

AYES.

Mr. Illingworth
Mr. James
Mr. Leake
Mr. Loton
Mr. Randell
Mr. R. F. Sholl
Mr. Simpson (Teller).

NOES.

Mr. Clarkson
Mr. Connor
Mr. Cookworthy
Sir John Forrest
Mr. A. Forrest
Mr. Harper
Mr. Monger
Mr. Moran
Mr. Paterson
Mr. Pearce
Mr. Phillips
Mr. Piesse
Mr. H. W. Sholl
Mr. Solomon
Mr. Traylen
Mr. Veun
Mr. Wood
Mr. Richardson (Teller).

Motion negatived.

ADJOURNMENT.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) moved that the House, at its rising, adjourn until Wednesday, 28th November, at 4.15 o'clock p.m. He said the Legislative Council had not had a quorum for that sitting (Monday), and their next meeting was to be held at 4.30 p.m. on Wednesday. He intended to ask His Excellency the Governor to prorogue Parliament at a quarter before 6 o'clock on Wednesday afternoon, after the business of the Legislative Council had been finished.

Question put and passed

The House adjourned at 12 o'clock, midnight.

Legislative Council,

Wednesday, 28th November, 1894.

Suspension of Standing Orders—Goldfields Expenditure—Medical Bill: Legislative Assembly's amendment—Prorogation.

THE PRESIDENT (Hon. Sir G. Shenton) took the chair at 4.30 o'clock p.m.

PRAYERS.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. S. H. Parker) moved that for the remainder of the sitting the Standing Orders be suspended.

Question put and passed.

GOLDFIELDS EXPENDITURE.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. S. H. Parker): I move that this House concurs in the following Resolution, transmitted to us by the Legislative Assembly:—"That it is advisable that the Government be authorised to expend the sum of £50,000 for the purpose of increasing and extending the Water Supply on the goldfields, to be advanced to such extent as may be required during the current financial year from any funds in the hands of the Government, but to be ultimately recouped from funds to be hereafter provided by Parliament for such purpose." I have to inform hon. members that the greater portion of the £70,000 appropriated in the Loan Bill recently passed for expenditure on the goldfields has already either been expended, or has been allocated, and it is now necessary to authorise the Government to expend further moneys if the goldfields are to be kept going. I am sorry to have to bring this motion before hon. members, and thereby have to admit that a large sum of money has been spent, apparently without the knowledge of the Government. Hon. members, however, will remember that last year there was a great outcry about the water on the fields running short; in fact, at one time teams were unable to travel, and provisions on the field were, in consequence, getting scarce. Under these circumstances, the Government thought it advisable to strain every point, and spare no expense to provide the necessary water supply. It was necessary, owing to the distance of the fields, to give those who represented the Government there full power to spend money in the making of tanks and dams; but the Government never intended that they should spend as much as they have done without the authority of Parliament. Works were undertaken, and liabilities were incurred, of which the Works Department had not full knowledge, and I believe that it was only a few weeks ago that the Treasurer was aware of the

liability which had been incurred. I may say that it was only quite recently that I became aware of any excessive expenditure, although I quite recognise that Ministers as a whole are responsible for the acts of their colleagues. I must, therefore, take my fair share of the responsibility in this matter. I must point out, however, that if Ministers had asked Parliament for this money there would have been no objection to it, seeing that it was the duty of the Government to keep open the road to the field almost at any cost. I regret that, owing to the dry season we have experienced, the tanks and dams which have been made have not been filled, but that is no fault of the Government. The Government has not been reckless in the expenditure, for the works are good and proper ones, although they have not proved a success, owing to the exceptional nature of the season. The matter has been fully debated in another place, and it is needless for me to dilate upon the subject further at this stage of the session. I move the resolution.

THE HON. F. M. STONE: I cannot allow this resolution to pass without entering my protest against the way Parliament has been treated by the Government in this matter. At the time the Loan Estimates were before the House it was well known that this money had been spent, and we were thus misled. If we had been informed of it, there would not have been the slightest chance of the Bridgetown Railway passing this House. I say this because a threat was held out, that if we did not assent to the Loan Estimates as a whole, the Government would not be able to spend any further moneys, but we now find that they have spent £50,000 without any authority at all.

THE HON. E. HENTY: I think the Government has made a mistake in this matter, but only a mistake. The whole colony called out for a water supply on the goldfields, and, if a mistake has been made, the Premier has apologised and said that nothing of the kind will happen again. I think we may, therefore, condone the mistake and allow this matter to pass.

THE HON. F. T. CROWDER: I do not wish to detain hon. members, but I

must express my agreement with what the Hon. Mr. Stone has said. Members of this House do not object to the spending of the money, for the Government would not be worthy of the positions they occupy if they did not rise to an occasion and spend money without the authority of Parliament where necessary. What we object to is, that the Government knew of this expenditure three weeks ago, and delayed communicating the fact to Parliament until now, to suit their own purposes.

THE HON. R. W. HARDEY: I rise to enter my protest against the manner in which this item has been brought forward. Parliament, in my opinion, should have been made aware of the expenditure long ago. I should like to say a word in regard to the tanks which have been constructed. I think that nearly all of them have been made by day labour, which is a great mistake, for we all know that the Government cannot do work at the same price that private individuals can.

THE HON. J. C. G. FOULKES: I humbly beg to deprecate any further discussion. We are told we have no power to deal with money matters. I hope, however, that the next time members of another place assert that it is their sole right to deal with financial matters, they will manage better than they have in this instance.

Question put and passed.

MEDICAL BILL.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL'S AMENDMENT.

IN COMMITTEE.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. S. H. Parker) moved that the Legislative Assembly's amendment to the Council's amendment in Clause 24 be agreed to.

Question put and passed.

THE PRESIDENT (Hon. Sir G. Sheuton) then left the chair until 5.40 o'clock p.m.

THE PROROGATION.

THE PRESIDENT (Hon. Sir G. Sheuton) resumed the chair. Shortly afterwards His Excellency Sir W. C. F. Robinson, G.C.M.G., entered the Chamber and commanded the attendance of

the members of the Legislative Assembly, who, having arrived,

His Excellency delivered the following Speech:—

“MR. PRESIDENT AND HONOURABLE
“GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE
“COUNCIL,—

“MR. SPEAKER AND GENTLEMEN OF THE
“LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,—

“I have pleasure in releasing you from
“your labours, which have been prolonged
“owing to the many important matters
“you have had to deal with.

“Your approval of the extension of the
“railway system to the goldfields, and of
“the policy of the Government with regard
“to the development of the mineral re-
“sources generally, coupled with the en-
“couragement which you have given to
“the further occupation and settlement of
“the land, must result in promoting the
“best interests of the colony.

“MR. SPEAKER AND GENTLEMEN OF THE
“LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,—

“The financial position of the colony is
“satisfactory. The revenue continues to
“increase, and the expenditure is being
“kept within reasonable limits.

“I thank you for the liberal supplies
“you have granted for the use of the
“public service, and I trust the large
“amount which you have provided for
“works and other services will result in
“much benefit.

“MR. PRESIDENT AND HONOURABLE
“GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE
“COUNCIL,—

“MR. SPEAKER AND GENTLEMEN OF THE
“LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,—

“The Loan Bill which you have passed,
“and which has already been assented to,
“will enable the Government to proceed
“with the important railway lines to the
“chief centres on the Coolgardie and Mur-
“chison Goldfields, and also with many
“other works of pressing importance.

“The future of the colony as a large
“gold-producing country seems to be abso-
“lutely assured. The export of gold con-
“tinues to increase; much attention is
“being given to the erection of mining
“machinery; a large amount of foreign
“capital is being introduced; and there is
“ample evidence to prove that the develop-
“ment and progress of the goldfields are

“largely assisting the advancement and
“general prosperity of the people.

“I now prorogue this Parliament till
“Wednesday, 27th March next.”

Legislative Assembly.

Wednesday, 28th November, 1894.

Re-introduction next session of Imported Labour
Registry Bill—Midland Junction Railway Station—
Message from the Governor: Assent to a Bill—
Perth-Subiaco Road (motion for adjournment)—
Restriction re Expenditure upon Eastern Goldfields
Water Supply—Message from the Legislative Council
concurring in expenditure of £50,000 upon exten-
sion of Goldfields Water Supply—Message from the
Legislative Council agreeing to amendment in the
Medical Bill—Prorogation.

THE SPEAKER took the chair at
4.15 p.m.

PRAYERS.

RE-INTRODUCTION OF IMPORTED LABOUR REGISTRY BILL.

MR. JAMES: I should like to ask
the Premier, without notice, whether the
Government will, in the early part of
next session, re-introduce the Imported
Labour Registry Bill?

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest):
The Government have not yet considered
the matter, but I see no reason why we
should not re-introduce it—I do not know
whether in the exact form of the Bill of
this session or not. It seems to me it
is impossible to get the Bill through in
another place. The Government, how-
ever, will consider the matter.

MIDLAND JUNCTION RAILWAY STATION.

MR. HARPER: I should like to ask
the Commissioner of Railways, without
notice, whether there is any probability,
in the near future, of a new railway
station being erected at the Midland
Junction? At present the whole of the