

Legislative Council,*Wednesday, 16th November, 1904.*

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

PRAYERS.**QUESTION—RAILWAY RESERVE LEASES.**

HON. J. W. LANGSFORD (for Hon. W. Maley) asked the Minister for Lands: 1, Have any leases been granted of portions of the railway reserve at Woodanilling? 2, Were such leases let by public tender? 3, Are the Government aware that there is insufficient room left for the public to approach the siding?

THE MINISTER FOR LANDS replied: 1, The following land has been let in the Woodanilling Station Yard:—Lessee, Richardson and Co., 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ perches, monthly tenancy; A. R. Wilson, 19·2 perches, weekly tenancy, 14 weeks' lease, which expires on 31st October, 1904; C. Rich, 16 perches, monthly tenancy. 2, No. 3, No. There is ample room for the public to approach the siding.

ABSENCE OF MEMBER WITHOUT LEAVE.**EXPLANATION.**

HON. W. KINGSMILL had given notice of motion "That leave of absence be granted to the Hon. T. F. O. Brimage, on the ground of urgent private business."

THE PRESIDENT: Before this motion is dealt with, I have to report to the House that the Hon. T. F. O. Brimage has been absent for a fortnight without leave from this House, and has infringed Standing Order 7, which says:—

No member, during the session, shall absent himself for more than a fortnight at a time without express leave of absence from the Council; and any member wilfully infringing this order may be declared guilty of contempt.

I may say that already during the session, as members are aware, leave of absence was granted to the Hon. T. F. O. Brimage during his visit to England. The hon. member returned to this State on the

18th October, and the House sat on the 20th October. The hon. member did not attend to take his seat on the 20th October, but took his seat on the 1st November. That is the only time he has been present in the House this session. It is my duty under the Standing Orders to report this matter to the House. Members can deal with it on Mr. Kingsmill's motion.

HON. J. W. HACKETT: What is the Standing Order?

THE PRESIDENT: Standing Order 17. In Standing Order 42, the powers for dealing with this case are given.

HON. W. KINGSMILL: I move, "That leave of absence for one fortnight be granted to the Hon. T. F. Brimage on the ground of urgent private business." It is with a deep sense of regret that I have heard that Mr. Brimage has been, unwittingly I am sure, guilty of the fault ascribed to him; and my regret is keener because it may perhaps be laid at my door that I should have given notice of this motion for yesterday, in which case I take it the remarks which have fallen from you, sir, would not have been called forth. I was certainly under the impression that it was not necessary for me to have applied until to-day; hence the delay in my application. Though I may rank as an accomplice before the fact in the crime which Mr. Brimage has unwittingly committed, I hope the House will accept this explanation on behalf of Mr. Brimage and on behalf of myself, and that it will not visit on the hon. gentleman the punishment to which, of course, he has technically laid himself open. Mr. Brimage has, to my personal and certain knowledge, been called away twice on most urgent business, and as he will return to the State to-night, I presume he will take his seat to-morrow. The leave of absence for which I apply (a fortnight) is the least leave I have ever seen applied for; but I think I may say that the hon. member will not avail himself of it in its entirety.

THE MINISTER FOR LANDS (Hon. J. M. Drew): I merely wish to remark, in connection with this matter, that it is advisable members should conform to the rules of the House and be present, or otherwise secure leave of absence in the proper manner. However, I think the explanation given by Mr.

Kingsmill is satisfactory, and we can do no harm in accepting it.

Question passed, leave of absence granted.

BILL, FIRST READING.

BUSH FIRES ACT AMENDMENT BILL, received from the Legislative Assembly and read a first time.

THE MINISTER FOR LANDS, in moving that the second reading be made an order for the next day, said the Bill was an urgent one, for enabling the Commissioner of Railways to burn the grass along the lines of railway in the State; and it was desired that the Standing Orders should be suspended at the next sitting for expediting the passing of the Bill.

Second reading of the Bill made an order for the next day.

INSPECTION OF MACHINERY BILL.

IN COMMITTEE.

Postponed Clause 6—Examination of Inspectors:

Clause as previously amended put and passed.

New Clause—Lloyds' certificate may be accepted:

THE MINISTER FOR LANDS moved that the following be added as Clause 75:—

(1.) If any ocean-going sailing vessel shall have an original certificate issued by a Lloyds' surveyor or a Board of Trade surveyor for any boiler erected on such vessel, and intended to be used within any port in Western Australia, and such certificate has not been in force for more than six months, the inspector may accept such certificate in lieu of any farther inspection under this Act for any period not exceeding two months.

(2.) All extracts from such certificate relating to any such boiler shall be legibly printed or written, and posted up in a conspicuous place near the boiler to the satisfaction of the inspector.

The object was to exempt from inspection any ocean-going sailing vessel which had an original certificate issued by Lloyds' surveyor or a Board of Trade surveyor, provided the certificate had not been in force more than six months; such exemption to continue not more than two months. It would be recognised that ocean-going steamers should not be unduly or unnecessarily harassed.

Question passed, and the clause added to the Bill.

Schedule, Preamble, Title—agreed to. Bill reported with amendments, and the report adopted.

RECOMMITTAL.

On motion by Hon. Z. LANE, Bill recommitted for amendment of Clause 6.

Hon. Z. LANE moved an amendment:

Strike out the words "every person so appointed shall pass an examination to be prescribed"; and after the words "Steam Boilers Act 1897" insert: "every other person so appointed shall pass an examination to be prescribed, and shall have been for at least five years actually employed as a mechanic in the manufacture and repair of engines and machinery in a workshop or workshops, or where work of a similar character is performed."

He believed that members now understood what was wanted, and that the Minister would accept the amendment.

THE MINISTER accepted the amendment.

Amendment passed, and the clause as amended agreed to.

Bill reported with farther amendment, and the report adopted.

ADJOURNMENT.

The House adjourned at four minutes to 5 o'clock, until the next day.