

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. G. Shenton) said that although the library was located in the Legislative Assembly, hon. members of both Houses had equal rights in regard to it.

THE PRESIDENT said that members of the Council certainly had a right to use the books equally with the members of the other House.

THE HON. J. W. HACKETT said he had asked the question because in the Rules which he had seen it was stated that members of the Legislative Council could only use the books when the Legislative Assembly was sitting.

THE HON. G. W. LEAKE said he had frequently used the books during vacation and so had the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly.

THE PRESIDENT said he would look into the matter; but he could assure hon. members that they had equal rights with the members of the Lower House.

POLICE BILL.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. G. Shenton): Before moving the second reading of this Bill, it may be as well if I offer some explanation as to the reasons why the Government has brought this measure forward. Those hon. members who held seats in the old Legislative Council will remember that the Bill was previously introduced, but that owing to the exigencies of time it had to be withdrawn, and it has not been until now that the present Government has been able to bring it before hon. members. Its primary object is to consolidate the many Police Acts which are in existence and to provide for certain amendments. Hon. members will see on reference to the Schedule the number of Acts that had to be repealed; thus showing the necessity for the present Bill. In the Bill as it was submitted to the old Legislative Council certain alterations have had to be made in consequence of the change of Government, and now the powers hitherto vested in the Commissioner are now vested in the Minister. The Bill is divided into Nine Parts, which hon. members, by clause 3, will see speak for themselves. The last Part is a very important one, and deals with appeals, hitherto it having been found very difficult to determine the manner in which appeals should be made. The 57th

clause is new, and gives the Commissioner of Police power to regulate the street traffic on public occasions. This is a provision very much required, as events on several recent occasions have proved. I do not think it necessary to say anything further as to the Bill, except to ask hon. members to kindly give notice of any important amendments they may wish to make, so that they may appear on the Notice Paper. I now move the second reading of the Bill.

Question—put and passed.

ADJOURNMENT.

The Council, at 3:35 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, 15th December, at 3 p.m.

Legislative Assembly,

Friday, 11th December, 1891.

New Postage Stamps—Presentation of the Address-In-Reply—Mineral Lands Bill: second reading—Adjournment.

THE SPEAKER took the chair at 2:30 p.m.

PRAYERS.

NEW POSTAL STAMPS.

MR. CANNING: I beg to ask the Colonial Treasurer, by leave, without notice, whether it is the intention of the Post Office Department to issue stamps for single and double postage rates to the United Kingdom? At present a great deal of inconvenience is caused by the public having to use two separate stamps—a 2d. stamp and a $\frac{1}{2}$ d. stamp for the single rate, and stamps of different values for the double rate.

THE TREASURER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest): The order for both single and double rate stamps has been sent to England. It will take some time to prepare the dies, but I hope it will not be long before we have the new stamps ready for issue.

PRESENTATION OF THE ADDRESS-
IN-REPLY.

MR. SPEAKER, accompanied by hon. members, proceeded to Government House and presented His Excellency the Administrator with the Address which had been adopted in reply to the Speech with which His Excellency had opened the session.

Upon returning to the Assembly Chamber, MR. SPEAKER informed hon. members that the Address had been presented, and that His Excellency had been pleased to reply as follows:—

“MR. SPEAKER AND GENTLEMEN OF
“THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,—

“I have much pleasure in receiving
“your courteous Address in reply to my
“opening Speech.”

MINERAL LANDS BILL.

SECOND READING.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest):
Sir, I rise to move the second reading of a bill to amend the law relating to mineral land. As members are aware, the present regulations for dealing with the mineral lands of the colony are contained in the Land Regulations of 1887, but it has been generally felt throughout the colony that some more definite and more liberal regulations are now required for dealing with the mineral products of the colony. This bill has been prepared very much upon the lines of the law as it at present exists in Queensland. I have taken a considerable amount of trouble in preparing it, and I have done my best to make it applicable to the circumstances of our own colony. The 2nd clause of the bill, as hon. members will notice, is a very important one. It repeals the existing regulations, and it also provides that all mineral leases issued under those regulations shall be subject, in all respects, to the labor conditions prescribed by this bill, and the regulations made under it. By some persons, and particularly by those who hold leases under the existing regulations, this provision may be somewhat objected to, but I may point out, for the information of hon. members, that those regulations themselves contemplated that there should be labor conditions attached to the leases issued under them. It is quite true that

no such labor conditions have been insisted upon in the past, but to my mind the power exists to make and enforce such conditions. Besides that, the country now demands that mineral lands should be worked, and that those who hold leases, whether under the existing regulations or the proposed regulations, shall no longer hold them without being subject to labor conditions. I think the members of this House will be in accord with the Government in approving of this clause, which provides that all mineral leases issued under the regulations of 1887—and which, as I said, contemplated some kind of labor conditions—shall be subject in all respects to the same conditions as are prescribed by the present bill. The bill, as will be seen, is divided into eleven parts, dealing with different subjects, and I will just in a few words glance at some of the principal provisions contained in the bill. First of all, it is proposed that any person having obtained a mineral license shall be entitled to prospect and to occupy, in any part of the colony, a certain portion of land, to the extent of the area provided in the regulations. That area is not mentioned in the bill, because it was thought better that the area should be fixed by the regulations, so that it can be changed from time to time, as circumstances require. I may, however, inform members that the area proposed in the regulations (which will be laid on the table of the House in a few days) is $1\frac{1}{2}$ acres, being the same area as is allowed in Queensland for the holder of a miner's license. The license issued here will be available throughout the whole of the colony, whether within a mining district or not; and the price proposed in this bill to be charged for this privilege is £1 per annum. Hon. members will notice in the 5th clause, sub-section 2, that all land occupied for mining by virtue of any mining license shall be worked continuously, in accordance with the regulations, and that by sub-section 4 all minerals other than gold found upon any mining area held under a license shall be the absolute property of the holder of the license. There is a provision also, in sub-section 7 of the same clause, under which licenses may be issued to any person for quarrying stone or other

material for building purposes, or for making bricks, on any Crown land, upon payment of a small fee. Clause 6 provides that mining districts may be proclaimed under the provisions of this Act, in the same way as goldfields are now declared or proclaimed. These mining districts will of course be only proclaimed in those parts of the colony where minerals are known to exist in large quantities. For instance, one mining district will be proclaimed at Greenbushes, near Bridgetown, where there has been a considerable find of tin, and where mining operations have been successfully carried on. Provision is also made in the bill for the issue of business licenses within these mining districts under a rental or fee of £41, but it is provided that no person shall be entitled by virtue of one business license to occupy at the same time more than one portion of land. The area of land capable of being held under a business license is not stated in the bill, for the same reason as I mentioned before that the area of a mining license is not defined in the bill, but is left to be provided for in the regulations; but I may say that the area we propose is a quarter of an acre, the same as obtains in Queensland. Within a mining district a mining lease will be issued in the same way as leases are now obtained under the Goldfields Regulations, but outside of a mining district it will not be possible to issue these leases. Persons desirous of entering into mining outside a mining district will have to do so under the provisions of their mining license, in the same way as persons who hold land outside proclaimed goldfields, do so by virtue of their miner's rights. Of course as soon as any important discovery of minerals is made so as to justify it, a mining district will be at once declared. The price to be paid per acre for a mineral lease is fixed at 5s., the same rate as at present; and the term of the lease is fixed at twenty-one years. The area of a lease is not to exceed 160 acres in any case—by the regulations it may be fixed at any quantity under that area—except in the case of a coal-mining lease. The area of a coal-mining lease is not to exceed 640 acres, as members will see on reference to clause 15, subsection 4. The rights of the lessee of mineral lands are specified in the 16th

clause, and the conditions are the same as are applicable to leases of mineral lands elsewhere. Clause 17 provides for the union of leases, in order to provide greater facilities for the working of two or more contiguous leases, if the Minister is satisfied that greater facilities will be so ensured. Clause 18 deals with the transfer of leases, under the usual conditions. I now come to a very important part of the bill—that dealing with licenses and leases for coal mining. Although the previous sections of the bill apply to coal as well as to all other minerals (except gold), still it was thought by the Government that greater facilities should be afforded for prospecting for coal, that a larger area should be given, and upon somewhat easier terms, than in the case of other minerals. In this, I may inform hon. members, we are following out the most recent legislation in the colony of Queensland. Any coal prospector may take out a license for any area not greater than 640 acres, by paying 6d. an acre for it, for twelve months. This license may be renewed for another year upon payment of the same fee per acre, upon proof to the satisfaction of the Minister that the holder of the license has used all reasonable endeavors to search for coal on his original area. Or, if he does not wish to renew his license in respect of the whole of that area, he may apply for a lease of any part of it not exceeding 320 acres, the term of the lease not to exceed twenty-one years, but it will be renewable for a further term. The yearly rent fixed for land leased for coal mining is at the rate of 6d. per acre, and a royalty of 3d. for every ton of coal raised during the first ten years of the lease, and of 6d. for every ton raised during the remainder of the term. Special privileges are provided in the case of a licensee who discovers a payable coalfield within fifteen miles of payable coal previously discovered, or to the licensee who discovers a payable seam of coal at a depth of not less than 600ft. from the surface. In either of these cases, the licensee becomes entitled to double the area; that is to say, he will be entitled to a lease of 640 acres instead of 320 acres, and he will also pay less royalty, which will be at the rate of 1d. for every ton raised, instead of 3d.

Members will observe by the 25th clause that all lands held under license or lease for coal prospecting or mining shall be worked in accordance with the ordinary regulations; but a certain amount of discretion is given to the Minister in particular cases to ease the labor conditions. The next part of the bill deals with agricultural lands within mining districts. Clause 26 gives power to the Governor to approve of any land within a mining district, or a goldfield, to be sold or leased for agricultural purposes. That clause does not, so far as I can ascertain, exist in the same form in the other colonies—not to the same extent at any rate, although there are provisions in the regulations of those colonies for occupying land for agricultural purposes within mining districts. But I have known in this colony, from my own official experience, that difficulty has often arisen in this respect. On account of the large area of our goldfields, and the great extent of land that will no doubt be embraced within our mining districts, much of the land is not mineral land, but there is a difficulty in disposing of it for other purposes than mining. But this clause provides that the Governor may approve of any land within a declared mining district being disposed of for agricultural, pastoral, or other purposes, under the land regulations in force at the time in that part of the colony; provided of course that the Warden is satisfied that no minerals exist upon it. The application for the land is to be made in open court, and the Warden will have to report to the Minister on each application for leasing the land for agricultural purposes; and every precaution will be taken before the application is approved. In the event of the Minister not being satisfied that the land is free from minerals he may grant a lease of it for agricultural purposes, but not sell it. The term of this lease is not to exceed twenty-one years, and the annual rental is not to be less than 6d. an acre, subject to such improvements and conditions as the Minister may think fit. There is a proviso that if any mineral is found to exist on the land, the holder of a miner's right or license may obtain permission from the Warden to mine upon any portion of the lease; and in that case the area of the lease, and also the rental, is to be

reduced, for the agricultural lessee's right over that portion of the area will then cease. It is provided further, and it is only reasonable, that the man who requires the land for mining purposes shall pay the agricultural lessee compensation for any improvements done by him. The amount of that compensation is to be assessed by the Warden, whose decision is to be final, and binding on all parties. Part VIII. of the bill deals with trespassing and unauthorised mining. Members will see that the conditions and penalties are pretty strict, but I think not unduly severe. The next part of the bill deals with various subjects. Clause 31 refers to the question of the compensation to be paid by any lessee or licensee under this Act to the person holding the land, for all improvements that may be interfered with by the miner. The compensation is to be made exactly on the same principle as is now in force under the 108th clause of the existing Land Regulations,—that is, the improvements have to be assessed by arbitration, in case of dispute. Clause 32 deals with the way in which applications for leases are to be dealt with, according to priority. If two or more applications happen to be received at the same time for the same land, the priority is to be decided by lot. The next clause deals with the question of the royalty to be paid, in the event of gold being found upon a lease, associated or combined with any other mineral, and clause 34 deals with gold found otherwise than in association with other minerals, in which case the land is to be dealt with (notwithstanding the lease) under the provisions of the Goldfields Act, 1886. But members will see, by one of the subsections, that the present lessee is entitled to priority over any other person in obtaining a gold-mining lease under that Act. Therefore I take it that this clause will only come into force in the event of the present lessee not caring to avail himself of the privileges conferred upon him. In Part X. of the bill, clause 36 and onwards deal with legal matters, the administration of the Act, and the jurisdiction of the Registrar's Court, and the manner of hearing and determining cases coming before the Court. Clause 38 gives the right of appeal to any person who feels aggrieved by the decision

of the Registrar. This appeal is to be to the nearest Local Court of the district in which the dispute has arisen. The following clauses define the procedure to be followed in these cases. Under clause 47, if a Registrar holding any interest in any claim or mineral lease adjudicates in any matter in which he is pecuniarily interested, he is adjudged guilty of a misdemeanor. Part XI. of the bill deals with the regulations to be framed under it. It gives power to the Governor-in-Council to make these regulations, to carry out the provisions of the Act; and of course these regulations are very important indeed, and will have the force of law. They are to be laid before Parliament within fourteen days after they are framed, if Parliament is then in session, and, if not, then within fourteen days after it meets. I may say that these regulations are already prepared, and I propose to make them public before they are submitted to the Governor-in-Council, so that we may see whether there are any objections to them. I believe myself they will be found applicable to the circumstances of the colony. They have been found to work well elsewhere, and not many alterations have been found necessary to meet the circumstances of our own colony, and I see no reason why they should not work well here. As I said at the beginning, this bill is greatly required in the interests of mining in this colony. It will give greater facilities for prospecting and for mining generally. The Government had it published in the *Gazette* some time ago, and, as far as I have been able to learn, very few objections have been taken to it; in fact it seems to be in accord with the representations made on the subject by those most interested in mining in this colony, and I believe it will be found generally applicable to our circumstances. As I have already said, it is generally based upon the law as it exists in Queensland, made applicable to our local requirements, so far as we are able to make it so. It is also very much in accord with the legislation already existing in this colony with regard to gold; in fact, if members will compare the two Acts, the Goldfields Act and this Act, they will find them running very much on the same lines, and very many clauses, if not identical, are very similar. I have

myself given a considerable amount of attention to it, and have tried to make it as applicable to the circumstances of the colony as my knowledge of the country would allow, and I can only say, in conclusion, that I shall be very glad, when the bill goes into committee, to listen to and consider any amendments or any observations that members may suggest. I now, sir, move the second reading.

MR. BAKER: I noticed in His Excellency's Speech that he mentioned the splendid prospect of our goldfields, but he omitted to make any mention at all about the £70,000 appropriated last session for the development of the goldfields.

THE SPEAKER: The question now before the House is the Mineral Lands Bill, which has nothing to do with goldfields.

MR. BAKER: As our goldfields have now been proved to be of a permanent character, I think we should pay great attention to them, and do our utmost to develop them. Undoubtedly gold has been the mainstay of the Eastern Colonies and made them so prosperous, and no doubt gold will make our colony prosperous. I feel certain that we have got the gold here, but we cannot expect to find it at once. I am a very old miner myself, and I know the difficulties in prospecting for gold are immense, but, with a little assistance from the Government, especially on the Northern fields, I am certain that good results would come out of it. I spoke to the Minister of Mines or Crown Lands the other day about rendering some assistance to the miners on these fields, but he did not seem quite to understand how it could be done. But I think it would be very easy to assist them in this way; let the Government offer bonuses for deep sinking on the fields. We have a number of shafts down 100ft. or so, and the Government might offer a bonus of (say) £2 a foot (or about half the cost) for every foot sunk down to 200ft., the first mine to go down that depth to get the bonus. When we get the Geologist's report, certain parts of the field, the most likely parts, might be selected for these tests. I would increase the bonus to £3 per foot at a depth of between 200ft. and 300ft.; £4 a foot from 300ft. to 400ft.; and £5 a foot from

400ft. to 500ft.; and so on. This would offer some encouragement for deep sinking. There are four centres on the Northern goldfields—

THE SPEAKER: I must again call the hon. member's attention to the point that he is not speaking to the question before the House. If the hon. member wants to bring the question of offering bonuses for assisting the Northern Goldfields before the House, he had better do so in the form of a resolution; he cannot do so now. I did not like to interrupt the hon. member, this being the first time he has addressed the House; but I cannot permit the question of bonuses to be discussed when we are on a different subject altogether. The hon. member can do that on some other occasion.

MR. BAKER: Then I will defer my remarks until a future occasion, when I will bring forward a motion on the subject.

MR. DE HAMEL: I desire to say a few words on this bill which has been brought forward by the Government. I am sure it is one that the whole of the members of this House must approve, but, for all that, it is a most important bill, and one which I think should not be allowed to pass without having it brought under the consideration of a select committee. I mention that at the outset, because it is my intention, when the right time arrives, after the second reading of the bill (which I shall myself support), to move that it be referred to a select committee for their consideration. The Premier, just now, in moving the second reading of the bill, referred, and very rightly and properly, to the importance of the regulations that will have to be framed in connection with the bill. I have before me the Queensland Act, and the whole of the regulations with regard to the mineral land laws of that colony—sent to me by the Premier of Queensland—and I find that, though the Act on which we are told the present bill is founded, occupies but fourteen pages, the regulations passed under it occupy no less than eighteen pages, showing clearly that the regulations under the Queensland Act—on which this bill is based—are really far more important than the bill itself. It is unnecessary for me at present to refer to the great importance of some of

those regulations, but it is clear to me that if they are applied to this colony they will be of the greatest benefit and encouragement to mining here. Therefore, it is very necessary that they should be well considered in their application to our requirements. There is one point in this bill to which I would refer now, and it is this: I consider that the amount of land proposed to be allowed to those who take up a coal area is, for this colony, insufficient. I believe, though I cannot say of my own knowledge, but I believe that in Queensland no coal mines are really worked. I know of none; therefore, I take it that we must presume that these Queensland regulations have not been amended, as regards coal mining, simply because they have no coal mines working there; so that in this matter of areas the Queensland regulations do not help us much in that respect. The reason I refer to this matter is this: as the Premier knows, about four or five months ago there was an offer placed by me before the Government, on behalf of a wealthy syndicate of coal-owners and shipowners at home, to work the Collie coal area; and the amount of money they intended to expend, or which they considered it would be necessary to expend, in developing that area was between £400,000 and £500,000. I know that they calculated that unless 2,000 tons of coal a day were raised, it would be utterly impossible to make any coal mine in this colony pay. They were prepared, under certain conditions, to find this capital of half a-million, and to raise 2,000 tons of coal a day, and, what is of more importance, find a market for it. But what I wish to point out is that if a company or syndicate has to expend close upon half a-million of money in developing a colliery and to raise at least 2,000 tons of coal a day—that is, 12,000 tons a week—in this colony, no company would be prepared to invest such a large amount of capital on 320 acres, which, according to this bill, would be the largest quantity of land they could hold under their license. I am aware that Clause 15 provides that a coal-mining lease "shall not exceed 640 acres," but that refers to a prospecting area.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest): No, a lease.

MR. DE HAMEL: When we come to Clause 22 we find that when a licensee wishes to renew his license at the end of the year he may apply for a lease of any part comprised in the license, but not exceeding 320 acres in extent.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest): Read clause 24.

MR. DE HAMEL: That merely provides special privileges for the discovery of a payable seam at a great depth (not less than 600ft.)

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest): Or of payable coal at a distance of not less than 15 miles from another payable coal discovery. In either case he could take up 640 acres.

MR. DE HAMEL: No doubt; but let us look at what that involves. Take the case of the coalfield already referred to. We know that coal has been found there, that it has been satisfactorily reported upon in England as good coal for commercial purposes, and we may hope that, given the necessary expenditure for its development, it may be regarded as a payable coalfield. If the Company discovered another payable coal area within not less than 15 miles, they would have to build a railway at least 15 miles to connect it with any railway which the Government might make; and I submit that even 640 acres would not be sufficient to induce any company of capitalists, under such conditions, to invest half-a-million of money in the development of a coalfield in this colony. It is only a suggestion, but it is one that I should like to see considered by a select committee: let the maximum area be 640 acres, or 320 acres, whichever they may decide, up to a certain margin; but when a company is prepared to expend, say £500,000, on the development of a coal field, I think that, for every £100,000 that company is ready to spend, the Government, in order to encourage this coal-mining industry, should be prepared to say, "We will give you a much larger area for every £100,000 you spend." In this colony we have had no coal mining yet, and members probably have no idea of the great cost of developing a colliery. It may seem to some people, perhaps, that there is nothing to be done but simply dig a shaft and bring up the coal; but I know myself from having lived within a colliery district at home

that the cost of starting and developing a payable colliery in this colony would be very great indeed. Without taking into account the necessity of a railway, without taking into account the necessity for providing proper harbor accommodation at the port of Bunbury, I know that the syndicate I referred to, who are colliery owners and shipowners, estimated that they would have to spend between £400,000 and £500,000 to develop a colliery that would be likely to pay in this colony. This bill appears to be prepared in a sort of belief that there may be a number of collieries discovered and carried on in this colony. I can assure the Government that for many, many years to come there could not be more than two collieries at the outside working in one neighborhood, the Collie coalfield, to make anything at all out of it. What would be the actual amount of coal required for consumption within the colony itself? I do not believe—I have got no statistics to go upon—but I do not believe we should use here 1,000 tons a week, with our population and our railways such as they are. We look forward, of course, to the future, when our population will be greater than at present, and our railways will be extended, and the consumption of coal will be greater. But we have to look to the present, and, looking at the amount of coal that would have to be raised to make it pay, according to the estimate I have mentioned—and this is not the estimate of inexperienced men or visionaries, but of wealthy coal proprietors and shipowners who know what they are talking about—hard-headed Northumbrians—and according to their estimate it would not pay unless they raised 12,000 tons of coal a week. That would leave 11,000 tons a week, over and above the local consumption, for which an outside market would have to be found. That is a point I should like to see considered by a select committee, to see if we cannot offer some greater inducements to capitalists, who could command a market for this coal. We want men to work this coalfield who have not only the means to raise the coal but can also find a market in which to place it. There is no use in raising coal to the surface unless we can command a market for it, beyond the present requirements of the colony. These are matters which I think

should be considered by a select committee, who should also have before them these elaborate regulations, which are really of greater importance even than the Act itself.

Motion put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) moved that the consideration of the bill in committee be made an Order of the Day for the following Monday.

MR. DE HAMEL moved, as an amendment, that the bill be referred to a select committee.

MR. QUINLAN seconded the amendment.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest): The Government have no objection—we could have no objection—if the House really wishes it, to have this bill referred to a select committee, because it certainly is an important bill. But at the same time, after listening carefully to what the hon. member had to say, it appears to me he raised no objections to the bill that cannot be easily dealt with in Committee of the whole House. I do not think it is very likely that any great alteration will be made in this bill, for it does not deal with a very easy subject, or a subject in which many members of this House have had much experience; and I think the chances are that we shall find that the experience of other colonies, together with the experience which members of the Government have had, will at any rate be sufficient for the general principles of the bill. I myself do not see any necessity for a select committee on this bill; it has been carefully framed; it is in accord with the legislation of the other colonies on this subject, and I believe it will be found thoroughly applicable to this colony. I think it will be seen that there is nothing in the bill that cannot be dealt with by the House in committee of the whole quite as efficiently as by a select committee, for I do not believe that either a select committee or a committee of the whole House will make any alteration in the bill in any material particular. Having said this much, I may add that the Government have no objection whatever to the bill going to a select committee, if the House desires it; but I see no necessity for it.

The House divided on the motion to refer the bill to a select committee, the numbers being—

Ayes	4
Noes	9

Majority against ... 5

Ayes.	Noes.
Mr. Canning	Hon. S. Burt
Mr. Quinlan	Hon. H. W. Venn
Mr. Traylen	Mr. Baker
Mr. De Hamel (Teller).	Mr. Cookworthy
	Mr. Darlot
	Mr. Pearce
	Mr. Randell
	Mr. Symon
	Hon. Sir J. Forrest (Teller).

The committal of the bill was then fixed for the following Monday.

ADJOURNMENT.

The House adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

Legislative Assembly, Monday, 14th December, 1891.

New member—Golden Gate Gold Mine Jumping case—History of Western Australia—Sparks from Locomotives—Post and Telegraph Office, North Fremantle—Improvements to Derby Wharf and Tramway—Securities of Assurance Companies—"Truck" System; Prevention of—"Rickets" in Cattle—Drought in the North: proposed Remission of Rent—Purchase of Agricultural Land in South-West Division—Assault upon Furdell Khan—Game Bill: first reading—Boyanup-Minninup Bridge Railway Bill: first reading—Boyanup-Busselton Railway Bill: first reading—Northam-Southern Cross Railway Bill: first reading—Sharks Bay Pearl-shell Fishery Bill: first reading—Settled Estates Bill: first reading—Bills of Sale Act Amendment Bill: first reading—Public Officials Bill: first reading—General Loan and Inscribed Stock Bill: first reading—Bankruptcy Bill: first reading—Adjournment.

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

PRAYERS.

NEW MEMBER.

THE SPEAKER announced that on the 3rd of November last he had issued a writ for the election of a member to serve for the electoral district of Geraldton, in