

Legislative Council.*Tuesday, 20th October, 1896.*

New Parliament Houses—Bridges over Railway: joint select committee's report—Fremantle Water Supply, questions as to—Boating fatalities on Swan River: prevention of—Bridges over railway: joint select committee's report, informality as to—Loan Bill (43,500,000), 1895: third reading—Loans Consolidation Bill: third reading—Cue-Nanning Railway Bill: second reading; committee—Statutory Declarations Bill: Legislative Assembly's Amendments—Appropriation Bill: first reading—Great Southern Railway Purchase Bill: first reading; second reading; committee; third reading—Lands Resumption Act, 1894, Amendment Bill: first reading—Jury Act, 1871, Amendment Bill: first reading; second reading—Public Health Act, 1886, Amendment Bill: first reading; second reading—Australasian Federation Enabling Bill: Legislative Assembly's Amendments—Kalgoorlie-Menzies Railway Bill: first reading—York-Greenhills Railway Bill: first reading—Bills of Sale Bill: first reading—Kalgoorlie-Kanowna Railway Bill: first reading—Perth Racecourse Railway Bill: first reading—Width of Tires Act, 1895, Amendment Bill: first reading—Parliamentary Reporting Staff: Legislative Assembly's Message—Goldfields Act, 1895, Amendment Bill: first reading—Church of England Schools Lands Bill: first reading—Adjournment.

THE PRESIDENT (Hon. Sir George Shenton) took the chair at 4:30 o'clock, p.m.

NEW PARLIAMENT HOUSES.

THE HON. C. A. PIESE: I desire to ask the hon. the Minister for Mines, without notice, whether he is in a position to give me any reply to the question I asked some time ago relating to new houses of Parliament.

THE MINISTER FOR MINES (Hon. E. H. Wittenoom): I believe I stated in reply to the hon. member's question that I should be glad to lay the information on the table as soon as it was supplied to me by the Director of Works. So far, I have not received it, but I will endeavour to obtain it as soon as possible.

ERECTION OF BRIDGES OVER RAILWAY.**JOINT COMMITTEE'S REPORT.**

THE PRESIDENT (Hon. Sir George Shenton): I have to draw the attention of the hon. the Minister for Mines to the fact, that although the report of the Joint Select Committee on the Erection of Bridges over Railways was laid on the table of the Legislative Assembly last week, it has not yet been laid on the table of this House. These reports should be laid on the table of both Houses simultaneously.

THE MINISTER FOR MINES (Hon. E. H. Wittenoom): I must thank you for reminding me, and I have now much pleasure in laying the report on the table.

FREMANTLE WATER SUPPLY—QUESTIONS AS TO.

THE HON. D. K. CONGDON: I beg to ask the hon. the Minister for Mines the following questions:—(1.) Is the new water reservoir at Fremantle likely to be finished by Christmas, as promised and expected when the work was commenced? (2.) Is the work being carried out by prison labour, and, if so, what is it costing per yard for excavation, including supervision? (3.) Would it not, bearing in mind the desirability of providing this supply at as early a date as possible, be more expeditiously carried out by contract? (4.) Is the reticulation of the town being proceeded with so as to connect with the new reservoir directly the same is completed? (5.) Is the water supply at present paying cost of interest? (6.) What is the cost per 1,000 gallons to the Government? (7.) What are the receipts and expenses for the current year? (8.) Will the Government supply the municipalities of Fremantle and North Fremantle with water for street watering, and also for the watering of public recreation grounds, free of charge, as is done in the Eastern colonies? (9.) Does the Government intend to place on the Supplementary Estimates any sum to enable the municipalities to carry out the scheme of watering the streets, parks, and oval, free of further expense to the town? (10.) Is the supply of wells at the prison sufficient to meet the increasing demands through influx of population?

THE MINISTER FOR MINES (Hon. E. H. Wittenoom): These questions are so voluminous and involve the preparation of so much detail that I must ask the hon. member to move that these particulars be furnished. It is impossible to give the information in reply to questions at present.

THE HON. D. K. CONGDON: Then I give notice that to-morrow I shall move that a return be laid on the table giving these particulars.

BOATING FATALITIES ON THE SWAN RIVER—PREVENTION OF.

THE HON. F. M. STONE: I have to ask the Hon. the Minister for Mines the following questions:—(1.) Have any steps been taken by the Government for placing life-saving appliances on the road between Perth and Crawley? (2.) Does the Government intend to increase the river police, and provide a suitable boat, with life-saving appliances? (3.) Does the Government intend to bring in a Bill providing for licensing boats for hire on any river or waters of the colony, and for making regulations as to such boats? In asking these questions, I may say that my reasons for doing so are that, when some time ago a similar matter was brought before the House and a motion agreed to, nothing was done, and as I do not wish this matter to drop I have followed it up in this way.

THE MINISTER FOR MINES (Hon. E. H. Wittenoom): I have sent the hon. member's questions on to the proper authorities, and the replies they make are as follows:—

- (1.) No, not yet.
- (2.) The Government have not yet had time to consider the best measures to adopt.
- (3.) The Government will consider the matter.

ERECTION OF BRIDGES OVER RAILWAY.

JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE'S REPORT—
INFORMALITY AS TO.

THE HON. S. H. PARKER: I notice by the report which has just been laid on the table that it is signed by "F. H. Piesse." Now, Mr. F. H. Piesse is not a member of this House, and, as I understand the rules, a report of this kind should be presented by a member of each House.

THE PRESIDENT (Hon. Sir George Shenton): I have not seen the report yet, but the hon. member is perfectly correct in what he has stated. When a joint select committee brings up a report it should be signed by a member representing each House.

THE HON. S. H. PARKER: I do not think the omission matters much, but it is as well to draw attention to it

LOAN BILL (£3,500,000), 1896.

THIRD READING.

THE MINISTER FOR MINES (Hon. E. H. Wittenoom): I move that this Bill be now read a third time.

THE HON. S. H. PARKER: I observe that the revenue for the past three months of the present year is considerably in excess of the estimate of the Government, and in these circumstances there must be a large surplus at the end of the year. I would ask the hon. the Minister for Mines, therefore, whether, in view of the fact that a large number of works provided for by this Loan Bill cannot possibly be carried out before June 30th, 1897, it would not be as well to reduce the amount by £500,000 and provide for some of the works out of general revenue. This course would meet the wishes of a strong minority of this House, and also the wishes of the general public.

THE MINISTER FOR MINES (Hon. E. H. Wittenoom): I cannot but help admiring the patriotic sentiment which has induced the hon. member to make such a proposal, and were it not for the fact that to accede to it would hinder the progress of Western Australia I should be prepared to go with him. Although the revenue is increasing, we know from past experience that there will be large unforeseen demands upon the Government, and it will be hardly wise, therefore, for us to follow the course which he has suggested. Besides this, as I have already pointed out, there are many items provided for by this Bill which are more properly chargeable to loan than revenue. I am sorry, therefore, I cannot agree to the proposal of the hon. member.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a third time and *passed*.

LOANS CONSOLIDATION BILL

THIRD READING.

This Bill was read a third time and *passed*.

CUE-NANNINE RAILWAY BILL.

SECOND READING.

THE MINISTER FOR MINES (Hon. E. H. Wittenoom): This is a small Bill, but it is one of an important character. We all know that the Murchison is a

part of the colony which has developed some of our finest industries, but, up to now, it has been hampered by want of proper means of transit. The railway from Mullewa to Cue is already doing wonders, and is leading to the development of the country as the line proceeds. It has been constructed beyond Yalgoo, and it is expected that Mount Magnet will be reached by about Christmas time. When it is completed as far as Cue the country will have been so developed that we shall have returns from it which will help to swell very materially those that are forthcoming from Coolgardie. We are all aware that there is a friendly rivalry existing between the Murchison and the Coolgardie fields, and I feel certain that, with the facilities of railway communication, the Northern field will run the Eastern field very hard for the supremacy. The Government were fortunate in being able to let the contract for the line to Cue at a sum much below the estimate, and, with the surplus, they feel that they are able to continue the line to Nannine. At present Nannine is not in an advantageous position for developing the mines, because the town is 380 miles from a seaport, and the carriage of machinery involves considerable expense. I may say that the Bill has already received the consideration of the Legislative Assembly.

THE HON. F. T. CROWDER: That is not much in its favour.

THE MINISTER FOR MINES (Hon. E. H. WITTENOOM): There are probably some members there who have brains.

THE HON. F. T. CROWDER: Question.

THE MINISTER FOR MINES (Hon. E. H. WITTENOOM): As a matter of fact, the Bill has passed the Assembly, and it does not follow that, because it has passed that House, it must be a bad Bill. Nannine was almost one of the first goldfields discovered, and it has done a great deal to contribute to the reputation of Western Australia as a gold-producing country. We must remember that if we do not construct a railway we shall have to go to the expense of making a road. By the construction of the line we shall save a large amount for the carriage of mails and in the travelling of officials, besides affording facilities for developing the mines. The estimated cost of the railway is £125,000. The construction will

cost £60,000, the distance being about 50 miles. The rails and fastenings will cost £44,000, rolling-stock £15,000, and departmental £5,000. These are all the details I am able to give hon. members, and all that I think are necessary to enable them to consider the Bill. I move that the Bill be now read a second time.

THE HON. S. H. PARKER: The hon. gentleman did not say where the funds are to come from.

THE MINISTER FOR MINES (Hon. E. H. WITTENOOM): The funds will come from the surplus of the Mullewa-Cue line; there will be no fresh loan funds needed.

THE HON. S. H. PARKER: I do not suppose any hon. member desires to deprive Nannine of a railway, although I cannot but think that the Government, in taking away money from the Mullewa-Cue line, are depriving that line of funds which are required. We know from past experience it is always said that, in the Estimates for railways, rolling-stock is insufficiently provided for. We have on the Loan Bill £1,200,000 for rolling-stock, and I imagine that one of the reasons for providing this is that the Government propose to take away from the Mullewa-Cue line the moneys which are available, and which should be applied to the purchase of rolling-stock. If these funds were retained the line could probably be equipped in an efficient manner without provision having to be made for so large an amount for rolling-stock in the Loan Bill.

THE HON. R. S. HAYNES: On a prior occasion I complained that the Northern districts had been left out in the cold in connection with this Loan Bill. As far as I can see, the whole of the £3,500,000 is appropriated to Fremantle and the Eastern goldfields; and what surprises me more than anything else is that those hon. members whose constituencies receive most money cry out the loudest against the Government. The hon. member who represents Perth did not object to the Government spending £220,000 for a water supply for Perth, nor did the hon. Mr. Crowder object to the Government spending £1,100,000 for the purchase of the Great Southern Railway. I do not think that any hon. member can honestly say that this line is

not required. The only questions are whether it is advisable to construct it, and whether the funds from the Mullewa-Cue railway ought to be applied to it. The Hon. Mr. Parker referred to the fact that the surplus on the Mullewa-Cue line should be applied to the purchase of rolling-stock, but, as far as my memory serves me, the money which is now available was voted for the construction of the railway apart from rolling-stock. And in any case the hon. gentleman's argument might be a good one against the item for rolling-stock in the Loan Bill, but now that that Bill is passed the argument can have no effect.

THE HON. W. ALEXANDER: I do not think any hon. member will oppose the construction of this line, for it is absolutely necessary. I may say that when the line to Cue was decided upon it was not considered it would be necessary to carry it further, but the developments beyond have been so rapid that there is no help but to undertake the continuation of it to Nannine. The mines there have been in operation for three years, and besides this there is now a large population, and a considerable amount of development going on at Peak Hill, and other outlying localities.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

IN COMMITTEE.

The Bill was then considered in committee, agreed to without amendment, reported, and the report adopted.

STATUTORY DECLARATIONS BILL.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY'S AMENDMENTS.

Consideration in committee of message No. 46 from the Legislative Assembly (*vide p. 1061 ante*).

THE HON. R. S. HAYNES: I do not think the amendments of the Legislative Assembly to this Bill are necessary, but I shall not object to them. I therefore move that they be agreed to.

Question put and passed.

Amendments agreed to.

THE PRESIDENT (Hon. Sir G. Shenton) then left the chair until 7-30 o'clock.

On resuming,

APPROPRIATION BILL.

This Bill was received from the Legislative Assembly, and was read a first time.

GREAT SOUTHERN RAILWAY PURCHASE BILL.

This Bill was received from the Legislative Assembly, and was read a first time.

THE MINISTER FOR MINES (Hon. E. H. Wittenoom): I move that the Standing Orders be suspended to enable this Bill to be passed through its remaining stages without delay.

THE HON. S. H. PARKER: I may be permitted to say that I shall make no objection to the suspension of the Standing Orders in regard to this Bill, because this House has already affirmed the principle that it is desirable to purchase this railway.

Question put and passed.

Standing Orders suspended.

SECOND READING.

THE MINISTER FOR MINES (Hon. E. H. Wittenoom): It is not necessary for me to use many words in moving the second reading of this Bill, for it will be within the memory of hon. members that they only recently dealt with this question. I may simply say that the object of it is to authorise the Government to purchase the railway and the lands belonging to the company. There are a few conditions imposed in the Bill. Under Clause 6 the Governor is authorised to make settlements in regard to any contracts which the company may have entered into, and it is also provided that the servants of the company shall have no claim to compensation for loss of office. It is further provided that the Government shall issue inscribed stock for payment of the purchase money, which is to bear interest at 3 per cent. The stock will be issued on and after the 1st December next at par. As soon as the stock is inscribed the Governor will issue a notice in the *Gazette*, which will be taken to be a declaration that the railway is paid for. The stock is to be redeemable on 1st December, 1936, but there is a condition inserted by which the Government, upon giving 12 months'

notice, may redeem it after the 1st December, 1916. There is to be a sinking fund of $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., the contribution to which is to start on the date that the stock is issued. I move that the Bill be now read a second time.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

IN COMMITTEE.

The Bill was then considered in committee, agreed to without amendment, reported, and the report adopted.

THIRD READING.

The Bill was then read a third time and *passed*.

LANDS RESUMPTION ACT, 1894. AMENDMENT BILL.

This Bill was received from the Legislative Assembly and was read a first time.

THE MINISTER FOR MINES (Hon. E. H. Wittenoom): I move that the Standing Orders be suspended, to enable this Bill to be read a second time.

THE HON. F. T. CROWDER: I object to this. I have not seen the Bill as yet, and I do not think we should be called upon to discuss it until we have had a chance of reading it.

THE HON. S. H. PARKER: I do not think we should be doing justice to ourselves or to our constituents if we allowed the Standing Orders to be suspended to proceed with this Bill. I do not think the Minister should ask us to consent to it.

THE MINISTER FOR MINES (Hon. E. H. Wittenoom): My only desire is to place before hon. members an explanation of the objects of the Bill, and I shall then be prepared to agree to any adjournment that hon. members may wish. There is a desire that Parliament should be prorogued as soon as possible, and if we can accelerate the business without doing any injustice, I cannot see that there should be any objection to it.

THE PRESIDENT (Hon. Sir G. Shenton): I may point out that the Standing Orders ought not to be suspended except in a case of pressing necessity. I may also say that it is necessary, before the Standing Orders can be sus-

pended, that there shall be an absolute majority of the House in favour of it.

Question, that the Standing Orders be suspended, put and negatived.

JURY ACT (1871) AMENDMENT BILL.

This Bill was received from the Legislative Assembly, and was read a first time.

THE MINISTER FOR MINES (Hon. E. H. Wittenoom): I move that the Standing Orders be suspended to enable this Bill to be passed through its remaining stages.

THE HON. F. T. CROWDER: I object to this. I cannot understand how the hon. the Minister has the audacity to ask us to consider a Bill which we have not yet seen. I do hope that hon. members will do their duty, and will not allow any pressure to be brought upon them by the Government to rush these Bills through. If we are going to pass Bills in this fashion, we had better do away with the Upper House altogether.

THE HON. S. H. PARKER: It seems to me that this is a very simple and a very reasonable Bill, but all hon. members are not, perhaps, able to grasp the meaning of Bills so rapidly as I am, owing to my being compelled to constantly read them quickly. I do not think the hon. gentleman will advance matters much by pressing the second reading, and I hope, therefore, he will see fit to withdraw his motion.

THE MINISTER FOR MINES (Hon. E. H. Wittenoom): My only object is to explain the Bill, and then we can delay the further consideration until to-morrow, and thus afford hon. members an opportunity of looking into it. I shall take the opinion of the House as to whether it is desirable to proceed with the business, or to simply move the first readings of these Bills and postpone their further consideration until the next sitting of the House.

Question, that the Standing Orders be suspended, put.

The House divided with the following result:—

Ayes	...	...	...	12
Noes	...	...	...	5
				—
Majority for				7

AYES.

The Hon. H. Briggs
 The Hon. R. G. Burges
 The Hon. C. E. Dempster
 The Hon. R. S. Haynes
 The Hon. D. McKay
 The Hon. C. A. Piesse
 The Hon. J. E. Richardson
 The Hon. H. J. Saunders
 The Hon. W. Spencer
 The Hon. J. H. Taylor
 The Hon. E. H. Wittenoom
 The Hon. J. W. Hackett
 (Teller).

NOES.

The Hon. F. T. Crowder
 The Hon. A. B. Kidson
 The Hon. S. H. Parker
 The Hon. F. M. Stone
 The Hon. W. Alexander
 (Teller).

Question put and passed.
 Standing Orders suspended.

SECOND READING.

THE MINISTER FOR MINES (Hon. E. H. Wittenoom): This Bill will take very few words to explain. Under the Jury Act in force a juror is entitled to payment of 5s. per day, and 8d. per mile for travelling expenses. Under this Bill, persons summoned to attend as jurors will be entitled to 10s. per day and their railway fares. If, however, any juror resides where there is no railway, he will be entitled as heretofore to 8d. per mile for travelling expenses. Surely that is not a very difficult Bill to grasp, and I move that it be now read a second time.

THE HON. F. T. CROWDER: I move that the debate be adjourned. This may be a Bill which I am quite prepared to support, but at the same time I object to rushing it through the House without full opportunity being afforded to hon. members to consider it. This Bill provides—

THE HON. J. W. HACKETT: I rise to order. The hon. member cannot discuss the Bill. By the Standing Orders the motion that the debate be adjourned must be put without discussion.

THE PRESIDENT (Hon. Sir G. Shenton): The hon. member is quite right. The motion must be put without discussion.

Amendment not seconded.

THE HON. H. BRIGGS: I should like to ask whether the mileage is to be paid on each day on which a juror attends. Under this Bill, jurors coming from Fremantle to Perth will be worse off than they are now. If they are only to get their fares once, those who desire to return home every day will be out of pocket by having to pay their fares.

THE HON. S. H. PARKER: The point which the hon. member has raised shows

how necessary it is that we should have an opportunity of reading these Bills. In Clause 2 it is stated that the mileage shall be payable on each day of attendance. Under the present Act it is only payable once. The distance within which jurors may be summoned is 25 miles, and therefore if a juror is summoned from the maximum distance, he will, under this Bill, be entitled to £1 6s. 8d. a day. I do not complain of the increase from 5s. to 10s. per day, but to pay this mileage every day seems to me a little liberal.

THE HON. W. ALEXANDER: I shall support this Bill for I think that the allowance of 5s. per day is not sufficient. At present working men are summoned on criminal juries, and they have to give up 10s. or 12s. per day in order to receive 5s. per day.

THE HON. A. B. KIDSON: I think the Government are to be congratulated on introducing this Bill. Hitherto, the fees paid to criminal jurors have been miserably low, and frequently working men who have been earning from 10s. to 13s. per day have been compelled to attend, and receive the miserable pay of 5s. per day. In many cases this has created a hardship, and the families of the jurors have materially suffered from it.

Question put and passed.
 Bill read a second time.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1886, AMENDMENT BILL.

This Bill was received from the Legislative Assembly and was read a first time.

THE MINISTER FOR MINES (Hon. E. H. Wittenoom): I move that the Standing Orders be suspended to enable this Bill to be passed through its remaining stages.

THE HON. F. T. CROWDER: I do not know what position we are in if we are to have these Bills, which we have never seen, rushed through the House. I ask hon. members in the name of all that is right and just to protest against this course. If the House is prepared to do business on the lines suggested by the Minister, it will do much to wipe out this House altogether.

THE HON. R. G. BURGESS: I am surprised to hear the hon. gentleman make such remarks when there is nothing

in the Bill. It is simply to provide that municipalities may levy a health rate of 6d. in the £ instead of 3d. in the £ as is now the case.

THE PRESIDENT (Hon. Sir G. Shenton): I may point out that I think it is highly irregular to pass Bills through all their stages, except in cases of urgency. No objection could be raised to the passage of the Great Southern Railway Bill, because it was only for the purpose of carrying out a resolution which the House had previously agreed to. In the case of the Bill now before us, I must follow the course pursued by my predecessor, and point out to hon. members that the Standing Orders ought not to be suspended to pass Bills through all their stages, except as a matter of urgency. There are several hon. members absent, and they might, if they were here, object to this Bill being passed through. I do not think there can be any objection to passing the second reading, but I think it will be going too far if the Bill is entirely disposed of this evening.

Question put and passed.

Standing Orders suspended.

SECOND READING.

THE MINISTER FOR MINES (Hon. E. H. Wittenoom): This is a small Bill consisting of two clauses, and I do not think there can be much dispute over it. By the Principal Act of 1886, municipalities may levy a health rate not exceeding 1s. in the £. The funds derived from this rate have in some cases been found to be insufficient, and it is proposed by this Bill to increase the amount to 6d. I move that the Bill be now read a second time.

THE HON. H. BRIGGS: I shall give my support to this Bill. I do not think, however, that 6d. is sufficient. The municipalities, I understand, are desirous of undertaking the work of scavenging, and therefore it would be better if we allowed them, if necessary, to levy a rate of 1s. in the £.

THE HON. F. M. STONE: I move that the debate be adjourned. This is a short Bill, no doubt, but—

THE HON. J. W. HACKETT: I rise to order. The Standing Orders are explicit that a motion of this kind must be moved and seconded without discussion.

THE HON. F. T. CROWDER: I second the motion.

Motion put and negatived.

THE HON. F. M. STONE: This is no doubt a very small Bill, but I would ask whether any hon. member has considered it. Has any hon. member looked at the Principal Act to see whether it is necessary to increase the amount of the rate, or to amend the Principal Act in any other way consequent upon this amendment? I must raise my protest against rushing Bills through in this way. We have the ruling of the President that this course ought not to be pursued except in cases of urgency. I ask hon. members whether this is a case of urgency. If hon. members consent to follow the hon. the Minister in passing Bills through in this way we shall establish a precedent which will be followed in each successive session.

THE HON. R. S. HAYNES: I shall support this Bill. I was chairman of the local Board of Health when the Principal Act was brought into force, and I may say that it was recognised that very little could be done under it because the Board was hampered for want of funds. I agree with the Hon. Mr. Briggs that the amount should be 1s. rather than 6d., but as the Bill before us is a step in the right direction I shall support it.

THE HON. A. B. KIDSON: It seems to me that hon. members are somewhat forgetting themselves. The President has told us that it is not right to suspend the Standing Orders, except in cases of urgent necessity.

THE PRESIDENT (Hon. Sir G. Shenton): The Standing Order says in case of pressing necessity.

THE HON. A. B. KIDSON: I do not think any hon. member will say that this is a case of pressing necessity. The Bill is no doubt a good one, but even from the remarks which have already fallen from hon. members, it appears there is some difference of opinion about it. Two hon. members have told us that the rate should be 1s. instead of 6d., and in these circumstances it would be well to allow the Bill to stand over for further consideration. I must protest against the manner in which these Bills are being rushed through the House, and I hope hon. members will not consent to it further.

THE MINISTER FOR MINES (Hon. E. H. Wittenoom): More time has been wasted over this small Bill than it is worth. I am quite willing, if hon. members so desire, to postpone the committee stage until the next sitting of the House.

THE HON. F. T. CROWDER: I shall oppose the second reading of this Bill. I have listened to the remarks of the hon. the Minister, and also to those of the Hon. Mr. Haynes, and they have brought to my mind a line of poetry which beautifully expresses the positions of the two hon. gentleman—

“Two souls with but a single thought.”

It has further occurred to me, after listening to the remarks of the two hon. gentlemen, that the result was something like that of the first subtraction sum I performed at college when I took one from one and nothing remained. The Hon. Mr. Haynes knows very well that he has never read this Bill, and yet, because the Minister for Mines moves the second reading of it, he feels bound to support it. We are here to check hasty legislation, and is this a check on hasty legislation? I do not think hon. members grasp their positions if they will consent to pass a Bill through all its stages which they have not had in their hands ten minutes. I do not say a word against the Bill, because I have not looked into it. It may be a good one, but let us have at least 12 hours to consider it. We learn from the newspapers that the other House has finished its work, but that is no reason why we should swallow all these Bills in one night so as to allow hon. members to get away.

THE HON. J. W. HACKETT: In view of the pledge of the Minister that after the second reading the committee stage will not be taken until to-morrow, and that, therefore, hon. members will have a full opportunity of looking into this Bill, I shall move that the question be now put. The prolongation of a debate of this kind is no punishment to the Government, but is a punishment to this House.

Question, that the Bill be now read a second time, put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

AUSTRALASIAN FEDERATION ENABLING BILL.

THE PRESIDENT (Hon. Sir G. Shenton) reported the receipt of the following message from the Legislative Assembly:—

“Message No. 53.

“*Mr. President,*

“In reply to Message No. 45 of the “Legislative Council, the Legislative “Assembly acquaints the Legislative “Council that it has made the amendments requested in ‘The Australasian “Federation Enabling Bill,’ and returns “herewith the Bill reprinted accordingly.

“**JAS. G. LEE STEERE,**

“Speaker.

“Legislative Assembly Chamber, Perth,
“16th October, 1896.”

IN COMMITTEE.

Clause 25—Payment of representatives: Not to be an office of profit:

THE MINISTER FOR MINES (Hon. E. H. Wittenoom): I move that this clause, as amended by the Legislative Assembly, be agreed to.

Question put and passed.

Schedules agreed to, Bill reported, and report adopted.

KALGOORLIE-MENZIES RAILWAY BILL.

This Bill was received from the Legislative Assembly, and was read a first time.

THE MINISTER FOR MINES (Hon. E. H. Wittenoom): I move that the Standing Orders be suspended to enable this Bill to be now read a second time.

THE HON. S. H. PARKER: Is there any pressing necessity to proceed with this Bill this evening? If we read it a second time, we shall not advance it a stage, because, under the Standing Orders, after a Bill is read a second time, it may be taken through committee at once. In these circumstances the second reading and committee stages can both be taken at the next sitting, and we shall thus be just as far advanced as if we adopt the second reading to-night.

THE HON. W. ALEXANDER: I must protest against passing a Bill of this kind through all its stages. It is a very important Bill, and it will be most unwise to force it through to-night.

THE MINISTER FOR MINES (Hon. E. H. Wittenoom): The hon. member accuses me of forcing Bills through. I have not attempted anything of the kind. All I propose is to take the second reading now, and postpone the committee stage. I have no desire to rush the business, and I am only acting in a manner which I understand meets with the views of the majority of hon. members. We have had a division the result of which shows that the large majority of hon. members desire that the business shall be proceeded with. If we only read the Bills a first time we shall have finished our work in ten minutes, and what is the use of bringing members from the country to do nothing when there is plenty of work?

THE HON. F. T. CROWDER: I say the hon. member is trying to force these Bills through with the aid of the brutal majority he has behind him. On the second reading hon. members can discuss a Bill as they like, but in committee they are limited in their remarks, and, therefore, I think we should not pass the second reading, but should give every hon. member an opportunity of fully expressing himself, especially on so important a Bill as this.

THE HON. A. B. KIDSON: I must again enter my protest against the rushing of Bills through. This Bill is one of the most important measures we have had before us this session, and if we pass the second reading we shall be affirming the principle that the line shall start from Kalgoorlie in preference to any other place. I again ask hon. members to take note of the remarks of the hon. the President, and refuse to proceed further with the Bill at the present time.

THE HON. F. M. STONE: I hope hon. members will not agree to the suspension of the Standing Orders. The hon. the Minister says he is carrying out the wishes of the majority, but we must remember that the division was taken upon a small Bill. This, however, is an important matter, and I trust that hon. members will see that it is their duty to allow a free discussion upon it. If we pass the second reading we shall bind ourselves to the route, and I may say that I believe the hon. the Minister will have all he can do to obtain a majority

in favour of the line starting from Kalgoorlie.

Question, that so much of the Standing Orders be suspended as will enable this Bill to be now read a second time, put.

The House divided, with the following result:—

Ayes...	...	...	...	7
Noes...	...	...	...	9
Majority against...				2

AYES.
The Hon. J. W. Hackett
The Hon. R. S. Haynes
The Hon. D. McKay
The Hon. C. A. Piesse
The Hon. J. H. Taylor
The Hon. E. H. Wittenoom
The Hon. W. Spencer
(Teller).

NOES.
The Hon. W. Alexander
The Hon. H. Briggs
The Hon. R. G. Burges
The Hon. C. E. Dempster
The Hon. A. B. Kidson
The Hon. S. H. Parker
The Hon. J. E. Richardson
The Hon. F. M. Stone
The Hon. F. T. Crowder
(Teller).

Question put and negatived.

Ordered that the second reading be made an Order of the Day for the next sitting of the House.

YORK-GREENHILLS RAILWAY BILL.

This Bill was received from the Legislative Assembly, and was read a first time.

BILLS OF SALE BILL.

This Bill was received from the Legislative Assembly, and was read a first time.

KALGOORLIE-KANOWNA RAILWAY BILL.

This Bill was received from the Legislative Assembly, and was read a first time.

PERTH RACECOURSE RAILWAY BILL.

This Bill was received from the Legislative Assembly, and was read a first time.

WIDTH OF TIRES ACT (1895) AMENDMENT BILL.

This Bill was received from the Legislative Assembly, and was read a first time.

"HANSARD" REPORTING.

Consideration of the following message from the Legislative Assembly:—

"Message No. 48.

"Mr. President,

"In reply to the Legislative Council's Message No. 43, the Legislative Assembly acquaints the Legislative Council that it has agreed to the amendment made by the Legislative Council in the Resolution relating to the 'Hansard' reporting, subject to the following further amendment:—To strike out the word 'have' before the word 'reports,' and insert the words 'consider the question of having the' in lieu thereof; in which further amendment the Legislative Assembly desires the concurrence of the Legislative Council.

"JAS. G. LEE STEERE,

"Speaker.

"Legislative Assembly Chamber,

"Perth, 15th October, 1896."

IN COMMITTEE.

THE MINISTER FOR MINES (Hon. E. H. Wittenoom): I move that the Legislative Assembly's amendments as contained in this message be agreed to.

THE HON. F. T. CROWDER: I will not object to the alteration made by the Legislative Assembly, but I ask the Minister for Mines, as representing the Government, to carefully consider the opinion of this House on this subject. Our opinion is this: So far, we are perfectly satisfied with the reports we are getting. We do not care what paper publishes the debates so long as they are published, and if, during the recess, the Government do not give effect to the wishes of hon. members, we shall take steps as soon as the House next meets to move in the matter.

THE PRESIDENT (Hon. Sir G. Shenton): It is not a matter for the Government, but for the Library Committees of both Houses.

THE HON. F. T. CROWDER: The Government really deal with the matter because they find the money. It was said that the resolution I moved, and the terms of which you, sir, and the hon. the Minister for Mines were good enough to accede to, could not be carried out except for a short time, because no funds were available. The Government, however,

are providing £20,000 for a ball-room at Government-house, and yet they are not prepared to find a paltry sum of £30 per month for the publication of these debates. I feel sure, if the Government will not accede to the wishes of hon. members, the money will be subscribed. We have 22 members, and it will not be a matter of great difficulty to obtain £30 a month. I am speaking on behalf of every member of this House when I say that, no matter what is decided, we intend to have our remarks published in a daily paper.

Question put and passed.

Legislative Assembly's amendment agreed to.

GOLDFIELDS ACT, 1895, AMENDMENT BILL.

This Bill was received from the Legislative Assembly, and was read a first time.

CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL LANDS (PRIVATE) BILL.

This Bill was received from the Legislative Assembly, and was read a first time.

ADJOURNMENT.

THE MINISTER FOR MINES (Hon. E. H. Wittenoom): I move that the House at its rising adjourn until Wednesday at 7:30 o'clock, p.m.

THE HON. S. H. PARKER: Tomorrow is the anniversary of the most celebrated day in the colony. It is a day which is declared by statute to be a public holiday, and one which has always been devoted to recreation on account of its being the anniversary of the proclamation of Responsible Government in this colony. Does the hon. the Minister desire us to degrade that memorable day by asking us to sit here? I ask that hon. members will look upon this day as one which is sacred to the memory of the introduction of Responsible Government, and a day on which they will refrain from all business transactions.

THE MINISTER FOR MINES (Hon. E. H. Wittenoom): If it be the desire of hon. members, I will move that the House adjourn until Thursday, at 7:30 p.m., instead of Wednesday.

THE HON. F. T. CROWDER: I move, as an amendment, that the House adjourn until Friday, at 7-30 p.m. Hon. members have invitations to witness the laying of the foundation-stone of the new Stock Exchange on Thursday morning, and in the afternoon they are asked to inspect the harbour works. In these circumstances I hardly think hon. members will be inclined to do much work in the evening.

THE PRESIDENT (Hon. Sir George Shenton): I think it will be necessary to meet on Thursday, so that we may receive messages from the other House.

Question, that the House at its rising do adjourn until Thursday, October 22, 1896, at 7-30 o'clock, p.m., put and passed.

The House, at 9-50 o'clock, p.m., adjourned accordingly.

Legislative Assembly,

Tuesday, 20th October, 1896.

Church of England School Lands (private) Bill: second reading; in committee; third reading—Goldfields Act Amendment Bill: second reading; in committee; third reading—Motion: Police duty on Sunday, and compulsory wearing of uniform—Adjournment.

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

PRAYERS.

CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL LANDS (PRIVATE) BILL.

The report of the select committee which had considered the Bill (the report having been brought up at the previous sitting), was now adopted.

SECOND READING.

On the motion of the **ATTORNEY GENERAL**, Standing Order No. 52, relating to private Bills, was suspended as regards the further stages of this Bill; and the Bill was read a second time, without debate.

IN COMMITTEE.

The House having resolved itself into committee to consider the Bill,

MR. RANDELL was elected Chairman of Committees, *pro tem.*, in the unavoidable absence of Mr. Traylen.

Bill passed through committee, without debate, and was reported without amendment.

Report adopted.

THIRD READING.

Bill read a third time, and transmitted to the Legislative Council.

GOLDFIELDS ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

SECOND READING.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt), in moving the second reading, said: For some time past it has been apparent to the Government that there were some verbal amendments which it was necessary to make in the Goldfields Act which was passed last year, as soon as we could find time to do so, and without introducing any amendment that is likely to be in any way of a controversial nature. On perusing this Bill, it will be seen that there are only two points in it. One is to enable the Government to grant permission either for the construction of tramways or for the erection of poles and posts for carrying electric lines over any gold mining leasehold, claim, or authorised holding under the Goldfields Act; and the second is to make verbal amendments in certain sections of the Act, as set forth in the schedule of the Bill. These are very material points. With regard to the construction of tramways and the erection of poles for carrying electric lines, the only power which the Government now have for granting permission is contained in the form of lease which is granted for gold mining purposes, in which lease the Government may allow the construction of tramways upon leasehold properties, and that power has been exercised without any objection. But