

to the fact that in bringing forward the work of the session, the promises made by the Government have been very small. Hon. members see that with the bills named there will be a good deal of work ; and time was limited for getting the work together this year. It has been a most exceptional year. There have been interruptions of all kinds, with different events taking place, which have upset the work ; we had a very short time at our disposal, and the programme which the Government have put before hon. members will keep them going amply for the time we hope to be in session. The Hon. R. S. Haynes also spoke in regard to some of the officers in the different departments going away to learn experience. Some of them have gone away—not to learn experience. There is one in particular he mentioned. He did go away to the other colonies, but not to learn experience : he went away for his health. He is a very hard-working officer, and instead of spending the whole of his time in pleasure, he took the opportunity of comparing matters in this colony with matters in the other colonies.

HON. R. S. HAYNES : I take the official statement in the official organ of the Government.

THE MINISTER OF MINES : I am simply explaining it. Wherever a man goes, he will always learn something. It is not altogether an unwise practice that people should go to the other colonies to see how things are going there. Mr. Cook, the astronomer, had to go to England to select the instruments for his department. He is one of the best men you could get in Australia, highly recommended and bearing the best testimonials.

HON. R. S. HAYNES : Where is he now ?

THE MINISTER OF MINES : A little while ago the honourable member said I would not give him an explanation. Now that I am giving him one, he interrupts. The gentleman will be back soon. With regard to the remarks about the Agricultural Bureau, I would point out that it is composed of a number of gentlemen who give up their time willingly to work for the country.

HON. R. S. HAYNES : How then did they spend that £8,000 ?

THE MINISTER OF MINES : They did not spend it on themselves. I am

not prepared to say that their action meets with the approval of all. Apparently it does not, but the gentlemen who form this Bureau—I am not alluding to the secretary—give up their time for nothing.

HON. R. S. HAYNES : They spend £8,000 a year. They don't do it for nothing.

THE MINISTER OF MINES : I desire to express my sincere thanks to the honourable members, Mr. Randell and Mr. Kidson, who have so kindly proposed and seconded the Address-in-Reply. The remarks they made were listened to with very great satisfaction, and I thank them both for having undertaken what is not always a very pleasant duty. I trust that our work in the coming session will be satisfactory, and that it will be carried out in the same good spirit and in the same manner as it has been in the past.

Motion—for the adoption of the Address-in-Reply—put and passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT.

THE MINISTER OF MINES : I move that the House, at its rising, adjourn until Tuesday, the 19th inst., at 4.30 p.m.

Question put and passed.

The House adjourned at 9.15 p.m., until the next Tuesday.

Legislative Assembly

Thursday, 14th October, 1897.

Paper Presented—Address-in-Reply : Notice of Amendment ; Ministerial Statement—Adjournment.

THE SPEAKER took the chair at 4.30 o'clock p.m.

PRAYERS.

PAPER PRESENTED.

THE PREMIER laid on the table the Annual Report of the Mines Department (1896).

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY—NOTICE OF AMENDMENT.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT.

MR. LEAKE: I beg to give notice that, on Tuesday next, I will move the following as an additional paragraph to the Address-in-Reply to the Governor's Speech:—

We, however, regret that your Excellency's advisers do not propose to introduce any legislation with a view to amending the tariff, as we are of opinion that it is desirable to reduce the duties on food supplies; and we therefore respectfully suggest that your Excellency's advisers should be invited to reconsider their decision, with a view to such reduction.

THE PREMIER (Right Hon. Sir J. Forrest): I have had an opportunity, a moment or two ago, of reading the motion just proposed by my hon. friend opposite; and it seems to me there can be no doubt whatever in the mind of anyone, and I am sure the hon. gentleman himself will say so, that this motion, which is to be moved as an amendment to the Address-in-Reply, is a direct challenge to the Government as to their policy in regard to the tariff of the colony.

MR. LEAKE: Hear, hear.

THE PREMIER: I thank the hon. member for that "hear, hear," because some members may have thought that the mild terms used in the intended amendment to the Address-in-Reply might have taken it out of the category of a motion of want of confidence in the Government. I regret that the hon. member did not go straight to the point, and propose directly that this House no longer has any confidence in the present Government. If the hon. member had used these words, "Your Excellency's present advisers no longer enjoy the confidence of this House," then he would have said exactly what he intends to convey by the amendment of which he has given notice. If it were not so, of course some other opportunity could have been taken for making a mild suggestion to the Government as to what it should do in the future.

MR. LEAKE: The other course is more constitutional.

THE PREMIER: We are asked to reconsider the decision we have arrived at, and which we have deliberately stated in His Excellency's speech, in regard to the tariff. That decision, however, goes no further, and no one can make it go any further, than that the Government have decided that in this session they will make no proposal for the amendment of the tariff. Coming then, as I say this notice of motion does, from the leader of the Opposition, at the beginning of the session, and as he intends to move it as an addition to the Address-in-Reply to His Excellency's Speech, there is no course open to me, as the hon. member confesses, than to take it as a direct challenge to the Government, as to whether or not they have the confidence of this Legislative Assembly. That being so, it is perfectly clear my duty is to give the hon. member every facility for bringing forward all facts and arguments he can gather together to impugn the administration of the Government; and, with that object, I think I shall be acting in accordance with constitutional precedent if I move that this House do adjourn until Tuesday next. [Several MEMBERS: Hear, hear.] I am reminded we have no sessional orders yet; and, therefore, I beg to move "That this House, at its rising, do adjourn until half-past four o'clock on Tuesday next."

Motion put and passed.

ADJOURNMENT.

On a further motion by the PREMIER, the House adjourned at 4:45 p.m. until the next Tuesday.