.30 o'clock to-morrow morning. The Bill would, of course, include the Loan Estimates. The Revenue Estimates had been before members for many months past. It was to be hoped we would be able to pass the Bill in the morning.

Hon. G. Randell: The Revenue Estimates we have seen are not the same ones that have been passed.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: There had been but slight amendments. The Bill could be dealt with in the morning, and the House would then be ready to prorogue at 3 o'clock in the afternoon.

Hon. T. F. O. BRIMAGE: It was rather rough on members to bring them back at 10.30 a.m. A good many members had business to attend to in the morning, and it would be far better to have the House meet at 4.30 o'clock to-morrow afternoon as usual, and have the prorogation on Wednesday. He had something to say on the Appropriation Bill, and it was burying matters through too quickly to ask members to meet in the morning. No doubt other measures would be coming forward. The arrangement was practically forcing members to pass the Appropriation Bill before luncheon; to that he entered a strong protest.

Question passed.

*House adjourned at 4.18 p.m.*

## Legislative Assembly,

*Monday, 20th December, 1909.*

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| Council's amendments .. ..                      | 2490  |
| Interpretation, Council's amendments ..         | 2491  |
| Roads Act Amendment, Council's amendment ..     | 2491  |
| Appropriation, all stages .. ..                 | 2511  |
| Loan Estimates, concluded .. ..                 | 2491  |
| Adjournment, State of Business .. ..            | 2512  |

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

## QUESTION — PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSIONER'S REPORT.

Mr. BROWN (without notice) asked the Premier: Will he to-morrow lay on the Table of the House the interim report of the Public Service Commissioner and Mr. McGibbon?

The PREMIER replied: There is no objection to tabling this document, although it is only an interim report and has not yet received consideration.

## QUESTION — NEW RAILWAYS, CONSTRUCTION.

Mr. BATH (without notice) asked the Premier: When does he contemplate starting work on the railway lines passed this session?

The PREMIER replied: It is anticipated that a start will be made about March or April.

Mr. Bath: Which line will be taken first?

The PREMIER: The Dowerin-Merre-din. There is 60 miles of that line surveyed, and that will be commenced forthwith, to be followed by the 30 miles running South.

## PAPERS PRESENTED.

By the Minister for Lands: 1, Expenditure of Drainage Fund on Stirling Estate—Return to Order of the House dated 6th October, 1909.

By the Premier: 1. Report of the Commissioner of Police to 30th June, 1909.