

# Legislative Council.

Tuesday, 22nd December, 1914.

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

## PAPERS WITHDRAWN—WHALING LICENSE.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. J. M. Drew—Central) [4.33]: I wish, with the permission of the House, to withdraw certain papers I placed on the Table on Tuesday last with a view to submitting others therefor, and I propose to give an explanation of the reason. Hon. members will doubtless remember that on the 15th instant there were laid on the Table copies of an exclusive license under the Fisheries Act entered into between the Government and a Norwegian company granting to the company the right to take whales in a defined portion of our territorial waters between Cape Lambert and the 120th meridian. The license was prepared in the name under which the application had been submitted, namely, the Australia Whaling Company. Since then, however, there has come to hand from Norway a power of attorney to the representative of the company in this State from which it is apparent that the proper designation of the company—the title under which it is registered—is "Aktieselskabet Australia," but it means the Australia Whaling Company, Ltd. We have been advised that the license must issue in the registered name of the company, and that a translation of the title is not sufficient. Consequently, the license has been amended and will at the

next sitting of the House be placed on the Table in proper form. It is proposed to adjourn the House until the 12th January. It is realised that if the license were placed on the Table now members would be prevented from taking any action they might consider necessary, and seeing that the purpose of laying papers on the Table is to furnish members with an opportunity to take such action as they desire, it seems to me it would be out of place if the papers were laid on the Table now, because such opportunity would be denied members. Consequently it is my intention not to place a copy of the license on the Table of the House until the 12th January.

Hon. D. G. Gawler: How long have the papers to lie on the Table?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: Fourteen days.

Papers by leave withdrawn.

## PAPERS PRESENTED.

By the Colonial Secretary: 1, Woods and Forests Department—Report for year ended 30th June, 1914. 2, Copy of award in the Coastal District Quarrymen's Branch of the General Workers' Union. 3, Water Supply, Sewerage, and Drainage Department—Amendment of by-laws. 4, Health Act, 1911-12—(a) Amendment of regulations; (b) Perth Local Health authority—Amendment of by-law. 5, Onslow Good Shed—Storage charges *re* lead ore. 6, Department of Agriculture—(a) Profit and loss statement for year ended 30th June, 1914, of the Perth, Fremantle, and Subiaco retail meat shops. (b) Profit and loss statement for the year ended 30th June, 1914, of the cattle shipments. (c) Balance sheet of the State meat supply as at 30th June, 1914.

## QUESTION—EAST AVON ROADS DISTRICT, RATE ARREARS.

Hon. C. F. BAXTER (East) [4.36]: I desire to give notice that at the next sitting of the House I will ask the Colonial Secretary: Is it the intention of the Government

to introduce a Bill to write off arrears of rates owing by the settlers in the eastern portion of the East Avon roads district? As a guide to the Colonial Secretary I may say the question refers to the eastern portion of the Old Greenhills board. Some of the settlers are 60 miles distant from where the board hold their meetings, and consequently nothing was done in the district, but rates were imposed upon the settlers. I understand from a lot of the settlers out there—

The PRESIDENT: The hon. member is giving notice of motion.

Hon. C. F. BAXTER: I am just explaining the position to the Colonial Secretary.

The PRESIDENT: The hon. member can ask the question without notice.

Hon. C. F. BAXTER: Then I ask the question without notice.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: I could not possibly reply to a question of that kind without notice.

The PRESIDENT: Then the hon. member will give notice.

Hon. C. F. Baxter: Yes, I give notice.

#### AUDITOR GENERAL'S REPORT.

The PRESIDENT: I have received the following letter from the Auditor-General—

Audit Department, Perth, 19th December, 1914. Sir,—Referring to my communication of the 3rd instant, I forward herewith the balance of my annual report for the financial year 1913-14. I have the honour to be, Sir, C. S. Toppin, Auditor General.

#### QUESTION—FREEZING WORKS, WYNDHAM.

Hon. V. HAMERSLEY asked the Colonial Secretary: 1, What is the policy of the Government in regard to the establishment of freezing works at Wyndham? 2, Has any contract in reference to the establishment of the same been entered into with any firm outside the State? 3, If so, will the Minister lay

the papers on the Table, and give the name of the firm? 4, Has any outside firm received any concession or promise, or any monetary consideration? If so, state the nature and amount.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY replied: 1, The Government propose to establish freezing, chilling, and canning works at Wyndham under Government control. 2, No. 3, Answered by No. 2. 4, The services of a firm of experts have been utilised to advise and report to the Government at a cost of £1,000.

#### LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

On motion by Hon. Sir E. H. WIT-TENOOM leave of absence for twelve consecutive sittings granted to the Hon. F. Connor on the ground of urgent private business.

#### BILL—LOCAL OPTION VOTE CONTINUANCE.

##### *Second Reading.*

Debate resumed from the 17th December.

Hon. J. F. CULLEN (South-East) [4.40]: I moved the adjournment of the debate purely to obtain a little time to look into this very innocent looking and short measure, and at first glance I discovered that the draftsman's dates were all wrong. If it is really important that this Bill should be rushed through on the eve of the adjournment, it will be necessary for corrections to be made, but I think the Minister would be wise to hold the measure back until business is resumed after the Christmas holidays. The draftsman has taken his dates from a proviso which comes into effect in 1920, and has worked backwards, and, therefore, his dates are all wrong. Clause 2 of the Bill begins—

A local option vote under Part V. of the Licensing Act, 1911, shall not be taken in the year 1915.

It is assumed that the Act provides for the local option poll in 1915, but it does not. The Act provided for a poll in 1914.

Hon. J. E. Dodd (Honorary Minister): The hon. member is forgetting the amending Act passed last year.

Hon. J. F. CULLEN: What did that say?

Hon. J. E. Dodd (Honorary Minister): It dated the poll on for 12 months.

Hon. D. G. Gawler: That is right.

Hon. J. F. CULLEN: Then I confess I am in error, having overlooked last year's measure. That being so, I withdraw my remarks, and I have only one suggestion to make for the Minister's consideration. He proposes now to fix the next local option poll for 1918 instead of next year. I do not think there will be any loss to any one important interest through that postponement. I agree with the Government's proposal, but I would like to ask the Minister whether under this Bill we could provide that the poll be taken in 1917 simultaneously with the general election. I can see there will be difficulties in the way of bringing in the amendment, but I am satisfied that a poll in 1918 will be a fiasco. Any few people who liked could take the place of what should be a majority vote. However, I recognise that my suggestion is somewhat foreign to the Government's intention, and finding I was under a misconception previously, I shall not further delay the Bill.

Hon. D. G. GAWLER (Metropolitan-Suburban) [4.43]: I would like the Honorary Minister to explain the reason why it is proposed to further postpone the taking of the local option poll. Although we believe in the principle of local option I do not place very much faith in the expression of public opinion under these local option polls under the Licensing Act. But be that as it may it is the law, and these polls were fixed to take place every three years. The result of passing this measure would be that there would be no expression of public opinion for seven years, and that seems to be an extraordinary inroad into the principle of local option as laid down in the original measure. When the Honorary Minister replies I ask him to state the reasons why we are again asked to

postpone the poll because this makes the second postponement. I am desirous of learning the reason why it is found necessary to postpone the matter for another three years.

Hon. J. E. Dodd (Honorary Minister): Expense.

Hon. D. G. GAWLER: I did not understand that.

Hon. J. E. DODD (Honorary Minister—South—In reply) [4.45]: A similar measure to this was passed last year, postponing the poll until 1915. A local option poll can be taken on only one issue until 1921, and that issue is whether or not there shall be any increases in the number of licenses. Such a poll would be futile, and I echo the statement made by Mr. Cullen last session that we should postpone the poll to 1921.

Hon. D. G. Gawler: The whole thing?

Hon. J. E. DODD (Honorary Minister): Altogether. The hon. member stated that during the discussion last year. However, the Government thought they would extend the postponement to 1918, by which time possibly another small Bill such as this may be introduced or something may have happened to induce the Government to take a poll.

Hon. D. G. Gawler: The reason for the present measure is expense, then?

Hon. J. E. DODD (Honorary Minister): The reason for the measure is that to take the poll would cost £8,000 and that no good can possibly result from taking it. With regard to Mr. Cullen's suggestion that the poll should be taken on the day of the general election, I wish to point out that there is great diversity of opinion. Therefore it would be extremely unwise for a small measure such as this to embody such a principle.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

#### *In Committee.*

Bill passed through Committee without debate, reported without amendment, and the report adopted.

# BILL—WAGIN-KUKERIN RAIL- WAY EXTENSION.

## *Second Reading.*

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. J. M. Drew—Central) [4.50] in moving the second reading said: This Bill is similar to one which was introduced last session and which passed another place, but owing to a crisis that threatened the State was withdrawn from the Legislative Council. The line will follow the survey as outlined under the Railways Survey Act of 1913. Members are no doubt fully aware of the reasons for the proposed extension of the Wagin-Kukerin railway, as the question has been before the public for some years now. It is not my intention, therefore, to deal exhaustively with the matter. I shall confine myself to placing hon. members in possession of the principal facts on the question. The construction of this line will mean the extension of the Wagin-Dumbleyung railway for a distance of 25½ miles, to Lake Grace, where a number of deserving settlers, the greater proportion of whom have come from Great Britain, have located themselves. The alienated area to be served, within the 12½ mile radius, is 378,000 acres, of which 50,000 acres are first class land, 120,000 acres second class land, and 208,000 acres third class land. The rainfall in the Lake Grace area averages 12 inches per annum. The resident occupiers number 113, and the population is estimated at 500. Land under cultivation totals 17,000 acres, and an increase of 11,000 acres has taken place since the railways survey measure was introduced. The average yield for the area cropped has been up to the present season 12 bushels per acre. When this railway Bill was introduced last session, it was estimated there would be an increase of 7,000 acres in the area of cultivated and cleared land; but in this regard the hon. gentleman representing the province affected will doubtless be able to show, if it is necessary, that owing to the drought which has been experienced a temporary setback has been given to development. The esti-

mated cost of the construction of the 25½ miles is £40,000, while rails and fastenings will absorb £20,000, making a total expenditure of £60,000 for the line. Promises were made by the Government that the line would be completed by July of next year, but, as hon. members are aware, those promises were given prior to the European crisis. By the completion of the Yilliminning-Kondinin line shortly, it is hoped to liberate sufficient plant to enable this line now under consideration to be put in hand and pushed ahead. Indeed, it is the intention of the Government not to delay the commencement of the work. I move—

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

Hon. J. F. CULLEN (South-East) [4.53]. I know the country to be served by this proposed railway. It is in my province. The House can pass the Bill with the greatest confidence. I would suggest to the Colonial Secretary that this is a Bill for which he might obtain the suspension of the Standing Orders, and pass the measure through immediately, so that work may be found for unemployed. I should be glad to see all the necessary preliminaries hastened. The House, I feel sure, would meet the hon. gentleman in that respect, so that this might be one of the first works to be taken in hand.

Hon. W. KINGSMILL (Metropolitan) [4.54]: I do not intend to oppose the second reading, or to offer any opposition whatever to the measure; but there are two points on which I should like the leader of the House to afford some explanation. When introducing the Bill, the hon. gentleman stated that the measure on its first introduction had been withdrawn from the Legislative Council because of the European crisis. I would like the Colonial Secretary to explain in what degree that crisis has lessened. It seems to me that the present position is a little more critical than that which existed when this Bill was first introduced.

Hon. J. F. Cullen: Oh, no.

The Colonial Secretary: No.

Hon. W. KINGSMILL: The deficit is larger. Certainly the Government are in the ostensible position of £3,100,000, which, I understand, is already earmarked, with a receptacle waiting for every pound of it. The European war is in just as critical a position now as it was then.

Hon. J. F. Cullen: No.

Hon. W. KINGSMILL: Mr. Cullen, if I may be pardoned for saying so, is developing to the fullest possible extent that sense of locality which sometimes is so marked a feature of this House. Indeed in no member is it, possibly, more marked than in the hon. gentleman to whom I am alluding. I would like him to remember that—and perhaps I am not out of order in doing so—I am making this little railway Bill bear the burden of remarks which may apply to all other railway Bills coming forward. It is more or less a farce to bring down railway Bills when the leader of the House must know that—though possibly it is not so in this particular instance, which perhaps represents a favourite of the Government—it would be impossible for the railway to be built for some time. It appears to me idle folly to pass railway Bills when there is no immediate possibility of the railways being constructed.

Hon. J. W. Kirwan: What are the Government going to do with the three millions?

Hon. W. KINGSMILL: What have the Government done with it? We will probably learn a little later in the evening.

Hon. J. W. Kirwan: They must have public works to employ the money on.

Hon. W. KINGSMILL: Quite right; but is the hon. gentleman professing a belief that a considerable portion of the £3,100,000 is available for future works? The hon. gentleman cannot be in earnest. I know for a matter of fact that very often he is not in earnest, and I do not think he is in earnest in this connection. I am simply stating my own opinion, that the leader of the House has not taken this Chamber into his confidence, and explained in what respect the position to-

day is less critical than the position which existed at the time when this railway Bill was withdrawn last session. If the Colonial Secretary can convince me as to that, then I shall feel very much happier. I should like a little financial explanation to be made, if the leader of the House does not feel that, in making such an announcement, he will be forestalling his chief. That would make his task, and also the task of hon. members who are asked to pass these Bills, very much easier and pleasanter than it is at present.

Hon. J. CORNELL (South) [4.57]: I, like Mr. Kingsmill—

Hon. W. Kingsmill: I like you, too.

Hon. J. CORNELL: Do not oppose the second reading of the Bill, but at the same time am a little critical. I would have expected hon. members representing that locality of the State in which the proposed railway is to be constructed, to give this House, even if the leader did not do so, some definite data in justification of the authorisation of this line. I have a lively recollection of a certain railway Bill coming forward in this House and all possible information, present, past and future, both for and against, being brought up, as a consequence of which that railway Bill was defeated. A certain railway Bill which was discussed in this House received a close scrutiny and was rejected. The scrutiny and investigation to which the measure was subjected constituted the principal reason for its rejection. The members from the gold-fields—I refer, of course, to the Esperance line—who delivered lengthy and strenuous speeches got no satisfaction for the work they did. They tried to make out a case. Personally, I consider they made out a case which could not be controverted on its merits. Here on this Bill, however, no case is made out at all.

Hon. J. W. Kirwan: Mr. Cullen saw the land.

Hon. J. CORNELL: If that is to be a reason for the passing of the Bill, then I hope it will avail on future occasions in this Chamber. I am prepared to admit that part of the district in which this railway is to be built has suffered from

drought. Other districts have suffered from drought; but this line is brought forward as an agricultural line to open up a wheat-growing area. Yet I find that, according to the preliminary crop forecast for 1914-15, the yield of the district through which the line is to be constructed will be only 4.5 bushels per acre, and I find that the forecast for the Esperance district is 5.8 bushels. I hope that on any future occasion when the goldfields members come forward, other hon. members will accept their statements as they are accepting the statements of the hon. member to-day.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. J. M. Drew—Central—in reply) [5.2]: I thought every hon. member realised that in regard to the financial crisis there is a great difference between the position to-day and the position of three months ago. Three months ago our loan funds were becoming exhausted, we were unsuccessfully looking round in every direction for fresh sources from which to replenish supplies, and our only alternative was to introduce the Income Tax (War Emergency) Bill. We could secure only a limited amount in the form of loan from the Commonwealth, not nearly sufficient to meet our requirements. Since then, however, we have been able to make arrangements to finance the State in a most satisfactory manner. During the next twelve months we will have something like £3,100,000 to expend. It will all be required. Portion of the money will be expended on public works, and it is desired that the Bill should be passed without delay to enable men at present engaged on railway construction to continue in their employment. A fairly large number of men now engaged on this work will presently be thrown on the labour market unless we can keep things going to a limited extent. Most hon. members recognise that the condition of the loan finances is very much better than when this Bill was withdrawn, or, if not withdrawn, at any rate not proceeded with, immediately prior to the general elections.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

#### *In Committee.*

Hon. W. Kingsmill in the Chair; the Colonial Secretary in charge of the Bill.

Clauses 1, 2, 3—agreed to.

Clause 4: Power to Governor to compulsorily purchase land within 15 miles of railway:

Hon. V. HAMERSLEY: Paragraph (a) reads, "With the object of encouraging cultivation of settlement of the land." Should it not be "and settlement?"

The CHAIRMAN: I will take it as a clerical error and have it corrected. It should be "and."

Clause put and passed.

Clauses 5, 6, 7—agreed to.

Schedule, Title—agreed to.

Bill reported without amendment; the report adopted.

#### *Standing Orders Suspension.*

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. J. M. Drew—Central) [5.8]: I move—

*That so much of the Standing Orders be suspended as is necessary to enable the Bill to pass through all its stages at one sitting.*

A number of railways now under construction will be completed in a very short time, and it is necessary to provide work for the men engaged on those railways in order that the unemployed difficulty may not be intensified. The construction of this railway will provide a favourable opportunity, and I hope the House will consent to the suspension of the Standing Orders in order that the Bill may go through in one sitting.

Question passed.

The PRESIDENT: I have to certify that this motion has been passed by an absolute majority of the whole Council.

#### *Third Reading.*

Bill read a third time and passed.

BILL—SUPPLY, £668,270.

#### *All Stages.*

Received from the Assembly and read a first time.

*Standing Orders Suspension.*

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. J. M. Drew—Central) [5.10]: I move—

*That so much of the Standing Orders be suspended as is necessary to enable the Bill to pass through all its stages at the one sitting.*

The Budget will be delivered to-night, and the House will adjourn until about the 12th January. In the meantime it will be necessary that the Government should have supplies. The Bill asks for supplies to the 31st January—a little over a month's requirements.

Question passed.

The PRESIDENT: I have to certify that this motion has been passed by an absolute majority of the whole Council.

*Second Reading.*

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. J. M. Drew—Central) [5.12]: I move—

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

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

*In Committee, etcetera.*

Bill passed through Committee without debate; reported without amendment, and the report adopted.

Read a third time and *passed*.

# MOTION — PARLIAMENTARY PRIVILEGES, RAILWAY FREE PASSES.

Debate resumed from the 16th December on the following motion by Hon. J. Cornell:—"That in the opinion of this House the Government should grant to all ex-members of the Legislative Council who have sat for a consecutive period of 12 years, and to all ex-members of the Legislative Assembly who have sat for a consecutive period of nine years, free passes for life over the State Railways."

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. J. M. Drew—Central) [5.14]: I hope the hon. member will not press the

motion to a division. It seems to me the time is not opportune for the introduction of an innovation of this character. In no part of the Commonwealth is such a concession made to members of Parliament as members of Parliament, no matter how long they may have served their country. Consideration of the question in my opinion should be deferred until the present crisis is over, and then we may be in a better frame of mind to discuss it. It seems also that it is more a matter for the consideration of the Premiers' Conference than it is for that of this House. Life passes enable the holders to travel free on the railways throughout the whole of the Commonwealth and each of the States would have to be consulted on a matter of this kind. Of course it could be made to apply within the State and not without the State. I realise that the mover and seconder of this motion were not actuated in the slightest degree by motives of selfishness. For many years to come they could not enjoy the privileges mentioned in the motion, even if they were conceded. I hope that, having ventilated the matter, the mover will take no further action at the present time in regard to it.

Hon. J. F. CULLEN (South-East) [5.17]: There is a far stronger reason even than that given by the Colonial Secretary for the withdrawal of the motion. That reason is that the motion is one which ought to be initiated, if it is initiated at all, in another place. It would involve a charge upon the revenue of the State and this House should not initiate any such motion. I am satisfied that this reason, added to the strong reasons given by the Colonial Secretary—

Hon. R. J. Lynn: On the score of economy.

Hon. J. F. CULLEN: That this House should not initiate any charge on the revenue, is quite sufficient to convince Mr. Cornell that the motion is one which should be allowed to drop.

Hon. D. G. GAWLER (Metropolitan-Suburban) [5.18] I cannot help thinking that it would be very much bet-

ter that we should not pass this resolution. Ready and willing as I am to take any perquisites that may come my way, I feel that under these particular circumstances we should be very chary how we add to those we already have. An unkind public very often thinks that we are already getting too much and have too many privileges and I do not think we should give any grounds for this—generally speaking, at any rate. I agree with the Colonial Secretary when he puts it in this way, that if any innovation is to be made in this direction at all and any additional privileges are to be granted to hon. members, the present time is an inopportune one to ask for them. The finances of the country are not in a most flourishing condition and we are all feeling the pinch of the present crisis. I think it ought not to go forth that hon. members of the Upper House are seeking to put their hands into the public purse, and that it would be unwise for us to go for any further privileges at the present time.

Hon. J. CORNELL (South—in reply) [5.20]: I did expect those who opposed the resolution to put up a case against it. So far, however, no case has been made out against the proposal. Again, the old red herring which I anticipated when moving the motion, has been brought in, namely, "the time is inopportune." It is never opportune for some people. The Colonial Secretary said that in no part of the Commonwealth was this proposal in operation. That is no argument why it should not come into operation in this State. If one State was to wait until another State did something, probably none of the States would ever move at all. It has been said by the leader of the House and by Mr. Gawler that the motion should be deferred until after the present crisis. I said in moving the resolution that it was merely an affirmation of an abstract principle, and even if this House was to agree to an abstract principle, and if the other House also agreed, we could not put it into operation. So I fail to see why the affirmation or otherwise of the principle should be deferred until after the crisis. The Colonial Secretary

has also stated that it is a matter for the Premiers' Conference. I say that this matter which is one affecting our own State, is one which concerns ourselves. The members of the Legislature in the State are the proper persons to say whether or not something of this sort should be given confirmation. I am well aware that the passes now in operation, so far as Ministers are concerned, were brought into being by the Premiers' Conference. They have been in operation for many years and are likely to continue in operation, irrespective of the present crisis, because I see no hasty movement to abolish them. So far as private members getting any concessions or recognition of their services in the same direction as Ministers is concerned, I think the good old phrase would come in on this occasion, "How long, O Lord?" They have waited a long time and will probably have a much longer time to wait until the Premiers are agreed. In my humble opinion the Premiers will never agree to do this until such time as an affirmation of the principle has been brought forward in some of the Parliaments of the States. On the question of life passes applying to the whole of the Commonwealth, raised by the Colonial Secretary, I know that so far as Minister's passes are concerned, these not only apply to the Commonwealth but to New Zealand, where they have a system of reciprocity in this matter. We have only power to legislate, however, so far as this State is concerned, and, outside the jurisdiction of the Federal Parliament in certain directions, we should only deal with questions which come within the scope of the State. Mr. Cullen has said that this House should not initiate any charge upon the revenue. I have seen the hon. member become very impassioned when the prerogative of this House was assailed. I say that this House by suggestion does not initiate a charge upon the revenue. If this House by suggestion did so, the mere carrying of a resolution moved on the floor of this House by Mr. Gawler in the direction of establishing proportional representation in Western Australia



would be on a par with this to a certain extent in that it would entail the use of revenue to carry it out. If the only reason that can be brought forward by Mr. Cullen for the rejection of the resolution is that of initiating a charge upon the revenue, I say that that hon. gentleman ought to rise in his place and move a resolution to take away from others who have passes to-day, the taking away of which would mean an increase in the revenue of the State. Mr. Gawler has mentioned an unkind public. The public may or may not be unkind in this direction, but if members of Parliament wait until the public tell them to do something, they will have to wait a long while. It is generally admitted, and I think it is a truism, that all reforms, whether they are big or little, do not emanate from the minds of the great bulk of the public, but emanate from the minds of a few. Further, these reforms are unpopular until the public have become imbued with the justice of them. Many men who have fought for years, for a decade, in the direction of reform, have become unpopular in the eyes of the public, but as time has gone on and the public have seen, as a collective body and not merely as individuals, the justice of a reform, they recognise that the man who has brought it forward is right in the long run. The public, I may say, do not concern me at all in this direction. It is a concern of our own. If this principle is agreed to, the day will not be very far distant when the public will say that we have done right in doing so. I do not intend to take up the time of the House any further except to refer to the request of the leader of the House that I should withdraw the motion. There is no condition attached to a withdrawal of the motion and no definite promise has been given that it would be dealt with in the right quarter eventually. No promise has been given that the Ministry of the day would take into consideration the granting or otherwise of the principles contained in the motion.

Hon. R. J. Lynn: The leader of the House will do that.

Hon. J. CORNELL: If the leader of the House will give that assurance I am prepared to withdraw the motion.

The Colonial Secretary: I do not consider this a suitable time to discuss the matter.

Hon. J. CORNELL: Will the leader of the House give an assurance that when things are settled down to normal, if the Government occupy the Treasury Benches the question will receive that consideration to which it is entitled?

The Colonial Secretary: I cannot give the hon. member any such assurance.

Hon. J. CORNELL: If no assurance can be given in this direction, I am prepared to let the motion go to hon. members and allow them to be the judges as to whether they should or should not enjoy these privileges.

The PRESIDENT: Does the hon. member wish to withdraw the motion?

Hon. J. CORNELL: By leave of the House, I will withdraw it.

Motion by leave withdrawn.

#### ADJOURNMENT—COMPLIMENTARY REMARKS.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. J. M. Drew—Central) [5.29]: I move—

*That the House at its rising adjourn until the 12th January.*

In moving the motion, I wish to take the opportunity on behalf of myself and hon. members, to offer you, Sir, our best wishes for a happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year. We also desire to extend a similar greeting to the Chairman of Committees, the Hon. W. Kingsmill. In addition to that, we wish to acknowledge the generous assistance rendered to us by the officials of the House, and to extend to them also the compliments of the season.

The PRESIDENT: Mr. Colonial Secretary and hon. members, I thank you very much.

*House adjourned at 5.31 p.m.*

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