

## Legislative Council.

Wednesday, 29th July, 1908.

	PAGE
Question: Fremantle Dock Expenditure ...	49
Bill: Claremont Rates Validation, 2 <sup>n</sup> ., Com. ...	49
Adjournment of House ...	49

The PRESIDENT took the Chair at 4.30 o'clock p.m.

Prayers.

### PAPERS PRESENTED.

By the Colonial Secretary: Reports and Returns in accordance with Section 53 of the Government Railways Act 1904; By-laws under the Goldfields Water Supply Act.

### QUESTION—FREMANTLE DOCK EXPENDITURE.

Hon. R. D. McKENZIE asked the Colonial Secretary: 1, Is it the intention of the Government to incur any farther expenditure during the present financial year in connection with the Fremantle Graving Dock? 2, If so, what is the estimated amount of such expenditure?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY replied: 1, It is proposed to commence the construction of the dock at an early date this year. 2, The Engineering Department is now considering its financial requirements for this work for the current year.

### BILL—CLAREMONT RATES VALIDATION.

*Second reading.*

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. J. D. Connolly): In moving the second reading of this Bill, it is not necessary to speak at length; this being simply a short measure to validate a rate that has been struck by the Municipal Council of Claremont and the Claremont Local Board of Health. A little irregularity occurred in striking the rate last year; the current rate for the year. At that time the municipality was divided into wards, which rather upset the ordinary routine; also the late town clerk had been sick for a considerable time, and in computing the rate under Section 391 the

proper procedure, strictly speaking, was not carried out. Also, under Section 394 the mayor neglected to sign the ratebook, and also under the same section when the notice of the rate was published in the newspapers it was signed in error by the acting town clerk instead of by the mayor. The municipal council are advised that the rate will be invalid if the Bill is not passed, and perhaps ratepayers would refuse to pay the rate. In order to make the matter quite clear and legal it is necessary to pass this small Bill. I may mention that this is not the first time that such a Bill has been passed. Almost every year a case of this kind occurs; consequently a small Bill has to be brought in to validate any irregularity in striking a rate. I move that the Bill be now read a second time.

Hon. J. W. LANGSFORD (Metropolitan-Suburban): I should not like it to be inferred from the remarks of the Colonial Secretary that this is not the first occasion on which the Claremont municipality has had to ask this Chamber to validate its rates. The circumstances were unusual. A new mayor was coming in, and the town clerk, who had served the municipality so well, was ill, and the acting town clerk did not exactly know the procedure. The ratepayers would have paid their rates whether the rate was properly struck or not, but I doubt if an order of the court would be effectual if this measure were not passed.

Hon. J. W. Hackett: How much money is involved?

Hon. J. W. LANGSFORD: The whole of the rates for this year.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

*In Committee.*

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

### ADJOURNMENT OF HOUSE.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. J. D. Connolly): In order to allow another place sufficient time to finish the debate on the Address-in-Reply, and as we have no other business on the Notice

Paper, and no other business can come from another place until the debate on the Address is finished, I move, "That the House at its rising do adjourn until Tuesday, 11th August."

Question passed.

The House adjourned accordingly, at 21 minutes to five o'clock, until the 11th August.

## Legislative Assembly,

Wednesday, 29th July, 1908.

	PAGE
Ministerial Statement: Meat Supply and Prices, Royal Commission Promised	50
Questions: Meat Trade, Illegal Combinations	50
Freezing Works Subsidy	50
Water Meter Rents on Goldfields	50
Meters Manufacture, local or outside	51
Mining Tribute, Yarri	51
Timber Workers' Agreement	51
State Batteries—Engine Indicators, Batteries Superintendent, etc.	52
Cows Imported, Tuberculosis	53
Railway Carriage Construction	53
Railway Construction, Widgeemooltha	53
Railway Castings, local manufacture	54
Land and Income Tax	54
Debate: Address-in-Reply, resumed	54

The SPEAKER took the Chair at 4.30 o'clock p.m.

Prayers.

### PAPER PRESENTED.

By the Treasurer: Reports and returns in accordance with the Government Railways Act, for the quarter ending 30th June, 1908.

### MEAT SUPPLY AND PRICES.

Ministerial Statement—Royal Commission.

The PREMIER (Hon. N. J. Moore) said: In view of the importance of a cheap meat supply to Western Australia, and the recent announcement of a large increase in the retail prices, the Government have decided to appoint a Royal Commission of members from both Houses of Parliament to inquire into this matter.

### Questions (2)—Illegal Combinations in Meat Trade.

Mr. BATH (for Mr. Holman) asked the Premier: Do the Government intend to take immediate action to try to prevent any illegal combination from maintaining the present high price of meat, which is such a serious menace to the consumers in the State?

The PREMIER replied: I have already intimated the steps the Government propose to take in connection with the recent increase in the price of meat.

### Freezing Works Subsidy.

Mr. BATH (for Mr. Taylor) asked the Premier: In view of the recent attitude of the pastoralists in the North-West and the wholesale butchers in raising the price of beef and mutton to almost prohibitive prices, do the Government intend to loan them £35,000, indicated in the Premier's Bunbury speech, for freezing works in the North-West, free of interest for three years?

The PREMIER replied: The Government do intend to loan to a company the sum of £35,000 for the purpose of erecting freezing works at Wyndham under conditions favourable to all cattle growers. This step is necessary to bring the producer into closer touch with the consumer, and so to place the local market at the disposal of all cattle growers.

### QUESTIONS (2)—WATER METERS.

#### Rents on Goldfields.

Mr. EWING (for Mr. Eddy) asked the Minister for Works: 1. Why, in face of a resolution of this House on the 28th August, 1907, condemning the charge of rent for water meters, are such rents still charged to consumers of water from the Coolgardie Water Supply, while consumers in the metropolitan area have been relieved of that charge? 2. When does the Minister intend giving complete effect to the wish of the House, expressed in the said resolution?

The MINISTER FOR WORKS replied: (1 and 2) The resolution referred to by the hon. member has been given effect to wherever the profit earned on the sale of water made it possible for the