

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) thought that after the remarks of the Attorney General the hon. member would see that it was no use his pressing his motion any further. The Government were as anxious as the hon. member was to see this road kept in repair, and they had supplied the Roads Board with funds for that purpose. The Board had not asked for any more. If the Board was indifferent, or incompetent to do its work, the hon. member must not blame the Government. Having called the attention of the Government to this matter, the hon. member's next step should be to call the attention of the Roads Board to it, and ask them to improve this road with the funds placed at their disposal. If that was not enough, and proper representations were made to the Government, the Government would listen to them, and, as far as they could, help the Board to put this road in repair and to keep it in repair.

MR. A. FORREST said that after that assurance he would withdraw the motion, and communicate with the chairman of the Roads Board. If the Government took no action in the matter, he would bring it forward again on a future occasion.

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

#### FIRST OFFENDERS BILL.

Read a first time.

#### MUNICIPAL INSTITUTIONS ACT, 1876, AMENDMENT BILL.

Read a first time.

#### ADJOURNMENT.

The House adjourned at 3-50 p.m.

## Legislative Council,

Monday, 21st December, 1891.

Yilgarn Railway: Compensation for—Mineral Lands Bill: second reading—General Loan and Inscribed Stock Bill: first reading—Boyanup-Busselton Railway Bill: first reading—Boyanup-Minninup Railway Bill: first reading—Police Bill: committee—Adjournment.

THE PRESIDENT (Sir T. Cockburn-Campbell, Bart.) took the chair at 8 o'clock.

#### PRAYERS.

#### YILGARN RAILWAY: COMPENSATION FOR.

THE HON. J. MORRISON: On behalf of the Hon. J. A. Wright, I have to ask the Colonial Secretary, What amount has been allowed by the Engineer-in-Chief, in his estimates on the alternate routes to Southern Cross, for compensation for townsite properties to be taken by the railway in either case.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. G. Shenton): The sum of £1,528 has been allowed by the Engineer-in-Chief for compensation in Northam. No compensation is required for York.

#### MINERAL LANDS BILL.

##### SECOND READING.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. G. Shenton), in moving the second reading of this bill, said it was a measure which had already passed through all its stages in another place. The bill had been drawn on the lines of the Queensland legislation on the subject, where a similar measure had been found to work admirably. It would be found that the old regulations were repealed, and it was now provided that there should be labor conditions attached to all leases which were issued under the Act. Under Part II. it was provided that mining licenses might be granted to any person, not being an alien or Asiatic, on payment of 10s., and Part III. declared what were the mining districts. Part IV. gave the Ministry power to issue business licenses for 12 months, which would be transferable, and Part V. dealt with mineral leases, the conditions under which they were granted, and the exemptions. Part VI. dealt specially with coal-mining, and

this was necessary owing to the recent discovery of a coalfield within the colony. Under the Bill 640 acres could be taken up at 6d. per acre per annum as a prospecting area, and the lease of this area, by clause 21, might be renewed. Under clause 22, when a seam had been discovered, 320 acres might be taken up on lease for a period of 21 years, which was renewable on such terms as the Government might deem equitable. By clause 24 if a person discovered coal at a depth of 600 feet he might be granted a lease of 640 acres instead of 320 acres, and was let off with paying a royalty of 1d. per ton instead of 3d. in other cases. Part VII. dealt with agricultural lands in mining districts. Hitherto there had been great difficulty experienced in dealing with this subject, but under this Part the Government were given full power. Part VIII. dealt with unauthorised mining, and Part IX. dealt with miscellaneous subjects. Part X. referred to administration, and under Part XI. power was given to make regulations. He now formally moved the second reading of the bill.

THE HON. J. W. HACKETT said he had great pleasure in seconding the motion of the hon. the Colonial Secretary. Having looked over the measure, he had come to the conclusion that there was no bill before them more far-reaching in its results and of more importance to the colony. Everyone must be aware, even with the small amount of prospecting that had been done up to the present, that Western Australia would very shortly become the leading mineral colony of the Australasian group; and yet if they excepted the Goldfields Act and Regulations, their sole legislation dealing with mineral lands was contained in a couple of clauses in the Land Regulations of 1887. He did not rise to discuss this bill, for he felt sure that everyone must be in accord with the principle of it; but the details were of the greatest importance. He had observed that this measure had passed through all its stages very rapidly in another place, and hence he hoped that the consideration of the bill in committee would not be undertaken until after the recess.

THE HON. E. T. HOOLEY said he agreed with the hon. member who had just sat down that it was desirable hon.

members should have more time to consider this matter. For instance, he saw no provision made for the granting of a consolidated miners' license in the event of a company working a claim. He thought this a most important point, especially having regard to the labor difficulties that were continually cropping up. It might happen that a company had a number of men for whom licenses were taken out. Suddenly there was a strike and the men left. Would this company then be compelled to take out fresh licenses for the new men it engaged? There should be some clause, he thought, to protect companies.

Question—put and passed.

#### GENERAL LOAN AND INSCRIBED STOCK BILL.

This bill was received from the Legislative Assembly and read a first time.

#### BOYANUP-BUSSELTON RAILWAY BILL.

This bill was received from the Legislative Assembly and read a first time.

#### BOYANUP-MINNINUP RAILWAY BILL.

This Bill was received from the Legislative Assembly and read a first time.

#### POLICE BILL.

This bill was considered in committee, and a number of amendments made without discussion. (*Vide* Council Minutes No. 6, 1891, p. 16.)

#### ADJOURNMENT.

The Council, at 10 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, 22nd December, at 3 o'clock.