

no further and commence to split hairs about the legality or otherwise of what was done. The Government thought it was such a case. They took the necessary action and accepted the responsibility, and to-night we abide the decision of the House on it. As to the so-called illegality about our having spent money without the sanction of Parliament, we have spent no money at all, although, to listen to the hon. member, a stranger would think that we had spent £60,000.

MR. CANNING: It is the same thing.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt): We are giving a guarantee. If the Company does not pay it, we shall have to, but before we do that we shall have the means without asking this House for a sixpence. Whether the value of the security is what we say it is is another matter; but we do say we have done nothing that will oblige us to come to this House for anything. We have guaranteed the money, and if the time ever comes to pay it, we will be able to put our hands on the money to do it with. Therefore, as I have said, the hon. member has done nothing other than raise a "storm in a teapot." I do not blame the hon. member. I rather rejoice that there is someone who will keep an eye on the Government, and give us some expectation that whenever we do anything like this we shall be brought to book for it. I am glad the hon. member has raised the question, although he has made too much of it, as is shown by the fact that he has not been able to find a seconder for his motion. The hon. member too has used such large language. His saying that the collective wisdom of the great British nation had condemned such a thing as this; that it was a violation of our Constitution, and so on, was a mere exaggeration of this small issue; for if the Government had committed a serious breach of the Constitution, not only would the great British nation have condemned it, but a nation greater than Great Britain—Western Australia—would condemn it and the Government also. It has been said that Ministers should not make whips to scourge their own backs; but about what? About a thing which every member of this House knows we were justified in doing. I say it for the last time: the question is whether the circumstances

were such as to warrant the Government in doing as they did. If that be decided in the affirmative there need be nothing more about it. Of course we cannot say what will be the outcome of all this; but as far as practical men could judge, as we had to at the time the occasion arose, and as far as we can judge now, we see no risk of any kind whatever.

Question—That the Address be adopted—put and passed.

ADJOURNMENT.

The House adjourned at 9.20 p.m.

Legislative Council,

Friday, 11th December, 1891.

Sessional Committees—Police Bill: second reading—Adjournment.

THE PRESIDENT (Sir T. Cockburn-Campbell, Bart.) took the chair at 3 o'clock, p.m.

PRAYERS.

SESSIONAL COMMITTEES.

The usual Sessional Committees were appointed, on the motion of the Hon. the COLONIAL SECRETARY.

On the motion for the appointment of a Library Committee,

THE HON. J. W. HACKETT asked whether some rules were not agreed to by committees representing the Legislative Council and the Legislative Assembly.

THE PRESIDENT said there had been a conference on the subject; but he could not furnish particulars of what had been done at that moment.

THE HON. J. W. HACKETT said he would like to know the conditions under which members of the Legislative Council could use the library.

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.