

to their task until they are rewarded, until they win out from this disastrous conflict, not only for the benefit of Australia, but to make this world a better place for all mankind.

On motion by Mr. Gilchrist, debate adjourned.

BILL—SUPPLY, £1,409,300.

Returned from the Council without amendment.

House adjourned at 10.35 p.m.

Legislative Council,

Thursday, 5th August, 1915.

	PAGE
Papers presented	154
Address-in-reply, presentation	158
Questions: Food and Drug Regulations	158
High School Staffs, hours, etc.	158
Land Resumption, claims	158
Pipe manufacture	159
Defence Department, representation	159
Personal Explanation, the Colonial Secretary and the Address-in-reply	159
Papers: Retirement of public servant	161
Bill: Adoption of Children Act Amendment, 2 nd , Com.	161
Adjournment, special	162

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

PAPERS PRESENTED.

By the Colonial Secretary: 1, Report of the Trustees under the Public Education Endowment Act, 1909, to 31st December, 1914. 2, Return of receipts and expenditure of the Western Australian Government railways for the quarter ended 30th June, 1915. 3, Return under Sections 54 and 83 of the Government Railways Act, 1904, for the quarter ended 30th June, 1915. 4, Papers referring to the retirement of Mr. C. F. Gale, late Chief Protector of Aborigines (ordered on motion by Hon. W. Kingsmill).

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY — PRESENTATION.

The PRESIDENT: I have to announce to hon. members that I presented the Address-in-reply to His Excellency the Governor to-day, and that His Excellency has been pleased to send the following letter:

Mr. President and hon. members of the Legislative Council,—In the name and on behalf of His Most Gracious Majesty the King, I thank you for your Address. Harry Barron, Governor, 5th August, 1915.

QUESTION—FOOD AND DRUG REGULATIONS.

Hon. W. KINGSMILL asked the Colonial Secretary: In connection with the amended regulations under the Health Act laid on the table on the 29th ultimo, does part (c) of sub-paragraph 1 of paragraph 4, as amended, apply to foods and drugs or to foods only?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY replied: The regulation referred to applies to foods only.

QUESTION—EDUCATIONAL, SCHOOL STAFFS, HOURS, ETC.

Hon. H. P. COLEBATCH asked the Colonial Secretary: 1, Is it a fact that when the Government—in connection with the 7.89 per cent. reduction of salaries—decided to close the State schools on one day in each three weeks, the staffs of the Perth Modern School and the Kalgoorlie Secondary School intimated their desire to work full time irrespective of the question of salaries? 2, If so, was such offer accepted? 3, If not, why not?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY replied: 1, No. 2 and 3, Answered by No. 1.

QUESTION—LAND RESUMPTION, CLAIMS.

Hon. H. CARSON asked the Colonial Secretary: 1, What is the total amount of claims the Government have received for resumed lands for the last four years?

2, What amount did the Government offer in settlement of these claims? 3, What amount has been paid?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY replied: 1, 2, and 3, The information desired by the hon. member will be furnished in the form of a return, which will be laid on the Table of the House.

QUESTION—PIPE MANUFACTURE.

Hon. C. F. BAXTER asked the Colonial Secretary: 1, (a) Is it a fact that the State Implement Works have been and are still making pipes for the Metropolitan Water Supply at £9 10s. per ton with the cost of iron at from £5 to £5 5s. per ton? (b) And that the Implement Works also entered into a contract or arrangement to supply Nevanas, Ltd., about 1,000 tons of pipes at £9 5s. per ton with iron costing £5 5s. per ton? 2, Has a contract been let to Monteath Bros. for the supply of pipes at £10 15s. per ton with iron costing only £4 4s. per ton, and also provision made in such contract whereby the contract price automatically increases with the cost of iron? 3, Is it not a fact that the Implement Works in tendering at £9 5s. and £9 10s. after allowing for depreciation and all proper charges, make a net profit of 20s. per ton with iron at £5 5s. per ton? 4, Why were increased prices paid to Monteath Bros., more especially in view of the late manager's remonstrance about the matter to the Under Secretary for Public Works?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY replied: 1, The Implement Works are not making pipes for the Metropolitan Water Supply at £9 10s. per ton with cost of iron at £5 to £5 5s. per ton. The late manager quoted Nevanas & Co. for the supply of 5in. pipes at £9 5s. per ton delivered at ship's side, Fremantle, with iron costing approximately £5 2s. per ton, and a substantial loss would have resulted if contract had been completed at this price. 2, Yes, vertically cast pipes. 3, No. 4, Vertical cast pipes are superior to those cast on the bank, and Monteath Bros. possessed the only plant in the

State for vertical casting, such method being necessary for pipes 5in. and over. The contract with Monteath Bros. was signed on the 13th January, 1915, and the late manager's criticism thereon was dated the 23rd February, 1915. This criticism was based on false premises, in that the Implement Works were not making vertical cast pipes.

QUESTION—DEFENCE DEPARTMENT, REPRESENTATION.

Hon. Sir E. H. WITTENOOM (without notice) asked the Colonial Secretary: Is there any officer connected with the State Public Service who represents the Defence Department of the Federal Government here?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY replied: I have never heard of any State officer representing the Defence Department in Western Australia.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION.

The Colonial Secretary and the Address-in-reply.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. J. M. Drew—Central) [4.35]: The debate on the Address-in-reply terminated somewhat unexpectedly last night, and I did not then have with me information which I desired to place at the disposal of hon. members in connection with a number of important questions which were discussed during the debate. I would like, therefore, with your permission, Sir, to make a brief statement conveying this information.

The PRESIDENT: The hon. the Minister can make the statement, but as he does not intend to conclude with a motion there can be no debate upon it.

Hon. Sir E. H. Wittenoom: Can the Minister make a statement which cannot be contradicted?

The PRESIDENT: Hon. members will have no opportunity on this occasion. The Minister is simply volunteering information for the benefit of hon. members.

Hon. Sir E. H. Wittenoom: Only information?

The PRESIDENT: Yes.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: I do not intend to make any speech. I understood that hon. members required some information. I have endeavoured to obtain it as far as possible, and I therefore propose to give it to the House. Mr. Colebatch said—"The sawmills were established primarily for the purpose of supplying sleepers for the Trans-Australian railway. I take it those sleepers have been supplied and the contract terminated. Still we are faced with a deficit." The answer to that is that the contract which was entered into with the Fisher Ministry was cancelled by the Cook Ministry. That contract was for the delivery of 1,400,000 powellised karri sleepers. The total quantity supplied for the Trans-Australian railway since the original contract was cancelled is 469,842 sleepers or 930,158 fewer than was previously agreed upon. With regard to the operations of the sawmills, the balance sheet for the year ended June 30th, 1914, was presented to Parliament last session, and a profit was therein shown. The Under Secretary for Works tells me I will be safe in giving the House an assurance that the operations of the sawmilling and timber business of the Government for the financial year just closed will show a substantial profit. The hon. Mr. Colebatch stated that a number of railways had been hung up in order that the Esperance Railway might proceed. He mentioned the Kondinin, Bolgart, and Mt. Marshall lines. In reference to the Kondinin railway, it was passed by this House subsequently to the Esperance line—seven days later, to be precise. Regarding the Esperance railway, the present position is that an engineer and a surveyor are now at Esperance, the engineer engaged on preparing a receiving depot for material and plant and the surveyor in surveying the balance of the line to connect up with the proposed new terminus. Steps are also being taken to ascertain from the State Steamship Service means whereby sleep-

ers can be sent forward. Tenders for permanent way material have been received, and are now under consideration. Of the 30 miles of the Bolgart extension authorised by Parliament, the first 15 miles are under construction, and it is certain that the rails can be laid in ample time to deal with the coming harvest. The construction of the Wyalcatchem-Mt. Marshall line has proceeded to the extent that the rails have been laid for 28 miles, and traffic is now being carried over that length. Authority has been issued to complete the laying of rails to the terminus—53 miles—and it is confidently expected that the line will be laid right through before the end of December. There are 98 men at present employed on this line. With reference to the Wyndham freezing works, Nevanas and Co., who were recommended by the Agent General, were appointed by the Government to report and advise on freezing works for the North-West, and afterwards to prepare plans. The report was made and the plans were prepared. The cost of the works estimated by Mr. Nevanas was approximately £50,000 below the departmental estimate. The department said it could not be done at the figure stated by Mr. Nevanas. Mr. Nevanas said it could, and ultimately said his company would be prepared to do it for the amount. The matter was referred to a board of departmental officers, and the board strongly recommended that Mr. Nevanas's offer be accepted. The Government decided to accept it under certain conditions. The works had to be completed within 12 months from the 1st May last, so as to be able to deal with next season's stock. Mr. Nevanas had intended to get over the difficulty of delay and expense in unloading at Wyndham—as pointed out by Mr. Holmes—by securing a store ship, but his efforts in that direction were not successful. He also wished the Government to make special efforts to assist him in the conveyance of material to Wyndham, but as this was not convenient to the State Steamship Service the request could not be complied with. A quantity of Mr. Nevanas's material was hung up at

Fremantle in consequence. Delays arose which showed that it would be impossible for Mr. Nevanas to complete the work by the 1st May next. One of the conditions of the preliminary agreement was that Mr. Nevanas's company had power to enter into such a contract. The opinion of the Solicitor General, after an examination of the memorandum of association, was that it had no such power. The Government then decided to cancel the arrangement. The contract had not been signed by the company. No outside pressure was brought to bear upon the Government to induce them to cancel. No compensation was paid to the company as a result of the cancellation. Mr. Nevanas had acquired £63,000 worth of material required for the erection of the works. He offered this to the Government at cost plus five per cent. on the purchase price. The matter was referred to the Chief Architect, who reported that the material was needed and that if the Government had to buy similar material on the 1st July—about the date of his report—it would cost them about £13,000 more. The Chief Architect strongly recommended the purchase on the basis of five per cent. commission, and the recommendation was approved. The works are now being constructed departmentally. Efforts will be made by the Government to obviate delays in unloading at Wyndham, and thus reduce the cost of the works.

PAPERS—RETIREMENT OF PUBLIC SERVANT.

Case of C. F. Gale.

Hon. W. KINGSMILL (Metropolitan) [4.43]: I move—

That all papers in connection with the retirement of Mr. C. F. Gale from the position of Chief Inspector of Aborigines be laid upon the Table.

I had proposed to embrace in my motion a paragraph asking for the appointment of a select committee, but it is not my intention to proceed with that at the present stage. I think it would not be fair to ask members to vote in favour of a select committee on this case until they

have had an opportunity to peruse the documents. I am moving for the papers in this case because I feel, rightly or wrongly, that an injustice has been done, first of all to the State by losing the services of a most capable, painstaking, efficient, and experienced officer, without any compensating saving, if indeed any saving could compensate the State, for such loss of services. The second reason is because I feel that the civil service as a whole is being discouraged to the utmost possible extent by the fact that officers who have given the greater part of their lives to loyal service are apt to meet with a fate such as that which has befallen Mr. Gale. My third reason is because I feel that a gross injustice has been done to Mr. Gale himself. These shortly are my reasons, and I do not intend to enlarge upon them now in moving for the papers which I feel sure will corroborate the statements I have made. When I move, at a subsequent date, for a select committee, after hon. members have availed themselves of the opportunity to look through the papers, as I hope they will do, I will proceed to give more ample reasons.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. J. M. Drew—Central) [4.45]: I do not intend to oppose the motion. In fact I have brought the papers bearing on the retirement along with me, and I propose to lay them on the table of the House in order that hon. members may be in a position to ascertain the facts.

Hon. W. KINGSMILL (Metropolitan—in reply) [4.46]: I wish to exercise my right of reply only to thank the leader of the House for his courtesy.

Question put and passed.

The Colonial Secretary laid the papers on the table.

BILL—ADOPTION OF CHILDREN ACT AMENDMENT.

Second Reading.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. J. M. Drew—Central) [4.47] in moving the second reading said: I wish to point out that this amending Bill is necessary

owing to the blunder, apparently, of a printer in the first place, and the oversight of a reader in the second place. Several words have been omitted in the interpretation of "adopted child" in Section 2 of the principal Act, and consequently the interpretation in that Act reads absolute nonsense.

Hon. W. Kingsmill: How did it remain undiscovered so long?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: I suppose the measure was not administered to any extent. The principal Act is 60 Vict. No. 6 (1896). The paragraph was intended to read, and probably in the draft was, as follows:—

"Adopted child" means any child concerning whom an order of adoption has been made as herein provided; and "adopting parent" means any person who is, by any such order of adoption, as herein provided, authorised to adopt a child; and, in case of an order being made in favour of a husband and wife on their joint application, shall mean and include both husband and wife.

In the print of the Act the words "has been made as herein provided; and 'adopting parent' means any person who is, by any such order of adoption" have been omitted. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee.

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

ADJOURNMENT—SPECIAL.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. J. M. Drew—Central) [4.51]: I move—

That the House at its rising adjourn until Tuesday, the 17th August.

Question passed.

House adjourned at 4.52 p.m.

Legislative Assembly.

Thursday, 5th August, 1915.

	PAGE
Papers presented	162
Questions: Agricultural development, Jute im- portation	162
Chartered steamer "N2," rent and conditions	162
Poison areas, classification	163
Expeditionary forces, leave of absence to Parliamentary officials	163
Bill: Fremantle Municipal Tramways and Electric Lighting Act Amendment, 1R. .. .	163
Leave of absence	163
Address-in-reply, fourth day	163

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

PAPERS PRESENTED.

By the Premier: 1, Return of receipts and expenditure of the Western Australian Government Railways for the quarter ending 30th June, 1915. 2, Reports under Sections 54 and 83 of the Government Railways Act, 1904, for the quarter ending 30th June, 1915.

QUESTION — AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT, JUTE IMPORTATION.

Mr. HARRISON asked the Minister for Agriculture: 1, Is it considered by his department to be in the best interests of agricultural development that the present methods of selling jutes at the value of contents contained therein should be continued? 2, What was the estimated loss to the industry, taking the returns for the 1913-14 harvest, under present methods in respect to jutes for (a.) wheat exported, with bags, say, at 7s. per dozen, and wheat at 3s. per bushel on the farm as mean values; (b.) wheat used and milled in the State, taking similar values; (c.) chaff at £3 10s. per ton on the farm and jutes at 6s. per dozen, with an average of 28 bags to the ton?

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE replied: I would like to ask the hon. gentleman to postpone this question until next sitting.