

ocean. They might just as well say that they will take away from a trader the right to sell his goods when and where he likes, as that they will compel a worker to give as much of his labour as they say he shall. That is reverting to the old days of slavery, of serfdom, when the lash was over men's backs, to tell them, "You shall work whether you want to or not." I want this House to be exactly clear as to what the Government mean by this taking away of the right to strike. Do they mean that if any civil servant participates in any action whatever connected with a strike, they will deprive him of his superannuation and privileges and discharge him from the service? Assume that the temporary clerks in the service again joined the clerks' union, as they did years ago; and assume that the temporary clerks found it impossible to continue work in certain circumstances. Then, if the members of the public service still continuing to work assisted those temporary men in some way, say stood behind them with monetary aid, would that be participating in a strike? We want the Attorney General here, because he is the man who conducted the negotiations and who therefore should answer that question. I want to know from him exactly how far the clause in question is in keeping with the arrangements which he made with the public service disputes committee while the negotiations were in progress. I want to know exactly how far he proposes to penalise the public servants, and whether he intends by that clause that they shall not even drop a shilling in the collection box of any union that happens to be on strike? Do the Government intend that by the Bill?

Mr. Johnston: The Bill does not say so.

Mr. JONES: I want an interpretation of that clause. I want to give the Attorney General a chance to come along with an interpretation of that clause when the Bill is being considered in Committee.

The Premier: We will give you a chance if you sit down.

Mr. JONES: I intend to take the chance. The other clauses of the Bill can, I think, be discussed in Committee. I have referred to the two main points. I wish to make an appeal to the Premier with regard to the broken pledge of the Government. The Premier has got industrial peace so far as the public servants are concerned. They are back at work. They are working well. Surely they have given the Premier far better terms than he deserves. I appeal to the hon. gentleman not to go back on the promise which his Government gave, but to allow the board to be appointed as he said it should be appointed. I appeal to him not to think for a moment that a clause of this description, which seeks to take away the right to strike from a body of men, is going to prove anything more than a farcical laughing-stock.

On motion by Mr. Lutey debate adjourned.

*House adjourned at 10.25 p.m.*

## Legislative Council,

*Tuesday, 21st September, 1920.*

	PAGE
Bills: Broome Rates Validation, 3a., passed ...	651
Local Authorities Sinking Funds, 1a....	651
Westralian Meat Works, 1a. ....	651
Friendly Societies Act Amendment, returned	651
Time of Registration Extension, returned ...	651
Adjournment—State of Business. ....	651

The PRESIDENT took the Chair at 4.30 p.m., and read prayers.

### BILL—BROOME RATES VALIDATION.

Read a third time and passed.

### BILLS (2)—RECEIVED FROM THE ASSEMBLY.

1. Local Authorities Sinking Funds.
2. Westralian Meat Works.

Read a first time.

### BILLS (2)—RETURNED FROM THE ASSEMBLY.

1. Friendly Societies Act Amendment.
2. Time of Registration Extension.

Returned without amendment.

### ADJOURNMENT—STATE OF BUSINESS.

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION (Hon. H. P. Colebatch—East) [4.36]: In view of the state of the Notice Paper, and the probability that it will be some time before business is received from the Legislative Assembly, I advised hon. members a week ago that it was not intended to proceed to-day beyond the formal business before the House. I therefore move—

That the House at its rising adjourn until 4.30 p.m. on Tuesday next.

Question put and passed.

*House adjourned at 4.37 p.m.*