

ADJOURNMENT.

The Council, at 6:45 o'clock p.m., adjourned until Friday, 13th October, at 4:15 o'clock p.m.

Legislative Assembly,

Thursday, 12th October, 1893.

Employment of Mr. Byron Mather in the Government Service—Motion for Adjournment: Excessive Price paid by the Government for Railway Sleepers—Introduction of an Employers Liability Act—Elementary Education Act; third reading—Extension of Time for Bonus for Deep Sinking on Goldfields—Early Publication of Hansard and Votes and Proceedings—Messages from the Legislative Council: Distillation Bill; Greenbushes Townsite Abolition Bill; Public Health Act Amendment Bill; Elementary Education Bill; Water Supply (Crown Lands) Bill—Adjournment.

THE SPEAKER took the chair at 4:30 p.m.

PRAYERS.

EMPLOYMENT OF MR. BYRON MATHER IN THE PUBLIC SERVICE.

MR. MOLLOY: I desire to ask the Commissioner of Railways, without notice, whether he has any further information to furnish the House with regard to the question I asked him yesterday, as to the employment of Mr. Byron Mather, who, we were told, was no longer employed in the Government Service? I have authentic information that he has been so employed, since Tuesday last.

THE COMMISSIONER OF RAILWAYS (Hon. H. W. Venn): I was not aware of it. Members know fairly well the history of this unfortunate young man. He is the son of the Locomotive Superintendent, and, I believe, an erring son, as many other sons are; and I can sympathise with the Locomotive Superintendent if—probably on the pleadings of the mother—he occasionally employs this young fellow, temporarily. But the in-

structions from the head office have been very precise, that Mr. Byron Mather should not be employed in the locomotive workshops, unless he can show a certificate of good behaviour for at least twelve months previously. It may be a fact—I have not ascertained it—that this young man has been employed within the last day or two, but I know as a fact that his name did not appear on last month's pay sheet, nor had it appeared for the previous nine months; and someone must have been exceedingly alert and active to have reported his employment within two or three days. However, I have sent down to say that, if he is employed in the railway workshops at the present moment, it is contrary to the instructions sent from the head office, and that those instructions must be obeyed.

EXCESSIVE COST OF RAILWAY SLEEPERS FOR EASTERN RAILWAY.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT.

MR. A. FORREST moved the adjournment of the House, in order to call attention to the return which had just been laid on the table, showing the number, prices, etc., of sleepers used upon Government Railways during this year—a return which he called for on the 10th October. In December, 1892, tenders were called by the Government for the supply of timber for the Eastern Railway. It was not stated what number of sleepers would be required, and the lowest tender was accepted at per load. Some time afterwards it was found that the Government would require an enormous quantity of sleepers, for re-railing the line between Fremantle and Beverley; and he was surprised that they did not call for fresh tenders for this special work, which was to come out of Loan funds. Instead of that, they allowed the contractor for the ordinary annual supply of timber to take advantage of the prices he had quoted for ordinary supplies—prices which were out of all proportion with the price that sleepers could be got for at the present time, or when the sleepers were cut. He found from the return that no less than 46,000 sleepers had been used, the price paid being 1s. 11½d. delivered at the mills. These same sleepers could be obtained now at not more than 1s. 6d.; so that the Government had paid about 6d. each for their sleepers more than they need have

done, if they had called for special tenders. In other words the colony had lost about £1,300. He thought it was the duty of the Government to have invited fresh tenders, when they found that such a large quantity of sleepers would be required for this job; as many people would have tendered at a lower price for a large quantity than they would for the ordinary requirements of the service. The official answer to this question as to why special tenders were not called for was that the Engineer-in-Chief did not consider it necessary. He called that an impudent answer. The department might well have called for tenders for such a large supply outside the ordinary yearly tender for timber, and so saved the colony £1,300 on the 46,000 sleepers already used. If that was the principle upon which the Public Works Department acted in all cases, all he could say was it must cause the colony an enormous loss of money. He was certain that the Commissioner himself could not have been aware of this excessive charge, which was the talk of all the timber mills along the line. He presumed there would be another 20,000 sleepers required before the re-railing was completed, which would mean a further loss of £500 to the country.

THE COMMISSIONER OF RAILWAYS (Hon. H. W. Venn) felt sure that the hon. member for West Kimberley was a patriot, and that he had brought forward this matter in a spirit of pure patriotism, and without any self-interest at all. [MR. A. FORREST: No interest at all.] He was sure the hon. member would not have moved in the matter except from the purest and most patriotic motives. As for the reason why no fresh tenders were called for these particular sleepers, the Government, as usual, had accepted a tender for the annual supply of timber, which might be for a few hundreds or a few thousands, and the contractor had to take his chance whether the Government might require a very small quantity or a very large quantity. Having accepted this tender, which presumably was lower than the tender of the hon. member's own mill, and other mills at the time, it would not have been fair to the lowest tenderer for the annual supplies if the Government had gone outside that tender because they happened to require a larger number of sleepers

than usual. If the hon. member himself had been the contractor for the annual supplies, he would have been the very first to cry out against such a thing. When tenders were called for in the first instance, it was absolutely unknown to the Engineer-in-Chief, or any of the officers of the department, whether they would want 1,000, or 10,000, or 50,000 sleepers during the year. They never anticipated that there would be such a large number of sleepers to be replaced on the Eastern Railway, but, having accepted a tender for the year's supply, it was only fair to the contractor that he should supply all that was required. If the price of sleepers had gone down since, that was the contractor's good fortune, and it was only fair that he should reap the benefit of it. On the other hand, if the price had gone up to 2s. 6d., he would still have been bound to supply these sleepers at his contract price, 1s. 11½d. He need say no more. The department of which he was the Ministerial head tried to do things as economically as they could. He was sure of this: the Engineer-in-Chief was not the man to spend £1,300, or any other sum, if he could avoid it.

MR. DEHAMEL was glad that the hon. member for West Kimberley had brought this matter before the House. He could not see that it was material whether the hon. member was interested or not. If he had not been interested, possibly they would never have heard anything about it. They were told by the Commissioner of Railways that the Government could not have anticipated the quantity of sleepers they would require. He submitted it was the duty of the Government, the duty of the Engineer-in-Chief, the duty of the Director of Public Works, to have ascertained very closely, or approximately, what quantity would be likely to be required. In this one case—because they did not do so—the loss to the country has been £1,300. These were the things he complained of, in the general expenditure of Loan funds, hundreds and thousands of pounds being absolutely thrown away for the want of a little foresight. If that was the way our Loan money was being expended, no wonder the Government were short of funds. He thought the hon. member had done well to call attention publicly to the fact that

our Loan funds were not expended in that judicious and economical manner they ought to be expended. It was no argument at all that the Engineer-in-Chief was not able to estimate what quantity would be required. One of his main duties was to make these estimates; and if he could not have ascertained precisely the quantity that was likely to be required, he might have done so approximately; and he could not understand how any responsible official could have been so far out in this instance as the Engineer-in-Chief had been shown to have been. He believed he was right in saying that the sleepers for the Yilgarn Railway were contracted for at 1s. 3d. or 1s. 2½d. at the Canning Timber Mills; yet, in this case, the Government were paying 1s. 11½d. at the mills, which was far too high a price. It seemed to him that the Minister in charge of the department had been negligent of the affairs of the colony, in allowing a work like this to be proceeded with without calling for tenders in the ordinary way.

MR. MOLLOY thought the thanks of the House were due to the hon. member for West Kimberley for having exposed this matter. He (Mr. Molloy) had complained on many occasions of blunders committed in this particular department, of a similar character, but in no instance had he been able to obtain any satisfaction. Only yesterday he received a most unsatisfactory reply as regards the appointment of the Engineer of Lines in course of construction; he was told that no such appointment had been made, but that the officer in question,——

THE SPEAKER: The hon. member must confine his remarks to the question brought forward on the motion for adjournment.

MR. MOLLOY said he would do so. They had been told that the reason why the Government paid this high price for these sleepers was because they had accepted a tender for annual supplies, which included all the requirements of the department, in the way of timber; and that therefore this loss to the colony of £1,300 could not have been avoided. It was no excuse to say that because a man had tendered for annual supplies in the ordinary way, he was entitled to supply any exceptional demand that might arise, outside the ordinary supply. They might as well say that because a man was the suc-

cessful tenderer for one section of a line of railway, he was entitled to get the contract for another section, without giving anyone else an opportunity of tendering. He thought the hon. member was quite within his rights in calling attention to this matter. It was immaterial whether the hon. member was himself interested in the timber trade or not; he had every right to make what he could in the legitimate way of trade, and he had no right to be taunted sneeringly, as he had been, with being a "patriot."

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) thought that the reason given by his hon. friend the Commissioner, that it was never anticipated that the quantity of sleepers required would have been so large, was a complete answer to this complaint. When the work of re-railing this line was undertaken by the Government, it was never anticipated that anything like so many sleepers would require to be replaced. He certainly had not anticipated it, believing as he did so thoroughly in the durability of our jarrah. He felt convinced that if it had not been necessary to have disturbed these sleepers in re-railing the line, they would have lasted for years more; at the same time, he did not blame the Engineer-in-Chief for replacing them, when he found they were defective. But the number was certainly far in excess of the number anticipated, and this was the reason why no tenders were called for this special work. He quite agreed that such an extensive work, coming out of Loan funds, should not be classed with the ordinary annual supplies; but he could see at once the difficulty they were in, having once commenced to take the sleepers from the contractor for the annual supplies, and never anticipating that they would require so many.

MR. TRAYLEN thought this was one of those cases in which people became so wonderfully wise after the event. Who on earth could say how many of these old sleepers were sound or not, until the work of re-laying was commenced; and, when the discovery was made, it was too late then to enter into any fresh arrangement, and to call for fresh tenders. The contractor took his chance whether few or many would be required; and whether they were paid for out of loan or revenue was beyond the mark. To condemn the Government for what no ordinary mortal

could foresee was, he thought, improper on their part.

MR. A. FORREST said that before withdrawing his motion he should like to say this: his object in bringing this matter forward was not because he was a "patriot," as the Commissioner of Railways had insinuated, but because he thought it was only right, in the public interest, that these things should be exposed, and in order to show that the Government had acted imprudently in undertaking a large work like this out of Loan funds without calling for public tenders. The highest price paid for sleepers at the mills during the last two years had been 1s. 8d., and the price was now down to 1s. 6d. It was evident that the Works Department were quite in the dark as to whether they were paying a fair price or not. He had brought the matter forward on public grounds, and not as a "patriot," which was tantamount to saying that he had done so from selfish motives.

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

INTRODUCTION OF AN EMPLOYERS LIABILITY ACT.

MR. MOILLOY, in accordance with notice, asked the Premier whether it was the intention of the Government to introduce an Employers Liability Act during the next session of Parliament.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) said the Government had not yet considered the question.

WATER SUPPLY (CROWN LANDS) BILL.

Read a third time, and transmitted to the Legislative Council for their concurrence.

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Read a third time.

Ordered—That a message be transmitted to the Legislative Council, informing them that the Legislative Assembly had agreed to the Bill, with amendments, in which amendments the Legislative Assembly desired the concurrence of the Legislative Council.

EXTENSION OF TIME FOR BONUS FOR DEEP SINKING ON GOLDFIELDS.

Adjourned debate upon the motion of MR. A. FORREST: "That in the opinion

of this House it is desirable to extend the time for a further period of 12 months of the bonus for deep sinking on the goldfields of the colony, on terms similar to those now in force."

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) said that since last evening the Government had had this matter under consideration, and they had come to the conclusion—not without some difficulty—that it was undesirable to continue this bonus during the coming year. The House had already approved of a bonus for one year, and that period would not expire until the 31st December, nearly three months hence. He believed that some £800 had been expended in the way of bonus money for deep sinking up to the present time—not a very large amount, and it showed that the offer of the Government had not been availed of to any large extent. Apparently it did not seem good enough to induce many companies to avail themselves of it, although some members thought at the time that it would have such good results. Things had changed somewhat since the offer was made, and no representations on the subject had been made to the Government by those interested in mining on the goldfields. He took it, from the fact that the hon. member had only brought the matter forward on almost the last day of the session, that it had almost escaped his attention also. He thought that any small expenditure out of public funds upon such a desirable work as testing the auriferous wealth of the colony by deep sinking was money well spent and likely to prove reproductive; and he hoped that the small amount that had already been paid for work already done, or that would be done before the end of the year, would do some good. He had no doubt it would. It had already induced some companies to sink deeper than they otherwise would have done, and gone to prove that the auriferous strata went down a considerable depth, as he always believed would be the case. But the reason why the Government did not propose to continue this bonus at the present time was that only six months would elapse between the end of the year (when the present offer expired) and the re-assembling of Parliament, when the question of continuing the bonus might

be again considered. He did not think there was any such pressing necessity for dealing with the subject that it could not wait until Parliament met again about the middle of the year, seeing that no representations on the subject had been made to the Government by those interested. Under the circumstances, he would ask the hon. member not to press his motion, at the present, but bring it up again on some future occasion, if he thought necessary.

MR. CONNOR said that, as the representative of a mining constituency, he should like to say a few words on this subject. To his mind the only part of the country that would derive any benefit from this bonus was this Southern part; it would be of no benefit to that part of the colony which he had the honour to represent, and which seemed to be entirely ignored by the Government. It had been a great disappointment to them at the North to see the way the money already voted for assisting the development of the goldfields had been expended. They thought the Government would have done something towards developing the mining industry in other parts of the colony besides Yilgarn. If the Government in their wisdom wished to do any lasting good in encouraging gold mining, let them offer a bonus or a subsidy for water conservation. That was the main trouble at present, in connection with mining in this colony. He could not support the present motion.

MR. SPEAKER: I think the hon. member may as well withdraw his motion, because I cannot put it to the House, as it involves the expenditure of public funds, which can only be dealt with upon a Message from the Governor to the House recommending such expenditure.

MR. A. FORREST: In that case I can only withdraw it. I only hope we may all be here again next session, when I trust it will be one of the first resolutions that will be moved by the Government. Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

EARLY PUBLICATION OF "HANSARD" AND "VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS."

MR. R. F. SHOLL, in accordance with notice, moved, "That in the opinion of this House instructions should be given to the Government Printer to proceed

with the printing and issue of *Hansard* and the Parliamentary Votes and Proceedings of the present session, so that they may be in the hands of members as soon as possible after the prorogation of Parliament." The hon. member said he moved this resolution in order that the country might know what had taken place in that House, and the other House, during the session. In consequence of the way in which the reports were condensed in the newspapers, the public really had very little idea of what was said by members, or of what took place. These reports were condensed to such an extent as to be notoriously inaccurate, and they actually misrepresented, to a great extent, what really did take place. But his main reason for moving this resolution was this: they had been told that there would be a general election shortly, and he thought it was very necessary and desirable that *Hansard* and the "Votes and Proceedings" should be in the hands of members as early as possible. It was generally seven or eight months after the prorogation of Parliament before members were placed in possession of these volumes. He believed that, after the House prorogued, all the Parliamentary papers were generally put on one side until all other work connected with the Government Printing Office was completed; but he thought it was very desirable that these volumes should, on this occasion especially, be published as early as possible, as some very important papers and reports usually embodied in the "Votes and Proceedings" had not yet been printed. He alluded particularly to the report of the Railway Workshops Commission, and the evidence before the select committee appointed to report upon the dispute between the Auditor General and the Public Works Department, which he understood was very voluminous, and which members had not yet seen. He would suggest also that extra copies of *Hansard* should be printed, and supplied to the different public institutions.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. W. E. Marmion): That is done already. I moved that years ago.

MR. R. F. SHOLL did not think it was carried out, except in the case of very few of these institutions. He thought that copies of *Hansard* should be supplied to all public institutions throughout the

colony. In view of the approaching general election it was very necessary, he thought, that the Parliamentary proceedings of the present session should be published, and in the hands of members, as early as possible.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) said he might point out that the Government had desired to have *Hansard* published during the session, and they had made arrangements for it; and, as members would recollect, during the session before last it was issued for some time in weekly or fortnightly parts. But he was sorry to say they had not been able to keep it up to date; and the matter was referred to the Joint Standing Orders Committee of both Houses, who recommended that the publication of *Hansard* should be sessional, instead of weekly, as the resources of the Printing Department were not able to cope with the weekly issue. He believed, however, that when they got the new printing office up, with its additional accommodation and additional conveniences, they would be able to supply *Hansard* weekly, and almost up to date. He knew that the Government Printer was very desirous of doing it, and he thought it would be an excellent plan, if it was possible to carry it out. Of course, after the session was over, Parliamentary work was put aside, so as to enable the Government Printer to overtake other work that had accumulated and fallen into arrear during the session; and great pressure was brought to bear upon the Government Printer by the various departments to do their work. He had no objection himself to the resolution; he should be very glad, in fact, if these *Hansard* reports were issued at an earlier date. He noticed that in New Zealand, and some of the other colonies, they were published weekly. In Queensland, he believed, they were published daily, but that was a great expense, and rather tended to encourage talk than otherwise. As he had said, he had no objection to the motion, but he did not know that it would have much effect. "As soon as possible" was rather a vague term. He had no doubt the volume would be published "as soon as possible," without this motion being passed. For his own part he did not think very much of these *Hansard* reports in book form; he did not

think that many people read them, when they got this big volume from the Government Printer months after the session was over. They were not much use except for reference, and for the purpose of tripping up your friends who changed their opinions. Of course the small weekly publications of *Hansard* were very useful, because they were read at the time, and no doubt would be interesting if distributed through the country when the speeches were fresh. But when they came out in a big volume, months after the session closed, they were not of much interest, except as a record. However, he would be glad to assist the hon. member in getting the volume out as quickly as possible.

MR. DEHAMEL was very glad that the motion had been brought forward, because the condensation of members' speeches—or he might say the misrepresentation of members' speeches—which appeared in the newspapers led people to think that members had said something very differently from what they really did say. He thought it was particularly desirable, on this occasion, that they should have *Hansard* printed as soon as possible, as they expected to have the elections on about April next, and it was very necessary for members to have *Hansard* to use on the hustings. He observed that the resolution also referred to the "Votes and Proceedings;" but he thought *Hansard* was more important. The other might follow as soon as possible afterwards. They all had copies of the "Votes and Proceedings" supplied them from day to day during the session, and there was no great hurry for that publication; but, as to *Hansard*, he hoped the Premier would press it on, and, if necessary, give the Government Printer extra assistance so as to get it out early.

THE COMMISSIONER OF RAILWAYS (Hon. H. W. Venn) said if the hon. member was a member of the Government who had to carry on the work of a department like his, he would probably feel as he did with regard to this motion. If all departmental work was to be put a stop to, in order to enable the Government Printer to concentrate all his resources in getting out *Hansard*, it would not only be a great inconvenience, but also a great expense to the country. Of course, if members wished other work to

be taken out of the hands of the Government Printer, and given to private firms, it was a different thing. He was sure the present staff was not sufficient to enable all the Government work to be kept up to date.

MR. R. F. SHOLL: There is a regular army employed.

THE COMMISSIONER OF RAILWAYS (Hon. H. W. Venn) said they required a regular army to overtake all the printing work that had accumulated during the session.

MR. R. F. SHOLL: There is too much printing altogether in connection with your department, it strikes me.

THE COMMISSIONER OF RAILWAYS (Hon. H. W. Venn) said that when the hon. member himself came to be at the head of the department he would be able to clean out the Augean stable. But whether he did so or not, he would discover that the amount of general printing required in all the departments was so enormous that the moment the Government Printer concentrated his resources upon *Hansard* and other Parliamentary work, it created no end of confusion. He only hoped there would be no great hurry in getting out this *Hansard*. After all, it would not be of much practical use to members on the hustings, unless it be to trip up some other member. The "Votes and Proceedings," and the papers published with them, might be very useful for reference.

MR. A. FORREST said he was rather surprised at the hon. member for the Gascoyne pressing this motion, because he thought that so far as members' speeches were concerned they had had enough of them during the last four months, without reading them over again in *Hansard*. As to the newspaper reports, he quite agreed they were not altogether satisfactory. Very often they misrepresented members; and, if a member happened to make a slip of the tongue and say something he did not care to see in print, the newspapers were sure to pounce upon it, and to report it, leaving out more important things which a member might say. But *Hansard* after all was only a book of reference, and he did not think that all other Government printing work should be laid aside in order to get *Hansard* out earlier than necessary. There was a large amount of work to be done in that Government

Printing Office, and he thought the different departments could do with less printing than they now went in for. There was the department of the Official Receiver in Bankruptcy, for instance; instead of having half-a-dozen different forms as at present, one or two forms would answer every purpose. The same with the Lands Department and the Railway Department, who required an enormous lot of printing done—a great deal too much, he thought. He should oppose the motion on the ground that it was not necessary, for the public good, to publish *Hansard* earlier than usual. If members wanted to read their own speeches, they could wait until the volume came out in due course.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. W. E. Marmion) said the hon. member for the Gascoyne had referred to the necessity of having *Hansard* published earlier, so that it might be available for reference by the electors at the coming elections. He had had the honour of having his speeches recorded in *Hansard* for a great number of years, and he did not know of anything more mortifying to one's vanity than to find how utterly indifferent the general public appeared to be to the most brilliant oratorical efforts of members, as they appeared in the columns of *Hansard*. In times gone by, he had been utterly humiliated, on visiting public reading rooms, and other public institutions, to notice how indifferent the public were to the most eloquent oratorical displays of members. No doubt it showed very bad taste on the part of the public, and he was sorry they were not more appreciative. Latterly, he was happy to say, a greater interest seemed to be taken in political matters, and consequently the public were more interested in *Hansard*. With regard to the present motion, he should be glad to find the efforts of the Government Printer directed, so far as they could be, to the production of *Hansard* as early as could be. As had been stated, the reports in the newspapers were sometimes very misleading. They were just about as reliable as the editorial articles. He found himself that very day reported as having said what was distinctly contrary to what he did say; and that was very often the case, which was rather annoying, to say the least of it

For this reason he thought the early publication of *Hansard* was desirable.

MR. CANNING said, after the remarks of the hon. member for West Kimberley, the question resolved itself into whether it was desirable to continue *Hansard* at all. It was either desirable or not. If it was of any value at all, it was worth printing and circulating as expeditiously as possible; but, if as the hon. member said, it was of little or no value, why should they go to the expense of publishing it? They ought to do one thing or the other—either have it published in time to answer the purpose for which it was designed, or else spare the country the expense of publishing it at all. There was no doubt *Hansard* was very valuable as a record, but its value, even as a record, was detracted from unless it was issued within a reasonable date.

MR. MOLLOY thought that both the "Votes and Proceedings" and *Hansard* would be very useful to members on the hustings, and for that reason he hoped an effort would be made to have them published earlier than usual.

MR. R. F. SHOLL said it was not for his own information or edification that he required *Hansard*, but he did think that people in country districts, hundreds of miles away, should have an opportunity of seeing what their representatives had said and done in Parliament. Of course it would be better if it could be published weekly, if it could be done. In any case it ought to be published earlier than it had been in the past, so that the public might see what their members had said.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest): They have the newspapers.

MR. R. F. SHOLL: They had the newspapers, certainly; but they were not to be relied on. They either misrepresented members, or did not report them at all. The only speeches reported at any length in the newspapers were the Premier's speeches and the Governor's speeches. He could quite understand why the hon. member for West Kimberley should not be anxious to have *Hansard* issued early; but so far as he was concerned, he was not afraid of his constituents being in a position to judge of his actions in that House. The Premier said he did not think that this resolution

would do much good, or would have much effect, if passed. He thought it was a piece of impudence on the Premier's part to say that if that House passed a resolution it would not have much effect. It struck him that, after the next election, the hon. gentleman would have to get off that high horse he had been riding lately, and be less impertinent to the members of that House.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest): You are always so very polite yourself.

MR. R. F. SHOLL said, with regard to the cost of printing, which was growing every year, he thought perhaps it would be in the interests of the country if there was a commission of inquiry into that Printing Department. The returns and reports ordered to be printed by that House, or which that House ought to have, were certainly not issued as expeditiously as they ought to be. Whether it was the fault of the department he could not say. But when the Premier delivered a Budget speech or a Homestead Bill speech, the *Hansard* report could be published within a day or two afterwards. Of what interest was the Budget speech to members of that House, after listening to it when it was delivered? It was simply putting the country to unnecessary expense to have it issued in printed form. He thought there ought not to be any difficulty in issuing these publications soon after the session was over. If there should be any difficulty, it must be because of departmental work that could wait, or be avoided altogether.

Motion put and passed.

MESSAGES FROM THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

The following Messages were received from the Legislative Council:—

DISTILLATION ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

"Mr. Speaker,

"With reference to Message No. 45 of the Legislative Assembly, the Legislative Council informs the Legislative Assembly that it has considered the amendments made by the Legislative Assembly in 'The Distillation Act Amendment Bill,' and has agreed to the same, without amendment.

"GEO. SHENTON,

"President.

"Legislative Council Chamber, Perth,
"12th October, 1893."

GREENBUSHES TOWNSITE ABOLITION BILL.

"Mr. Speaker,

"The Legislative Council acquaints the Legislative Assembly that it has agreed to the undermentioned Bill, without amendment: 'An Act to abolish the Townsite of Greenbushes.'

"GEO. SHENTON,

"President.

"Legislative Council Chamber, Perth, 12th October, 1893."

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

"Mr. Speaker,

"With reference to Message No. 48 of the Legislative Assembly, the Legislative Council informs the Legislative Assembly that it has agreed to the amendment made by the Legislative Assembly in 'The Public Health Act, 1886, Amendment Bill.'

"GEO. SHENTON,

"President.

"Legislative Council Chamber, Perth, 12th October, 1893."

At six o'clock, p.m., MR. SPEAKER left the Chair.

At twenty minutes past six o'clock, p.m., MR. SPEAKER resumed the chair.

MESSAGE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

The following Message was received from the Legislative Council:—

"Mr. Speaker,

"With reference to Message No. 51 of the Legislative Assembly, the Legislative Council informs the Legislative Assembly that it has agreed to the amendments made by the Legislative Assembly in 'The Elementary Education Act, 1871, Amendment Bill.'

"GEO. SHENTON,

"President.

"Legislative Council Chamber, Perth, 12th October, 1893."

MESSAGE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

WATER SUPPLY (CROWN LANDS) BILL.

The following Message was delivered to and read by Mr. Speaker:—

"Mr. Speaker,

"The Legislative Council acquaints the Legislative Assembly that it has agreed

"to the undermentioned Bill, without amendment: 'An Act to regulate the Use and Supply of Water on Crown Lands.'

"GEO. SHENTON,

"President.

"Legislative Council Chamber, Perth, 12th October, 1893."

ADJOURNMENT.

The House adjourned at twenty-three minutes past 6 o'clock, p.m.

Legislative Council,

Friday, 13th October, 1893.

Prorogation of Parliament.

THE PRESIDENT (Hon. Sir G. Shenton) took the chair at 4.15 o'clock p.m.

PRAYERS.

THE PRESIDENT (Hon. Sir G. Shenton) left the chair during pleasure.

At 4.30 o'clock p.m. the approach of His Excellency (Sir W. C. F. Robinson, G.C.M.G., &c.) was announced by the Usher.

His Excellency the Governor came into the Council Chamber, and commanded the Clerk to desire the attendance of the members of the Legislative Assembly, who, being come, with their Speaker,

HIS EXCELLENCY was pleased to speak as follows:—

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

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

"The work of the session being completed, I have pleasure in releasing you from your arduous labours.