

THE CLERK read a telegram announcing the surrender of the Boers who had been garrisoning Johannesburg, also the British advance towards Pretoria, and the flight of President Kruger.

Members rose in their places, and joined in singing the National Anthem. Cheers were also given for the Queen and for Lord Roberts.

MR. MONGER afterwards said: On a fitting occasion such as this, am I out of order in suggesting that the House might adjourn, at all events a short time, for refreshments, after the pleasant piece of news we have received. (General laughter.)

THE CHAIRMAN: It would be quite out of order.

Adjournment followed shortly after, as recorded.

#### ADJOURNMENT.

The House adjourned at 27 minutes past 8 o'clock, until the next Tuesday.

## Legislative Council.

*Tuesday, 5th June, 1900.*

Papers presented --- Question: Perth Ratepayers' Meeting, turning out the light (alleged) --- Question: Kalgoorlie Tramway Concession --- Adjournment.

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

#### PRAYERS.

#### PAPERS PRESENTED.

By the COLONIAL SECRETARY: 1. Rott-nest Native Prison, General Rules and Regulations; 2. Attendances at and moneys granted to High School, Return to Order of the Council, dated 24th May, 1900; 3. Ministerial Relatives in Civil Service, Return to Order of the Council, dated 29th May, 1900.

#### QUESTION — PERTH RATEPAYERS' MEETING, TURNING OUT THE LIGHT (ALLEGED).

HON. F. WHITCOMBE (for Hon. R. S. Haynes) asked the Colonial Secretary: 1. If the Commissioner of Police or any of his officers are aware that a threat or attempt was made to turn out the lights at the Town Hall, Perth, whilst filled with people on the night of the 29th May. 2. Who were the person or persons who made the attempt or threat? 3. If an attempt was made, does the Commissioner intend to direct a prosecution?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY replied: The police had no knowledge of any threat or attempt having been made to turn out the lights of the Perth Town Hall on the night of the 29th ultimo, whilst it was filled with people. The answer to question No. 1 answered the other two questions.

#### QUESTION: KALGOORLIE TRAMWAY CONCESSION.

HON. F. WHITCOMBE asked the Colonial Secretary: 1. If in Mr. Jobson's Kalgoorlie Tramway Concession the rails and sleepers used in the line were the property of the W.A. Government. 2. If so, were the rails and sleepers sold to Mr. Jobson, or in what way did he become entitled to use them? 3. If sold, have they been paid for; and if so, when and what was the price? 4. By whom was the arrangement re rails and sleepers made on behalf of the Government? 5. Is there any arrangement whereby at any future time the Government shall resume the ownership or possession of the sleepers or rails; and if so, what are the terms?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY replied: 1. The rails and a portion of the sleepers were the property of the Government. 2. They were sold to Mr. Jobson, under a special arrangement. 3. About two-thirds of the cost of these rails and sleepers has been paid, and the balance will be paid shortly. The rails were previously laid on the Eastern Railway and were in use for 10 years; they were subsequently taken up and laid on the Yilgarn Railway, where they remained for five years; they were again taken up for the purpose of being replaced by heavier rails. As they were reported upon as unsuitable for further use on

Government railways, the price then placed upon them was £4 12s., and they were sold at this price delivered at the stations where stacked. The sleepers were condemned ones, and were sold at 10d. each. 4. The arrangement was made with the concurrence of the Commissioner of Railways, owing to the urgent need the Department was in for water, and to the fact that had the water at the 42-Mile Dam not been made available by means of the construction of this Tramway, the traffic would have been stopped between Southern Cross and Kalgoorlie.

HON. F. WHITCOMBE: I notice that the Colonial Secretary has taken no notice of question No. 5.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (after explaining): The answer to No. 5 question is, No.

#### ADJOURNMENT.

The House adjourned at 4.40 o'clock until the next day.

## Legislative Assembly,

Tuesday, 5th June, 1900.

Paper presented—Question: Toast, "The Pope and the Queen"—Question: Coolgardie Goldfields Water Scheme, Mundaring Weir—Question: Harbour at Albany, to Dredge—Motions: Leave of Absence—Federation Enabling Bill, in Committee, Clause 10, Amendments (2), division; Recommittal, division; reported; Standing Orders Suspension—Adjournment.

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

#### PRAYERS.

#### PAPER PRESENTED.

By the PREMIER: Rottnest Native Prison Rules and Regulations.

Ordered to lie on the table.

#### QUESTION—TOAST, "THE POPE AND THE QUEEN."

MR. ILLINGWORTH (Central Murchison): By leave of the House, and without notice, I desire to ask the Premier: First, Whether it is true that on Sunday last, at Fremantle, on the occasion of the opening of St. Patrick's Cathedral, he (the Premier) gave his countenance to and drank a toast proposed by Bishop Gibney, naming "the Pope and the Queen"? Second, Is it consistent with his position as one of the Privy Councillors of Her Majesty, to give his countenance to such a toast?

THE PREMIER (Right Hon. Sir J. Forrest) replied:—No doubt the hon. member thinks he has done a fine thing, in asking this question. I might, if I thought necessary, ask him to defer it till to-morrow; but I wish to say that on Sunday I did attend a service on the opening of the Roman Catholic Cathedral Church at Fremantle; that after the service we adjourned to a banquet, or to what I may term some refreshments rather than a banquet; and that Bishop Gibney, in a somewhat jocular vein, said he intended to propose two toasts in one. He proposed the toast of "the Pope and the Queen," and "the Queen and the Pope"; and he repeated that several times. The toast was put. I rose where I was sitting, and drank the health of Her Majesty the Queen, and I then said "and His Holiness the Pope."

MR. ILLINGWORTH: You coupled them, did you?

THE PREMIER: I said, "His Holiness the Pope," and I put "Her Majesty the Queen" first.

MR. ILLINGWORTH: You have not answered the second part of the question: Is it consistent with his position as one of the Privy Councillors of Her Majesty, to give his countenance to such a toast?

THE PREMIER: In reply, I do not think the hon. member has any right to ask me that question. [SEVERAL MEMBERS: Hear, hear.] I do not think Her Majesty the Queen would complain of anything I did on Sunday, if she were acquainted of it.

#### QUESTION—COOLGARDIE GOLDFIELDS WATER SCHEME, MUNDARING WEIR.

MR. ILLINGWORTH asked the Director of Public Works: 1, The ori-