

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS moved that the Council's amendment (school children under sixteen years to travel at half-fare) be agreed to.

Question put and passed.

Resolution reported, the report adopted, and a Message accordingly returned to the Council.

ADJOURNMENT.

THE PREMIER moved that the House at its rising do adjourn until noon to-morrow. It would be necessary to meet in order to consider Messages from another place.

MR. F. REID: Having waited to-night for an opportunity to discuss his motion on the Notice Paper (railway for carrying firewood to mines), it being of great importance to his district (Mount Burges), he trusted to have an opportunity of moving it to-morrow.

THE SPEAKER: If the motion had come on, he would have been obliged to rule it out of order, because it was substantially a question already decided by the House, and therefore could not be again proposed this session.

MR. REID: The former motion had not been defeated, but simply lapsed.

MR. JACOBY: Withdrawn?

MR. REID: It had lapsed on a private members' night, because the tea-hour arrived.

THE SPEAKER: Therefore it lapsed altogether.

MR. J. L. NANSON: Would an opportunity be given to-morrow to discuss the report of the select committee on the Coolgardie Water Scheme?

THE PREMIER: For that reason it was proposed to adjourn till noon.

Question put and passed.

The House adjourned at 11.45 o'clock, until the next day at noon.

Legislative Council, Wednesday, 19th February, 1902.

Question: Torbay-Denmark Railway Charges—Standing Orders—Suspension—Land Act—Amendment Bill, Assembly's Amendments—Complimentary Remarks, Close of Session—Prorogation: Assent to Bills.

The PRESIDENT took the Chair at 12 o'clock, noon.

PRAYERS.

QUESTION—TORBAY-DENMARK RAILWAY CHARGES, Etc.

The HON. W. MALEY asked the Minister for Lands: 1, If the Government is aware that the freights charged on the Torbay-Denmark private railway are excessive and oppressive to settlers. 2, If the Government will endeavour to have the freights assimilated to those charged by Government. 3, If the Government will endeavour to have a station-master placed at Denmark.

THE MINISTER FOR LANDS replied:—1, No complaints have been received. 2, The matter will be inquired into. 3, This is a matter which rests entirely with the owners of the railway in question.

STANDING ORDERS SUSPENSION.

THE MINISTER FOR LANDS (Hon. A. Jameson) moved:

That in order to expedite business, the Standing Orders relating to the passing of public Bills and the consideration of Messages from the Legislative Assembly be suspended during the remainder of the session.

Question put and passed, and the Standing Orders suspended accordingly.

LAND ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY'S AMENDMENTS.

The Assembly having made amendments to which the Council disagreed, two amendments on which the Assembly insisted were now farther considered, in Committee.

Amendment No. 8—Clause 2, strike out the figures "2s. 6d." in paragraph (r), and insert the figure "1s." in lieu:

THE MINISTER FOR LANDS moved that the amendment be agreed to. Possibly members of the Council had altered this clause by an oversight. We

had no right to interfere with provisions relating to finance.

HON. G. RANDELL: We could reduce, though we could not increase.

THE MINISTER FOR LANDS: In this instance we had increased taxation. Possibly another place felt that we were infringing on its constitutional rights. Hon. members should have no difficulty in arriving at the conclusion that the Assembly's amendment should be agreed to.

HON. F. T. CROWDER: Would not the Assembly's amendment involve an annual loss of £18,000?

THE MINISTER FOR LANDS: Not nearly so much. About 3,200 wood-cutters' licenses were issued annually. The reduction of the fee from 5s. to 1s. thus meant an annual loss of £6,000 only.

Question put and passed, and the Assembly's amendment agreed to.

No. 10—Clause 4, strike out the words "a term not exceeding twenty-one years from the date thereof," and insert the words "such term not exceeding ninety-nine years as to the Governor may seem fit":

THE MINISTER FOR LANDS moved that the Assembly's amendment be agreed to. A lease for a term of 99 years would be granted in only very few instances, where it was necessary to erect substantial buildings, for example. A satisfactory alternative was hard to find. If the term were limited to 21 years it would be necessary on expiration to allow for improvements, which was rather against the policy of the Lands Department. The Under Secretary for Lands had urged that the limit should be 99 years. The provision that in any case where a lease for a longer term than 10 years was applied for notice must be given four times in the *Government Gazette* was a sufficient safeguard. In some respects it would be an advantage to the Government to have the right to lease for 99 years.

HON. R. G. BURGESS: The leases would contain a provision as to improvements.

THE MINISTER FOR LANDS: In cases where it was necessary to erect machinery costing £100,000 or £200,000, a term of 21 years was insufficient.

HON. C. E. DEMPSTER: There might be a right of renewal.

THE MINISTER FOR LANDS: That had been suggested to the Under Secretary for Lands, who saw difficulties in the proposal. Hon. members might well give way on the point. The concession would be a graceful one.

HON. F. T. CROWDER: The Committee ought not to agree to the amendment. In preference to granting power to lease for 99 years, hon. members should let the Bill drop. Surely a lease for 21 years was sufficient for all purposes. If the Government granted a lease for a period of three generations, they might as well grant the fee simple. At the end of 99 years no one would trouble to inquire whether land was held under lease or fee simple.

HON. C. SOMMERS: Hon. members might well agree to the Assembly's amendment. If it were desired to establish woollen industries, for example—

HON. J. T. GLOWREY: Woollen industries on the goldfields? Rabbit canning establishments were more likely.

HON. C. SOMMERS: Eventually we might desire to establish large freezing works for an export trade in cattle. In that event, the country would benefit if the Government had power to grant a site at a fair rental.

HON. R. G. BURGESS: People desiring to establish large industries could acquire the freehold of the land they needed.

HON. C. SOMMERS: The money might be required for other purposes. In such cases as instanced, other States permitted the leasing of sites, and indeed free grants of land. In the course of previous debates a good deal had been made of the fact that the Government under this clause would have power to grant a site for an inn or an hotel. Hon. members must recollect, however, that any person could now secure a piece of land on lease and build an hotel on it, and that so long as the establishment was properly conducted the Government could not take away the lease. The right of renewal of a lease did not meet the case. Every encouragement should be given to the establishment of new industries. The provision that due notification must be given of all applications for leases to run for a longer term than 10 years was a sufficient safeguard. It was to be hoped hon. members would not wreck the Bill on a minor point.

HON. T. F. O. BRIMAGE: Hon. members should maintain the stand previously taken. A term of 21 years was long enough for all purposes. The Perth Electric Tramway Company was satisfied to accept a 21-years lease, with the provision that at the expiration of that term the tramway, with rolling-stock and plant complete, might be purchased by the municipality without any payment for goodwill. The company had farther agreed that if they were permitted to work the tramway system for a term of 35 years, the whole property should pass to the municipality without any payment whatever. If so large an undertaking could be worked on these conditions, 21 years should amply meet the requirements of any other form of industry. The term of 99 years was altogether too long. As a compromise, and in order to save the Bill, he was prepared to agree that 30 years be made the limit.

HON. C. SOMMERS: Time would not permit of the suggested amendment.

HON. T. F. O. BRIMAGE: In that case the Council should maintain its first stand.

HON. J. M. SPEED: No reason had been given by the Assembly why the term should not be 21 years; neither had any reason been given why the term should be 99 years. In the circumstances, hon. members should insist on the lower limit.

Question negatived, and the Assembly's amendment not agreed to.

Resolution reported, the report adopted, and a Message accordingly returned to the Assembly.

At 12:30, the PRESIDENT left the Chair.

At 2:50, Chair resumed.

COMPLIMENTARY REMARKS, CLOSE OF SESSION.

THE MINISTER FOR LANDS (Hon. A. Jameson): The task I have now to perform is a most pleasant one. I am sure all hon. members are with me in expressing the highest appreciation of the manner in which you, sir, have conducted the proceedings of this House. We know your task has been more than usually arduous, owing to the prolongation of the session into the summer months and farther owing to the presence in the Chamber of new members, to

whom you have found it necessary to explain the order of procedure. I personally desire to thank you for the kindly manner in which you have discharged your difficult task as President of this Chamber. Your kind thoughtfulness in procuring the portraits of their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales, which now adorn the walls of this Chamber, is particularly gratifying to hon. members. The thanks of hon. members are also due to the Chairman of Committees, Mr. Briggs, to the Clerk of the Chamber, Mr. Hillman, and to the Clerk Assistant, Mr. Hickling, for the admirable manner in which they have discharged their duties and for the great courtesy they have shown to every member. Allow me, sir, in conclusion, to express the hope that your term of office may be a long one, and that you may for many years to come have health and strength to conduct the affairs of the House as you have so ably done in the past.

HON. G. RANDELL: (Metropolitan): I have much pleasure in indorsing the remarks which have fallen from the leader of the House.

MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

THE PRESIDENT: I thank hon. members for the kindly manner in which they have received the remarks of the Minister for Lands, and am glad to find that my discharge of the duties intrusted to me meets with their approval. I consider thanks are due to the two gentlemen who have led the House during this session, for their able conduct of the business of the Chamber.

PROROGATION—ASSENT TO BILLS.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR entered the Chamber at 3 o'clock, and commanded the attendance of members of the Legislative Assembly, who accordingly arrived with their Speaker.

THE SPEAKER presented the Appropriation Bill, to which His Excellency assented.

HIS EXCELLENCY also gave assent to the following Bills, in addition to Bills assented to previously:—

"An Act to apply a sum out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund and from Moneys to Credit of the General Loan Fund to the Services of the Year ending the last day of June, One thousand nine

hundred and two, and to appropriate the Supplies granted in this Session of Parliament."

"An Act to amend the 'Wines, Beer, and Spirit Sale Act 1880.'"

"An Act to provide for the establishing of Lockups as Police Gaols, and to amend the law relating to Gaols, Prisons, and Houses of Correction."

"An Act to authorise the Governor to exchange Perth Suburban Lots 270, 271, 272, and 273 for Swan Locations 118 and 119."

"An Act to amend the Law with respect to Compensation to Workers for Accidental Injuries suffered in the course of their Employment."

"An Act to confirm certain Expenditure for the year ending 30th June, one thousand nine hundred."

"An Act to amend the Summary Jurisdiction (Married Women) Act 1896."

"An Act to amend the Land Drainage Act 1900."

"An Act to confirm certain Expenditure for the year ended 30th June, one thousand nine hundred and one."

"An Act to confirm a Further Provisional Order to amend or vary a Provisional Order authorising the Construction of Tramways in the Municipality of Kalgoorlie."

"An Act for the Reallocation of certain moneys authorised to be raised by the Coolgardie Goldfields Water Supply Loan Act 1896."

"An Act for the Closing of certain Roads and Streets."

"An Act to authorise the Construction of a Tramway from Carnarvon to Babbage Island Jetty."

"An Act to establish a Code of Criminal Law."

"An Act to amend 'The Permanent Reserves Act 1899.'"

"An Act to apply out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund the annual sum of Fourteen hundred pounds for the salary of an additional Judge of the Supreme Court."

"An Act to repeal 'The Prawn Fishing Act 1876.'"

"An Act to diminish the Dangers resulting from Bush Fires."

"An Act to provide for the Regulation of Trade Unions."

"An Act to amend 'The Land Act 1898.'"

"An Act to amend the Law relating to the Settlement of Industrial Disputes by Conciliation and Arbitration."

"An Act to amend 'The Municipal Institutions Act 1900.'"

"An Act to amend 'The Health Act 1898.'"

"An Act for the Early Closing of Shops, and to regulate the Hours of Employment in Shops and other Places of Business."

"An Act relating to Coal Mines."

"An Act to confirm a Provisional Order authorising the Construction of Tramways in the Districts of the North Perth Road Board and of the Perth Road Board."

"An Act to provide for the Extension of the Metropolitan Waterworks, and to amend the Law relating to the same."

"An Act for procuring the Attendance of Witnesses before Royal Commissions."

"An Act to restrict the operation of the Law of Prescription respecting Access and Use of Light and Air to Buildings."

"An Act to amend the Ordinance 22nd Victoria, No. 4, and the Roman Catholic Church Lands Act 1895, and to enable the Bishop for the time being of each Diocese of the Roman Catholic Church to exercise, in respect of the Lands within his Diocese, the powers granted by the said Act."

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 end of the longest session of Parliament which this State has known is now reached.

Important political events have, no doubt, interfered with your parliamentary duties, and prevented the passage of many useful measures, which must now stand over for consideration at the next session of Parliament.

MR. SPEAKER AND GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,—

I thank you for the liberal supplies granted for public services and works.

I congratulate you upon the sound financial position of the State.

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

MR. SPEAKER AND GENTLEMEN OF THE
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,—

Since the commencement of the session the State has been honoured by the visit of their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York (now Prince and Princess of Wales), and it is my pleasing duty to inform you that their Royal Highnesses have graciously expressed themselves as highly gratified with the cordiality of their reception and the undoubted loyalty of the people.

His Excellency the Governor General of the Commonwealth was also pleased to pay an official visit to the State during the Christmas and New Year's holidays, when a fitting and loyal reception was given to him as His Majesty's principal representative in Australia.

You will be pleased, no doubt, to be relieved of your duties, and I now prorogue this Parliament until Wednesday, the 14th day of May next.

The session then closed.

Legislative Assembly,

Wednesday, 19th February, 1902.

Petition: Boulder Crown Lessees—Question: Perth Park, Rokeby Drive—Question: Railway Rates, as to Increase—Question: Coronation, State Representation—Question: Mail Steamer, Albany to Esperance—Question: Rabbit Fence—Question: Cunderdin Requirements—Question: Stock Importation, Queensland—Question: Railway Passes, Exhibition Commissioners—Coolgardie Water Scheme Inquiry, to appoint a Commission—Land Act Amendment Bill, Assembly's Amendment—Motion: Firewood Supply on Goldfields, to Construct Railway 25 Miles (out of order)—Return ordered: Land Selection, Cunderdin—Papers ordered: Police Uniforms Contract—Papers ordered: License, Essential Oils—Legal Practitioners Act Amendment Bill (not proceeded with)—Return ordered: State Governors, Emoluments—Friendly Societies Act Amendment Bill, in Committee, Points of Order (unfinished)—Prorogation.

THE SPEAKER took the Chair at 12 o'clock, noon.

PRAYERS.

PETITION—BOULDER CROWN LESSEES.

MR. J. M. HOPKINS presented a petition, signed by 100 Crown lessees of Boulder, praying Parliament to intercede in order that certain obligations of the Lands Department should be faithfully adhered to. He said there was no time now to make a motion, but he would follow up the matter next session.

Petition received and ordered to be printed.

QUESTION—PERTH PARK, ROKEBY DRIVE.

MR. H. DAGLISH, by leave without notice, asked the Treasurer: 1, Whether his attention had been called to the statement of the Perth Park Board, that there would be no money available for the Rokeby Road Drive in that Park. 2, Would he take steps to see that the £500 voted by Parliament for the making of this drive was expended on the work?

THE TREASURER (Hon. F. Illingworth) replied: Without notice, it was difficult to answer. The board had spent the money before Parliament allocated the vote; and it was not easy to say, at this moment, what course the Government would take—whether they would provide the money or place the item on next year's Estimates. The Government would see that the £500 was made available for the road.