

## Legislative Council,

Tuesday, 26th October, 1897.

Papers presented—Registration of Firms Bill; first reading—Motions: Sessional Committees appointed; Sitting Days and Hours—Appointment of Chairman of Committees—Motions: Leave of Absence—Reporting and Publishing of Debates—Adjournment.

The PRÉSIDENT (Hon. Sir G. Shenton) took the Chair at 4:30 o'clock p.m.

### PRAYERS.

### PAPERS PRESENTED.

By THE MINISTER OF MINES (Hon. E. H. Wittenoom): 1, Bureau of Agriculture, Report to 30th June, 1897; 2, Lands and Surveys, Report for 1896; 3, Stock Department, Report by Chief Inspector to 31st December, 1896; 4, Acclimatisation Board, Report for 1896-7; 5, Woods and Forests Department, Report for 1896-7; 6, Post Office Savings Bank, Comparative Statement of Transactions for 1896-7; 7, Lands Purchase Board, Regulations relating to; 8, Stock Diseases Act, 1895, Regulations under; 9, Pearlshell Fishery, Sharks Bay, Regulations for control of; 10, Carnarvon Commonage, By-laws of; 11, Cossack Commonage, By-laws of; 12, Homesteads Act, 1893, Regulations under; 13, Roads Act, 1888, By-laws under; 14, Fishery Act, 1889, Regulations under.

### REGISTRATION OF FIRMS BILL.

Introduced (upon leave given) by the HON. G. RANDELL, and read a first time.

### MOTIONS—SESSIONAL COMMITTEES.

On motions by the MINISTER OF MINES, the following standing committees for the session were appointed:—

PRINTING COMMITTEE.—The President, Hon. F. T. Crowder, and the Mover.

STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE.—The President, Hon. J. W. Hackett, and the Mover.

LIBRARY COMMITTEE.—The President, Hons. G. Randell, J. W. Hackett, H. Briggs, and the Mover.

HOUSE COMMITTEE.—The President, Hons. F. T. Crowder, R. S. Haynes, and the Mover.

### SITTING DAYS AND HOURS.

On the motion of the MINISTER OF MINES, the following sessional order was made:—"That, unless otherwise ordered, the House do meet for the despatch of business on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, at 4:30 p.m., and shall sit until 6:30 p.m. if necessary, and, if requisite, from 7:30 p.m. onwards."

### APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES.

THE MINISTER OF MINES (Hon. E. H. Wittenoom), in accordance with notice, moved:—"That during the present Session of the Council the duties of Chairman of Committees be performed by the President, the Honourable Sir George Shenton." He said: In respectfully moving the motion that stands in my name, I feel sure hon. members will appreciate the manner in which the hon. the President has always obliged the House by carrying out the duty of Chairman of Committees in the past. We are all aware that it is extra work which falls upon him; yet he has always cheerfully consented to act. Everyone will agree with me that the hon. gentleman has given the greatest satisfaction. In asking the President to again perform the duties, we are perhaps trespassing on his good nature, but I hope he will fall in with the wishes of the House.

THE PRÉSIDENT: If it is the wish of hon. members that I should carry out the duties of Chairman of Committees during the present session, I shall be very happy to do so.

Motion put and passed.

### MOTIONS—LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

On the motion of the MINISTER OF MINES, leave of absence for the remainder of the session was granted to the Hons. H. J. Saunders and S. J. Haynes.

On motions by the Hon. A. B. Kidson, leave of absence for one month was granted to the Hon. D. G. Congdon, and leave of absence for the remainder of the session was granted to the Hon. F. M. Stone.

### REPORTING AND PUBLISHING OF DEBATES.

THE PRÉSIDENT stated that he had received a communication from the Chief

Reporter of the Parliamentary staff, requesting that hon. members who desired to make necessary corrections in their speeches, as printed in the official reports (unrevised) issued weekly to members, should forward the corrections to the *Hansard* Room within three days after each weekly issue.

#### ADJOURNMENT.

THE MINISTER OF MINES moved that the House, at its rising, do adjourn until this day week.

Question put and passed.

The House adjourned at 4:50 p.m. until Tuesday, 2nd November.

## Legislative Assembly,

Tuesday, 26th October, 1897.

Petition: Perth Gas Company's Act Further Amendment Bill; Bill introduced, first reading; referred to Select Committee—Papers Presented—Question: Detention of Prisoner after expiration of sentence—Question: Reduction (alleged) of Electric Line-men—Question: Penal System and amendment—Question: Tolls by Railway Department on Goods carted to Steamers—Question: Subsidy for Perth Surface Drainage—Question: Coolgardie Water Supply Scheme—Question: Telegraph Station at Boorabbin—Address-in-Reply: Amendment *re* food duties, Division; fifth day of debate—Adjournment.

THE SPEAKER took the Chair at 4:30 o'clock p.m.

#### PRAYERS.

#### PETITION—PERTH GAS COMPANY'S ACT FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL.

MR. LEAKE presented a petition in the matter of the introduction of a private Bill to further amend the Perth Gas Company's Act, 1886, and for other purposes.

Petition read, and ordered to lie on the table.

MR. LEAKE asked whether it would be necessary to move the suspension of the Standing Orders, with a view to introducing the Bill and referring it to a Select Committee?

THE SPEAKER said he had been considering the point, and the Standing Orders provided that no matter, except of a merely formal nature, should be introduced before the Address-in-Reply to the Governor's Speech had been adopted. In addition to the Bill now before the House, it would have been noticed that the Premier had, that afternoon, given notice of his intention to introduce a Bill at the next sitting. As to the practice which should be pursued, he (the Speaker) thought the introduction of a Bill might be treated as a matter of a purely formal nature, such as might be dealt with before the adoption of the Address-in-Reply; and, if there was no opposition to it on the part of hon. members, he would rule that this course be taken.

THE PREMIER (Rt. Hon. Sir J. Forrest) said that, in his opinion, leave to introduce a Bill was as formal a matter as could be, and it committed the House to nothing.

MR. LEAKE, according to the Speaker's ruling, moved for leave to introduce the Bill.

Put and passed.

Bill introduced and read a first time.

MR. LEAKE further moved that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee, to consist of Mr. Burt, Mr. Hall, Mr. Harper, and Mr. Wilson; to report on Thursday next.

THE SPEAKER said he had once, on a previous occasion, allowed a select committee to be appointed in reference to a private Bill without requiring the committee to be balloted for.

THE PREMIER said he saw no objection to their doing so on this occasion, as it was merely a formal matter.

THE SPEAKER said that was his opinion, and he would therefore put the question.

Put and passed.

#### PAPERS PRESENTED.

By the MINISTER OF LANDS: Regulations *re* Land Purchase Board appointed under Agricultural Lands Purchase Act; Report of Department of Lands and