

Legislative Council,*Wednesday, 25th September, 1895.*

Crown Suits Bill: third reading—Sale of Goods Bill: third reading—Parks and Reserves Bill: second reading; committee—Constitution Act Amendment Bill: message from the Administrator—Adjournment.

THE PRESIDENT (Hon. Sir G. Shenton) took the chair at 4.30 o'clock, p.m.

CROWN SUITS BILL.

This Bill was read a third time, and passed.

SALE OF GOODS BILL.

This Bill was read a third time and passed.

PARKS AND RESERVES BILL.**SECOND READING.**

THE MINISTER FOR MINES (Hon. E. H. Wittenoom): The object of this Bill will be obvious to hon. members. It has been stated on many occasions, not only by the people, but by the press of the colony, that every effort should be used to make our towns and their surroundings as attractive as possible. In order to carry this out, it is desirable that our parks and gardens should be got into as high a state of cultivation as can be, and it is thought that, in the hands of the Government, they may not fare as they would under the control of a committee or board. The Government have recognised this, and have brought in this Bill, and I trust that, shortly, we shall see many improvements as the result of it. Briefly, I may say that the Bill authorises the Governor to appoint Boards, and Clause 4 sets out what shall be the duties of these Boards. They shall control and manage all the parks and reserves committed to them, and shall employ any funds provided by Parliament in the improvement of the parks and reserves committed to their care. I feel certain that hon. members will agree that the municipal bodies should not be interfered with as regards the reserves vested in them, and this Bill provides that Boards can only deal with such parks or reserves as are committed to their care. Most of the clauses of the Bill simply deal with matters of detail relating to the management and working of the Boards, and are only those which are usual in such Bills. I now move that the Bill be read a second time.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

IN COMMITTEE.

The Bill was then considered in committee, agreed to without amendment and reported.

CONSTITUTION ACT AMENDMENT BILL.**MESSAGE FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR.**

THE PRESIDENT announced the receipt of the following message from His Excellency the Administrator :

A. C. ONSLOW,
Administrator.

The Administrator has the honor to forward, for the information of your honorable House, the following copy of a despatch received from the Right Hon. the Secretary of State for the Colonies:—

[COPY.]

The Officer administering the Government of Western Australia.

Downing Street,

20th August, 1895.

SIR,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch, No. 3, of the 3rd of January, on the subject of the Aborigines Protection Board, in which you transmitted a Bill intituled "An Act to further amend the Constitution Act, 1889," reserved by you for the signification of the Queen's pleasure.

2. I have given my best attention to the subject, and I request that you will communicate the following observations to your Ministers.

3. My predecessor pointed out in his despatch No. 1, of the 10th January, 1894, the difficulty which might be experienced in justifying the total abandonment, after so short a time, and without any sufficient change in the conditions of the question of an arrangement, without which the passage of the Western Australian Constitutional Act through the Imperial Parliament might have been endangered, and I note that no reply to this point has been advanced by your advisers and no reason has been assigned for the tacit rejection of the suggestion that an enquiry should, in the first place, be held into the working of the Board.

4. I am nevertheless prepared, for reasons which I will state, to meet the wishes of your Ministers in what I hope will be regarded as a practical manner. The view has been admitted that the provisions of section 70 were not intended to be of a permanent character.

Some years have now elapsed since the system of responsible Government came into force, and, during that period, the Government and the Parliament of the colony have certainly given no reason to suppose that they would be less just and alert in questions relating to the natives than they have shown themselves to be in general administration. And, whilst not disposed to leave the question of the amount to be provided for promoting the welfare of the natives to the vicissitudes of an annual debate, I should be ready to submit for Her Majesty's approval a Bill of the Colonial Legislature which should provide for the omission of those portions of the section which confide the expenditure of the funds appropriated for certain native purposes to an unofficial board, independent of the Colonial Ministry and Parliament, and subject only to the personal control of the Governor for the time being.

5. The section would then read somewhat as follows:

"(70.) There shall be payable to Her Majesty, in every year, out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund, the sum of £5,000, mentioned in Schedule C. to this Act, to be appropriated to the welfare of the aboriginal natives, and expended in providing them with food and clothing, when they would otherwise be destitute, in promoting the education of aboriginal children (including half castes), and in assisting generally to promote the preservation and wellbeing of the aborigines. Provided always, that if, and when the gross revenue of the colony shall exceed £500,000 in any financial year, an amount equal to one per centum on such gross revenue shall, for the purposes of this section, be substituted for the said sum of £5,000 in and for the financial year next ending. If in any year the said annual sum shall not be expended, the unexpended balance thereof shall be placed by the treasurer to a separate account, and expended in the manner and for the purposes aforesaid in any subsequent year."

6. The effect of this proposed amendment would be that, whilst a minimum of provision for the benefit of the aborigines would thus be secured to Her Majesty, Ministers would have the right of advising the Governor as to its management and control, in the same way as they do in regard to other heads of expenditure.

7. It is probable that this legislation, if adopted, will necessitate some amendment of the Acts Nos. 25 of 1886 and 24 of 1889, which refer to the powers and functions of the Aborigines Protection Board, but this is a matter which your Ministers can consider if they decide to bring the foregoing before the local Parliament.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,
(Signed) JOSEPH CHAMBERLAIN.

ADJOURNMENT.

THE MINISTER FOR MINES (Hon E. H. Wittenoom) moved that the House at its rising adjourn till Wednesday, October 2, 1895, at 4 o'clock, p.m.

Question put and passed.

The House at 5 o'clock, p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, October 2nd, 1895, at 4.30 o'clock, p.m.

Legislative Assembly.

Wednesday, 25th September, 1895.

Conservation of Water for Railway Purposes at Northam and Spencer's Brook—Correspondence re Discharge of his Duties by the Perth Electoral Registrar—Return of Holders of Poison Licenses—Wesleyan Methodists (Private) Bill: third reading—Roman Catholic Church Lands (Private) Bill: third reading—Abolition of Aborigines Protection Board: Despatch from the Secretary of State—Trustee Ordinance Amendment Bill: third reading—Assisted Schools Abolition Bill: in committee—Crymchuan Suits Bill: Message from the Legislative Council, with amendments—Additional Estimates, 1895-6: further considered—Adjournment.

THE SPEAKER took the chair at 4.30 o'clock, p.m.

PRAYERS.

CONSERVATION OF WATER FOR RAILWAY PURPOSE.

MR. THROSELL, in accordance with notice asked the Commissioner of Railways,—

1. What arrangements had been made, or were contemplated, for the conservation of