

Amendment put and passed, and the item inserted accordingly, in alphabetical order.

Schedule, as amended, agreed to.

FIRST SCHEDULE—TABLE OF SPECIFIC DUTIES.

Postponed Item—"Spirits of Wine":

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) moved that the words, "proof as above, destroyed in bond under regulations to be framed," be inserted after the words "Spirits of Wine," and that the duty be reduced to 5s. per gallon.

Motion put and passed, and the item, as amended, agreed to.

Schedule, as amended, agreed to.

Preamble:

Agreed to.

Title:

Agreed to.

Bill reported, with amendments.

ADJOURNMENT.

The House adjourned at 12:45 a.m.

Legislative Council.

Tuesday, 26th September, 1893.

Wines, Beer, and Spirit Sale Act Amendment Bill:
third reading—Adjournment.

THE PRESIDENT (Hon. Sir G. Shenton) took the chair at 2:30 o'clock p.m.

PRAYERS.

WINES, BEER, AND SPIRIT SALE ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

THIRD READING.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. S. H. Parker) moved that the Bill be now read a third time.

THE HON. J. A. WRIGHT: I have to move, as an amendment, that the Bill be

recommitted for the purpose of moving that the following words be added to the end of the third paragraph of sub-clause (f) of Clause 5:—"That any club regularly established for five years prior to the date of this Act in connection with any society, association, or body which provides for the payment by its members of an entrance fee and annual subscription equal to the amount so fixed, shall be deemed to have sufficiently complied with the provisions hereof." My reason for bringing forward this amendment is to provide for the Masonic Club, which is an institution which has been established for 20 years, and which has been properly conducted, as far as I know. At the present time it is doing good service, members being able to go there to spend a social evening without the necessity of drinking. If those who go there did not patronise it, they might go to worse places. Under any circumstances, I do not think that we should interfere with an institution which has been properly conducted for many years.

THE HON. D. K. CONGDON: I second the motion.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. S. H. Parker): Hon. members will remember that a similar amendment has already been proposed to the House by the Hon. Mr. Congdon, and, after debate, the hon. member withdrew his proposition. Unfortunately, the Hon. Mr. Wright was not here then, or he would not have had occasion to propose this amendment now. Surely the provisions as to clubs in the Bill are not so stringent that the Masonic Club cannot comply with them. When it was proposed to reduce the entrance fee, hon. members thought that the sum provided was not more than sufficient to keep a respectable club going; but my hon. friend moves to go further and say that there shall be no entrance fee.

THE HON. J. A. WRIGHT: No.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. S. H. Parker): The hon. member's amendment virtually says so.

THE HON. J. A. WRIGHT: No.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. S. H. Parker): Under the amendment, no subscription would be required to the club. How the club is to be maintained I do not know, unless it is by selling adulterated liquors, or by charging an

extra price. I cannot think that members of this House, who have recently refused to reduce the subscription, will now assent to this proposition.

THE HON. J. A. WRIGHT: It will only affect one institution.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. S. H. Parker): There is always an objection to such legislation as that. If we exempt this institution, how can we afterwards reasonably refuse to exempt any other like institution? Surely if the members of this lodge of St. John, which is the oldest and most wealthy of all the lodges, cannot afford to pay the small subscription and entrance fee provided by this Bill, how can we expect others to pay them? Besides, if all the members paid a proper entrance fee and subscription, they might have proper premises. I do not think this Bill contemplates a room where billiards are played, and another room where liquors are dispensed as being a club entitled to obtain a certificate. A club must contain something more than that—it must have premises suitable for a club. My hon. friend said that this club was in existence to enable a social hour to be spent. If that is so there is no necessity to have any provision for drinking, and even if some refreshment is required there is one of the most respectable and one of the best conducted publichouses in the town just opposite, where the liquors are first class and to which members may retire if they wish. Although wishing in every possible way to oblige my hon. friend, I am afraid I must oppose this amendment.

THE HON. D. K. CONGDON: The amendment I proposed the other evening was to obviate the necessity of the Masonic Club applying for a license. This club has been in existence 18 or 19 years, and the entrance fee and subscription to it is covered by the entrance fee and subscription to the lodge. There is an entrance fee of £5 8s. and a subscription of £1 8s., and seeing that the Bill is brought forward in the interests of clubs, I think the Colonial Secretary might consider that the sums I have named are amply sufficient. This club has a large amount of property, which will have to be sacrificed if this Bill passes as it is, and I hope, therefore, that the Colonial Secretary will reconsider his decision.

THE HON. E. T. HOOLEY: I am afraid the amendment will not meet the case. It says, "any club established for five years." The question is, is this a club now? If it is, where does the hardship come in?

THE HON. D. K. CONGDON: You make the members pay a second entrance fee and a second subscription.

THE HON. E. T. HOOLEY: I cannot take that view of it. If they pay an entrance fee of £5 8s. and a subscription of £1 8s., surely they can adapt their rules to meet the Bill.

THE HON. J. F. T. HASSELL: I shall oppose the amendment, because I object to making fish of one and fowl of another. If this club is properly established I do not see any hardship in making the rules agree with the Bill.

THE HON. J. G. H. AMHERST: I shall also oppose the amendment, for I do not see why there should be any special legislation for one club.

THE HON. G. W. LEAKE: I shall vote with the Hon. Mr. Wright, not that I care for the topic under discussion, but because it amounts to this: the Freemasons, having a superfluity of cash, supply their members with what they call liquor, and I hardly see how this can be called a public club. They only sell among themselves, and provide the liquor out of their common money.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. S. H. Parker): That is all any club can do.

THE HON. G. W. LEAKE: I think as good masons we are bound to obey the law and to avoid hostility or conflict with the law. I shall vote for the Hon. Mr. Wright or against him. It is utterly immaterial which way I vote.

THE HON. G. GLYDE: I shall oppose the amendment, because I think Freemasons, being wealthy men, can afford to pay a small entrance fee.

THE HON. J. W. HACKETT: I shall support the Colonial Secretary without any hesitation or qualms of conscience—masonic or otherwise. As I said on the second reading, I disapprove of the whole Bill, even though it has been brought into a more reasonable state by the amendments of my hon. friend opposite. It is open to so many objections still that I should hesitate to vote for the third reading even now, one of which is that it establishes monopolies in directions that

should not be, and another because the Bill, in its attempt to strike down illegitimate institutions, also strikes down legitimate institutions. I have, however, carefully gone through the Bill in its amended form, and I can see so many loopholes in it even now that I believe the greater portion of it will become a dead letter. Under these circumstances I shall consent to the third reading.

THE HON. J. A. WRIGHT: I am exceedingly sorry to say that I shall have to withdraw the amendment. It has been said that a man's worst enemies are those of his own household, and the lukewarm support I have had from what I may call my own household in this case, impels me to withdraw. There are two or three members of this House whose opinions are entitled to the highest consideration, and those gentlemen do not belong to the household. But we have two lukewarm supporters of our own household. One of them will not accept the amendment, not for any reason connected with it, but because he thinks the whole Bill is not required. Then we have another member, who was Attorney General of the colony when the club was started, and who gave it as his opinion then that the thing was perfectly legitimate, and now he says he does not care which lobby he votes in. I believe the Masonic Club is deserving of everything that has been said about it, and I have brought this amendment forward with the full knowledge that the club's existence is for the benefit of the Masonic body as well as for society generally in Perth. There is no other club that could take advantage of the amendment.

THE HON. J. F. T. HASSELL: The Working Men's Club.

THE HON. J. A. WRIGHT: That has not been established for five years. The Masonic Club has been in existence for about 19 years, and the members are perfectly justified in asking for the privilege I am seeking to obtain for them. The Colonial Secretary says if members want any refreshment they can go to the hotel opposite, which has now the dignity of having Government support, as being the place where we can get the best liquor in town. I have no doubt the owner will be obliged to my hon. friend for the fine advertisement he gave the House; but I am afraid the members

of the Masonic Club will not appreciate the advice. This amendment is in the interests of a body of men who are among the most loyal supporters of the Crown, and of law and order, and why should they not be allowed to carry on their club in the future as they have done in the past? As, however, our own people have gone against us, I ask leave to withdraw the amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.
Bill read a third time, and *passed*.

ADJOURNMENT.

The Council, at 3-15 o'clock p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, 27th September, at 4-30 o'clock p.m.

Legislative Assembly,

Tuesday, 26th September, 1893.

Construction of Water Tanks along Yilgarn Railway—
Estimates, 1893-94: in committee—Additional Estimates: in committee—Message from the Legislative Council: Wines, Beer, and Spirit Sale Act Amendment Bill—Homesteads Bill: third reading—Tariff Bill: in committee—Constitution Act Amendment Bill: Legislative Council's Amendments: in committee—Address to Secretary of State re Abolition of Aborigines Protection Board—Adjournment.

THE SPEAKER took the chair at 2-30 p.m.

PRAYERS.

CONSTRUCTION OF WATER TANKS ALONG THE YILGARN RAILWAY.

MR. DEHAMEL, in accordance with notice, asked the Director of Public Works: 1. Whether the Government are having some tanks excavated along the route of the Yilgarn Railway? 2. With whom has the contract been entered into, and at what price? 3. Were tenders called for these works; and, if not, why not?