

MR. CLARKSON said the country members had been taken somewhat by surprise by the motion that had been carried to sit on Friday; and as they had this week made other engagements, he would asked the Premier to move the adjournment of the House till Monday.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) said the notice of Friday's sitting had been rather short, and he would consent to adjourn till Monday.

On the motion of the PREMIER, the House adjourned at 12 minutes past 11 o'clock, p.m., till the next Monday.

---

## Legislative Assembly,

Monday, 12th October, 1896.

---

Want of a Quorum—Adjournment.

---

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

PRAYERS.

WANT OF A QUORUM: ADJOURNMENT.

At the expiration of fifteen minutes from the time appointed for the meeting of the House, there not being a quorum present, the SPEAKER declared the House adjourned until the next sitting day.

---

## Legislative Council,

Tuesday, 13th October, 1896.

Criminal Evidence Bill: third reading—Mines Regulation Act, 1895, Amendment Bill: third reading—Bastardy Laws Act Amendment Bill: third reading—Australasian Federation Enabling Bill: second reading; committee—"Hansard" Reporting Arrangements: Legislative Assembly's Message—Loans Consolidation Bill: first reading—Waterworks Bill: second reading; committee—Loan Bill (£3,500,000), 1896: second reading; committee—Adjournment.

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

### CRIMINAL EVIDENCE BILL.

#### THIRD READING.

This Bill was read a third time, and *passed*.

### MINES REGULATION ACT, 1895, AMENDMENT BILL.

#### THIRD READING.

This Bill was read a third time, and *passed*.

### BASTARDY LAWS ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

#### THIRD READING.

This Bill was read a third time, and *passed*.

### AUSTRALASIAN FEDERATION ENABLING BILL.

#### SECOND READING.

THE MINISTER FOR MINES (Hon. E. H. Wittenoom): Hon. members will be aware that it is intended by the various colonies of Australasia to endeavour to frame a federal constitution. With that object in view Bills have been submitted to the various Parliaments for the purpose of arriving at some method of carrying out the desired end. It has been considered advisable that our colony should select some ten members to represent it at the Convention which is to be held. This Bill provides for the selection of these ten members, who shall, it is provided, proceed to the other colonies at a time to be fixed upon, and there meet the other delegates who have been appointed and discuss the question of federation, and endeavour to agree to a system which will be mutually satisfactory. With regard to the election of

the delegates, it is proposed that every person who is qualified to vote for a member of the Legislative Assembly may be nominated as a member to represent the colony at the Convention, as long as his nomination is supported by 20 people who are voters. Therefore, it will be seen that the choice of delegates is not confined to members of either House. After the nominations have been sent in a returning officer will be appointed, and then the members of the Legislative Council and the Legislative Assembly will meet together, and will elect from those nominated ten gentlemen to represent the colony at the Convention.

THE HON. J. E. RICHARDSON: How will they be selected?

THE MINISTER FOR MINES (HON. E. H. WITTENOOM): By writing down the names of the ten members, and, if there is any equality in the voting, they will be balloted for or put up again. When the Convention meets, the delegates will frame a constitution. As soon as the draft is agreed to, it will be submitted to the Parliaments of each of the colonies. A decision will then be come to as to whether it is advisable to have anything to do with the constitution, or whether it is desirable that any suggestions should be made. The draft, either amended or not, will then go back to the Convention and be further considered, after which it will be again submitted to the Parliaments. If the Parliaments agree that it is desirable to accept it, it will then be submitted to the people of the colony to see whether it shall be accepted or not. By Clause 28 the constitution, as framed by the Convention, will be considered to have been rejected unless 6,000 voters vote in the affirmative for it. The method of selecting the delegates for this colony is similar to that which has been adopted in Queensland, except that there the members of the Convention must be selected by the Legislative Assembly. The Upper House of Queensland has no voice in the matter, and I believe the reason for that is that the Legislative Council of Queensland is nominated. Here we have an elective Council, and both Houses will sit together to elect the delegates. The delegates will be paid £3 per day for every day the Convention sits, but it is provided that the acceptance of the office

is not to be deemed an office of profit under the Crown. If any colony adopts the constitution as finally agreed to, an address will be presented to the Queen praying that it may be given effect to. I do not think I need say more, and I move that the Bill be now read a second time.

THE HON. S. H. PARKER: The idea of a federated Australia is no doubt a grand one. If we can convert a number of small colonies into one powerful united state, there will be no question that Australia will command a different position in the world to that which she does at the present day. However, with respect to Western Australia, I cannot, as at present advised, consider that it will be entirely in her interests to federate. If federation means that there shall be no internal customs-house, that we shall have free trade in Australia generally with protection against the outside world, I doubt very much whether it will accord with the views of the Government as to the settlement of the land. As I said, only recently, in view of the fact that our great national industry is mining, it is questionable whether we should not advocate a system of free trade, but no doubt intercolonial free trade, as far as the agriculturists are concerned, will be the same as free trade with the world because they really compete now, not with the world, but with the Australian colonies. Therefore, possibly a new constitution with internal free trade, would be detrimental to the settlement of the soil. However, I suppose we are all agreed that Western Australians must be represented at this convention and take part in the discussions on this great subject. I do not know whether this Bill is drawn in the same way as Bills of the other colonies, but I might point out that the fact that the delegates are to be elected by both Houses means that the Legislative Assembly may, if they think proper, unite to elect the whole of the 10 delegates, because they have 33 votes, whereas this House has only 21. I do not know whether members of this House will be desirous of taking part in the framing of the federal constitution, for it seems to me that a delegate must be a man of leisure with the time to devote to the work. The Convention, as I understand it, is to prepare a constitution,

and then adjourn for a period of not less than 60 days or more than 120 days. Presuming that it adjourns for 100 days, our delegates will have to remain where the Convention is held, or they will have to return here and then go back again for the purpose of considering the draft of the Bill. This will obviously take a considerable amount of time, and as the remuneration is only to be paid for those days on which the Convention meets, it seems to me that any delegate will be called upon to pay a considerable amount of his own expenses. Looking at it in this light, I do not know that it will be a desirable position to fill. The hon. gentleman who introduced this Bill said that the constitution, having been framed, will then be sent back to the Parliaments, but it seems to me by the Bill that the constitution having been framed the Convention will adjourn for not less than 60 days, in order that the delegates may reconsider the position, and that the Bill will not go before the Parliaments until it is finally settled. Then, if it is approved by the Parliaments, it will go to the electors. I presume this Bill has been drawn to accord with the Bills of the other colonies, and for my part, I am glad to see that steps are being taken to bring this important question to an issue. If in the future it is considered wise and expedient to federate, no doubt a great many questions which are agitating the minds of the people of the various colonies will be removed from the arenas of local politics, and will probably be dealt with more advantageously by the Federal Parliament. When the time arrives, perhaps the several colonies may discover that there is no further need of our having two Houses, and that one House in each colony will be amply sufficient to deal with the local subjects that remain.

**THE HON. F. T. CROWDER:** It is not my intention to oppose the second reading of this Bill, nor do I intend to take up the time of the House in speaking to the question. I trust, however, that this House, when the Bill gets into committee, will see its way to so alter it that each House may elect five delegates. As pointed out by the Hon. Mr. Parker, the Legislative Assembly may now, if it thinks fit, override the vote of this House entirely.

**THE HON. S. J. HAYNES:** I shall support this Bill practically in its present form, for I think it is a step towards the formation of a grand united Australia. I do not anticipate, however, that this Convention will be able to frame a constitution which is acceptable, but the discussion which will take place will give publicity to the question, and lead, in the future, to the end which is so much desired. I am pleased to see that no hasty steps are to be taken, and that the fullest opportunities are to be afforded for considering the subject. I think the Bill is a step in the right direction, and I shall support the second reading.

**THE MINISTER FOR MINES (Hon. E. H. Wittenoom):** I think it is very desirable that this colony should take part in the framing of a federal constitution, even if we do not afterwards see our way to adopt it. In the future our conditions may alter, and we may then desire to enter the federation. When the time arrives it will be a source of satisfaction to us to know that we had a hand in framing the constitution. If hon. members will look at Clause 23 they will see that after the draft of the Convention is framed it must be submitted to Parliament and then sent back to the Convention. It will then be finally settled and again remitted to Parliament, and then, if approved, will be submitted to the people. Therefore the Parliament will have two opportunities of considering it before it is sent to the people for final decision.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

#### IN COMMITTEE.

Clauses 1 to 13—agreed to.

Clause 14—How a person may become a candidate:

**THE HON. W. ALEXANDER:** It is stated in this clause that a candidate shall be nominated by not less than 20 persons, but there is no provision made to prevent a large number of candidates being nominated for one electorate.

**THE MINISTER FOR MINES (Hon. E. H. Wittenoom):** For the purposes of this Bill the colony is one electorate.

Clause—agreed to.

Clause 15—agreed to.

Clause 16—Advertisements and intimations:

THE HON. S. H. PARKER: I should be glad to know whether this is a similar provision to that which is contained in the Bill which was introduced in Victoria. It is provided that the Legislative Council and the Legislative Assembly, and not the electors, shall elect the delegates. It seems to me that as federation peculiarly affects the people they should have the voice in the election of delegates and not the members of Parliament.

THE HON. D. K. CONGDON: If the Hon. Mr. Parker's views were carried out there would be nothing to prevent Perth electing the whole of the delegates, and that would not be desirable.

THE MINISTER FOR MINES (Hon. E. H. Wittenoom): The Government have given this matter most careful consideration. I may say that all the other colonies, with the exception of Queensland and Western Australia, have decided that the people shall elect the delegates. It has been thought, however, that as the members of both Houses are directly elected by the voters of the colony, the election might take place by the two Houses sitting together and voting. This will not be so cumbersome a method as electing the members by the various constituencies. When the constitution is finally drafted and approved by Parliament, then the people will be asked to say whether they approve of it or not.

THE HON. F. T. CROWDER: I move that progress be reported. I do so for the purpose of enabling me to bring in an amendment to this clause, providing that this House shall elect a certain number of the delegates.

THE MINISTER FOR MINES (Hon. E. H. Wittenoom): Suppose each House selected the same men?

THE PRESIDENT (Hon. Sir G. Shenton): The matter cannot be debated; I must put the question.

Question, that progress be reported, put and passed.

Progress reported.

# "HANSARD" REPORTING ARRANGEMENTS.

Consideration in Committee of the following message from the Legislative Assembly:—

"Message No. 40.

"Mr. President,

"The Legislative Assembly, having this day passed the following resolution, 'That in accordance with the recommendation contained in the Report of the 'Hansard' Committee, arrangements be made during the recess to place the 'Hansard' reporting staff on a permanent and efficient basis, and that the Library Committee, acting jointly with the Library Committee of the Legislative Council, be requested to take this matter into consideration, with a view to giving effect to the above recommendation,' presents the same to the Legislative Council for its concurrence.

"JAS. G. LEE STEERE,

"Speaker."

THE HON. S. H. PARKER: Will you tell us, sir, the names of those who constitute the Library Committee?

THE PRESIDENT (Hon. Sir G. Shenton): The Hon. Mr. Wittenoom, the Hon. Mr. Parker, and the President.

THE MINISTER FOR MINES (Hon. E. H. Wittenoom): I move that the message be agreed to, and for the reason that we may have an opportunity of talking over the best method of carrying out the reporting and publication of the debates, and, if possible, come to a satisfactory arrangement. At the beginning of this session the arrangements for publishing the debates broke down, and matters were not altogether satisfactory. Subsequently an arrangement was made for the remaining part of the session, and we are now having the debates published better than before. When the committee meets, if no better system than the present one can be shown, there will be no reason for altering the existing arrangements.

THE HON. J. W. HACKETT: What are the terms of the present arrangement?

THE MINISTER FOR MINES (Hon. E. H. Wittenoom): We pay £30 per month. The reason that we entered into this arrangement was that we were practically getting no reports. I entered into

this arrangement almost at a moment's notice, after having discussed it with the President.

THE HON. J. W. HACKETT: This £30 is independent of the reporting?

THE MINISTER FOR MINES (Hon. E. H. Wittenoom): For the publication only—nothing to do with the reporting.

THE HON. S. H. PARKER: I should like to ask the hon. gentleman why it is that the consideration by the Library Committees of two Houses will enable a better arrangement to be come to than if the President of the Legislative Council, the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, and the Government arranged? I cannot see what advantage there is in associating these other gentlemen with the question. Surely it is not so difficult a matter that the chiefs of the two Houses cannot settle it? I have always been glad to accept a position on the Library Committee, although it is seldom called together, but I did not undertake to be associated with another committee for the purpose of discussing and arranging the best method for reporting and publishing the debates. I do not know that I have time to devote to these discussions.

THE PRESIDENT (Hon. Sir G. Shenton): I may be allowed, perhaps, to make a slight explanation. I speak for the Speaker and myself when I say that we have found this question of publishing the debates a very troublesome one, and we desire to be relieved of it. The reason why it was suggested that the matter should be referred to the Library Committee is, that that committee is the only one which has power to sit during recess. I think if it is left to these committees, before the House next meets some satisfactory arrangements will be made.

THE HON. F. T. CROWDER: I move, as an amendment, that the Legislative Council acquaints the Legislative Assembly, in reply to Message No. 40, that it has made satisfactory arrangements for printing and reporting the debates, and does not, therefore, see the necessity of acceding to the request.

THE PRESIDENT (Hon. Sir G. Shenton): Before this is put allow me to draw attention to the fact that the present is only a temporary arrangement, and will come to an end immediately the House rises.

THE HON. F. T. CROWDER: The reason I move this is that we desire to have some better arrangements than we have had for the publication of the debates, and having entered into a satisfactory agreement I do not think it well to disturb it. It will be within the knowledge of the hon. members that last session arrangements were made for publishing the debates. These arrangements were broken through the default on the part of the Legislative Assembly, and through no fault of the Legislative Council. The arrangement was a joint one, and yet the Legislative Assembly, without in any way consulting the Legislative Council, did away with it. A resolution was afterwards passed by this House under which arrangements were made for a daily "Hansard," and in view of what has occurred in the past I maintain that if there is to be any joint control we shall get into the same difficulty as we did before. In these circumstances I think both Houses should make their own arrangements. What we want is a daily "Hansard" published in the papers.

THE HON. J. W. HACKETT: There is no daily "Hansard." The reports of last Thursday only appeared to-day.

THE HON. F. T. CROWDER: That is near enough. It is very inconvenient for hon. members of this House to do their duty to their constituents unless they have the reports. If through illness or other causes a member is unable to be present he has no opportunity of knowing what takes place in the House unless we have these reports, and unless he waits for perhaps 10 months, until the debates are published by the Government Printer. I have brought this amendment forward to test the views of hon. members, and I feel sure they will support it.

THE HON. D. K. CONGDON: I was certainly in favour of the proposition put forward by the Hon. Mr. Crowder, but after what the President has said, that the present is only a temporary arrangement, I think it would be better to leave the matter in the hands of the committee. If the committee does not see its way to making the arrangements we desire we can then deal with the matter ourselves.

THE HON. R. S. HAYNES: I note that the resolution sent to us reads that the committee is to make arrangements for placing the "Hansard" staff on a per-

manent and efficient basis, in accordance with the recommendation of the "Hansard" Committee. I do not know what that is.

THE HON. F. T. CROWDER: A committee of the other House.

THE HON. R. S. HAYNES: We do not know what that report is. We have never been consulted in the matter. The breakdown of the arrangements made last session was through the fault of the Legislative Assembly, and we were not consulted. There is no guarantee given in this resolution that the Assembly will pay much deference or respect to the wishes of this House, and unless some assurance is given I do not think we are justified in asking the Library Committee of this House to meet the committee of another place for the purpose of making a joint arrangement. By passing this resolution we are giving the Library Committee *carte blanche*, and I do not think we should do this, seeing that what we desire is to have these debates published as soon after they take place as possible. In these circumstances, I do not think it would be safe to commit ourselves to the resolution in its present form, and therefore I shall vote against it.

THE HON. F. M. STONE: This resolution says that the library committees are to meet for the purpose of placing the reporting staffs on a permanent and efficient basis. This has nothing to do with the publication of the reports. What we want is a daily report. If this resolution had gone further, and said that the committee should consider the question of having these daily reports, I would be prepared to go with it, but in its present form it would certainly be inadvisable to pass it. If we add words to the resolution to include the consideration of publishing daily reports, then, I think, we might vote for it.

THE HON. J. W. HACKETT: What do you mean by daily?

THE HON. F. M. STONE: The next morning, or so soon thereto as practicable. We may be sitting very late, and it may be impossible to get the reports in a paper on the following morning. In this case they could come out the day following. The resolution as it stands will not carry out what we desire, and I propose that we add words to it which will give effect to our wishes.

THE MINISTER FOR MINES (Hon. E. H. Wittenoom): I may say that the present arrangement is only a temporary one for the remainder of the session. After the resolution, which was passed by this House, I spoke to the hon. the President, and came to the conclusion that it would be as well to enter into this arrangement. We found that the work could be done at a small cost, and the bargain was clinched at once. At the end of the session, however, the arrangement terminates. I may point out that, were it not for the fact that the amount involved is small, we could not have made even the present arrangement, because we have no money. When the committee meets there is no reason why a similar arrangement should not be entered into for next session, and thus meet the wishes of hon. members. If it appears that the joint committee is unable to deal with the matter in a satisfactory manner to us we can retire and make our own arrangements. I think the suggestion of the Hon. Mr. Stone is a good one, and I shall not object to its incorporation in the message, because it will at least show what is the desire of this House.

THE PRESIDENT (Hon. Sir G. Shenton): One speaker has stated that he does not see why this matter should not be dealt with by the President and the Speaker. I may say that we have had some trouble in the past over the matter, and we now desire to have other gentlemen associated with us, so that we may have the benefit of their advice. It is impossible that the work of this House can be carried on with one reporter. We have sat longer than we have on any previous occasion, and it is impossible for one reporter to sit here, from 4:30 p.m. sometimes till 10 p.m., and take down all the speeches *verbatim*. If this matter is left to the Speaker and the President, with the assistance of these committees, I think we shall be able to enter into some arrangement which will be satisfactory to hon. members.

THE HON. S. H. PARKER: If we are to have a daily report it will require a considerable addition to our staff, for a reporter must have time to write out his notes. I take it that a reporter should not take more than two hours' notes, otherwise he will not be able to get them

written up in time for publication next morning.

**THE PRESIDENT** (Hon. Sir G. Shenton): The matter wants careful consideration.

**THE HON. S. H. PARKER**: For my part, I think if we desire the public to read the debates they must be condensed more. Where they run into columns and columns I do not think anyone will wade through them. In these circumstances I can quite understand that it is rather prejudicial to a newspaper to publish reports of Parliament in full.

**THE HON. J. W. HACKETT**: It is ruinous.

**THE HON. S. H. PARKER**: I think in these circumstances it would be as well if we arranged to get a good condensed report of this House published. As regards the Assembly, of course, that being the popular House, the newspapers will always publish a report of the proceedings. A newspaper is bound to keep up with the times and must publish the reports. It is only in regard to this House, therefore, that we want to make arrangements. We might, however, have, as I say, a good condensed report, and if we succeed in securing the services of the able reporter we have at present we might well leave the condensation to him instead of insisting on having *verbatim* reports.

**THE HON. F. T. CROWDER**: I beg to withdraw my amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

**THE HON. F. M. STONE**: I move that the words "and to have reports of the debates of both Houses published in a daily newspaper," be inserted between the words "basis" and "and" in the fourth line of the resolution.

Amendment put and passed.

Resolution, as amended, agreed to and reported.

#### LOANS CONSOLIDATION BILL.

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

#### WATERWORKS BILL.

##### SECOND READING.

**THE MINISTER FOR MINES** (Hon. E. H. Wittenoom): Hon. members are aware that from all parts of the country demands have been made upon the Government to provide water supplies.

Up to the present they have been unable to meet these, and now they bring forward this Bill to enable those localities which desire to have a supply of water to provide the same for themselves, with the assistance of the Government. If hon. members will look at the schedule of the Loan Bill, they will see that £100,000 is put down for the water supplies for towns: and that money will be expended under this Bill. The whole gist of this Bill is this:—Any town or district can apply to the Government to come within the scope of the Bill, and be created a water district. Certain forms will then have to be gone through, and if the Government find that the rates available are sufficient to pay working expenses and sinking fund, then they may provide the funds to carry out the works. The whole of the Bill is practically contained within Clauses 3 to 10. The Government may proclaim any town a water district, and appoint some member of the Executive to be the Minister to administer the Act; and he will, after his appointment, have all the powers of a body corporate. When any district applies to become a water district, each owner of land must set down his name, and furnish certain other particulars provided by the Bill. The probable amount of the water rate will have to be stated, and then this will be checked by the Works Department; and if it is found to be sufficient to pay the working expenses and sinking fund, then the Minister may lay the estimates before Parliament for approval, and obtain the passing of a special Act providing the money to carry out the works. This Bill is, therefore, hedged round with all sorts of safeguards. The rest of the Bill is made up of numerous other clauses for assessing and rating, most of which are obtained from the Municipal Act. Under Clause 26, a water rate not exceeding 2s. in the pound may be levied. Clause 32 provides that the land shall be responsible for the water rate, and Clause 41 gives power to make by-laws with penalties not exceeding £20. There is a provision against the obstruction of the works, and Clause 66 states that the rate shall be paid to the Treasurer. The rest of the clauses are of a general nature. I may say that under Clause 108 the Minister has power, when the works are

completed, to lease them to corporations or other public bodies. I formally move that the Bill be now read a second time.

**THE HON. R. S. HAYNES:** The Bill before the House contains something like 112 clauses, and I venture to say that no hon. member has read it through. If he has he does not understand it. The object of the Bill is a praiseworthy one, and I should be prepared to support it if it had been at all carefully drafted. I do not know who is responsible for the drafting of these Bills, but a great many of them that come here require considerable alteration. I hope the hon. the Minister will not object to any alterations in committee. In Clause 15 an alteration is required as regards the rating. Then again Clause 26 provides that a rate not exceeding 2s. in the pound shall be levied. In Perth it has been quite galling enough to have the rate of 1s. in the pound. Then I might ask what is a person going to get for his 2s.?

**THE MINISTER FOR MINES (Hon. E. H. Wittenoom):** Look at Clause 9.

**THE HON. R. S. HAYNES:** That does not refer to it. In Perth we know what we are to get for the water rate. We are allowed a free use of the water for domestic purposes. We are not going to get that in this Bill. What are we to get?

**THE MINISTER FOR MINES (Hon. E. H. Wittenoom):** Water.

**THE HON. R. S. HAYNES:** Nothing of the kind. All the Bill says is that a rate not exceeding 2s. in the pound may be levied. Of course it is intended that water shall be supplied, but in the drafting of the Bill this has been omitted to be stated. Then in Clause 29 I should like to know what is the meaning of the words "adjoining where such pipe is laid." In other Acts a person must be within a certain distance of the main before he is compelled to pay a rate. With these words a person may own 10,000 acres of land and thus be a considerable distance from a main, but still he would have to pay the rate, although he could get no water. Then by Clause 41 the Minister may fix a scale for payment by measure, but this Bill is so clumsily drawn that it does not say that when a person pays by measure, the value of his rates is to be deducted. I do not intend to oppose the Bill, but I do hope the hon. the Minister

will see his way to accept a number of amendments in committee.

**THE HON. F. M. STONE:** I have looked through this Bill and I agree with the Hon. Mr. Haynes that it has not been very carefully drawn. The hon. gentleman is quite right when he says that there is nothing to show what people are to get for their rate. In Perth people get a domestic supply, but under this Bill they are to get nothing. Under Clause 69 the Minister is to provide water for all persons entitled thereto, but who are the persons entitled? There has been a good deal of fighting over these words in another Act, and it seems to me there should be some definition of them placed in the interpretation clause to this Bill. I also agree with the Hon. Mr. Haynes, that if a person pays for water by measure he should be entitled to have the value of his rates deducted.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

#### IN COMMITTEE.

Clauses 1 to 10—agreed to.

Clause 11—Annual assessment to be made:

**THE HON. F. M. STONE:** I would now ask the hon. the Minister what provision there is in the Bill for supplying water to those persons who pay rates? In Perth rates are only payable by persons who are within a certain distance of a pipe. Under this Bill half the people who pay rates may not be able to get near the water.

**THE MINISTER FOR MINES (Hon. E. H. Wittenoom):** This is only a permissive Bill for the purpose of enabling waterworks districts to be created. No one need take advantage of it unless he likes. If the rates are so high no one is bound to come in under the Bill and pay them. I may point out to hon. members that before any waterworks can be constructed a special Act will have to be passed, and any apparent omissions in this Bill will be supplied in that special Act. This Bill is only to enable the initial proceedings to be taken.

**THE HON. A. B. KIDSON:** Clause 41, Sub-section 8, is somewhat of an answer to the Hon. Mr. Stone.

**THE HON. R. S. HAYNES:** It is not a permissive Bill, because every special Act that will be passed will be incorpor-



ated with this one. I do not intend to oppose this Bill, but I do say, let us have an Act that the people can understand. Do not let us pass ragged Acts such as have gone from this House in the past, the Building Act, for instance.

**THE HON. F. M. STONE:** The hon. the Minister has not answered my point. Under this Bill as it stands it seems to me that a number of persons will be paying water rates without getting water. Under the Perth Waterworks Act no person is asked to pay a rate unless he is within 180 feet of the main. A similar clause is wanted here.

**THE HON. J. E. RICHARDSON:** Suppose a district applied to have water-works constructed. It might be that three-fourths of the people only could be supplied. I take it then that the other fourth would have to pay rates without having the benefit of the water.

**THE MINISTER FOR MINES (Hon. E. H. Wittenoom):** In order that we may have a little further time to look into this matter, I move that progress be reported.

Motion put and passed.

Progress reported accordingly.

**THE PRESIDENT** then left the chair for an hour.

On resuming,

LOAN BILL (£3,500,000), 1896.

SECOND READING—ADJOURNED DEBATE.

**THE HON. F. M. STONE:** Nothing gives me greater regret than to be obliged to say that I do not intend to oppose the second reading of this Bill. It certainly would have given me pleasure to have moved that it be read a second time this day six months, but there are several items in the schedule which prevent me from being able to do so. These works the colony has already entered upon, and we must continue them. At the same time, I regret that this borrowing policy is still to go on. Already this session we have passed a number of Loan Bills which add considerably to the indebtedness of the colony, and it seems to me that, in the circumstances, it would have been better had the Government endeavoured to provide for many of the items which are contained in this Bill out of current revenue. Although we are in

a prosperous condition, that is no reason why we should borrow. The present policy of the Government looks very much as if we were afraid we will not get sufficient gold from the mines, and must go outside the colony to borrow so as to bolster them up. If the colony is so prosperous, that is all the more reason why we should provide for many of these works out of revenue. It has been said that it will take three or four years to spend the money, that by that time we shall have a larger population, and that the amount of our indebtedness will then be very much less. If that is so, then I may say that during these three years our revenue will also increase, and we shall have further amounts to spend. Many of the works will not be completed within three years, and during that time we shall have more revenue, and might well provide for them. Although I do not intend to oppose the second reading, I shall endeavour to have the fullest particulars supplied, so that if there is the slightest chance of knocking out any of the amounts in the schedule we can do so. I do not consider the explanations which have been given by the hon. the Minister are by any means sufficient. It seems to me that before we go into committee we should have the Estimates of revenue and expenditure before us, and full particulars as to each item, so that it cannot be said that this House has passed the Bill without due consideration. With reference to the item "Development of goldfields and mineral resources, £200,000," it has been said that a certain amount of the money will be required for water supplies. I should have thought that there was no longer need for this, seeing the enormous sums that had been expended in the past. Even if some money is required it could well, I think, have been obtained from revenue. If this amount is to be expended over three years, surely we could have provided, say, £50,000 or £60,000 a year out of revenue to cover it. Then, with regard to the item "Water supplies for towns," I should like to know what towns are to be supplied. Are we to give a general license to the Government to supply any towns they think fit?

**THE MINISTER FOR MINES (Hon. E. H. Wittenoom):** What about the Waterworks Bill?

**THE HON. F. M. STONE:** Under that Bill every work has to come before Parliament, but this schedule does not provide that every work shall come before Parliament. There is nothing under it to prevent the Government constructing waterworks in a dozen different towns without consulting Parliament at all. The Fremantle dock and slip I agree with. If we are going to make Fremantle the harbour of the colony it is necessary that we should have a dock, and I feel sure that the income from it will pay the interest on the outlay. At the same time, I would have preferred to see this money provided out of revenue. We have a tremendous revenue, which is increasing day by day, out of which an amount of £50,000 a year for this work ought easily to be found. In reference to the Fremantle harbour works the colony is bound to continue them. It would be absurd not to go on with them after having gone so far. I should like to have some particulars in regard to the item for "Dredges and barges." "Sewerage for Perth and Fremantle"—This is a necessary item, although I should like to have seen it provided out of revenue. We have £100,000 provided out of revenue for the Bunbury harbour works.

**THE HON. R. S. HAYNES:** £40,000.

**THE HON. F. M. STONE:** £100,000 is to be spent in instalments. This work was placed on the Estimates, because the Government were afraid that this House would never consent to a Bill for their construction. Seeing, however, that the Government can find the money out of revenue for this work, I cannot see why the amount for the sewerage cannot also be found. Then £270,000 is set down for the Menzies railway. This item surprises me, and, for this reason, the Bill for the construction of the line has not yet been brought in, and this amount practically binds us to the route. If we pass this, we shall be told that we cannot start the railway other than from Kalgoorlie, because the amount set down will not be sufficient to take it from any other point. On the question of the Kanowna railway, I agree with the remarks of the Hon. Mr. Parker. This is a 12-mile railway, and surely such a work ought not to have found a place in a Loan Bill of this kind. After waiting for so long for the completion of the Kalgoorlie

railway, surely the carting of 12 miles ought not to prevent the development of the mines. The carting of hundreds of miles did not prevent the development of the Great Boulder, and surely if the mines at Kanowna are worth anything, the carting for twelve miles will do no serious damage. On the Murchison, for the past three years, machinery has been carted for hundreds of miles, but this has not stopped the development of the mines. Then, again, look at Marble Bar. No railway is to be built there, but only a road. This railway seems to me to be a sop to the Coolgardie goldfields, and presently we shall find ourselves running a railway to every mine. Then we come to the items for improvements to open railways. I am not surprised at it, because, judging from the way the Works Department has been managed, it is evident that they must have a large amount to cut at when they think necessary. Before we pass these items, however, we should have the fullest particulars. £400,000 worth of rolling stock has already been ordered, and another £400,000 worth has been sent for. For the present I think this is sufficient, and I should like to see the other £400,000 struck out altogether. The Works Department would not like this, because their efforts are always directed to getting a lump sum thrown into their sink or sewer. I shall desire to see the fullest particulars given in respect to these items, and to be convinced that the whole of them are absolutely necessary. There is no reason why we should borrow a penny more than is necessary. It is the duty of this House to stop the policy of reckless borrowing. We have seen the result of a similar policy in the other colonies, and if we do not take care we will soon bring ourselves into their position. What we desire is to make a prosperous colony, which will flourish for time immemorial.

**THE HON. F. T. CROWDER:** I rise with a good deal of diffidence to address myself to this Bill, because I feel that, whatever arguments I bring forward, they will not stay the borrowing policy of the Government, or convince hon. members or the general community that the Government are going too fast. With a few exceptions, most people feel that there is a good time before them, and they are

pleased to see the Government expending millions. They feel that, whatever is spent, a small percentage of it will stick to the inner lining of their own pockets. They say—"Hang the future; let us have the present." Still this House has a duty to perform, and we should prevent, as far as possible, reckless borrowing. There is no doubt that the amount now proposed would have staggered us a few years ago, and I fully feel for the hon. the Minister when he says that it was with the greatest reluctance that the Government brought down a Bill for so large an amount. The hon. gentleman quoted certain figures, in which he showed that the total borrowing for this session would amount to £7,100,000, bringing the total indebtedness of the colony up to about £12,000,000. On the basis of the present population this sum is equal to about £84 per head. It is true that the population will increase, and in three years' time probably there will be 200,000 people here. This will bring the indebtedness to £52 per head. The Minister, however, did not assure us that the Government would borrow no further moneys during the next three years. If hon. members will look at the schedule they will see that there are certain works from which only the first instalment is provided, and this shows that before three years are passed there will have to be a fresh loan. Therefore, the deductions of the hon. the Minister that three years hence the indebtedness will be only £52 per head are wrong. The hon. gentleman compared Western Australia with the other colonies to show that we could afford to borrow the money, but I differ from him because our conditions are entirely different. We have very few industries, whereas in the other colonies there are thousands of acres of first-class land upon which they can rely, and we all know that it is only that which is raised from the soil which is the true source of wealth. In referring to the Fremantle harbour works, the hon. gentleman says he looks forward in three years' time to the steamers of the P. and O. and Orient Companies coming into the basin inside the river. I do not think he was sincere in that, because I am of opinion that no one, even in his wildest dreams, could imagine anything of the kind.

THE HON. D. K. CONGDON: Why not?

THE HON. F. T. CROWDER: Because these ships cost a lot of money, and the companies which own them possess common sense, and would never allow them to go into a place where they must break their backs. The expenditure, however, has commenced, and even if we lose by it we must complete the works. The only good I believe the harbour works will do will be to open up the river and enable the steamers of medium size to land their cargoes in Perth. Then I come to the item, "Fremantle Dock and Slip," and, as regards this, I say the Government have made a mistake. I do not say so because I represent Albany, but because I think a dock should be placed where there is the most shipping, and at a port which is the most accessible. If it were placed in Princess Royal Harbour at Albany it would meet the wants of the ocean steamers and be accessible to the trade between the Eastern colonies and Europe. The Government, however, in its policy of centralisation, is intent upon allowing the many to go down for the benefit of the few. The hon. the Minister promised to furnish the fullest reports in committee, and I might point out to him that it would save time if he would lay them on the table so that we can digest them. In regard to the Menzies and Kanowna railways, I trust that the Government, if this House assents to them, will take steps to see that the rolling-stock for them is in the colony before they are commenced, and also that in calling for tenders the colony may know exactly what the railways will cost. Under the conditions that the Coolgardie and Kalgoorlie railways were let the colony has lost an enormous amount. I am credibly informed that Messrs. Wilkie Bros. have made a huge fortune out of the work, and that after December next the line will be handed over to the Government unballasted. The contractors have used the trucks to carry merchandise instead of for ballasting the line. After the 30th December next the Government will take over the railway and will have to set about ballasting it, and charge Messrs. Wilkie Bros. with the cost. I trust that the Government will see that this sort of

thing does not occur again. I do not intend to oppose the second reading of the Bill. I may say, however, that it strikes me the Government have no policy in regard to the goldfields. They are simply shelling out to them with both hands. They are spending millions to build railway lines to enable the inhabitants to live cheaply, and they are taking off the duties from everything that pertains to the mining industry. I take it that they would be conserving the interests of the colony better if they retained the duties, and not only started the contribution to the Sinking Fund sooner, but doubled the amount. I may be a pessimist, but it is not impossible that we may have a large population here to-day and none to-morrow. I thoroughly sympathise with the Government in their reluctance to bring forward this Bill, but there is no doubt that if they had sat down and refused to borrow money they would not have held their offices for half an hour. At the same time I think they are going too fast. I may say, also, that no matter what may be our future prosperity there are dark times ahead; but we have the satisfaction of knowing that in the Ministry we have gentlemen of unquestionable honour and integrity, men upon whom the breath of suspicion has never fallen, and whatever may happen in regard to this Bill, I feel sure our opinions of them will never change.

THE HON. H. BRIGGS: I rise with pleasure to support the second reading of this Bill. I can see many good works in the schedule, some of which affect the health of the towns, and others which are of a reproductive character. I think it is a pleasing thing that the Government are in a position to bring forward such a schedule of works, most of which are reproductive and remunerative. I shall not detain the House except to reply to one or two remarks that have fallen from hon. members. One hon. gentleman said he thought that certain works ought to be paid for out of the revenue. I do not agree with him. I think that, as future generations will have the benefits of the works, they should contribute towards them. It is only just to distribute the payment of these works over a period of 15 or 20 years. Another hon. gentleman said that we should soon have a network

of railways all over the colony. For my part, I shall be pleased when that prognostication comes true, because it will show that we are progressing in every direction. I shall support the second reading of the Bill.

THE HON. D. K. CONGDON: I merely rise to say that it affords me great pleasure to support this Bill. I have been a consistent supporter of the public works policy of the Government, and I intend to continue that course. I defy any hon. member to place his finger on any item in the schedule to this Bill and say it is not a remunerative work. The requirements of the colony are great, and our financial position is such as to warrant the works being undertaken.

THE HON. D. MCKAY: This, sir, is the last of three loans which have been brought before the House since I had the honour of taking my seat on the 2nd September last. They amount in all to about £7,100,000. This sum is being added to the indebtedness of the colony in about a month and a half, and surely, therefore, the present must be a red letter day in the history of the colony. It is enough to take one's breath away. Viewing these facts, I can hardly help thinking how rapid has been the growth of our progress, but, at the same time, it seems to me that the Government have not altogether done justice to all parts of the colony. There is not a single mention of the North in this Bill, and I must place on record my utter disappointment at such cruel treatment. I can remember when the Government were proud of the North, because it contributed very materially to the revenue. Since then a change has come over the scene, and, although I am pleased to see the prosperity of the South, I am grieved that the North has been more or less neglected. I hope we shall live to see the day when the North will show that it is deserving of better consideration. I do not think it is the desire of the Government to be unkind to the North, for I think it is more through force of circumstances than design that this particular part of the colony has not been found a corner in this great Loan Bill. The Government, however, are looking forward to a critical time, and I believe the Premier, like a wise general, is marshalling his forces to assail his antagonists in

the coming strife. I am not one of those who believe that these loans, formidable as they appear to be, are going to break the whole colony. I believe the colony has treasures in her bosom to meet all these loans, and, holding this view, I do not feel justified in voting against the Bill now before the House.

THE HON. J. H. TAYLOR: I shall support the second reading of this Bill, and in doing so I wish to refer to a few of the remarks made by the Hon. Mr. Crowder. He said that the Government had no policy with regard to the goldfields. As far as I can see the Government have a policy, and it is to develop the fields. The goldfields have made the colony what it is, and in the future I believe all our hopes will be fulfilled. Then the hon. member said that the Government were handing to the goldfields money with both hands, and were practically getting nothing for it, because they were taking off the duty on nearly every article. The remarkable increase in the revenue of the colony, however, is a complete answer to the hon. member, because it will be generally admitted that the greater part of it has come either directly or indirectly from the fields, and only a small item amounting to about £20,000—the duty on mining machinery—has been taken off. With regard to the railways to the goldfields there is no doubt that they are the cheapest lines that have ever been constructed in the world, and the cause of their cheapness is that they have been let out under a peculiar system, by which the contractors have been able to make large fortunes out of the goldfields' population. Therefore the people of the fields have directly contributed to the construction of these railways. It may be possible that some of the items on the schedule may be attacked, but I think the Hon. Mr. Crowder was ill advised when he chose the goldfields railways as the theme for his condemnation.

THE HON. J. E. RICHARDSON: I do not intend to oppose this Bill, notwithstanding that the Northern members get the credit of opposing all measures for the South. Great stress has been laid on the indebtedness per head which this Bill will involve. We must remember, however, that the money is not to be spent all in one year, and that in three

years' time our population will be about 200,000, making the indebtedness only about £52 per head. Many of the works in the schedule are supposed to be reproductive. Out of the item for rolling-stock I hope the hon. the Minister will be able to provide sufficient funds to have the Cossack-Roebourne tramway run by an engine instead of by the present obsolete method of horse traction.

THE HON. S. J. HAYNES: I do not intend to oppose the second reading of this Bill; still, I take this opportunity of individually protesting against what I consider to be excessive borrowing. It seems to me that to increase our indebtedness by £7,000,000 is a large order for a small community. As far as the item which was passed during the time I was away is concerned, I may say I think the Government have got a good bargain, and the purchase of the railway will bring us nearer to the time when the whole of the railways in the colony will be under the control of the Government. I do not propose to deal with all the items in the schedule, but, referring to No. 6, "Sewerage for towns," the works are such that should be undertaken by municipalities rather than by the State. I recognise the difficulty the Government are in in regard to borrowing, and I trust that the works which they are about to undertake will be reproductive, and that the colony will not get into a mess similar to that which some of the other colonies have got into. We are now having our boom time; they are having the reaction. In this excessive borrowing, it seems to me we are going too far, especially when we remember that we have not the same resources to fall back upon as the other colonies. The goldfields certainly look well, but the price we are paying to develop them is a very big discount on the future. I would rather see the colony go ahead a little more slowly and certainly. Instead of having a Loan Bill for £6,000,000 I would prefer to see the amount reduced by one-half. If we had not undertaken the Coolgardie water scheme we might have saved £2,000,000 out of the £2,500,000 and I believe we should have attained the end we desired just as well and more rapidly. I do not intend, as I say, to oppose the Bill; I only desire to protest against this excessive borrowing.

THE MINISTER FOR MINES (Hon. E. H. Witteboom): The other evening you stated, sir, that I might have the right of saying a few words a second time in reply, owing to the fact that I was under the impression when I last spoke that no other hon. member wished to address the House. However, I have very little to add. The development of the colony is taking place at such a great pace that the Government are driven along with it, and they find it necessary, unless they are to stop the progress altogether, to afford reasonable facilities to the people for carrying on their various industries. At such a time it would be utterly absurd to say that we should stand still, and I feel certain that no Ministry which adopted the course would occupy their offices very long. I have already stated that the Government brought in this Bill with reluctance, and that, if they had seen any other reasonable means of gaining the same ends, they would never have asked hon. members to embark upon the borrowing of so large an amount. Take each of the works which has been provided for. Can any hon. member show that any one is unnecessary, or that it can be carried out by any other means than that proposed by the Government? Take the Great Southern Railway. Even those hon. members who object to this Bill considered that that was the best bargain the colony had made. See what a difference it makes to us when we get nearer home; but we should possess broader minds, and not look on these matters from a small, parochial standpoint. The Hon. Mr. Crowder said he hoped there would be no more borrowing for three years. I sincerely join with him, and I can say that the only ground upon which the Government will seek to raise further moneys during the next few years is that the colony has again gone ahead very rapidly. Hon. members may rest assured that the Government will not seek to borrow further unless it is absolutely necessary, and that there is the greatest justification for it. According to the Hon. Mr. Crowder, the Fremantle harbour works can do no good, and if we are to follow his advice we had better stop them. I was glad to see the hon. gentleman, however, give his support to the item for rolling stock.

No one can contradict the fact that the one great drawback to the colony for some time past has been the want of sufficient rolling stock. The scarcity of trucks has done more harm to the industries than can be expressed, notwithstanding that the Government have expended £400,000 of unauthorised money. I would just like to make a passing remark in reply to what the Hon. Mr. Crowder said in regard to the construction of railways. The reason the Government did not force the contractors to ballast the line at once was that it was thought better that the people on the fields should have the advantage of getting up their machinery and food supplies in preference to ballasting the line, which can be done afterwards when trucks are more plentiful. Although Messrs. Wilkie Bros. have done well, I am sure no one begrudges them what they have made, and we must all remember that if it had not been with a view to getting the traffic the line would never have been finished as quickly as it has been. If the Government have lost a few pounds the people have reaped the advantage of it. Then I come to the Hon. Mr. Stone. I never expect to be able to satisfy the hon. gentleman, and I shall not attempt to do so. No Bill has ever been introduced into this House for the benefit of Western Australia but what it has been opposed by the hon. member. He now says he will not allow a single item to pass until he is convinced that it is right. I think life is too short to waste time in trying to convince the hon. member. The hon. member said this Bill should not go through until the Railway Bill had been passed, but it seems to me we must find the money first or else we shall be asked what is the use of passing a railway until we know where the money to construct it is to come from. I must congratulate the Hon. Mr. McKay on the generous manner in which he spoke. Looking at the schedule, it does seem as if the district which he represents is left out, but the Government have endeavoured not to put more in the schedule than it could help, and they have proposed to undertake only the more pressing works. It may be some pleasure to the hon. member to know that the telegraph line between Nullagine and the western shore has been authorised. Looking around

the country, how can anyone say that these works are not required? How can anyone say that the rolling stock is not necessary? Then, take the money which is to be spent in towns. Can anyone say that is not necessary? Perth is said to be a most unhealthy place to live in, and then, when the Government come down and try to bring about a good sanitary condition, they are opposed by those who ought to know better. Water works are required all over the colony, and, notwithstanding that they will be remunerative, the item to provide them is opposed. In fact, every item in this schedule is absolutely necessary, and I hope hon. members will agree to the Bill as it stands.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

**THE MINISTER FOR MINES** (Hon. E. H. Wittenoom): I move that you, sir, do now leave the chair for the purpose of considering this Bill in committee.

**THE HON. S. H. PARKER:** I do not think the time has arrived when we can consider this Bill in committee. We should, I think, have the Estimates of the revenue and expenditure for the current year before us, so that we may know what works are provided for out of the revenue, and thus be enabled to ascertain whether it is possible that some of the works on this schedule may not be provided for from the revenue. Moreover, I would point out that these Estimates should now be upon the table of the House. The Audit Act provides that they shall be laid upon the table of this House, and in not doing so, the hon. the Minister has neglected a statutory duty. We know that the revenue far exceeds the demands of the public service, and we should see whether part of it cannot be set aside for some of the works which are specified in this Bill. Again, we know that at Coolgardie and other places, lands are being sold at enormous prices, producing a large revenue, and I cannot but think that the money so obtained might not well be put aside for the purposes of some of these works. It may be, too, when we get the Estimates before us, we shall find some of the money is to be frittered away on agricultural railways and unnecessary harbour works.

In these circumstances I object to going into committee at the present time.

Question put.

The House divided with the following result:—

Ayes	...	...	7
Noes	...	...	6
Majority for			1

AYES.		NOES.	
The Hon. H. Briggs		The Hon. W. Alexander	
The Hon. R. S. Haynes		The Hon. F. T. Crowder	
The Hon. D. McKay		The Hon. A. B. Kidson	
The Hon. J. E. Richardson		The Hon. S. H. Parker	
The Hon. J. H. Taylor		The Hon. F. M. Stone	
The Hon. E. H. Wittenoom		The Hon. S. J. Haynes	
The Hon. D. K. Congdon			(Teller).
		(Teller).	

Question put and passed.

IN COMMITTEE.

Clause 1—agreed to.

Clause 2—Power to raise money for certain purposes:

**THE HON. F. M. STONE:** I move that progress be reported. I think the reasonable request which the Hon. Mr. Parker made should have been acceded to, for I do not see how it is possible for us to proceed with a Bill of this kind unless we have all the facts before us. At present we are completely in the dark as to what works the Government intend to construct out of revenue, and it may be that we may find it possible that some of the items in the schedule to this Bill may be provided for out of our current income. We are here to check hasty legislation, and in order to enable us to do so we should have the fullest particulars.

Motion put.

The committee divided with the following result:—

Ayes	...	...	6
Noes	...	...	7
Majority against			1

AYES.		NOES.	
The Hon. F. T. Crowder		The Hon. H. Briggs	
The Hon. A. B. Kidson		The Hon. D. K. Congdon	
The Hon. S. H. Parker		The Hon. R. S. Haynes	
The Hon. J. E. Richardson		The Hon. D. McKay	
The Hon. F. M. Stone		The Hon. J. H. Taylor	
The Hon. S. J. Haynes		The Hon. E. H. Wittenoom	
		The Hon. W. Alexander	
		(Teller).	

Motion put and negatived.

**THE HON. F. T. CROWDER:** I deeply regret that the hon. the Minister for Mines has not thought fit to accede to the very reasonable request which has

been made to him by the Hon. Mr. Stone and the Hon. Mr. Parker. If the hon. gentleman wishes a direct Opposition to arise in this House he is going the right way to force it. We are asking for nothing unreasonable; we are not proposing to throw the Bill out, or to block it, but we desire to obtain further information. When I agreed to the second reading of the Bill I did so on the assurance that the hon. the Minister would never offer any objection to giving us a little time in which to consider the details.

**THE MINISTER FOR MINES (Hon. E. H. Wittenoom):** I think hon. members will give me credit for being reasonable and courteous, and for respecting their wishes. I feel certain that the Hon. Mr. Parker will admit that on no occasion has he had cause to complain of the way in which I have treated him. On this occasion I have felt that he has not been acting from his own point of view in requesting an adjournment. There are some members who persistently block everything, and I do not see why the majority should be coerced by a small minority. It has been asked that the Estimates should be laid on the table. They have been before the colony for some time, and have been dealt with most comprehensively by the Press. I have no desire, however, to run counter to the wishes of hon. members, and if it is their wish to adjourn I shall offer no further objection.

**THE HON. S. H. PARKER:** I might say that the hon. the Minister is correct when he states that I am not following exactly my own views in the present instance. My views are even stronger than those I have expressed. I think this Bill should be referred to a select committee, and evidence taken on all the items; but, in deference to the wishes of other hon. members, I have adopted the more modified course. When I spoke on the second reading of the Bill, I mentioned that we could not properly consider it without the Estimates of revenue and expenditure; and there is no reason why they should not be laid upon the table. Indeed, under Section 16 of the Audit Act, a statutory duty is imposed upon the Government to lay those Estimates before both Houses. I do not suggest that the Government have

purposely neglected to lay them on the table, but it is certainly open to remark that there may be some object for keeping them back. The hon. gentleman says these Estimates have been dealt with in the Press. I do not say that everything is untrue which appears in the papers, but I expect, when I am asked to discuss matters, that all the information shall be furnished to me here. I understand the hon. gentleman has now no further objection to postponing the consideration of the Bill, and I therefore move that progress be reported.

Motion put and passed.

Progress reported.

#### ADJOURNMENT.

The House, at 9:30 o'clock, p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, October 14th, 1896, at 4:30 o'clock, p.m.

### Legislative Assembly,

*Tuesday, 13th October, 1896.*

Great Southern Railway Purchase Bill: first reading—Message: Assent to Bills—Loans Consolidation Bill: in committee; third reading—Annual Estimates: Public Works, further considered, and Estimates concluded—Mines Regulation Act Amendment Bill: first reading—Bastardy Laws Act Amendment Bill: first reading—Bridges over Railway: Report of Joint Select Committee—One-Nannine Railway Bill: in committee; third reading—Perth Racecourse Railway Bill: in committee—Industrial Statistics Bill: second reading—Jury Act Amendment Bill: second reading—Public Health Act Amendment Bill: second reading—Motions: Leave of Absence—Adjournment.

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

#### PRAYERS.

#### GREAT SOUTHERN RAILWAY PURCHASE BILL.

Introduced by the **PREMIER**, without notice (the Standing Orders being suspended). He said the Bill was merely for carrying out the intention which had