Legislative Assembly,

Thursday, 15th October, 1896.

Question: Fire Brigades Legislation—Question: Engineer-in-Chief's Visit to England—Width of Tires Act Amendment Bill: second reading; in committee—Bills of Sale Bill: in committee—Provident Societies Bill: order discharged—Criminal Evidence Bill: Legislative Council's amendments—Statutory Declarations Bill: Legislative Council's amendments—Industrial Statistics Bill: in committee—Railways Amendment Act Amendment Bill (received from Council): first reading—Jury Act Amendment Bill: in committee—Public Health Act Amendment Bill: in committee—Sale of Liquors Bill: in committee—Bastardy Laws Act Amendment Bill: second reading; in committee; third reading—*Hansard* Reporting Arrangements: Legislative Council's amendment of resolution—Great Southern Railway Purchase Bill: second reading; in committee; third reading—Church of England School Lands (private) Bill: first reading—Lands Resumption Bill: first reading—Adjournment.

THE SPEAKER took the chair at 4·30 o'clock, p.m.

PRAYERS.

QUESTION—FIRE BRIGADES LEGISLATION.

MR. RANDELL, without notice and by leave, asked the Attorney General whether it was the intention of the Government to bring in a Bill this session to deal with fire brigades? He understood there was a Bill of this nature in the office of the Parliamentary Draftsman; therefore he asked whether it was intended to bring forward the Bill this session?

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt) said the session had been too far advanced when an application was made to the Government to bring forward legislation on the subject; therefore it was not intended to introduce a Bill relating to fire brigades in this session, but he hoped it would be done next year.

QUESTION—ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF'S VISIT TO ENGLAND.

MR. SOLOMON, in accordance with notice, asked the Director of Public Works whether the report is correct that it is contemplated by the Government to send the Engineer-in-Chief to England for public purposes; and, if so, what will be the nature of his mission, and with what powers will he be invested?

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (for the Director of Public Works) said he did not think anything was absolutely decided at present with reference to this matter; but it was contemplated by the Minister to send the Engineer-in-Chief on a visit to England in connection with the water supply scheme for the goldfields. That was the nature of his mission. He would have no particular powers, except the power to consult with advisers in his own profession, chiefly with regard to the location of pumping stations for the water supply, the most suitable distance between stations, and other details of that nature.

WIDTH OF TIRES ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

SECOND READING.

MR. HARPER, in moving the second reading, said: The object of this Bill is to extend the period by two years beyond which it would not be legal to run carts on public roads with tires of less than a certain width, specified in the Act of 1895. The period allowed in the Act will expire in 1899, after which all vehicles using the public roads must have tires of a width in accordance with the Act. The coming into operation of the Act at this early date is considered by many agriculturists to be a hardship, as they would be compelled to alter the wheels of their existing vehicles so as to comply with the Act; therefore, with the object of doing away with that hardship, this amending Bill proposes to extend the period for two years longer. This is the main provision, but there is another provision of which I had given notice on the paper, for adding another clause to this Bill, and it is simply to make the original Act more workable. There is no provision in the Act for the Governor to appoint any special inspector for the purpose of ensuring that the Act shall be carried out in the various districts of the colony, but this has to be done by an officer of some kind. It may be necessary, in some localities, to have a special inspector appointed, there being perhaps no officer in such localities to see that the Act is duly carried out; therefore it is desirable that this provision should be added for completing the working of the principal Act. I do not think these matters will need much consideration or

time. I now move that the Bill be read a second time.

Mr. R. F. SHOLL: The width of Tires Act is a very useful statute, as it provides that no vehicle is to be used on the roads of the colony, after 1899, having tires of a less width than the Act specifies. It is proposed now to extend the time two years. I think the original measure will be most useful, and that the sooner it comes into force the better for the country. It would be a great benefit if it were in force at the present time in Perth and Fremantle, for it would save to these municipalities thousands of pounds that are now wasted by the unnecessary cutting up of roads with narrow-tired wheels. The same applies to many roads board districts in the country. It appears to me that some particular mark should be put on those vehicles which are passed by an inspector as being in accordance with the Act, because some guarantee is required in order that vehicles may be identified after they have been passed by an inspector. Some distinct mark or brand should be imprinted or punched into some part of the vehicle, say the arm, in order that a vehicle may be identified as having been duly inspected and passed. It would be in the interest of people who have vehicles at present to bring them forward for inspection, so that they may be passed and marked in a distinct manner; otherwise there will be no means of identifying the vehicles that have been passed, and it would be otherwise difficult to carry out the Act. It may be thought necessary to make some further amendment in this direction; or, if not done, there may be a future amendment brought in for a further extension of time. I believe it would pay the colony to call in the existing vehicles which are not tired in accordance with the Act, and supply new tires or new wheels, rather than allow those vehicles to go on cutting up the roads and streets in every part of the colony, particularly in places like Perth, where the roads are cut up while so much heavy material is being carted on narrow-tired wheels. I do hope there will be some finality in this matter, and that if an extension of time be allowed now, no further application will be made.

The COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. A. R. Richardson): I know the hon. member in charge of the Bill has moved in this matter in deference to wishes expressed in some of the country districts, where it has been represented that some hardship may be imposed on agriculturists by being compelled to renew their carts or wheels in order to make them in accordance with the Act. I cannot help regretting that the Act should be interfered with, except as to the provision for appointing inspectors, which appears to me a necessary provision and an improvement of the Act. If we could once get the broad tires into general operation on our roads, the advantages over narrow tires would be so obvious that those persons who use narrow tires would soon express their approval of the broad tires, and their prejudice against them would quickly die out. I think it is only prejudice which prevents some agriculturists from adopting the broad tires. It is rather anticipating evil to say that hardships will be caused by the coming into operation of this Act, seeing that the time for its full operation has not yet arrived; and of course, until the last day of grace is past, no hardship can actually be felt by anybody. It would, in fact, be time enough to move for an extension of the period if we were within six months of the date for this part of the Act coming into operation. I have no desire to oppose this amendment of the Act, except that I regret it should be interfered with. I notice that within the last six months there has been a great increase in the number of carts using wide tires. I have spoken to teamsters using the wide tires, and in every instance they have expressed their approval in unmistakable terms. It was anticipated, by some objectors, that the traction and the draught would be greater on the broad than on the narrow tires; whereas the teamsters who have lately taken to using wide tires now say they find this is not so, and that they have some difficulty in stopping their wide-tire wheels when going down hill. This practical testimony seems to show that the draught is less on broad tires than on narrow ones. On sandy or soft roads the difference is so much in favour of broad tires, that I think there can be no two opinions about

the advantage of broad tires as compared with narrow ones. If the Act can be brought into force and insisted on with firmness, I am sure the good effects will be so manifest, in a short time, that there will be no desire to return to the old system of narrow tires.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

IN COMMITTEE.

Clauses 1 to 4, inclusive—agreed to.

New clause:

MR. HARPER moved that the following new clause be added to the Bill, to stand as Clause 2 (the subsequent clauses to be re-numbered):—"Section 6 of the "said Act is hereby amended by inserting "in the fifth line thereof, after the word "'force' and before the word 'may,' the "following words: 'or any person or "persons who may from time to time be "specially appointed as an inspector or "inspectors for the purposes of the said "Act by the Governor. All such ap-"pointments shall be publicly notified "in the *Government Gazette*.'"

Put and passed, and the new clause added to the Bill.

Title—agreed to.

Bill reported, with an amendment.

Report adopted.

BILLS OF SALE BILL.

IN COMMITTEE.

The Bill was further considered in committee.

Clause 36—Bill of sale to secure less than £30 void:

MR. RANDELL moved, as previously intimated, that this clause be struck out. He said he did not like to take this course in the absence of the hon. member (Mr. James) in charge of the Bill, but it appeared to him necessary that the clause should be struck out. He believed that in this country a large number of bills of sale were for sums under £30; and this limitation in the clause was, in his opinion, not suited to the circumstances of the colony, although it might be suited to the circumstances of people in England, whence this provision in the Bill was taken. He knew it was the opinion of members of the Chamber of Commerce, or some of them, that the limit fixed in the Bill was too high.

Motion put and passed, and the clause struck out.

Bill reported, with amendments.

Report adopted.

PROVIDENT SOCIETIES BILL.

ORDER DISCHARGED.

MR. MOSS, in charge of the Bill, moved that the House go into committee for considering the Bill.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt), in opposing the motion, said he had advised the hon. member in charge of the Bill that a large number of amendments appeared to be necessary to make the Bill suited to the circumstances of the colony. Hon. members had been told that the provisions of this Bill were taken from a similar measure passed in Victoria many years ago; but he (the Attorney General) must repeat that the more recent legislation in England on the subject appeared to him very much preferable, having regard to the circumstances of this colony, than were the provisions of this Bill, as copied from Victoria. There would hardly be time, this session, to amend the Bill in the direction he would like to see it amended; consequently he had, with some regret, informed the hon. member that, although the Government did not like to inconvenience persons who were interested in the subject, they would have to withhold their support from this Bill, with a view to considering the question more in detail, and bringing forward a better Bill next session. With reference to the circumstances of those persons who desired this Bill to come into force at once, it might be possible to carry on their provident society organisations under some articles of association, framed somewhat in the style of the articles under which the old Perth corporate societies worked during some years. If there was anything the Government could do, in the meantime, to assist these people to continue their organisations, without the necessity of passing a Bill this session, the Government would be glad to do it. He moved that the Order of the Day be discharged.

MR. MOSS said he regretted that the Bill had to be discharged from the Notice Paper, but he agreed with the Attorney General that legislation on the subject

should be postponed until a measure could be passed that would follow the lines of the English Act, which he (Mr. Moss) had recently perused, and found to be a decided improvement on the Bill before the House. It would have been well if such a Bill could have been passed this session, because some people connected with provident societies at Fremantle were desirous of putting its provisions into operation; but, under the circumstances, he recognised that the Attorney General had taken the right course.

Motion put and passed.

Order of the Day discharged accordingly.

CRIMINAL EVIDENCE BILL.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL'S AMENDMENTS.

The Legislative Council having made amendments in this Bill, the Council's Message was now considered, the amendments being as follow:—

No. 1, Clause 1—Strike out the whole.

No. 2, Clause 2, lines 4 and 5—Strike out "and compellable witness without the consent of the person charged," and insert "witness" in lieu thereof.

IN COMMITTEE.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt) explained that the effect of the first amendment was to refuse to allow persons accused of felony the right to give evidence on their own behalf, subject to cross examination, and to exclude as a witness the husband or wife of a prisoner in the hearing of such charges. The second amendment permitted the giving of evidence in cases of summary jurisdiction by an accused person, or his or her wife or husband, and struck out that part of the clause which compelled such persons to give evidence. There was not a great deal of the Bill left, although he did not know that there was much occasion for those provisions which the Council had struck out. No doubt the alteration of the law as originally proposed by the Bill would lead to a great deal of perjury; but, in the absence of the hon. member for East Perth, who had introduced the Bill, he (the Attorney General) was in the hands of the committee as to what should be done in regard to the Council's amendments.

Mr. MORAN said there was so little left of the Bill that it might as well be thrown out. He moved that the Bill be thrown out.

Sir J. G. LEE STEERE said the motion of the member for Yilgarn was not the proper course to pursue in regard to the Bill, which had been passed by the Legislative Assembly and sent up to the Legislative Council. The Bill having been returned with amendments, the committee had now to say whether the amendments were to be agreed to or not. A committee of the House could not throw out the Bill.

Mr. ILLINGWORTH moved that the Chairman do leave the chair. This motion would have the same effect.

Mr. MOSS said the member for East Perth (not then present) assented to the amendments made by the Council. The privileges which the Bill gave to defendants in petty sessions would improve the law, and there was no reason why the Bill should be lost.

Motion to leave the chair put, and negatived.

Mr. SIMPSON moved that progress be reported, and leave asked to sit again.

Motion put and passed.

Progress reported, and leave given to sit again.

STATUTORY DECLARATIONS BILL.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL'S AMENDMENTS.

The Legislative Council having made amendments in this Bill, the Council's Message was now considered, the amendments being as follow:—

No. 1, Clause 1—Strike out the whole Clause, and insert the following in lieu:—

"1. Every warden of a goldfield, whether appointed before or after the passing of this Act, shall, by virtue of such appointment and during his tenure of office, be a justice of the peace for the colony."

No. 2, Clause 2—Strike out the whole clause, and insert the following in lieu:—

"2. Every clerk of petty sessions, clerk of a local court, and mining registrar of a goldfield district shall have the same authority to administer oaths, and take affirmations in lieu thereof and statutory declarations in accordance with the Act of the eighteenth year of Her present Majesty, numbered 12, as a justice of the

peace now has; and oaths administered and affirmations and statutory declarations made in pursuance of this section shall have the same force and effect as if administered or taken before a justice of the peace."

No. 3, Clause 3—Strike out the whole clause and insert the following in lieu:—

"3. Any clerk of petty sessions may receive and take informations, sign and issue summonses requiring the person summoned to attend before a court of petty sessions, in answer to any information or complaint cognizable by such court in the exercise of its jurisdiction, and summonses to witnesses to attend and give evidence or produce documents before such court, and such summonses shall have the same force and effect as if signed and issued by a justice of the peace."

No. 4, Clause 4—Strike out the whole.

No. 5, Clause 5—Strike out the whole.

No. 6, Clause 6—Strike out the whole.

IN COMMITTEE.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL said the Legislative Council had practically re-drafted the Bill, but he preferred the original shape of the measure. Referring to the first amendment (Clause 1, new clause substituted), he moved that the new clause be amended in the first line, by inserting after the word "goldfield" the words "or goldfield district."

Put and passed, and the substituted clause, as amended, agreed to.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, referring to the second amendment (Clause 2, new clause substituted), moved that the new clause be amended in the first line, by inserting after the word "goldfield" the words "or goldfields."

Put and passed, and the new clause as amended agreed to.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, referring to the third amendment (Clause 3, new clause substituted), said a very important amendment had been made by the Council in giving clerks of petty sessions the power to take informations, which was often a matter requiring the exercise of much discretion. It did not seem to be wise to give clerks of courts the same power as justices of the peace. The clause, when the Bill left this House, provided only that, in the absence of a justice of the peace, a clerk of petty sessions might issue summonses.

SIR JAMES G. LEE STEERE said he would not give this power to the clerks of courts; for, as the Attorney General had said, a magistrate often had to exercise a great deal of discretion as to whether he would take an information and issue a summons. It was to be hoped the committee would not agree with the amendment which the Council had made.

MR. MORAN said he knew that people on the goldfields often suffered a great deal of inconvenience in not being able to find a justice of the peace, after having travelled perhaps 100 miles; and, from a layman's point of view, the amendment was one that would facilitate the administration of justice. If the Attorney General would add the proviso that clerks were to take informations only in the absence of a justice of the peace, he (Mr. Moran) believed the clause would meet all requirements.

MR. RANDELL concurred with the position taken up by the Attorney General, that such power should not be given to clerks of petty sessions, as it might be made an engine of annoyance by the issue of informations upon frivolous grounds. At the same time, he was desirous of giving every proper facility for the administration of justice on the goldfields.

MR. SOLOMON pointed out that clerks of petty sessions were sometimes very young lads, to whom it would not be wise to give the power to take informations.

MR. MORAN said no lads were appointed as clerks of petty sessions on goldfields, while it was true that people had to wait about the mining towns, at a cost of £4 or £5 a day, trying to find a justice of the peace, who might have been sent 100 miles away to report upon a mine and would not be back for three weeks. The clerks of courts were not likely to make more mistakes than the ordinary run of justices of the peace.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL said he was convinced the wisest thing to do would be to leave the clause as it originally stood. Many of the clerks of petty sessions were mere boys, and it would be giving them great power to allow them to take informations. Those persons who

wanted them to do so would see reason to change their opinion, if they found that an enemy had been able to improperly lay an information against them. He moved, as an amendment in the substituted clause, that in the first line the words "receive and take informations" be struck out.

Put and passed, and the substituted clause, as amended, agreed to.

Amendments 4, 5, and 6—agreed to.

MR. MORAN asked the Government to appoint more justices of the peace for the goldfields districts.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL said such appointments were continually being made. Six justices were now being gazetted.

Resolutions reported to the House, and report adopted.

Ordered—that a message be sent to the Legislative Council accordingly.

INDUSTRIAL STATISTICS BILL.

IN COMMITTEE.

Clauses 1 and 2—agreed to.

Clause 3—Registrar General to manage the collection of statistics:

MR. GEORGE asked if policemen would be employed in collecting the statistics.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt) said Clause 5 dealt with the statistical districts, and showed that the resident magistrate would be the statistical agent, and that the police districts within each statistical district would be sub-districts, and the officer in charge of the police would be the statistical collector and might appoint any members of the police force under his command to be sub-collectors. The police constables would carry the forms round and leave them at the houses to be filled up, and later he would call for them.

MR. MORAN asked whether the returns would be under seal when the sub-collector called for them.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL said he was not prepared to say the returns would be under seal.

MR. ILLINGWORTH said it seemed to him the member for the Murray was criticising the Bill under a misapprehension. The Bill was in existence everywhere, and to a large extent it called for a voluntary effort on the part of the people to give the State certain information for the public good. It affected no one's personal interests and it inflicted no penalties of great importance. Nothing of a serious character could possibly happen under the Bill, and it was not calculated to do mischief to anybody. The police were simply used as the most convenient persons for getting the information.

MR. GEORGE said if he disapproved of that Bill or any other Bill, he would criticise it without asking the permission of the member for Nannine; and it seemed to him to be impertinence on the part of the member for Nannine to interfere. He had asked for information; he had got it, and was satisfied.

MR. MORAN said it should not be open to the sub-collectors to carry about the filled-up forms.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL said the police constables were not allowed to disclose the contents of the returns.

MR. MORAN said the returns should be under seal when they were given back to the sub-collector.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL said the returns could not be under seal because the sub-collectors had to see that the forms were properly filled up.

Clause 18 provided that the information contained in the returns should be secret and confidential, and a penalty of £50 was provided for cases where such information was disclosed.

Clause put and passed.

Clauses 4 to 9, inclusive—agreed to.

Clause 10—If forms are not delivered, persons required to make returns must apply at police station for forms:

MR. GEORGE said he did not think persons should be compelled to apply for forms where forms had not been delivered by the police. Everybody doubtless would be willing to give the information, but it was too much to expect that owners of stock should be compelled to apply for forms, where the police had failed to deliver them. Clause 15 provided that where a person who had not received a form and had failed to apply for one, he should be liable to a penalty not exceeding £20. Most people had too much to do in their own business without giving much attention to the filling up of forms. He thought that sub-

section 1 of this clause should be struck out.

MR. MORAN: I agree with the hon. member.

MR. GEORGE said he would be in favour of striking out the whole Bill, as the Attorney General did not seem inclined to treat his criticism in any other light than as a huge joke.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL said his duties were to the House, and not to individual members, and he had taken it that the sense of the House was in favour of passing the Bill as it stood. The penalty referred to by the member for the Murray was for wilful neglect on the part of an owner of stock to apply for the forms necessary to fill up. If, therefore, there was no wilful neglect, there would be no punishment inflicted.

MR. GEORGE said that even if a person were not guilty of wilful neglect, he might still be put to the inconvenience and trouble of a prosecution.

MR. MORAN moved that Sub-section 1 be struck out. He was strongly in favour of the Bill, but did not think it should be the duty of owners of stock to apply for the forms, if the police neglected to supply them. The onus of getting the forms and filling them up should not be thrown to any extent upon the public.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL said the police constables would go round a large district at a certain time, leaving forms to be filled up, and it would doubtless come to the knowledge of everybody in that district that that had been done. If, in such circumstances, any person had been missed by the police constables, he would know very well that he should apply for a form and fill it in. At the present time station owners were required to make a return of the number of sheep they owned, and there was no trouble whatever about getting those returns. The police constables went round with the forms and they were filled in, and where a station owner failed to make a return, he was written to and asked to do it. There would be no advantage in striking out Sub-section 1, for it was necessary to show the people that it was their duty to make these returns.

MR. GEORGE asked why it should be made compulsory upon the people to apply for the forms, if they were not delivered.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL said the returns were of value, and if they were of value, it should be made compulsory upon the people to obtain forms and fill them up.

MR. MORAN said it should be the duty of the sub-collectors to supply a list of the persons they had omitted to supply with forms. The whole duty of getting the forms filled up should rest on the police.

MR. MOSS said it would be a pity to strike out the clause, but still it seemed to him rather a severe provision that, if the form was not obtained and delivered by the first week in January, a penalty of £20 might be inflicted. Not five per cent. of the people would ever see a copy of the Bill, and they might know nothing of the duties imposed upon them under it. The House ought not to throw a duty like that upon individuals, especially when a penalty of £20 was imposed for neglect. The sub-section might be modified, he thought, in some way.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL said he did not think the Bill was dictatorial or iniquitous in any way. It simply provided that every householder should make returns of the stock in his possession. The same process was undergone when a census was made.

MR. MOSS said the taking of the census and the collecting of industrial statistics were not parallel cases. In the case of the taking of the census, the newspapers were full of the matter for months before the day on which the returns had to be made, but the newspapers would make no reference whatever to the taking of the stock returns.

MR. MORAN asked what would happen where it was discovered that the sub-collector had neglected his duty in regard to the delivery of the forms.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL said if it was not the fault of the householder that the form was not obtained and filled up, he could not be punished. Wilful neglect would have to be proved before a conviction could be obtained.

MR. ILLINGWORTH said the clause simply provided that if a man had not received his paper by the first of January he had to write for it; also if the sub-collector who had left the paper in the preceding year had not called for it by the first of February, it was the duty of

the householder to send it in by post. These were the things that the clause involved.

MR. MORAN asked how a householder was to know he was bound to get the paper by the first week in January, if he knew nothing whatever about the duty imposed upon him.

MR. R. F. SHOLL said it would be a hardship to inflict a heavy penalty upon any person who failed to make a return, and who knew nothing whatever about the Bill. It was the duty of the officers appointed by the Government to deliver the forms and collect them. The taking of the census return was done only once in ten years, but this was an annual return. The sub-section should be struck out.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. A. R. Richardson) said that, under the Scab Act, owners of sheep had to send in returns by the 31st December, and they were supposed to know that they had to send in those returns. He did not think, in any case, anyone could plead ignorance of the law. It was in the public interest that the returns should be accurate, and in the past there had been great complaints as to the unreliability of the returns. The Government had been asked to take more stringent measures to obtain correct and up-to-date reports, and, by means of the Bill before the House, they had endeavoured to do that. Individual cases of hardship might arise under it, but the Bill would be inoperative unless the subsection objected to were allowed to remain. It would be observed that it was only in a case of wilful neglect that a penalty could be inflicted. Some responsibility should be cast on the public in the matter; and he thought that if the subsection was left in the Bill, no one would suffer from it.

MR. GEORGE said the Commissioner of Crown Lands could not guarantee that no one would suffer by the retention of the sub-section in the Bill.

MR. RANDELL said there was scarcely any necessity for the sub-section, as the other machinery provided by the Bill seemed to be complete. It seemed a hardship that a person should be taken to a court of justice for neglecting to apply for a form. It would be difficult for such a person to prove that he had not wilfully neglected his duty in the matter.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL: We have to prove he has wilfully neglected his duty.

MR. GEORGE said it was going too far to inflict a penalty upon a man for not doing what the sub-collector should have done. It was not necessary that absolutely correct statistics should be obtained. If there were any omissions, they would amount, perhaps, to a hundred sheep and a few pigs. He would support the striking out of the sub-section.

MR. WOOD said if they went to the trouble of collecting the statistics, they should be able to make correct returns. The Government were every year spending hundreds of pounds in building agricultural halls, and in assisting agricultural associations, and he thought that, with all these institutions, the settlers should be able to ascertain their duties in regard to making the returns under the Bill.

MR. GEORGE said the member for West Perth evidently did not understand the Bill, for he seemed to imagine it referred only to farmers. If the member for West Perth referred to Clause 4, he would find that the persons required to make returns were the occupiers of land and the heads of industrial establishments. If those persons did not make the returns according to the Act, they would become subject to the penalty.

MR. ILLINGWORTH: Why should they not?

MR. GEORGE: The present was supposed to be an age of liberty and freedom, and it seemed to him an oppressive provision that a man should be fined £20 because he failed to report that he had a few pigs and pullets.

MR. MORAN said if they were going to make it compulsory to obtain a form and fill it up, it should be made compulsory for everybody to do that: one thing or the other. It was the duty of the police to collect the returns, and a person should not be punished for failing to do what the police neglected.

Amendment put, and division taken, with the following result:—

Ayes	...	...	5
Noes	...	...	9
Majority against		...	4

Ayes.	Noes.
Mr. Morgan	Mr. Burt
Mr. Randell	Mr. A. Forrest
Mr. R. F. Sholl	Mr. Harper
Mr. Solomon	Mr. Higham
Mr. George (*Teller*).	Mr. Moss
	Mr. Richardson
	Mr. Simpson
	Mr. Wood
	Mr. Illingworth (*Teller*).

Amendment negatived, and the sub-clause passed.

Mr. GEORGE, referring to sub-section 3, said it required that "Every head of an industrial establishment shall, at or before the end of the first week in January in each year, post under registered cover direct to the Registrar General the return prescribed by this Act." This was requiring too much, because stock-taking in an industrial business usually occupied the first or second week after the close of the year; therefore, to require that these returns should be made up in the first week of January would be asking the head of an industrial establishment to do what must, at that time, be very inconvenient.

The Commissioner of Crown Lands: Make it the last week in January.

The Attorney General said that would be convenient.

Mr. GEORGE accordingly moved, as an amendment, that the word "first" in line 2 of sub-section 3 be struck out, and the word "last" be inserted in lieu thereof.

Put and passed, and the clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 11 and 12—agreed to.

Clause 13—Returns required from head of industrial establishment:

Mr. GEORGE said this clause required too much detail from the head of an industrial establishment, for besides the number, sex, age, wages or earnings, hours of labour, accommodation, and particulars of employment of women and children employed, he had to specify the number and nature of machines in use, a detail which would be very troublesome and difficult to supply. He knew it would be particularly difficult and troublesome to supply such particulars in regard to an engineering establishment. For instance, how was it possible to tell what was the maximum capacity of such an establishment, and what was meant by that term? The capacity of engine power did not determine the capacity of the machines employed, and it would be impossible for any person to give a correct return such as was required by this clause. The difficulty was increased in the case of a workshop where a large portion of the work consisted of repairs, for a particular machine might be turning out £5 worth of work in one week and £50 worth in another week, according to the nature of orders received. In his establishment, for instance, he would require about twelve clerks, working hard for a month, to fill up correctly all the details required by this return; and he thought such a requirement was excessive and unnecessary. It was also going too far to require a person in business to state the amount of capital embarked in that business. A farmer was not asked how much capital he had embarked in his business, nor was such a question put to a lawyer—indeed, what would be the use of putting a question of that kind to a lawyer? He moved, as an amendment, that sub-section 3 be struck out.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL said the words "industrial establishment" were interpreted to mean a factory, workshop, or mill, where an engine driven by steam-power, &c., was used, whatever might be the number of persons employed there. It would be seen in Clause 11, which they had passed, that the Registrar General was to ask for these returns to be made out in such a form as might appear to him to be suitable; and of course the object would be to use forms similar to those used in other colonies, in order that the returns might be made as nearly identical in form and substance as possible. If the headings of these statistics were not the same in each colony, the statistics when collected would not have the same value as they might otherwise have if obtained in a uniform manner. He showed by examples how easily the reports might be filled up; and, as to the maximum power of an industrial establishment, he said the section only provided that there should be specified what the machinery was capable of producing. For instance, in the case of a flour-mill, how many tons of flour could be ground in a month, or in six months; if a saw-mill, how many loads of timber could be cut in a stated time with the machinery available; and so on. As to the value of the plant, it should be easy to tell that, and any details of this kind

which the Registrar General might call for would be set forth in returns similar to those used in other colonies. It should also be noticed that the returns, when made, were not to be collected by a constable, but that they might be sent, by post or otherwise, from the head of an establishment to the Registrar General direct; because in matters of this nature, where men were filling up particulars of the capital employed and so on, it was not desirable that such particulars should be open for any person other than the Registrar General to see; and the Bill provided that the Registrar General should be subject to a penalty of £50 if he divulged particulars in any of these returns. Another point of distinction was that the returns, when collected, would not be published so as to show the particulars of the business of any individual, but only the totals of any particular kind of business in a locality would be published, so that nothing of a nature inconvenient to individuals would be divulged in the published summaries. The amount of capital employed by a person in his business need not be made known to anyone, except to the Registrar-General, who was under a penalty not to divulge any particulars. Secrecy was thus provided for as completely as could be done, and no particulars concerning individuals would be made public in any form. For instance, the timber companies in a district would be lumped together for showing the total capacity of their output, or showing the aggregate amount of capital employed in that industry within the district. What objection could there be, therefore, except that a little trouble would be necessary in making out the returns? If a man made out a bad return, he was not to be fineable; and the clerks in the Registrar General's office, particularly during the first year or two, would give all assistance necessary for making out correct returns, until people got used to the method and could do without such assistance. It was desirable that the provisions as to collecting industrial statistics should be similar in all the colonies.

MR. HARPER said that engines other than steam, gas, or electricity, were employed in some cases, particularly oil engines, and these were not provided for in the clause.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL said there were no large works carried on by means of oil engines, but it might be well to include that kind of power in the clause.

MR. RANDELL said this Bill might be suitable for the circumstances of another colony, and a corresponding Act, in operation in another colony, might have been adopted under particular circumstances which did not apply here. Such a stage had not been reached in the history of this colony, and he agreed with the member for the Murray that there were many things asked for in these returns which would be very difficult for some persons to understand, and, in some cases, to comply with any degree of accuracy would be impossible. Hence the returns, when supplied, would be of little value. The questions put under Sub-section 4 might be inquisitorial, and if particulars did leak out as to the amount of capital embarked in a particular business, the result might be injurious to those concerned in that business. In an engineering establishment, occupied generally with repairs, he did not see how it was possible for the head of it to supply all the information which might be required under Clause 13, without increasing the number of his clerks very largely. This clause required further consideration, and possibly some amendment, before it ought to be passed; and he would like, for his guidance, to see what were the headings of the returns which the Registrar General would require to be filled up. He moved that progress be reported and leave asked to sit again.

Motion put and passed.

Progress reported, and leave given to sit again.

RAILWAYS ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Received from the Legislative Council, and read a first time.

At 6·30 p.m., the SPEAKER left the chair.

At 7·30 p.m., the SPEAKER resumed the chair.

JURY ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

The House went into committee to consider the Bill.

IN COMMITTEE.

Clause 1—agreed to.

Clause 2—Jurors to be paid only railway fares in lieu of mileage, in certain cases:

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt) moved, as an amendment, in line 3, that the word "fare" be inserted before the word "return."

MR. ILLINGWORTH said the amendment did not express what it was intended to convey, namely that the fare was to be paid from and to the home of a juror.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL said that was the accepted meaning of the words "return fare."

Put and passed.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL moved, as a further amendment, that there be added, at the end of the clause, the words "such fare and mileage shall be payable for each day of attendance."

Put and passed, and the clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 3 and 4—agreed to.

Title—agreed to.

Bill reported, with amendments, and report adopted.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

The House went into committee to consider the Bill.

IN COMMITTEE.

Clause 1—agreed to.

Clause 2—Amendment of 50 Vic. 19, s. 18:

MR. GEORGE said the City Council desired to have authority to make a sanitary rate of eighteen-pence in the pound, although they would not necessarily do so. The present rate could then be done away with, and the sanitary rate would become a charge upon the property the same as the water rate. It was only fair that those who enjoyed the possession of capital and the luxury of position should pay a sanitary rate in proportion to the value of their property, as they had to do in regard to water. He moved, as an amendment, that the word "sixpence" be added after the words "one shilling" at the end of the clause, the effect being to raise the maximum rate to 1s. 6d.

MR. A. FORREST expressed astonishment that some members of the City Council desired to have power to make rates that would amount in all to 4s. 3d. in the pound. When the amendment of the member for the Murray had been rejected, as it would be, he would move that the sanitary rate be not more than sixpence in the pound. He was sure that the committee was not going to tax one class of people for the sanitary service and allow others to come in free.

THE CHAIRMAN said it would be too late for the member for West Kimberley to move the amendment of which he had spoken, after the amendment of the member for the Murray had been dealt with.

MR. A. FORREST moved, as an amendment, that the word "sixpence" be substituted for the words "one shilling," in the last line of the clause.

MR. SOLOMON said the sanitary rate had been made only as high as threepence at Fremantle during the last year; prior to that time it had been only three-halfpence or twopence, which had been found to be sufficient.

MR. WOOD said a sixpenny rate would be sufficient for the work. A shilling rate would be altogether too high, as it would amount to about £5 for a house of fair size. It had been stated that the present charge of 2s. 11d. per month had left a credit balance on the sanitary system of £2,000 or £3,000. [MR. GEORGE: No, no.] It had been stated that the sanitary system had been carried out at a profit.

MR GEORGE said there was no credit balance.

MR. WOOD said he did not see why the City Council should want to make a profit out of the sanitary system.

MR. GEORGE said it was not carried out at a profit.

MR. WOOD said it was so stated.

MR. GEORGE said the statement was wrong.

MR. WOOD said the statement, if wrong, ought not to have been made.

MR. RANDELL urged that there could be no justification for imposing a class tax for a specific service rendered to all classes of householders. It ought to be enough to raise the rate to sixpence. If the City Council did not carry out their administration economically, that

was no reason why an excessive sanitary rate should be charged. It ought to be remembered that the increase of the value of property, and the growth of the city and suburbs, would double the amount of the municipal assessment next year.

MR. ILLINGWORTH said an eighteenpenny rate would be a step in the wrong direction.

MR. GEORGE said that, having done what he had been asked to do, he would not press his amendment, but he would oppose the reduction of the rate to sixpence. The rate now charged led to the summoning, and the loading with costs, of poor people who had not the money to pay for the service. It would be far better to make the service a charge upon the landlords, and leave them to recoup from their tenants. The remark made by the member for Perth about the City Council not being economical might have been spared at a time when reforms were in progress. He (Mr. George) was sorry it had been so persistently stated that there had been a profit on the sanitary service. As was well known, there were ways of stating figures which could be looked at from different points of view. Certainly, there had not been a profit of £2,000.

MR. A. FORREST said the chairman of the Health Board of Perth had told him the present rate for health purposes was sufficient, and that, after outgoings were paid, there was a profit. The original outlay, of course, had not been recouped, but the income of the board was more than sufficient to pay the working expenses.

MR. SOLOMON said the population in the outskirts of towns had greatly increased the expenditure of the Health Boards; consequently an increased rate was necessary to enable the boards to carry out a proper system of sanitation.

MR. RANDELL said he was informed that members of the Perth Board of Health had stated that fourpence in the pound would give the board an ample revenue to carry out its work. He understood the member for South Fremantle to say that, in the past, a rate of three-halfpence had been sufficient for Fremantle, and that threepence would be enough for the future. He (Mr. Randell) could not approve of the proposal to levy a rate of one shilling.

MR. HIGHAM supported the original proposition, that the rate should be one shilling. Those members who had had any experience in municipal matters must know that a rate of threepence was not sufficient, and that a rate of one shilling would be required. No municipality was likely to levy a higher health rate than was necessary. The tendency was rather in the direction of levying as high a general rate as possible, in order to increase the Government subsidy.

MR. GEORGE said it was an error to suppose, as had been stated, that there was a profit left after carrying out the sanitary work of the city of Perth. If those hon. members who had made this assertion went into the figures, they would discover that no allowance had been made for depreciation, or for the making of pans, or for management. Hon. members would readily understand that a profit could be shown, where there were no debits for the cost of management and other expenditure.

MR. A. FORREST said he had been distinctly told, by the chairman of the Health Board of Perth, that a profit had been made on the present rate.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Traylen), speaking on the clause by indulgence of the committee, said he was entirely adverse to a rate being charged for sanitary services in Perth or any other place. He could further say that, to his knowledge, no sanitary rate had been levied in the city of Perth for the past two or three years. The expenditure of the Health Board had been charged to the general fund, and the City Council had drawn a Government subsidy in respect of it, accordingly.

Amendment (Mr. A. Forrest's), reducing the maximum rate to 6d. in the pound, put and passed.

MR. GEORGE moved, as a further amendment, at the end of the clause, to add the words: "And such rates shall be paid by the owner of the property so rated."

THE CHAIRMAN informed the committee that the owner was at the present time liable to pay the rates, and that the occupier did not pay them.

MR. GEORGE said he was quite aware that the owner was liable, but he was also aware the occupier of any house in Perth might be sued for the rates. In fact, there

had been many instances where the occupier had been sued for rates that were two or three years in arrear at the time he took possession. He (Mr. George) had endeavoured to get a similar amendment made in the Municipalities Bill when before this House. An owner of property who received rent should discharge his obligations to the municipality, and he would have his remedy in the rent. He (Mr. George) knew it was objected to this system that it might result in the occupier losing his vote, but there were many cases where the owner paid the rate and the occupier retained his vote. A case had been brought to his notice in which an owner of property in Perth, a man in a high position, had insisted upon one of his tenants paying rates that were two or three years in arrear, and had threatened to put him out of the premises if he did not pay those arrears, although not due from the particular tenant. This House had been going in for grandmotherly legislation lately, and hon. members might well take the paternal course of protecting the occupier. The owner of property could always get the rates back in his rent. He (Mr. George) knew of cases where owners had raised rents to the extent of two shillings per week, on account of a charge of threepence per week falling upon a property in respect of the water rate.

THE CHAIRMAN said he did not know whether he should not refuse to accept this amendment, because it altered the principle of the Bill, and had been moved without notice. It was only in the previous session that the Health Act had been altered so as to make the owner liable for the rates as well as the occupier. He also pointed out that, under the Bill itself, the owner and the occupier were both liable; and the committee could not very well add the words proposed to be added to the clause. He must rule that he could not accept the amendment.

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

Title—agreed to.

Bill reported, with an amendment.

SALE OF LIQUORS BILL.

The House went into committee to consider the Bill.

IN COMMITTEE.

Clauses 1 to 5, inclusive—agreed to.

Clause 6—Power to purchaser of liquor to have it analysed:

MR. SIMPSON said the clause provided that the purchaser of liquor should pay the public analyst twenty shillings for analysing a sample of liquor. The fee seemed very high, and he would like to know if the Attorney General could not see his way to reduce it.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt) said the fee did seem high, but it was difficult to get analysts to do the work at a lower fee. The Government paid the public analyst a retaining fee, and if the fee was reduced so far as the public were concerned, part of the cost might fall upon the Government. However, if the committee desired it, he would not oppose the reduction.

MR. SIMPSON moved that the word "twenty," in line 2 of the clause, be struck out, and the word "ten" inserted in lieu thereof.

MR. GEORGE said that he thought ten shillings was too high, and that five shillings would be enough to pay for an analysis of liquor. It did not seem to him that it should cost more to analyse a sample of liquor than it did to assay a sample of quartz.

MR. SIMPSON said it was a much longer process to analyse liquor than to assay quartz.

Amendment put and passed.

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 7—Sale or possession of adulterated liquor:

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL moved that the words "salicylic acid," in line 6 of the clause, be struck out.

MR. SIMPSON said that representations had been made to him with regard to this clause. He had always been of opinion that any person should be punished who made a profit out of selling adulterated liquor, but under this clause it might happen that an innocent hotel-keeper would be punished instead of the guilty wholesale dealer. The adulteration of liquor might occur before it reached the retailer, but under the clause the retailer was in all cases made liable for the penalty. He wished to ask the Attorney General whether a clause could not be inserted in the Bill protecting the hotel-keeper from being punished, when

the liquor had been adulterated before it reached him. It might be provided in such a case that the retailer so punished could recover the amount of the penalty and expenses from the real offender. The members of the Licensed Victuallers' Association had represented to him that hotel-keepers might unconsciously sell adulterated liquor, and that it would be impossible for them to detect the adulteration unless they had every bottle analysed before retailing it. He was quite sure the Attorney General did not wish to inflict the penalty upon any person not guilty of an offence, and he (Mr. Simpson) therefore hoped that something would be done in the direction desired by the Licensed Victuallers' Association.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL said he quite agreed that the person they desired to catch was he who adulterated the liquor, and he would endeavour to see if the view of the member for Geraldton could not be met. If the retailer could prove that the liquor was adulterated before it reached him, power should be given to him to mulct the guilty person.

MR. R. F. SHOLL said he thought it was the duty of the publican to ascertain from the wholesale dealer that he was being supplied with a good article. The clause under consideration would have the effect of making the publican careful to have his liquor analysed, or to deal with a respectable wholesale merchant. If the committee gave the retailer a loophole of escape from responsibility, the effect would be to lessen the usefulness of the measure.

MR. SOLOMON said he did not agree with the member for the Gascoyne, because it was very difficult for a publican who bought by the case to know whether the liquor he had purchased was adulterated or not. The adulteration might be done by the wholesale merchant, and the publican should be protected if he could prove that the liquor had reached him in that condition.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL said that salicylic acid was used to clean out casks, and he had not found it mentioned as a means of adulteration in the Acts of any of the other colonies. He, therefore, thought it better to strike out all reference to this acid.

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

Clauses 8 to 10, inclusive—agreed to.

MR. RANDELL said he wished to ask the Attorney General whether there was any provision in the Bill by which the Collector of Customs could order spirits introduced into the colony from over sea to be analysed.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL said there was no such provision in the Bill.

Clauses 11 to 19, inclusive—agreed upon.

Schedule—agreed to.

Title—agreed to.

Bill reported, with amendments.

BASTARDY LAWS ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

SECOND READING.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt), in moving the second reading, said: This is a Bill which the Legislative Council has sent down by message, and I think it is a most commendable action on the part of the Council to give their attention to this matter. The Bill consists of one operative clause only, for amending the 55th Section of our Bastardy Laws Act, 1875, by increasing the maximum amount which a justice of the peace may award as a weekly payment to the mother of a bastard child, from 5s. to a sum not exceeding 12s. 6d. This payment is to provide for the education, maintenance, and bringing up of the child until it arrives at the age of 14 years. When the maximum amount was fixed at 5s. many years ago, a sum of 5s. was equivalent to a good deal more than the same sum is now; and, therefore, in the opinion of the Legislative Council, it has become desirable to raise the maximum to 12s. 6d. I do not think our sympathy will be with the putative father, who is, in fact, the only person who can be mulcted of this sum; and, indeed, my own view is that even 12s. 6d. is a very inadequate allowance. I move that the Bill be read a second time.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

IN COMMITTEE.

Clause 1—agreed to.

Clause 2—amendment of Section 5 of 39 Vic., No. 8:

MR. GEORGE moved, as an amendment, that the maximum amount to be

allowed in the Bill for maintenance be increased from 12s. 6d. to 30s.

Amendment put and negatived.

Clause put and passed.

Title—agreed to.

Bill reported, without amendment.

Report adopted.

THIRD READING.

Bill read a third time, and *passed.*

"HANSARD" REPORTING ARRANGEMENTS.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL'S AMENDMENT OF RESOLUTION.

The Assembly having, on the 7th October inst. (in accordance with the recommendation in the report of the select committee, that arrangements be made during recess to place the "Hansard" reporting staff on a permanent and efficient basis), resolved that the Library Committee, acting jointly with the Library Committee of the Legislative Council, be requested to take this matter into consideration, with a view to giving effect to the above recommendation:

The Legislative Council also having thereupon passed a resolution agreeing to the foregoing resolution, subject to an amendment for inserting between the word "basis" and the word "and," in the fourth line, the further words, "and to have reports of the debates of both Houses published in a daily newspaper":

The House now resolved itself into committee to consider the Legislative Council's amendment.

IN COMMITTEE.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt) said: The select committee which was appointed early in the session to consider the "Hansard" reporting arrangements made the following recommendations:—(*a.*) That Mr. Speaker be empowered to bring the "Hansard" staff up to efficiency by securing the services of four first-class "Hansard" reporters for the Assembly, in addition to the staff now employed in the Legislative Council. (*b.*) That the idea of a daily "Hansard," published in a newspaper, be abandoned, at least for the present session. (*c.*) That arrangements be made with the Government Printer to produce "Hansard," in book form, at intervals of not less than one week. (*d.*) That during recess arrangements be made to place "Hansard" on a permanent and efficient basis. This House adopted the report and recommendations of that committee; and, in order to give effect to it, this House further resolved, on the 7th inst., that the matter be referred to the Library Committee of both Houses, for placing the "Hansard" reporting arrangements on a proper basis during the recess. We are now asked, in the message sent to us from the Legislative Council, to approve of an amendment which the Council has made in the last resolution we passed on the subject; that is to say, we are asked to instruct the joint committee "to have reports of the debates of both Houses published in a daily newspaper." I would like to point out that, if this amendment were agreed to by this House, it would become the duty of the joint committee to deal with the matter which is proposed to be referred to it, by making arrangements to have the debates in both Houses published in a daily newspaper. I think what we wish to do is to refer the whole matter, unconditionally, to the joint committee, to make arrangements for the proper reporting and the publishing of debates of both Houses; and that we do not wish to tie the hands of the joint committee, as in my opinion this suggested arrangement would do. Therefore I propose to amend the amendment of the Legislative Council, if practicable, by inserting at the end of the resolution which we sent up to the Council these words: "and further to consider the question of having the debates of both Houses published in a daily newspaper." The amendment which the Council has made on our resolution would make it a *sine quâ non* that the joint committee must make this arrangement for publishing the reports of both Houses in a daily newspaper; and I think we are not prepared to discuss the question now, or, at any rate, the Government could not recommend that procedure. We have no objection to refer to the Joint Library Committee the whole question of the reporting and publishing of the debates. Perhaps the best method of dealing with this matter—as it would be somewhat difficult to deal with the Council's resolution by amending it—will be to move that

the amendment of the Legislative Council be not agreed to. The words which I have suggested as those which we should add to our original resolution will indicate to the Council what our desire is, though I am afraid our hands are so tied that we cannot, in due form, amend our previous resolution.

THE CHAIRMAN: If you are desirous of putting in additional words to the original resolution, I think you could accomplish the object by amending the amendment of the Council in a certain way.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (acting on the Chairman's suggestion): I now move that the word "have," in the Council's amendment, be struck out, and that the words "consider the question of having" be inserted in lieu thereof; the effect of this amendment being that the passage will read: "and to consider the question of having the reports of the debates of both Houses published in a daily newspaper."

Amendment put and passed.

Resolution reported to the House.

Report adopted.

Ordered, that the resolution be transmitted to the Legislative Council, and their concurrence in the further amendment desired.

GREAT SOUTHERN RAILWAY PURCHASE BILL.

SECOND READING.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, in moving the second reading, said: We wish to put this Bill through as quickly as possible. The Government have been advised to follow the precedent of the purchase of a railway in Tasmania, when the Government of that colony took over from a private company the railway from Launceston to Hobart; and this precedent we are now advised to follow with regard to the creation of the stock in London for paying the purchase price of the Great Southern Railway and the lands which are to be acquired under this Bill. The two points in the Bill are that the Government are authorised to purchase the railway and lands of the company, and to issue the inscribed stock of Western Australia for payment of the purchase price, and deliver the same to the company in return for the railway and the lands which we shall acquire under the Bill. I move that the Bill be read a second time.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

IN COMMITTEE.

Clauses 1 and 2—agreed to.

Clause 3—Governor may purchase railway:

MR. SIMPSON asked whether the Attorney General could state approximately the value of what the colony had parted with when the concession was granted to the company, and which would now be got back by this purchase? He referred particularly to the lands which had been sold outright.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL said he could probably furnish the information on the next day. The Government would get the overdue payments and all payments accruing from holders of lands under conditional purchase from the company.

MR. RANDELL said he remembered that the Premier stated, in his speech on the motion for approval of the purchase, that the company had disposed of 300,000 acres of land.

MR. ILLINGWORTH said he believed the company had also purchased town sites in Albany, in addition to the land acquired from the Government.

MR. A. FORREST said that, having signed the original contract on behalf of Mr. Anthony Hordern, he could state that something like £40,000 was paid in cash for town lots purchased in Albany. These town lands would be handed over to the Government with this purchase, in addition to the buildings which the company had since erected, so that the Government would get the buildings extra.

Clause put and passed.

Clauses 4 to 14, inclusive—agreed to.

Title—agreed to.

Bill reported, without amendment.

Report adopted.

THIRD READING.

Bill read a third time, and transmitted to the Legislative Council.

CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL LANDS (PRIVATE) BILL.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt) presented a petition asking for leave to introduce a Bill intituled "An

Act to empower the Diocesan Trustees of the Church of England in Western Australia to sell, mortgage, or lease Perth Allotments H 7 and H 1, and to apply the proceeds or rents and profits thereof, subject to and in accordance with certain trusts."

The petition having been received and read, a Bill in accordance with the prayer of the petition was introduced by the ATTORNEY GENERAL.

Bill read a first time.

On the motion of the ATTORNEY GENERAL, the Bill was referred to a select committee, comprising the following members:—Messrs. Loton, Randell, Traylen, Wood, and the Attorney General as mover.

LANDS RESUMPTION BILL.

Introduced by the COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. A. R. Richardson), and read a first time.

ADJOURNMENT.

The House adjourned at 9·8 o'clock, p.m., until next day.

Legislative Assembly,

Friday, 16th October, 1896.

Width of Tires Act Amendment Bill: third reading—Jury Act Amendment Bill: third reading—Public Health Act Amendment Bill: third reading—Australasian Federation Enabling Bill: Legislative Council's suggestions—Lands Resumption Bill: second reading; in committee—Railways Amendment Act Amendment Bill: second reading; in committee; third reading—Industrial Statistics Bill: discharged—Kalgoorlie-Kanowna Railway Bill: in committee; third reading—York-Greenhills Railway Bill: second reading; in committee; third reading—Kalgoorlie-Menzies Railway Bill: second reading; in committee; third reading—Mines Regulation Act Amendment Bill: second reading; in committee—Sale of Liquors Bill: order discharged—Criminal Evidence Bill: Legislative Council's amendments—Crown Lands Timber Bill: order discharged—Church of England School Lands (private) Bill: select committee's report—The Speaker's Ruling *re* suspension of Standing Order 63 (private Bills)—Motion: Reservation of Jarrah and Karri Forests—Loan Estimates: consideration in committee—Want of a quorum: adjournment.

THE SPEAKER took the chair at 4·30 o'clock, p.m.

PRAYERS.

WIDTH OF TIRES ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

THIRD READING.

Bill read a third time, and transmitted to the Legislative Council.

JURY ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

THIRD READING.

Bill read a third time, and transmitted to the Legislative Council.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

THIRD READING.

Bill read a third time, and transmitted to the Legislative Council.

AUSTRALASIAN FEDERATION ENABLING BILL.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL'S SUGGESTIONS.

The Legislative Council having suggested two amendments in this Bill, these were now considered.