

MR. ILLINGWORTH instanced the case of a minister in Melbourne who had celebrated over 1,800 marriages, and nearly every one of them was celebrated after six o'clock in the afternoon.

MR. CONNOR said reference had been made to the law in New South Wales, where marriages could be performed at any hour; he had heard of a case in that colony where the same minister married the same man twice in one night. That was a thing we did not want to encourage in this colony.

Question put—That the word “eight,” proposed to be struck out, stand part of the clause; and a division called for, when the numbers were—

Ayes	4
Noes	11

Majority against ... 5

AYES.	NOES.
Mr. Illingworth	Mr. Burt
Mr. Paterson	Mr. Connor
Mr. Randell	Sir John Forrest
Mr. Solomon	Mr. Leake
Mr. Wood	Mr. Marmion
Mr. James (Teller).	Mr. Moran
	Mr. Pearce
	Mr. Phillips
	Mr. Richardson
	Mr. Venn
	Mr. Monger (Teller).

Question thus negatived, and the word “eight” struck out.

Question—that the word “six” be inserted in lieu thereof—put and passed.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt) moved that the words “or at all on any Sunday or Bank holiday” be added at the end of the clause. The clause already provided that a district registrar should not be compellable to celebrate a marriage after four o'clock in the afternoon. He also thought these officers should not be called upon to celebrate a marriage on Sunday or a public holiday.

Amendment put and passed.

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 7 to 16, inclusive:

Put and passed.

Clause 17—Seven days notice of intended marriage to be given to a district registrar:

MR. MONGER moved that the word “seven” be struck out, and the word “fourteen” inserted in lieu of it, so as to place registrars in the same position as ministers, who could not celebrate a marriage unless the banns had been published for three consecutive Sundays.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt) said the amendment would not effect the object the hon. member had in view; and, unless some very good reason was given for the amendment he could not accept it.

Amendment put and negatived.

Clause agreed to.

Clauses 18 and 19:

Put and passed.

Clause 20 — Marriage by special license:

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt) said the hon. member for Albany had given notice of an amendment in this clause, the effect of which he had not yet had time to consider. He, therefore, moved that the clause be postponed until after the consideration of the remaining clauses.

Agreed to, and clause postponed.

Clauses 21 to 38 inclusive:

Put and passed.

Progress reported, and leave given to sit again another day.

ADJOURNMENT.

The House adjourned at 35 minutes past 10 o'clock p.m.

Legislative Assembly,

Tuesday, 25th September, 1894.

Amendment of the Electoral Act—Licensing of Camels
—Inviting Offers for Working Coal Deposits—Loan
Bill (£1,500,000): third reading—Homesteads Act
Amendment Bill: third reading—Friendly Societies
Bill: in committee—Adjournment.

THE SPEAKER took the chair at 2:30 p.m.

PRAYERS.

AMENDMENT OF THE ELECTORAL ACT.

MR. ILLINGWORTH, in accordance with notice, asked the Premier whether

it was the intention of the Government to bring in a Bill, this session, having for its object the amendment of the Electoral Act.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest): No; but the Government hope to be able to deal with the question next session.

LICENSING OF CAMELS.

CONSIDERATION OF LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL'S RESOLUTION.

On the motion of MR. THROSSELL, the House went into committee for the consideration of the following resolution, which had been passed by the Legislative Council: "That in the opinion of this House all camels engaged in the carrying trade should be licensed."

MR. THROSSELL: As members are aware, we are dealing with a resolution sent to us from the Legislative Council, and I may say that I have brought it forward at the request of some of my friends in that House, and also because, being myself a moderate protectionist, I am somewhat in favour of the principle involved, though I must say I do not attach much importance to the proposal itself, as the number of camels employed in the carrying trade is too inconsiderable to produce any appreciable effect upon the revenue through the application of this principle of licensing them. I support the proposition on other grounds. At present there are about 440 wagons or horse teams, giving employment to 440 men of our own race as teamsters, employed in the carrying trade between Southern Cross and Coolgardie alone. All these carts have to pay taxes, and all these teams are large consumers of farm produce, which, I take it, is nearly all sent by our own railways to these goldfields. On the other hand the camel trains employed in the carrying trade, in competition with these teams, give employment, not to men of our own race but to aliens, and, as non-consumers of produce, give little or no encouragement to the agricultural industry, while at the same time they are untaxed. The 440 horse teams employed in this work not only pay a tax and consume a large amount of agricultural produce, they also give employment to a number of our own artisans,—our wagon builders, our harness-makers, our blacksmiths, and others.

If this carrying trade is to be undertaken by camels, under these conditions, it simply means the annihilation of the trade in so far as teams are concerned. Therefore, as a moderate protectionist, and a firm believer in encouraging our agricultural industry, I think this House may fairly consider the propriety of giving effect to this resolution. Whether carried or not, I think members will agree with me that a message coming from the other House should receive our consideration. I understand this resolution was carried in another place by a fair majority. I do not know whether the Government supported it, but it is in accord with their policy of encouraging *bonâ fide* settlement. Not only does it affect the agricultural interest, it also, as I have said, affects our railway traffic. At the same time I am not very sanguine that the resolution will receive a large amount of consideration in this House. It is idle for me to conceal from myself that (to use a vulgar phrase) it is likely to be squashed, or at any rate to receive but very little support. But, being a believer in the principle involved, I beg to move that the resolution of the Legislative Council be agreed to.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest): I am not able, on the part of the Government, to promise the hon. member our support in regard to this motion. Nor do I think that he has made out a good case, even from the standpoint of those who have moved in the matter. If these camels had to be licensed—the resolution does not go so far as to say there should be a tax placed upon them, though I suppose it is intended there should be some license fee—I do not see how it would in any way assist the farmer or the cultivator. Supposing, for instance, we did impose a license fee (say) of £1 per head on these camels employed in the carrying trade, it would not have the effect of driving camels off the road; therefore I do not see how it would in any way assist other carriers. It would have the effect of bringing a little revenue to the Treasury, but it would not prevent these camels from being used for this purpose. Therefore I do not see how it would help the carriers or help the farmers. There is also another difficulty that at once occurs to my mind—how are you going to distinguish between licensed

camels engaged in the carrying trade and unlicensed camels, unless you have some distinctive mark, such as a collar or something to show that they are licensed? Altogether, I do not think there is much to recommend this resolution at the present time. I can quite understand that it is more in the interest of the State that this carrying trade should be carried on by our own people, and with horse teams, but, as a matter of fact, I do not know that camels, to any very large extent, do interfere with the trade of our own carriers. There are not a very large number of camels engaged in the carrying trade between Southern Cross and Coolgardie; they are more used, so far as I am informed, beyond the limits of Coolgardie, where horse teams are not so largely employed. There is no doubt that the introduction of camels into the country has to some extent interfered with the carrying trade, but there is no doubt also that they have proved of great benefit to the country. Many of these gold finds could not have been worked—certainly not conveniently—without the assistance of camels; and prospectors and others are finding it not only advantageous, but absolutely necessary, to have the service of these camels in exploiting the waterless areas that exist to the Eastward. I am unable to understand what motive has prompted the bringing forward of this resolution, except that there may be in the minds of those who proposed it a desire to limit the use of the camel for the purpose of confining the carrying trade to our own horse teams; but as I do not believe that the imposition of a license fee would have any such result, I can only see one reason to justify the proposal, and that is that it might bring a little increase of revenue into the Treasury. Of course, I should not object to that, under ordinary circumstances; but I do not think it is worth while our doing anything in this direction at the present time. Therefore, I regret to say I shall not be able to assist the hon. member in carrying this resolution.

MR. ILLINGWORTH: I think the Premier has probably quite caught the idea which the supporters of the resolution have in view. What is asked for, so far as I understand it, is that certain camels which are employed in the carry-

ing trade should be licensed, and also pay a license fee, seeing that those who are engaged in the same trade with horses and teams have to pay a tax upon their carts. I do not think there is very much in it, I must confess; but, in fairness to our own people, I think we may reasonably accept the view put forward by those who have moved in this matter. At the same time I quite agree with the Premier as to the utility of these camels. I think it is the fact that a considerable amount of the carrying trade is carried on by means of animals that are not subjected to a license fee, while others engaged in the same trade have to pay for cart licenses. I think this it is that has given rise to a little soreness and a little trouble.

MR. MORAN: I am at a loss to know whether the hon. member for Nannine intends to support the motion or not. I think the Premier has fairly summed up all that is to be said on the subject. Most of the camels are employed—and it will be more so in the future—not on the road between the Cross and Coolgardie, but beyond the limits of Coolgardie, and it would be almost impossible to distinguish between prospectors' camels engaged in carrying provisions and stores for prospecting parties scattered about the district, and camels employed in what is called the carrying trade. It must be remembered that these camels do not require to have roads cut for them, the same as carts do; and it must also be borne in mind that where these camels go, for the most part—and where they will be still more employed to go during the coming summer—is to localities where it would be absolutely impossible for horses and carts to go. I think it would be a needless interference with the work of prospectors, who already contribute largely to the revenue in other ways. Moreover, these camels pay a heavy Customs duty when they are brought into the colony, and there is a duty also paid upon their saddles and other trappings. They are also charged double rates upon our railways, and, what is more, the water they consume has to be paid for; so that, altogether, I think the House would be showing its good sense by not needlessly interfering with or hampering this camel business, seeing how necessary these animals are in our gold-bearing districts

for prospectors and others. As to the revenue part of the business, I think this House is quite capable of looking after that, without any pressure being brought to bear upon it from another place. I think it is the province of this House, rather than of the other chamber, to initiate taxation. So far as I understand, the object of having a second chamber is rather to protect the landed interests of the country than to—

THE CHAIRMAN: I must remind the hon. member that he is not in order in referring to what is done in the other House.

MR. MORAN: This resolution has come to us from another place, and—

THE CHAIRMAN: Will the hon. member deal with the merits of the question?

MR. MORAN: The merits of the question do not exist. It has no merits; I, therefore, cannot deal with them.

POINT OF ORDER.

MR. SIMPSON: I would like to ask the Chairman's ruling as to whether the resolution is in order. It seems to me to contemplate the imposition of taxation. I take it that is the object of having these camels licensed, and I wish to ask whether such a resolution emanating from another place can be entertained by this House, unless it comes to us by message from the Governor.

THE CHAIRMAN: I think we may entertain it in its present form. We are not now proposing any taxation, only discussing the propriety of doing so.

DEBATE RESUMED.

MR. SIMPSON: With regard to the general question, I think the suggestion is one of the silliest suggestions that ever came from anywhere. I can only look upon it as another attempt to make a further levy upon the mining interests of the country. In addition to that, the proposition is distinctly unworkable and also inconsistent. If the camels engaged in the carrying trade are to be licensed, why should not pack horses engaged in the same trade also be licensed? Recently a long train of donkeys went up to the Murchison, employed in the same business; why should not donkeys also be licensed? I cannot think this House will seriously entertain such a proposal; it is such a little thing, such a very trivial

matter—though, I suppose, of sufficient importance to entertain them in another place; but, looking at the fact that these camels have to pay double the duty when they come into the colony that horses do, and also that they are utilised where horses cannot be utilised, I do not think the resolution is likely to commend itself to our favour, nor is it worth our wasting the time of the House in further discussing it.

MR. THROSSELL: As I said in introducing the motion, I did not anticipate it would receive much support; but I do not think some of the arguments put forward against it are worth much. It is said these camels have to pay for the water they consume. Horses surely are larger consumers of water than these animals are. I put the resolution forward on the broad ground that camels engaged in the carrying trade interfere with the legitimate industries of the country, which it is our duty to encourage in every possible way we can.

Motion put and negatived.

Ordered—That a message be transmitted to the Legislative Council, informing it that the Assembly had considered the resolution, and was unable to concur in the same.

OFFERS TO BE INVITED FOR WORKING OUR COAL DEPOSITS.

MR. HARPER: I rise, sir, to move the resolution of which I have given notice,—“That, in the opinion of this House, it is desirable that the Government should invite capitalists to submit offers for opening and working our coal deposits, conditionally upon railway facilities being afforded by the Government.” When the Loan Bill was under consideration a few days ago, the item of a railway to the Collie coalfield met with considerable opposition, on the ground that there was no evidence that these coal measures would be worked, even if a railway were built, and that there was no indication of what the Government proposed to do in regard to getting them worked. Many members expressed an opinion that it was desirable the Government themselves should not work these coalfields; therefore it seems to me it would be well for us to endeavour to ascertain if there are any persons who would be prepared to enter into an en-

gagement to open up these coal deposits, provided a railway were constructed to them. It is for that reason that I have brought forward this resolution,—not with the view of forcing the idea upon the Government, but in order that the House may have an opportunity of expressing an opinion upon it, so that the Government may have some definite basis to work upon. If the Government would, between this and next session, invite those who are practically engaged in this business of working coal mines to examine these deposits at the Collie, with the view of working them if sufficient inducements are offered, they might find that some of these persons would be prepared to do so, conditionally upon our building a railway to the field. If the Government are willing to adopt these steps, I trust they will carefully exclude from any negotiations they may enter into that class of speculators that are always flying about seeking for their prey—the hawkers of concessions. I hope if they deal with anyone, it will be only with those who are themselves prepared to undertake the work. With these few words I commend the resolution to the consideration of the House.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) : I do not see any objection to the hon. member's proposal. Of course he is aware that we already have a law dealing with the searching for coal, and also for licensing coal areas. Legislation on the subject was passed in 1892, in connection with our Mineral Lands Act; and I remember that the provisions of that Act, dealing with this particular question, were taken from the Queensland Act, which had only just been passed about that time. Therefore I suppose it was brought pretty well up to date. There are a good many clauses in our Act dealing with this question—six long clauses altogether—dealing, firstly, with prospecting for coal and the granting of annual licenses, and, afterwards, the granting of leases for a term of 21 years, renewable at the expiration of the lease for another term of 21 years. Therefore, it will be seen, we already have some legislation on the subject, and I presume it is up to date. That, however, can be looked into. It was up to date, at any rate, in 1892, as the Queensland Act, upon which the provisions of our own Act were based,

had only just been passed at that time, and we may reasonably assume it was up to date, so far as this question was concerned. I suppose the hon. member's object is that attention should be drawn to the fact that we have coal in this colony, and that we propose to provide means of transit by railway by connecting our coalfields with the railway system of the colony. I think that might be done, and that it would be an advantage to us to let it be known abroad that we have such a project in view, so that those who are interested may come here and inspect the quantity and quality of our coal, and be prepared to make us some offer for working our coalfields. I can promise the hon. member that I will give this matter my careful consideration, if the House agrees to this resolution. We will certainly try our best to get some *bonâ fide* offers from persons interested in the working of coal mines, and to induce them to open up our own coalfields under the provisions of our Mineral Lands Act. I trust we may succeed in doing so. I have no doubt, as the hon. member has suggested, that the effect of our making these representations will be that we shall have a number of persons applying for concessions in the usual way, and offering to do all sorts of things. I have noticed in my experience that these people, though they are prepared to offer to do everything almost, are not prepared to do it according to the regulations in existence or the law as it stands. They always want some concession; they always want something different from what we are in a position to offer them. That, probably, will be the case in regard to this proposal. Still it may do some good; at any rate it can do no harm; and, as far as the Government are concerned, we shall be very glad to do our best to draw the attention of capitalists to the matter.

MR. ILLINGWORTH : I rise to support the motion. In doing so I simply wish to say that there is a firm I am acquainted with who sent one of their leading experts out to these colonies in 1890 for the purpose of establishing a branch in Australia, with the view of carrying out certain large coal contracts which they had in hand in the China Sea and Indian Ocean. I believe their representative went back

somewhat disappointed with the result of his inquiries on that occasion. I did not know at that time that we had in Western Australia any reasonable prospect of discovering a coalfield; but I have taken the liberty of sending to this firm copies of the reports that have recently been published on the Collie coalfield, and I have some hopes that this will be one of the firms that will perhaps be inclined to entertain this proposal. I merely mention this in passing.

Motion put and passed.

LOAN BILL (£1,500,000).

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

HOMESTEADS ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

THIRD READING.

On the Order of the Day for the third reading of this Bill,

MR. PIESSE said: I regret I was not present when this measure passed through committee, as it was my intention to have moved some amendments, which I think would have improved the Bill. Although it is too late now to move those amendments, I should like to ascertain from the Government what they propose to do with regard to the homestead farm divisions that have been set apart within some of our Agricultural Areas. In many instances these homestead divisions have been declared within areas that are not altogether available for selection as homestead farms, as they are set apart in larger areas than 160 acres. I do not know whether it is intended that those who select homestead areas are to be allowed to select areas that embrace more than 160 acres, by paying for the land taken up in excess of that area. I think something of that kind should be allowed. Some of these divisions I am referring to contain, perhaps, 180 acres or 200 acres, and I wish to know whether those who take up these areas as homestead farms will be allowed to select their 160 acres free, as proposed in the Act, and obtain the balance by paying for the land at the ordinary rate, and on the same conditions. It would do a great deal to encourage settlement, if this were allowed. When these areas were laid out, the Homesteads Act was

not in existence, and the surveyors did not take into consideration that these homestead farms were to consist of 160 acres, and the result was that the land was cut up in larger areas, according to the natural divisions of the country, the consequence being that they are not available as homestead farms, and the country is losing by it. If it is not within the power of the Government, under the existing regulations, to allow what I have suggested to be done, I think some provision should be made in this Bill whereby the homestead farmer may take up his 160 acres, and take up the remainder of the block under the ordinary Land Regulations. Another thing: I notice that sub-section (2) of Clause 2 provides that no selection shall be allowed until the lands have been surveyed into sections, and notified in the *Government Gazette* as open for selection. No doubt it is a very wise provision that surveys should be made within these areas, so that every man may know where his boundaries are. But I wish to know whether this applies to all land. Is a man prevented from taking up unsurveyed land in any part of the district? [THE PREMIER: Only under the Homesteads Act.] I hope the Commissioner of Crown Lands will give some consideration to the other suggestion I have thrown out, in the case of blocks containing more than 160 acres.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest): No doubt there is something in what the hon. member says, but I do not think it necessary to have any fresh legislation to carry out what he desires. No doubt, if an applicant for a homestead block desires to take up his 160 acres within a larger block, and wishes to select say 300 acres, the Land Office would be able to accommodate him by subdividing the block. I believe that has been done in many cases already. Of course it would be rather inconvenient to have a location, one portion of which was held under one law and another portion under another law, and I do not suppose it would be much favoured by the department. Still, I believe it can be done, and that there is no necessity for special legislation on the subject. Of course these areas in the past were laid out without regard to the 160-acre limit, but in the future they will be laid out in 160 acres, or 320 acres,

having regard to the provisions of the Homesteads Act, so that they may be available for selection under that Act.

MR. THROSSELL: With regard to the second clause of this Bill, which provides that "no selection shall be allowed until the lands have been surveyed into sections, and notified in the *Government Gazette* as open for selection," I take exception to that. It seems to me that what we want is to encourage settlement, and I cannot see the wisdom of making the conditions harsher in the case of the homesteader than in the case of the selector proper. The ordinary selector, under the present regulations, can go anywhere, inside or outside an Agricultural Area; but the homesteader, the class we are so anxious to secure, cannot take up his land, under this clause, until it has been surveyed and declared open for selection. This must have a detrimental effect upon settlement. There are many little blocks of land about York and Northam, too small for the ordinary selector, and which will escape the attention of the ordinary selector, but which would be taken up by the young men living in the district, if they could be taken up under the Homesteads Act, being contiguous to their own homes, where they could get the assistance of their neighbours, instead of being isolated from them. What we want is *bona fide* settlement, and surely we ought to do all in our power to encourage such settlement. Therefore, I trust that the Government in dealing with this measure will place a liberal construction upon it. With regard to goldfields land, I am glad to find that the Government intend to extend the operation of the Act to goldfields areas. I do not say that I would favour the homestead block system of 160 acres on our goldfields, because I think it is very problematical whether the system would ever succeed in that portion of the country; but I should like to see smaller blocks, say of 10 acres, or even up to 40 acres, given away. If we could induce men to settle on these small blocks, they would become fixtures upon the soil, and experiments would be made, and industries would spring up, where they would have a chance of being developed. I hope the Commissioner of Crown Lands will bear this in mind, that there is a splendid chance of settling people on

these small areas now that will probably never occur again. The objection to this suggestion hitherto has been that the land might be required for mineral purposes; but those who have visited Southern Cross lately know very well it is not likely that the land I refer to will ever be wanted for mineral purposes; and I believe it would be thoroughly in the interest of settlement if the Government were at once, without waiting for any further legislation, to throw open these lands for that purpose, especially in the vicinity of Southern Cross. On my recent visit to that locality I was requested by many men—teamsters especially—to bring this matter before the Government. Another matter I would strongly urge upon the Government is to take every measure they can to make the land in the vicinity of Chidlow's Well and along the railway line available for small selections. Two instances were brought to my notice only yesterday where men required land to establish orchards, and I think every encouragement should be given to such men. I have to congratulate the Government upon this amending Bill, and I hope that in dealing with it they will put the same liberal construction upon it as I am happy to say that they have done in the past in regard to the principal Act.

Motion put and passed.

Bill read a third time.

FRIENDLY SOCIETIES BILL.

IN COMMITTEE.

Clause 1—Short title and commencement:

Postponed,

Clause 2—Repeal:

MR. SOLOMON asked the Attorney General whether the amendments on the notice paper included the suggestions made by a Fremantle deputation that waited upon him with reference to the Bill?

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt) replied that the Bill included almost all those suggestions.

Clause put and passed.

Clauses 3 to 6 to inclusive:

Put and passed.

Clause 7—Objects for which societies may be registered under this Act:

MR. LEAKE said that the 5th sub-section mentioned, as one of the objects,

"the insurance against fire, to any amount not exceeding £15, of the tools or implements of the trade or calling of any member." He moved that £20 be substituted for £15, which it had been represented to him was too small a limit. The Amalgamated Society of Carpenters and Joiners provided, by its rules, for the insurance of the tools of its members up to £20.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt) did not think that was a friendly society; it was a trades union society, he believed. The limit in Victoria was £15, and that was a colony that generally went as far as it could in this direction. However, he had no objection to increasing the amount to £20 if the committee wished.

Amendment put and passed.

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 8—Power to specially authorise societies:

Put and passed.

Clause 9—Tables of contributions to be certified by the Auditor General or some actuary:

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt) said it was usual for these tables to be certified by an actuary, but he was not aware that there were any members of that profession in the colony at the present moment, and, for want of better authority to certify he had suggested the Auditor General. As, however, it would be necessary to have a Registrar to carry out the provisions of this Bill, and as the Government expected to secure for that office a gentleman who had had some experience in that capacity, and also actuarial experience, he proposed to strike out the words "Auditor General" in line 2 of Sub-section (5), and to insert the word "Registrar" in lieu thereof.

Amendment put and passed, as also a consequential amendment in the same sub-section.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt) said it had been pointed out to him that three guineas was rather too high a fee to charge for the registration of these societies. In New Zealand, he believed, they charged nothing. In Victoria the fee was £2 14s. 6d., and there was generally some fee charged, except, he believed, in New Zealand; and, as the working of this Act would entail some expense, such as the salary of the Registrar and of a clerk—and in time many

clerks probably—he did not think that a registration fee of two guineas would be too much. He therefore moved that the word "three" in sub-section (6) be struck out, and the word "two" substituted in lieu thereof.

MR. PEARSE thought that one guinea would be high enough to charge for registration. There were a number of small societies to whom two guineas would be a hardship, and he hoped the Attorney General would consent to reduce it to one guinea.

MR. ILLINGWORTH thought two guineas would be low enough, considering all that was involved in the registration of these societies. This was not an annual payment. To a society of 40 members the proposed fee would only be about a shilling a member.

MR. SOLOMON was in favour of reducing the fee to one guinea, especially in the case of branch societies.

MR. LEAKE said that similar representations had been made to him.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt) was aware that some of these societies wished to be allowed to register themselves for nothing, but he could not assent to that proposal. He had agreed to nearly every suggestion that had been made to him by the representatives of some of these societies who waited upon him, but he could not agree to let them have the benefit of the services of a professional actuary to revise their tables and settle their rules for less than two guineas.

Amendment put and passed.

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 10—Suspension of registry:

Put and passed.

Clause 11—Auditor General's or Actuary's certificate:

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt) moved that the words "Auditor General" be struck out of sub-section (3), and the word "Registrar" inserted in lieu thereof.

MR. LEAKE thought 5s., instead of 10s., as provided in sub-section (4), would be enough to charge for amending the rules of a society, but if the Attorney General was not prepared to accept the suggestion it was no use his pressing it.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt) moved, in sub-section (9), that all the words after the words "Auditor General" (inclusive) to the end of the

section be struck out, being a consequential amendment.

Put and passed.

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 12—Every registered society to have a registered office, &c. :

MR. LEAKE said most of the societies at present had no office at all, except their lodge room, and he did not see the necessity of their having a registered office, as provided by this clause. It appeared to him it would be an altogether unnecessary expense.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt) said that it did not mean that they were to have a separate office, with an office stool and an office boy stuck on the top of it. All that was required was that the society should have some recognised place where the Registrar could communicate with their secretary. Any place would answer the purpose, so long as it was registered.

MR. ILLINGWORTH moved, in sub-section (a), that instead of the word "office" the word "address" be inserted. So long as a society had a registered address, it would answer every purpose.

Amendment put and passed, as also some verbal consequential amendments.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt) referring to sub-clause (e), in the same section, dealing with quinquennial valuations, moved that the words "once at least in every five years," in the first line, be struck out, and that the following words be inserted in lieu thereof:—"On or before the first day of March, One thousand eight hundred and ninety-five, and so again within six months after the expiration of every five years succeeding the date of the first valuation under this Act." This amendment was necessary in order to provide for the first valuation after the Act passed.

Amendment put and passed.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt) moved that all the words after the word "and," in line 18 of paragraph (e) of sub-clause (1), be struck out, and that the following words be inserted in lieu thereof:—"shall report thereon or cause the same to be reported on by some actuary, and shall send to the society a copy of such report and an abstract of the results of the valuation."

Amendment put and passed.

MR. LEAKE moved that the word "office" be struck out of line 3 of paragraph (f) of sub-clause (1), and that the word "address" be inserted in lieu thereof.

Amendment put and passed.

MR. LEAKE moved that the word "office," in line 5 of paragraph (h) of sub-clause (1), be struck out, and that the word "address" be inserted in lieu thereof.

Amendment put and passed.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt) moved that sub-clause (3) be struck out, and that the following sub-clause be inserted in lieu thereof:—"In all societies and branches all moneys received or paid on account of any particular fund or benefit shall be kept separate and distinct, and shall be entered in a separate account, distinct from the moneys received or paid on account of any other fund or benefit, and no transfer shall be made of the moneys of any one fund or benefit to meet the liabilities of any other fund or benefit, nor shall such moneys or interest accruing therefrom, up to five per centum per annum, be in any manner applied for the use, whether temporary or permanent, of any fund save the fund to which they properly belong: Provided that if the Registrar or any actuary, in any report made in accordance with paragraph (e) of sub-section (1) of this section, reports that any transfer can be safely made, such transfer may be made accordingly; and provided, always, that any savings out of moneys applicable for management expenses may be applied in aid of any of the funds or benefits of the society." The hon. member said this was in accordance with the suggestion of the Fremantle deputation, and the same provisions would be found in the New Zealand Act.

Amendment put and passed.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt) moved that the following new sub-clause be added to the clause:— "(4.) Societies and branches which have been reported to possess a surplus at the last valuation under this Act, and whose scales of contributions for new members has been certified to as adequate by:

"(a.) The Registrar; or

"(b.) Any public valuer under this Act; or

"(c.) Any actuary approved by the Registrar

"may apply all interest over and above five per centum per annum accruing from capital funds invested to such purposes as may be approved by the society or branch, as the case may be, and the Registrar."

Amendment put and passed.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt) moved that the following new sub-clause be added to the clause:—

"(5.) Any society or branch claiming to avail itself of these provisions shall be debarred from lowering its rate of contribution to the fund operated upon, or from increasing the amount of any benefit to be paid out of the said fund, until the next quinquennial valuation."

Amendment put and passed.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt) moved that the following sub-clause be added to the clause:—"A

society may, out of any separate loan fund to be formed by contributions or deposits of its members, make loans to its members on their personal security with or without sureties as may be provided by the rules, subject to the following restrictions:

"(a.) No loan can at any time be made out of moneys contributed for the other purposes of the society.

"(b.) No member shall be capable of holding any interest in the loan fund exceeding two hundred pounds.

"(c.) No society shall make any loan to a member on personal security beyond the amount fixed by the rules, or shall make any loan which, together with any moneys for the time being owing by a member to the society, shall exceed fifty pounds.

"(d.) No society shall hold at any one time on deposit from its members any moneys beyond the amount fixed by the rules, which shall not exceed two-thirds of the total sums for the time being owing to the society

"by the members who have borrowed from the loan fund."

This also was from the New Zealand Act, and recommended by the deputation that had waited upon him. He did not know much about the working of these societies, but, before the committee passed this clause, he would suggest whether it would not be open to abuse to allow loans to be made out of the funds of a society to its members on their personal security, with or without sureties.

MR. LEAKE said he should vote against the clause, on the ground mentioned by the Attorney General,—that such a power would be open to be abused.

MR. ILLINGWORTH thought it would be a very dangerous power to place in the hands of any society, to allow the funds of the society to be lent to members without any other security than their own personal security. If the sub-clause were agreed to, he would move an amendment, bringing it into line with the provisions regulating life assurance societies as regards security for loans advanced. He hoped the clause would not be agreed to.

MR. SOLOMON said if the clause embodied the recommendation of the societies themselves, he presumed it was the result of a conference of those bodies, and that there was some good reason for it.

MR. PEARSE said he could not support such a clause, which he thought would be open to abuse. It would be much better, in the interests of these societies themselves, that no such power should exist. If a member desired to have a loan out of the society funds, he ought to give ample security.

Amendment put and negative.

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 13—Powers exercisable by the Registrar, &c.:

Put and passed.

Clause 14—Priority of claims of society against its own officers in case of insolvency of an officer:

MR. LEAKE would have liked to have seen the provisions of sub-section (7) extended to the funds of a society in any suspended Bank undergoing reconstruction, giving these societies a priority of claim, as in the case of the insolvency of one of their own officers.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt) could not see his way clear to accept that suggestion. If they extended the priority in such cases to other creditors than the Crown, they would be opening a very wide door indeed. Of course, no one would like to see the funds of these societies locked up in a suspended Bank, but he was not prepared to go so far as the hon. member had suggested, and give these societies a priority of claim in such cases.

Clause agreed to.

Clause 15—Property and funds of societies:

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt) said the reference in the second sub-clause should be to the seventh section of the Act, and not to the fifth; he therefore moved that the word "fifth" be struck out, and "seventh" inserted.

Amendment put and passed.

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 16 to 21, inclusive:

Put and passed.

Clause 22—Dissolution of societies:

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt) said there was a verbal error in sub-clause (9); the reference should be to the 25th section and not to the 30th section. He moved that "thirtieth" be struck out, and the words "twenty-fifth" inserted in lieu thereof.

Amendment put and passed.

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 23 to 33, inclusive:

Put and passed.

Clause 34—Payments of burial expenses on death of children:

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt) said that, under sub-section (2), this money was to be paid to the undertaker upon production by such undertaker of a child's certificate of death. He proposed to alter that, and to make the money payable to the parent of the child or the personal representative. He therefore moved, in sub-clause (2), to strike out the words "undertaker or person by whom the burial is conducted, and upon production by such undertaker or person," and to insert the words "parent of such child, or to the personal representative of such parent or other the person appearing to a majority of the trustees to be entitled to receive such sum, and upon production by such parent,

personal representative, or person" in lieu thereof.

Amendment put and passed.

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 35 to 39, inclusive:

Put and passed.

Clause 40:

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt) moved that the clause be struck out.

Amendment put and passed.

Clauses 41 to 44, inclusive:

Put and passed.

New clause:

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt) moved that the following new clause be added to the Bill, to stand as clause 40:—

"40. (1.) Whenever any grant of freehold or leasehold lands is made to any persons in trust for any registered societies or branches, or societies and branches within any specified district of Western Australia for purposes of recreation, or where any persons already hold any such lands upon any such trust, each of such societies or branches, inclusive of such as may be thereafter established, may elect not more than three of its members to form a board of management of such lands in the manner prescribed by regulations made under this Act."

"(2.) Whenever any such society contains more than one branch within any such district, each of such branches, if separately registered, shall be entitled to elect three of its members as aforesaid." There had been a piece of ground lately granted by the Government to the amalgamated societies of Fremantle, in the vicinity of Claremont, but it appeared they were unable to do anything with it owing to the want of organisation; and this clause (as also the subsequent clauses) was intended to assist the societies in such cases, giving them power to mortgage the land for the purpose of improving it, and giving them other powers.

Clause agreed to.

New clause:

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt) moved that the following new clause be added to the Bill, to stand as Clause 41:—

"41. All such boards, and the names of the members thereof, from time to

"time shall be registered by the Registrar, and upon such registration such lands and all improvements thereon shall become vested in the chairman of the board in trust for such societies and branches, and such chairman shall be deemed the registered proprietor of any such lands under the 'Transfer of Land Act, 1893,' and shall be entitled to be registered as such proprietor in the register book."

MR. ILLINGWORTH objected to the lands being vested in the Chairman, who might go out of office every year, and suggested that the land should be vested in trustees.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt) was inclined to agree with the hon. member's suggestion, and moved that the clause be postponed in order to enable him to frame a new one.

Clause postponed.

New clause:

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt) moved that the following new clause be added to the Bill, to stand as Clause 42:—

"42. Subject to the Regulations made under this Act, such boards may, with the approval of the Governor in Council, raise money by way of mortgage of such lands or any part thereof for the purpose of improving such lands, and any mortgagee may exercise his powers and remedies as such in as full and ample a manner as if such lands were free from any trusts."

Put and passed.

New clause:

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt) moved that the following new clause be added to the Bill, to stand as Clause 43:—

"43. All legal proceedings, civil or criminal, by any such board may be instituted in the name of the chairman or secretary thereof appointed in the manner prescribed by the Regulations made under this Act."

Put and passed.

New clause:

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt) moved that the following new clause be added to the Bill, to stand as Clause 44:—

"44. (1.) The Governor in Council may from time to time make, alter, and

"revoke Regulations for the following purposes, or any of them:—

"(a.) Providing for registry and procedure under this Act, the seal of the Registrar, and the forms to be used for such registry:

"(b.) Prescribing the duties and functions of the Registrar:

"(c.) Prescribing the conditions under which, and the manner in which inspection of, documents kept by the Registrar may be made:

"(d.) Determining a scale of fees to be paid for matters transacted and the inspection of documents under this Act, including the fees to be paid to the Registrar for any certificate:

"(e.) Prescribing the manner of and time and place for electing boards of management of lands granted to or held in trust for registered societies or branches, or societies and branches for purposes of recreation:

"(f.) Providing for the election of a chairman and officers of such boards, and the registration of such chairman and officers, and the members thereof:

"(g.) Prescribing the term for which such chairman, officers, and members of such Boards may hold office, and the manner in and time at and conditions under which such chairman, officers, and members shall resign, vacate, or be deposed from office:

"(h.) Providing for the improvement, maintenance, management, letting, and use of such lands by such boards:

"(i.) Prescribing the returns to be made by such boards to the societies and branches represented thereon and to the Registrar:

"(j.) Providing for the audit of the accounts of such boards:

"(k.) Empowering such boards to hold or sell to others the right to hold upon the lands

"under their control any kind
 "of sports or other gathering,
 "to impose and fix a charge
 "to any person for admission
 "to such sports or gatherings,
 "to refuse such admission,
 "and to eject any person for
 "non-payment of such admis-
 "sion charge, or disorderly, or
 "other misconduct:

"(l.) Prescribing the manner in
 "which the profits arising
 "from any such sale, sports,
 "or gatherings may be dis-
 "posed of:

"(m.) Prescribing the conditions
 "under which and the manner
 "in which such boards may
 "borrow money by way of
 "mortgage of the lands under
 "their control:

"(n.) Providing for all other matters
 "and things necessary for
 "carrying out the objects of
 "this Act:

"(2.) Such Regulations may impose
 "penalties for acts or defaults contrary
 "thereto, not exceeding Twenty pounds
 "for any such act or default.

"(3.) All Regulations made under this
 "Act shall be laid before both Houses of
 "Parliament within fourteen days from
 "the making thereof, if Parliament be
 "then sitting, and if not then sitting,
 "then within fourteen days after the
 "then next assembling of Parliament,
 "and when published in the *Gazette* such
 "Regulations shall have the force of law,
 "and the production of a copy of a
 "*Gazette* containing any such Regulation
 "shall be *prima facie* evidence of the due
 "making of such Regulation, and that it
 "is still in force."

Put and passed.

Progress was then reported, and leave
 given to sit again.

ADJOURNMENT.

The House adjourned at forty-two
 minutes past 4 o'clock p.m.

Legislative Council,

Wednesday, 26th September, 1894.

Swan River: reserves on—Telegraph Money Orders—
 Hospitals Bill: second reading—Small Debts Ordina-
 nce Amendment Bill: first reading—Municipa-
 Institutions Bill: first reading—Loan Bill: first
 reading—Homesteads Act Amendment Bill: first
 reading—Adjournment.

THE PRESIDENT (Hon. Sir G. Shen-
 ton) took the chair at 4:30 o'clock p.m.

PRAYERS.

SWAN RIVER—RESERVES ON.

THE HON. E. G. HENTY moved: "That
 "in the opinion of this House it is desir-
 "able that larger reserves of land for
 "public use, on the frontage to the Swan
 "River and estuary, should be secured by
 "the Government as soon as possible." He said: I have found from inquiry that
 not a single foot of land on the South
 side of the Swan River estuary has been
 reserved for the use of the public, and
 those who go on the river for picnics, or
 for boating, are unable to land except on
 sufferance, and in the summer time, when
 the sea breezes blow, boats are unable to
 anchor with safety. Owing to the exer-
 tions of the Government and of some
 members of this House, a great deal of
 land has been reserved, but it is not in
 the most suitable place, the whole of it
 being practically on the Northern side.
 We may pride ourselves on the estuary,
 many portions of it being quite equal to
 some parts of Sydney harbour, of which we
 hear so much; but opportunities should
 be provided to enable the public to
 enjoy the pleasures to be derived from it
 to the fullest extent. I find that the
 frontages have been alienated years ago,
 and now the people are only allowed to
 land on sufferance. Some hon. members
 may think that this motion may mean
 the expenditure of money, but that is not
 necessarily so, because the Government
 can exchange some of their Northern
 blocks for a few suitable spots on the
 Southern side. I do not think it is
 necessary for the Government to secure
 large portions of land. Two acres (say) at
 the Canning Humps, two acres at Point
 Walter, two acres at Point Chidwell, and
 two acres at Lucky Bay, would, I think,
 be sufficient, and even if they had to be