

Government stores was represented by duplicate parts of engines that the Government Storekeeper said the department would not use.

MR. GEORGE: There were so many different classes of engines that these parts must be kept in stock.

MR. HOLMES: These were just half a dozen items he wished explained. If the Government wished to get their Estimates through, they should give him (Mr. Holmes) the information, otherwise it would be his unpleasant duty to challenge the 297 items on the Estimates.

MR. PIESSE: In regard to the water question, it was quite plain on the face of it that a certain amount was paid to the Jobson Company for water, and that the balance was paid for water supplied by other people. The water that was supplied outside the Jobson Company was obtained from a dam at Coolgardie, and pumped from that dam alongside the railway line, so that the water could be supplied easily to the trains trading there. This water was pumped to the line's side at a very low rate.

MR. GREGORY: Did not the department get 12,000,000 gallons?

MR. PIESSE: Water was supplied from the dam he referred to, and other places, and it would be found that the water was supplied at a cheap rate, in some instances at 12s. 6d. per 1,000 gallons.

MR. HOLMES: The Jobson people had free use of the rolling-stock to bring the water in.

MR. PIESSE: There was a difference between hauling water 32 miles and having water pumped to the side of the railway line. In one case tanks had to be taken out in trucks, the tanks filled, and hauled back again, altogether a distance of 64 miles. In the other case the water was pumped from a dam, a distance of a mile from Coolgardie, to the train's side; therefore the service performed in each instance was dissimilar.

MR. HOLMES: That explanation did not go quite far enough. The late Commissioner had explained that the water supplied to the railways had cost some £6,000 a week, and the report showed that outside the Jobson company the department only purchased water to the extent of £4,785. If only that amount of water was purchased from others out-

side the Jobson company, he (Mr. Holmes) could not see how the Commissioner was paying £6,000 a week for water. The late Commissioner, the other night, explained that the Government had entered into a contract with the Jobson company, and were buying £6,000 worth of water a week.

MR. PIESSE: Nothing of the kind. It was £600 a day.

MR. HOLMES: The Premier had interjected that £1,000 a day was being paid for water, and the late Commissioner then said the amount was about £6,000 a week. He moved that progress be reported.

Progress reported, and leave given to sit again.

ADJOURNMENT.

The House adjourned at 10.45 o'clock until the next evening.

Legislative Council,

Wednesday, 7th November, 1900.

Land Resumption Amendment Bill, third reading—
Noxious Weeds Bill, in Committee, progress—
Killing of Kangaroos for Food Bill, third reading—
Coolgardie Exhibition Lands Repeal Bill, second reading, in Committee, third reading—
Exportation of Arms Bill, second reading, in Committee, third reading—
Streets (Victoria Park) Closure Bill, in Committee, third reading—
Roads and Streets Closure Bill, second reading, in Committee, reported—
Trustees (Colonial Securities) Bill, second reading, in Committee, third reading—
Adjournment.

THE PRESIDENT took the Chair at 7.30 o'clock, p.m.

PRAYERS.

LAND RESUMPTION AMENDMENT BILL.

Read a third time, and passed.

NOXIOUS WEEDS BILL.

IN COMMITTEE.

Clause 1—agreed to.

Clause 2—Repeal of Act 38 Vict., No. 12:

HON. R. G. BURGESS: This was a Bill for the extirpation of noxious weeds, yet we found that the only noxious weeds mentioned in the schedule were stinkwort and Bathurst bur. The present was, he believed, the fourth time this measure had been brought before Parliament. He was sorry to see that the draftsman, or whoever was responsible, had not studied out a Bill which would suit the requirements of the country. He was surprised that Spanish radish had been omitted from the Bill, as it was well known throughout the country to be one of the most troublesome weeds we had. There was a hundred times as much country covered with Spanish radish as with Bathurst bur; and the former was a nuisance in the northern parts of the colony, also in some of the eastern parts, where it was spreading over the crops. A Bill of this kind would be no good unless someone was appointed to carry it out, and the present Act had never been carried out, as was shown by the fact that the Spanish radish was spreading. At the proper time he would move that the Spanish radish be added to the schedule, because it was ridiculous for Parliament to repeal the Act without making some provision of the kind. The latest report was that the Bureau of Agriculture cost over £4,000 a year, and a few years ago was costing £7,000; but this department was doing very little for the money. Some time ago the department introduced some specimen barley, but in more than one instance it was found to be so full of weeds, amongst which was the Bathurst bur, that it was rejected by settlers as absolutely worthless. If that was the sort of work the department was going to carry on, and it was to introduce this kind of barley, bought in England at fifteen shillings a bushel, the sooner the department was remodelled, or abolished altogether, the better. There must be great neglect somewhere, and the House ought to be careful in these matters, of which perhaps, very little notice was usually taken. He regretted to have to oppose the Bill, seeing that those who drafted it ought to have had

plenty of experience to enable them to prepare a proper measure. The neglect of the department was responsible for the spread of these noxious weeds, and some warning should be given to those in authority that more care should be taken.

Clause put and passed.

Clause 3—Interpretation:

HON. C. A. PIESSE: Was it the intention to make the Bill apply generally throughout the colony, or only to districts and localities where there were roads boards and municipal councils?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: Failing the local authorities, the Minister would act.

HON. C. A. PIESSE: The Bill was not meant to apply generally?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: No.

HON. C. A. PIESSE: Then it was wasting time to pass a Bill which did not apply to the colony generally, because the clearing of the Bathurst bur and the stinkwort ought to be not only on private lands, but also on Government lands.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: The inspector would advise the Minister, and if it were necessary the Governor would be advised to extend the measure to the whole of the colony.

HON. C. A. PIESSE: If the Bill did not apply to Crown lands it would be utterly useless, and he did not see what reasonable argument there could be for applying such a measure to private properties, while noxious weeds were allowed to grow on Government lands outside the fences. There ought to be a provision under which Government lands within half a mile of a holding should be cleared at the expense of the Government. It was not true that stinkwort would not grow on uncultivated lands, and unless Government lands were cleared, there would always be a danger of weeds growing on cultivated lands, in spite all the owner might do. He regarded the Bill as a tricky measure. On previous occasions they tried to get a Bill through, and in the schedule there were mentioned some noxious weeds which were not mentioned in the present measure. There was a provision whereby those different classes of weeds could be inserted afterwards without any permission of Parliament or of the people. Provision should be made that the Gov-

ernor might declare a weed to be noxious, but such decision should be subject to the final approval of Parliament at the first meeting of Parliament afterwards. We had had practical experience of non-practical men so far as the Agricultural Bureau was concerned. These men did not suffer themselves, and they did not care what inconvenience and annoyance they caused other people.

HON. H. WHITCOMBE: Would the hon. member allow an official recommendation to hold good until Parliament could criticise it?

HON. C. A. PIESSE: Yes; because it might be necessary. A weed might appear this season, and if it were not dealt with it would seed, and perhaps lead to serious and endless expense. The Bill said a man should graze "sufficient sheep thereon to prevent noxious weeds from flowering." Fancy being forced to put sheep on poison land!

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: An inspector was not forced to see that done. That was one of the things he might do.

HON. C. A. PIESSE: One might only be possessed of a certain number of sheep. He moved that progress be reported, in order to let some of the agricultural members take the Bill and consider it thoroughly.

Motion (progress) put and negatived.

HON. H. LUKIN: At the proper time he would propose an amendment to one clause of this Bill, but he would like members to bear in mind that for some time it had been recognised that a Bill was much needed. At the Producers' Conference last year, and he thought the year before, the Government were pressed to bring forward a Bill of this kind. Perhaps it was not so full and sufficient as one would like it to be, but it would be a great mistake to throw it out. Many noxious weeds were now gaining ground in this colony; they had not had much of a start, but we knew from experience that they had cost the other colonies many thousands of pounds, and now was the time to try and squelch them. The Bill was deficient. It contained no provision for eradicating these weeds from Crown lands or waste lands, and it was useless to compel private owners to eradicate these weeds, if the weeds were allowed to grow on Crown lands and along our Government railways. The

Government railways caused the greatest dissemination of noxious weeds, for goods were carried all over the lines, and seeds were spread all along the route. That was what the spread of these weeds emanated from. If the Bill provided that the proclaiming of noxious weeds should be left in the hands of local bodies like local boards and municipal councils, we should be comparatively safe, because members of those bodies were elected, and were responsible to the ratepayers in the respective localities. What under other circumstances might become a great hardship to individual settlers would not become so if the matter were left in the hands of those local bodies. At the proper time he would move that the power to declare any weed noxious under this Bill should not be exercised by the Minister except on the advice or recommendation of the roads boards or municipal councils.

HON. C. E. DEMPSTER: This was a very simple Bill, and it would meet the case in a very desirable way. It would be in the power of municipal boards or roads boards to report to the Minister wherever it might be necessary to put the law in force as to the weeds that required to be exterminated. He agreed with what had been said by previous speakers in reference to the introduction of these weeds. In his opinion their introduction was to a great extent due to the importation of seed wheat from other colonies. Since grain had been imported from other colonies we had a far larger number of noxious weeds than ever before. Doubtless bur and stinkwort would not be the only weeds requiring attention, but many others would need to be dealt with, and it was very desirable that the extermination of such weeds should be carried out on the recommendation of the roads boards or municipal bodies of the districts in which it was necessary to destroy these weeds. As to weeds growing on Crown lands, he took it that the recommendation of those boards would apply to Crown lands as well as all other lands. It would be very unwise to reject this Bill, and he would certainly support it.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY said he was pleased the Committee were not willing to report progress, because we got information from members who were

thoroughly acquainted with the subject, and it was highly desirable that the House should be in possession of the views of members who had been connected with the agricultural industry for many years, and who knew what they were talking about. He did not profess to have any great knowledge of the question. We were getting opinions from different members upon the subject which would assist us in discussing the Bill, and in perfecting it, if there was any necessity for amendment. The spread of noxious weeds was a very important matter, and it was likely to be disastrous to the colony if no attempt were made to stop it. The Act had been in force in South Australia since 1862.

HON. R. G. BURGESS: They had not kept stinkwort down in South Australia.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: Realising that he was to introduce this Bill to hon. members, he was naturally anxious to ascertain how the Act operated in South Australia, and therefore he asked that information should be furnished him upon that point. One of the features of this Bill was that if the local bodies did not discharge their duties, the Government, or at least the Commissioner of Railways or the Commissioner of Crown Lands, could step in and help those persons who were desirous of extirpating these weeds, and through the Executive the Governor could proclaim a place to be infected with noxious weeds, whereupon steps would be taken to eradicate those weeds. That was a very necessary provision. This was the information he received from South Australia:—

In reply to your request of the 3rd instant (10867/98), I am forwarding under separate cover copies of Acts now in force dealing with weeds. I would point out that our legislation is a practical failure, for two reasons. (1) The law requires both Houses of Parliament to pass resolutions praying that the weeds be declared noxious before the provisions of the Act are applicable to any particular weed. The result is that it is almost impossible to get this done before the weed has got such a hold as to be a serious nuisance, and is almost beyond control. What is required is that a board appointed by the department, or by the Minister himself, should have power to declare any new weeds noxious. (2) The local municipal bodies are left to see that the provisions of the Acts are complied with, and, as the councillors are generally persons likely to be affected, practically nothing is done.

Information would be got from the

inspectors, and every precaution taken not to inflict hardship on owners of land. A similar Act had been enforced in New Zealand for some considerable time, and though circumstances there were different, as much of that Act as could apply was adopted in the Bill. There was no schedule to the South Australian Act, but in the New Zealand Act there were three schedules, in which some twenty weeds were named, though these weeds were utterly different from the weeds in Western Australia. The South Australian Act was to prevent the further spread of the Scotch thistle, the variegated thistle, and the Bathurst bur; but nothing was said about the stinkwort, which was prevalent in South Australia, but was not now considered to be such a nuisance as it was some time ago. There was a correspondence at one time in the Press in Western Australia as to the Scotch thistle, and it was stated that plant was a very valuable fodder, and had a tendency to eradicate itself. He mentioned these points, because it was as well that hon. members should know the sources from which the Bill had been compiled; and it appeared it was necessary that power should be given to the Minister, who would undoubtedly realise his responsibilities. Inspectors could be appointed, as in New Zealand and South Australia, but as to applying the Bill to the waste lands of the Crown, that would be almost impossible. There was, however, reason in the suggestion that the Railway Department should be compelled to clear the land along the lines.

HON. C. E. DEMPSTER: The noxious weeds would not be found in many instances on Crown lands.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: The opinion was that these weeds did not grow on forest or uncultivated lands.

HON. J. M. DREW: The weeds had been seen growing in the bush.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: There might be peculiar circumstances, where the ground had been cut up by traffic and thereby prepared for seeds; but there was no necessity for Mr. Burgess to move the addition of another item to the schedule, because that power was reserved to the Government. There would be no objection, however, if Mr. Burgess desired to add Spanish radish,

which was provided for under the old Act. The Bill was calculated to do good, and he invited hon. members to suggest any amendments which would make it more operative or beneficial. He had placed on the table samples of the Bathurst bur and stinkwort, and it would be seen that the bur clover was a distinct thing altogether, the latter being a fairly good fodder which cattle ate very readily. He hoped there was no desire to shelve the Bill, but that hon. members would endeavour to remedy any defects there might be in the provisions.

HON. C. A. PIESSE: The importance of the clause required fuller discussion, and while he had no desire to shelve the Bill, he wished to have time to consult other hon. members interested, and see whether some acceptable and working provision could not be framed. If the Minister recommended a certain district should be cleared, noxious weeds might be carried from some district which had not been brought under the operation of the Bill, and again disseminated. It was utterly impossible to carry such a measure in a half-hearted manner, and the provisions ought to apply to the whole country, including Crown lands. To clear the country thoroughly of these weeds would mean an expenditure of at least £100,000.

HON. R. G. BURGESS: If it were done for £20 an acre, we might consider ourselves lucky.

HON. C. A. PIESSE: In South Australia almost every foot of the country was taken up where these weeds grew, but in Western Australia there were millions of acres of Government land side by side with selections, and under the circumstances it was only reasonable these Crown lands should, as he had said, be cleared for half a mile from the boundaries.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: Would the hon. member draft an amendment?

HON. C. A. PIESSE: That was what he desired to consult other hon. members on, including goldfields members, who were just as much interested.

HON. C. SOMMERS: In the other colonies the forest rangers, if they saw a bad patch of weeds, reported the fact, and, if necessary, assistance was given by the Government in eradicating

the nuisance. These weeds did not grow on uncultivated lands, and it would be impossible to carry out a provision that Government should be compelled to clear all Crown lands. There might be portions of the country on which the growth of these weeds would not matter very much. It would not matter on the goldfields. He was quite in accord with the provision that the Minister should have control, because it would be wrong to leave the matter in the hands of the roads boards and municipal councils and give them the power to say whether the weeds should be eradicated or not. Such eradication of weeds might often lead to very heavy expenditure, and landowners who were members of a board or municipal council might fail to report the matter. He thought the Minister would have to take the advice of roads boards or municipalities, and then act. A great deal would depend upon the various forest rangers and inspectors who might be now or in the near future appointed by the Bureau of Agriculture.

HON. W. G. BROOKMAN: After carefully reading the Bill, he had come to the conclusion that if it were passed as it stood now it would be a complete failure. He had come to that conclusion from knowledge acquired in years past during his residence in South Australia, where the Government of the day tried by all means in their power to exterminate noxious and poisonous weeds. They did everything possible, and presumably they acted honestly and straightforwardly, but the Bill passed in that colony did not carry the matter far enough. It imposed upon the proprietors of land there the provision it was proposed to apply under this Bill to those who were fortunate enough to own property in this country. Until the Crown was forced to keep Crown lands clear of noxious and poisonous plants, where was the use of entailing unnecessary expense upon the private owner of land, and putting him to inconvenience and trouble and loss of money by this measure? In most unmeasured terms he condemned this Bill, because, from his knowledge of the pastoral industry of South Australia, he could unhesitatingly say that the Bathurst bur there got into the wool of the sheep and deteriorated the value to a marked degree. He was not talking about a

thing he did not understand, because many of his relatives had been in that industry for the last 40 or 50 years, and he knew full well that the value of the wool they had sent to London from year to year had decreased, simply because the wool was impregnated with the Bathurst bur. If any attempt was to be made in this country to exterminate these weeds, and to prevent their germination, it should not only extend to private property, but should also extend throughout the length and breadth of the colony of Western Australia. Then we came to the weed known as stinkwort. He recollected the outburst of stinkwort in South Australia when he was a child: it came suddenly, like a flash of lightning, and everyone connected with agricultural and pastoral pursuits was paralysed at the manner and the rapidity of its growth there. It grew to a height of about 18 inches, and in some places two feet; and for years and years the land was of no use to the owner. The weed was poisonous as well. Large areas of country were simply rendered idle, and could not be made use of by the poor unfortunate owners. It behoved members of this House, before attempting to pass this Bill in its present stage, to well consider every clause it comprised. If the Bill passed in its present form it would be a failure; and it would be a blot on the Legislature of the country to let it go forth to the world that we simply wanted to impose a tax on the man who had come here and spent his money to clear land and endeavoured to increase its value not only for his own benefit, but for the interests of the country generally. It would be wrong to compel a man who brought his family here and worked day and night in order to have a home for himself in an agricultural district, to exterminate noxious weeds, whilst we did not compel the Crown to exterminate noxious weeds alongside a railway or on Crown land within a stone's throw of that man's holding. How could a man do it? We must recognise fully that the wind blew seed across the railway line from one point of demarcation to another. To enforce this law would be unjust and almost criminal; and if it was not proposed to insert a clause that the Government should be compelled to keep Crown

lands clear, the measure should not be passed.

HON. F. WHITCOMBE: Mr. Piesse had given us a good many interesting facts, and from him and others down to the last speaker we had so much pabulum to take into consideration that one thought that we might report progress at this stage. He moved that progress be reported.

Motion put and negatived.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: It was to be hoped members would go on with the Bill. He would endeavour to give an opportunity to Mr. Piesse and others to introduce any amendment that they might deem desirable. This Bill was a vast improvement upon the Act in South Australia to which Mr. Brookman had referred, inasmuch as we here had a provision which would compel the carrying out of the measure. In South Australia that had not been done. The members of the district councils and other public bodies had neglected their duty. It was utterly absurd to talk about extending the operation of the Bill to the whole of this great colony. The Bill only applied to the settled districts of the colony to a large extent. Owners of property might reasonably be asked to clear their own land of weeds, and they would have power to compel their neighbours to do the same thing. He believed that if it was found that Government lands in proximity to cultivated land were infested with noxious weeds, the Government would be asked by the inspectors to clear such land. If any argument were wanted in favour of the Bill, it had been supplied by Mr. Brookman, who had referred to the fact that the Bathurst bur had deteriorated the wool to a considerable extent. If reasonable amendments to the Bill were made, they would, he was sure, be accepted by the Government, and doubtless be acquiesced in by another place. In regard to stinkwort, he understood that it was not a poisonous weed; at any rate it was growing in abundance in the city of Adelaide. The Bill was of great importance, and he hoped members would realise the position, and pass the measure.

HON. R. S. HAYNES: One quite saw the force of the argument by Mr. Piesse that it was impossible to keep cultivated land clear of noxious weeds, if Crown

lands adjoining were allowed to be overrun with such weeds. We must expect that the Government would do all that was necessary to protect the farmer. It would, however, be unconstitutional for this House, or any other House, to pass an Act to compel the Crown to do anything. We must leave it to the good sense of the Government, and under the management of the present Minister of Lands, at all events, no effort would be wanting in removing any annoyance.

HON. C. E. DEMPSTER: One hoped that this Bill would be passed, and as to the evil arising from noxious weeds growing on Crown land, he thought it had been much exaggerated. We wanted the eradication of these weeds from cultivated lands and enclosures; from those parts of settled districts where they would be the greatest annoyance. He had travelled much about the country, and had never yet seen Spanish radish growing on land that was cultivated. It would not grow on land that had been cultivated. He had heard the same about stinkwort.

HON. R. G. BURGESS: Stinkwort would grow on cultivated land.

HON. C. E. DEMPSTER: There was little or no time to make amendments in the Bill. He hoped the House would pass the measure.

Clause put and passed.

Clause 4—Minister on recommendation of local authority to advise Governor as to noxious weeds:

HON. R. G. BURGESS: This matter should not be left to municipalities or road boards, but the clause ought to apply to all agricultural parts of the country, because the roads boards had neglected to carry out their duties under the Act. Areas which had been badly farmed, and were forfeited, became again Crown lands, and, if the clause were passed in its present form, might prove a curse to the country. Three or four years ago he purchased some barley from a merchant in York, and it was found to be one mass of Spanish radish; and in his opinion £100,000 would not be sufficient to clear the Spanish radish out of the Eastern district alone. Local authorities were only answerable for their own districts, which in some instances might comprise only a few thousand acres; and he desired to submit an amendment that the matter should be

left to the Minister on the recommendation of a board appointed by the Governor.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: Notice should be given of the amendment, which, along with other amendments, might be considered the next day.

HON. R. G. BURGESS: Some of the settlers, including himself, were in imminent danger of losing their property by fire, caused by sparks from the railway engines, and he had no desire to waste any time.

On motion by the COLONIAL SECRETARY, progress reported and leave given to sit again.

KILLING OF KANGAROOS FOR FOOD BILL.

IN COMMITTEE.

Clause 1—Governor may allow kangaroos to be killed for food in close season:

HON. R. G. BURGESS: The words at the end of the clause, "but not for sale or barter," meant that a man who killed a kangaroo would not be allowed to sell it to his neighbour, and such a provision was absurd. Some men made a business of bringing kangaroo meat into towns, but that would be rendered impossible by the Bill, which, he was sure, would prove inoperative.

HON. J. M. DREW: If the clause were passed as it stood, it would have a disastrous effect on an important industry in his district, and would lead to the spreading of a pest which was doing considerable damage on the runs of pastoralists. Some hundreds of kangaroo hunters had been at work there for years, endeavouring to exterminate the kangaroos, but without any appreciable result; indeed, the kangaroos were said to be almost as numerous as they were some six years ago, and in some places to be as numerous as the sheep, and he had seen kangaroos going about six hundred in one herd. The killing of kangaroos in the district was some months ago prohibited by the Government, but immediately the proclamation was published the people sent a requisition, asking that the district should not be included, and the Government immediately complied with the request. By the Bill, however, the whole colony was to be included, and though the Bill might suit some districts it would not suit others, amongst the latter his own,

in which the kangaroo pest was almost as bad as was the rabbit pest elsewhere.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: Mr. Drew was under a misapprehension as to the object of the Bill, which really opened the door a little, and gave an opportunity for killing kangaroos for the purposes of food on an area which might have been proclaimed. The clause did not touch the point to which the hon. gentleman had referred. Where the Governor was advised that to proclaim a close season would be injurious, no attempt would be made to issue such a proclamation, and it would depend entirely on the local authorities in regard to which direction the advice would be given. The Bill simply gave an opportunity during any close season which had been proclaimed, of killing kangaroos for food, and would not in the slightest degree affect persons engaged in the killing of kangaroos in the way described by Mr. Drew; in fact, it gave such persons a little more liberty. On this point he (the Colonial Secretary) had been able to satisfy Mr. Moss, whose intention it was to advise the Government in writing that it would be disastrous in some parts of the country to declare a close season for kangaroos. With reference to the question about barter, if the words alluded to were removed, the law would be liable to considerable abuse, because kangaroos, instead of being sought for food, would be sought for trade purposes. The words "or barter" were added at the instance of some member of another place; and if no particular injury would accrue, he (the Colonial Secretary) would rather these words remained in the Bill. The Bill would not be very wide in its application in the South-West. There the number of kangaroos was so large as to interfere with the grazing capabilities of the land. In regard to the province Mr. Drew represented, it would be a great mistake to proclaim a close season there, because kangaroos were so abundant that there was every reason why they should be destroyed, and their skins made an available asset. This Bill would not interfere with that at all.

HON. J. M. DREW said that after the remarks of the Colonial Secretary he had much pleasure in withdrawing his objection.

HON. C. E. DEMPSTER: One would like to know what time might be considered a close season. In his opinion kangaroos were bred the whole year round.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: That question was not raised.

HON. C. E. DEMPSTER: Last year the matter was brought by him under the notice of the Colonial Secretary, and it was arranged that kangaroos should not be destroyed for the sake of their skins. Within 40 miles of the district in which he (Mr. Dempster) lived, however, a large number of kangaroos had been destroyed for their skins, the meat not being used. It was desirable that the prohibition made should be carried into effect. He spoke to the police at Northam, who said that no boundary was given. The people alluded to stated that they were within the limit. Kangaroos were destroyed for their skins, whereas last winter many a household would have been glad to have a kangaroo for the sake of the food. Steps ought to be taken to proclaim the boundaries.

HON. C. SOMMERS: Mr. Drew need not have any fear of the industry being interfered with, because under this clause a man could go and kill kangaroos even during a close season. One might like kangaroo tails, and another might like kangaroo tongues or kidneys; and on those pretences a large number of kangaroos might be killed.

HON. R. G. BURGESS moved that the words "but not for sale or barter" be struck out.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: If those words were struck out, the Bill would be of no value.

HON. R. G. BURGESS: The matter was one with which he was acquainted. The Bill referred to killing kangaroos for food. But what food? Pigs' food, dogs' food, or what? The clause did not mention any particular food. The food stipulated should be human food. He withdrew his first amendment (by leave), and moved that the word "food" be struck out, and "human consumption" inserted in lieu.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: That amendment would nullify the whole Bill, and it would open the door for the sale of these animals to anybody who liked to purchase them.

HON. J. M. SPEED: The amendment moved by Mr. Burges was a proper one. As the clause stood at present it did not necessarily refer to food for human consumption, but the flesh of kangaroos might be used for poultry or anything else, whereas the intention was that it should not be used for food except by human beings.

HON. C. A. PIESE: The clause should remain as at present. The amendment referred to food for human consumption, but what about one's dog? Human beings would not eat the whole of the flesh of a kangaroo.

HON. F. WHITCOMBE: It would be as well to let the clause go through as it stood. Apparently the country members were in favour of the clause in its present form, and it affected them more than anyone else.

Amendment put and negatived, and the clause passed.

Clause 2—agreed to.

Preamble and title—agreed to.

Bill reported without amendment, and the report adopted.

THIRD READING.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY moved that the Bill be read a third time.

HON. J. F. WHITCOMBE: Was it the intention of the Government to rush Bills through as had been done last night and to-night, without reference to the desires and wishes of hon. members, and without reference to the importance of the measures? Such a proceeding was unfair and improper, and although the Government had obtained license to suspend the Standing Orders, it was never supposed measures were going to be rushed in this manner.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: There was certainly no desire to rush measures through, but the Bill had been approved in Committee without amendment, and no object could be served by deferring the third reading.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a third time, and *passed*.

COOLGARDIE EXHIBITION LANDS REPEAL BILL.

SECOND READING.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. G. Randell), in moving the second reading, said: This is a Bill to Repeal an

Act passed in the 62nd year of Her Majesty, No. 18, in 1898, and which gave to the municipality of Coolgardie certain lands for the purpose of a technological institute, a geological museum, a mining exhibition, and so on. The exhibition has been held, and the municipality advanced to the commissioners of the exhibition £1,000, which they desire to have repaid, and on the repayment of which they will hand over the lands and building to the Government to be henceforth devoted to any purpose which may be desired. Possibly there may be a School of Mines established there, and though the Government bore nearly the whole of the expense of the exhibition, they are making a good bargain in paying £1,000 to the council and taking over these lands for public purposes. I know that one or two hon. members are perfectly familiar with the subject in all its bearings, and the real object of the Bill is to return the land to the Government.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

IN COMMITTEE, ETC.

Bill passed through Committee without debate, reported without amendment, and the report adopted.

Read a third time, and *passed*.

EXPORTATION OF ARMS BILL.

SECOND READING.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. G. Randell), in moving the second reading, said: This Bill is due to legislation passed in the Imperial Parliament, and a similar measure has been adopted in New Zealand, and is about to be introduced into the Legislatures of the other colonies. The Bill prohibits the exportation of any arms to any nation with which Britain may be at war, and hon. members will see it is absolutely necessary to bring the legislation of Western Australia in a line with the legislation of the other colonies in this respect. I am sure hon. members will approve of the Bill, which was introduced at the instance of the right hon. the Secretary of State, who addressed to the Premiers of the colonies a request that such a measure might be introduced into the Parliaments of Australia.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

IN COMMITTEE, ETC.

Bill passed through Committee without debate, reported without amendment, and the report adopted.

Read a third time, and *passed*.

STREETS (VICTORIA PARK) CLOSURE BILL.

IN COMMITTEE, ETC.

Passed through Committee without debate, reported without amendment, and the report adopted.

Read a third time, on motion by Hon. J. M. SPEED, and *passed*.

ROADS AND STREETS CLOSURE BILL.

SECOND READING.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. G. Randell), in moving the second reading, said: This Bill is for the purpose of closing certain roads and streets enumerated in the schedule, and comprises Albany, Broad Arrow, Fremantle, Kalgoorlie, Katanning, Perth, Pingelly, Southern Cross, and Toodyay. The authorities interested in these places have all been consulted, and, I am informed on the authority of the Premier, consent to the closure of those roads and streets. It had very careful consideration at the hands of the Premier himself, who vouches for the correctness of the statements in the schedule, and it has also received the careful consideration of the Surveyor General and the officers of the Survey Department. When in Committee I shall have to move that a small addition be made to the schedule in relation to one of the southern districts. The Surveyor General and the Under Secretary for Lands have recommended that this addition be made, that land being required for railway purposes, and the persons interested having consented. A street will be declared in lieu of that which is taken, giving access to the railway station which will shortly be established at this place. If hon. members want some further information, I shall have to defer the further consideration of the Bill to enable me to furnish that information, but having the assurance of the persons I have named, I am sure hon. members of this House will be quite willing to accept the statement which is given to me, that all public bodies have been consulted and have agreed to the enclosure of these

streets and roads, and it is done in the public interest.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

IN COMMITTEE.

Clause 1—Abolition of certain rights-of-way:

HON. R. G. BURGESS drew attention to the state of the House.

Quorum formed.

Clause put and passed.

Schedule:

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY moved that the following paragraph be added:

In the Townsite of Moojebing.—All that portion of Brasseley Terrace lying between the northerly productions of the east side of Grover Street and the West side of Trimme Road.

Put and passed, and the schedule as amended agreed to.

Preamble and title—agreed to.

Bill reported with amendment, and the report adopted.

TRUSTEES (COLONIAL SECURITIES) BILL.

SECOND READING.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY, in moving the second reading, said: It has been considered desirable by the various Australasian colonies, and efforts have been made with that object from time to time, to obtain the consent of the English Government for trustees in the United Kingdom to invest funds in colonial securities. I believe a considerable amount of correspondence and discussion has taken place on this subject, and a settlement has been arrived at. By the alterations made in the law, English trustees will be permitted to invest their funds in colonial securities. That is the object of this Bill, and I believe a similar measure is being introduced in the other colonies. If we wish to avail ourselves of the large sums of money in the hands of trustees in the old country, we must pass this Bill. The Bill says:

Whenever by the final judgment, decree, rule, or order of any Court of competent jurisdiction in the United Kingdom any sum of money is adjudged or declared to be payable by the Government of Western Australia in respect of any Western Australian Government securities, the Colonial Treasurer shall forthwith pay the same in London without further appropriation than this Act.

The Bill provides that in the event of judgment being obtained in the old country, the trustees will not be compelled to come to this country to enforce that judgment. I think members admit the desirability of our being able to participate in these loans from those trustees, and the only condition under which the Home Government will consent to cur accomplishing that object is that set forth in Clause 3, which says:

For the purpose of this section "final judgment, decree, rule, or order" means, in case of appeal, the final judgment, decree, rule, or order of the ultimate Court hearing the appeal.

Without in any way limiting the foregoing provisions of this section, it is hereby declared that, in the case of such Western Australian Government securities as are colonial stock to which the Imperial Act intituled "The Colonial Stock Act, 1877," applies, the Colonial Treasurer shall, without further appropriation than this Act, forthwith pay in London whatever sums may from time to time be required in order to enable the registrar of such stock to forthwith comply with any judgment, decree, rule, or order with which, under section twenty of the Imperial Act aforesaid, the registrar is required to comply.

I think the provisions of the Bill commend themselves to the judgment of members, in view of the benefits anticipated to arise therefrom.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

IN COMMITTEE, ETC.

Bill passed through Committee without debate, reported without amendment, and the report adopted.

Read a third time, and *passed*.

ADJOURNMENT.

The House adjourned at 9:44 o'clock until the next day.

Legislative Assembly,

Wednesday, 7th November, 1900.

Payment of Members Bill, second reading, in Committee, third reading—Perth Electric Tramways Lighting and Power Bill (private), second reading (moved), adjourned—Adjournment.

THE SPEAKER took the Chair at 7:30 o'clock, p.m.

PRAYERS.

PAYMENT OF MEMBERS BILL.

SECOND READING.

THE PREMIER (Rt. Hon. Sir J. Forrest): I beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time. It is a very short Bill, and hon. members will have no difficulty in understanding its intention. Its object is to provide an honorarium for members of Parliament. This matter of the payment of members, or the payment of an honorarium to members of Parliament, has been a vexed question in the colony if it has not been in every other colony in Australasia. It was not carried into effect at once or readily elsewhere, but it has been the result of development of political ideas. In every colony of Australasia, except this one, payment of an honorarium to members of Parliament is in force; and, as I have said, this is the only colony at the present time that does not pay its members. Hon. members know very well my views in regard to this matter. I should have been glad if this colony could have managed to go along, for some years at any rate, without members receiving any honorarium for their services. I think the fact that people in the colony are willing to come forward for election, and give their services to the State without any payment, is one that should receive our approbation; and I may say that up to the present time in this colony there has been, speaking generally, no dearth or lack of candidates for seats in the Legislature whenever seats became vacant. I think it is a higher and more dignified political status for a man to occupy in his country when he is elected by his fellow colonists, by the people amongst whom he lives, and is willing to serve those people and the people of the colony generally without any remuneration; but