

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS said that, as a great deal of criticism had been levelled against the Bill, and the legal member of the Commission (Mr. James) was not then in his place in the House, he would move that progress be reported.

Put and passed.

Progress reported, and leave given to sit again on the next Wednesday.

#### ADJOURNMENT.

The House adjourned at 8:37 o'clock p.m., until the next Tuesday.

### Legislative Council.

*Tuesday, 22nd September, 1896.*

Want of Quorum—Adjournment.

THE PRESIDENT (Hon. Sir G. Shenton) took the chair at 4:30 o'clock, p.m.

#### WANT OF QUORUM—ADJOURNMENT.

Ten minutes from the time of meeting having elapsed, and a quorum of members not being present, the President (Hon. Sir G. Shenton), in accordance with the provisions of Standing Order No. 9, declared the Council adjourned until the next sitting day, viz., Wednesday, 23rd September, at half-past four o'clock, p.m.

### Legislative Assembly.

*Tuesday, 22nd September, 1896.*

Question: Purchase of Great Southern Railway—Loan Bill and Message, £3,500,000—Customs Duties Repeal Bill: third reading—Tobacco (Unmanufactured) Duty Bill: third reading—Public Works Bill: in committee—Bills of Sale Bill: second reading—Bankruptcy Act Amendment Bill: in committee—Waterworks Bill: second reading moved—Adjournment.

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

#### PRAYERS.

#### QUESTION—PURCHASE OF GREAT SOUTHERN RAILWAY.

MR. HARPER, by leave and without notice, asked the Premier: Is it true that the Government have purchased the Great Southern Railway?

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) replied: I have pleasure in replying to the hon. member, and in informing the House, that the Great Southern Railway Company have for some time past been in negotiation with the Government with regard to the purchase of the whole of their interests in this colony; and yesterday I cabled to the Agent-General in London to inform the Company that the offer made by them, which offer is subject to the approval of the shareholders of the Company, has been accepted by the Government, subject to the approval of Parliament.

#### LOAN BILL, £3,500,000.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) moved for leave to introduce a Loan Bill to authorise the raising of a sum of £3,500,000 by loan, for the construction of certain public works and for other purposes.

A Message from the Governor, recommending the appropriation, was read.

Leave given; Bill introduced, and read a first time.

#### CUSTOMS DUTIES REPEAL BILL.

##### THIRD READING.

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