

Legislative Assembly,*Tuesday, 3rd February, 1891.*

Irregularity in production of a Return—Appointment of Public Analyst—Facilities of communication between the Front Greenough Flats and the Geraldton-Walkaway Railway—Telegrams written in pencil—Adjournment.

The SPEAKER took the chair at 2-30 p.m.

PRAYERS.

IRREGULARITY IN THE PRODUCTION OF A RETURN.

THE SPEAKER said he wished to draw attention to an irregularity committed yesterday, by the Commissioner of Railways, in placing a return on the table which the House on the previous day had ordered should not be placed there—a return asked for by the hon. member for Greenough. No doubt it was laid on the table with a laudable desire to give members information, still it was none the less irregular, and consequently he had ordered that it should not appear on the Minutes. While mentioning this, he might at the same time mention that when papers were presented to the House, whether by the Government or anyone else, if it was intended that these papers should be considered public, a motion should be made that they be laid on the table, otherwise anyone publishing them would not be entitled to that protection which it was intended to provide by the bill passed on the previous day (Protection of Parliamentary Printers Bill). Unless a motion were made to have papers printed and laid on the table, it could not be said that the House had ordered them to be printed, nor they could not be considered public unless ordered to be laid on the table.

APPOINTMENT OF PUBLIC ANALYST.

MR. TRAYLEN: I desire to ask the Premier whether it is the intention of the Government to appoint a Public Analyst in the place of Dr. Tratman, who has resigned. And whether the Government will ascertain to whom the essences of cognac, whiskey, and madeira, salvaged from the "Denton Holme," were consigned; and, also, whether the Government will test samples of liquors sold by the consignees?

THE PREMIER (Hon. J. Forrest): I beg to inform the hon. member that the Government have the matter under consideration, and hope to be able to appoint a successor to Dr. Tratman. No essences, as far as the Government is aware, have been salvaged from the "Denton Holme." Four bottles of essences arrived recently from Mauritius by a passenger, and were cleared at the Custom House by an agent, as 1 gallon, and duty (15s.) paid.

FACILITIES OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE FRONT GREENOUGH FLATS AND WALKAWAY RAILWAY.

MR. TRAYLEN: I beg to ask the Minister of Railways and Works whether it is the intention of the Government to provide facilities of communication between the Front Greenough Flats and some point or points on the Geraldton-Walkaway Railway?

THE COMMISSIONER OF RAILWAYS (Hon. H. W. Venn): If the hon. member means a line of railway, it is not the intention of the Government at present to do anything in the matter.

MR. TRAYLEN: I did not specify whether it should be a railway, or a tramway, or a road; I asked simply whether the Government intended to provide facilities of communication, which might be had by a macadamised road for aught I know.

TELEGRAMS WRITTEN IN PENCIL.

MR. DE HAMEL asked the Treasurer whether the rule providing that all telegrams *must* be written in ink could not be relaxed, and all telegrams made receivable, whether written in ink or pencil?

THE TREASURER (Hon. J. Forrest) said he would make inquiries, and hoped to be able to meet the wishes of the hon. member.

The House adjourned at 2-45 p.m.