

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest): We could not take action until we obtained the vote of money.

MR. HARPER: During the session there were certainly two questions asked in this House and one in the other House, on this matter. The Premier cannot challenge those interested with not having kept the matter before the notice of the Government, because they have brought it forward time after time; and yet nothing has been done by the Government. We are now informed that the matter is going to be taken in hand immediately. I do not wish to press this motion, after having brought it prominently before the Government. If hon. members think the motion should be withdrawn, I am willing to take that course; but it is quite as well the Government should understand that the feeling exists.

MR. SOLOMON: When I saw the notice on the paper, it struck me as being rather severe on the Government. It is only a few weeks since the prorogation took place, and surely the hands of the Ministers have been pretty full. This is a matter which will permit of a little delay, surely. It has been under the consideration of the Government, as the Premier has told us, but no doubt the selection of a suitable secretary has required great care. I cannot support the motion in its present form, and I hope it will be withdrawn.

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

ADJOURNMENT.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) moved that the House, at its rising, do adjourn until the next day, at 12 o'clock, noon.

Question put and passed.

The House adjourned at 6:43 p.m.

Legislative Council,

Friday, 22nd December, 1893.

Electoral Rolls Bill: committee; third reading—Suspension of Sitting—Prorogation.

THE PRESIDENT (Hon. Sir G. Shenton) took the chair at 11 o'clock a.m.

PRAYERS.

ELECTORAL ROLLS BILL.

IN COMMITTEE.

Clauses 1 to 7 were passed.

Title—"An Act to authorise the immediate Preparation of the new Electoral Rolls to be compiled in accordance with the 'Constitution Act Amendment Act, 1893'":

THE HON. J. MORRISON: I hardly think this is a fit heading for the contents of this Bill, for it does not describe what the Bill really is. Something should be put in the title to show that such matters as clauses relating to joint owners, mortgagees, telegrams are in the scope of the Bill. These matters have nothing to do with the amendment of the Constitution Act, and, therefore, do not come within the title of the Bill.

THE HON. J. W. HACKETT: I think it would be well if we made an alteration. We may assume, I think, that the draftsman has made an error, and it is obvious how it occurred. It was intended at first that the Bill should deal only with the amendment of the Constitution Act and the Electoral Act, and the other clauses have been added, but the draftsman forgot to alter the title. There is no question that the title is at variance with the Bill. If the English language means anything at all, we must see that a provision as to striking out words in the Telegraph Act has nothing to do with the compilation of rolls, still less has the clause relating to joint owners and mortgagees. Unless we are going to pass a Bill which is at variance with the rules of the House we must make an alteration.

THE HON. G. RANDELL: The rules say that the Bill must not contain subjects foreign to the title.

THE CHAIRMAN (Hon. Sir G. Shenton): Standing Order No. 231 says: "Such matters as have no proper relation

"to each other shall not be intermingled in one and the same Bill; nor shall any clause be inserted in any draft of a Bill foreign to the title of the Bill; and if any such clause be afterwards introduced, the title shall be altered accordingly."

THE HON. J. W. HACKETT: That is precisely my point. We cannot call it a blunder on the part of the draftsman; it can only be said to be an oversight. I think if the words "and for other purposes" were added they would be sufficient.

THE HON. G. RANDELL: I think whether these words are necessary depends very much on the interpretation of Clause 7. At first sight I was inclined to think that Clause 5 was also outside the title, but, after more careful consideration, I am of opinion that it may be included in the scope of the Bill. As to Clause 7, I am not quite so sure.

THE HON. J. G. H. AMHERST: See Clause 9 of the Electoral Act of 1889.

THE HON. G. RANDELL: I think, having looked at that clause, that this Clause 7 only restores what was omitted in the Amending Act of 1893. Such being the case, I do not think it necessary to add the words referred to. After all, the title does not affect the validity of an Act, although, of course, if we have rules we should maintain them in their integrity; still, I do not think we shall be infringing them in this instance, even if we pass the Bill as it stands.

THE HON. J. G. H. AMHERST: The Attorney General has no objection to the insertion of the words "and for other purposes," although he does not think they are material.

THE HON. J. W. HACKETT: I am not surprised to hear that the Attorney General wishes to have the Bill passed in the state in which it left the Government; but of course that cannot weigh very much with us. We assisted the Government with the last Electoral Act to the extent of hardly debating it at all, on the assertion of the Minister in charge that it was all right. We are accustomed to hear such observations as these; but if we look at the whole of the title we shall see that it is impossible for it to take in Clauses 5, 6, and 7. It says nothing about the Electoral Act, which is very seriously altered. It seems to me that

we shall be on the safe side by inserting the words I have suggested.

THE HON. H. ANSTEY: It seems to me that by stretching a point we might bring in Clause 5 as being intended to assist in the preparation of the rolls.

THE HON. J. W. HACKETT: The title says to "authorise," not to "assist." Clause 5 may, as you say, assist.

THE HON. H. ANSTEY: But by no amount of stretching can we bring in the other clauses.

THE HON. J. G. H. AMHERST: The whole thing is merely a matter of words. Having agreed to all the clauses, we are now discussing the title—a mere legal casuistry. It is said that Clause 7 cannot come under the title. The Electoral Act reads that "no mortgagee of any lands or tenements shall be qualified to vote," and the change made here is that he shall not be qualified to be registered as a voter. Surely it cannot be said that this is not to facilitate the preparation of the rolls?

THE HON. J. W. HACKETT: The title does not say facilitate; it says authorise.

THE HON. J. MORRISON: How would the words "authorise and assist in" do?

THE HON. J. W. HACKETT: If we are going to make a change we had better keep to "and for other purposes."

THE HON. G. W. LEAKE: The title is no part of an Act, and surely we need not waste time over a mere matter of words.

THE HON. J. G. H. AMHERST: I really think my hon. friend should withdraw his motion.

THE HON. G. W. LEAKE: It really matters not one single stiver whether they are added or not. It is all a matter of composition—not with your creditors, but with construction.

Question—That the words proposed to be added be added—put.

The committee divided.

Ayes	5
Noes	4

Majority for ... 1

AYES.		NOES.	
The Hon. H. Anstey		The Hon. G. Randall	
The Hon. D. K. Congdon		The Hon. G. Glyde	
The Hon. J. Morrison		The Hon. G. W. Leake	
The Hon. R. W. Hardey		The Hon. J. G. H. Amherst	
The Hon. J. W. Hackett		(Teller).	
(Teller).			

Question—put and passed.

Bill reported.

THIRD READING.

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

SUSPENSION OF SITTING.

The sitting of the Council was then suspended until five minutes to 4 o'clock.

THE PROROGATION.

At 4 o'clock the President resumed the chair, and announced the receipt of the following Message from His Excellency the Governor:—

Message No. 1.

“W. C. F. ROBINSON,

“Governor.

“The Governor has the honour to “transmit, herewith, a Proclamation “under his hand and the Seal of the “Colony, proroguing the Legislative Council and the Legislative Assembly to “Wednesday, the 28th of March next.

“The Governor thanks your Honour- “able House for the Bill which you have “passed for enabling the compilation of “the Electoral Rolls to be at once pro- “ceeded with, and to which, in Her “Majesty’s name, he has this day as- “sented.

“Government House, Perth, 22nd “December, 1893.”

Western Australia, }
to wit.

W. C. F. ROBINSON,

(L.S.)

PROCLAMATION by His Ex-
cellency Sir WILLIAM
CLEAVER FRANCIS ROBIN-
SON, Knight Grand Cross of
the Most Distinguished
Order of St. Michael and
St. George, Governor and
Commander-in-Chief in and
over the Colony of Western
Australia and its Depend-
encies, &c., &c., &c.

WHEREAS under the provisions of “The Con-
stitution Act, 1899,” it is made lawful for the
Governor of Western Australia for the time
being to fix the place and time for holding the
first and every other session of the Legislative
Council and Legislative Assembly of the said
colony as he may judge advisable, and also to
prorogue the said Legislative Council and Legis-
lative Assembly from time to time by Proclama-
tion or otherwise whenever he shall think
fit: NOW THEREFORE I, Sir WILLIAM CLEAVER
FRANCIS ROBINSON, G.C.M.G., being Governor
as aforesaid, in exercise of the powers so in me
vested, deeming it advisable to prorogue the
Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly
of Western Australia, do hereby announce and
proclaim that the said Legislative Council and
Legislative Assembly are prorogued ac-

cordingly to WEDNESDAY, THE 28TH DAY OF
MARCH, 1894.

Given under my hand and the Public Seal of
the said colony, at Government House,
Perth, this 22nd day of December, 1893.

By His Excellency’s Command,

JOHN FORREST,

for Colonial Secretary.

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN!!!

The session then closed.

Legislative Assembly.

Friday, 22nd December, 1893.

Electoral Bill: Legislative Council’s amendment—Pre-
sentation of the Address in Reply to His Excellency’s
Speech—Midland Railway Company: payment of in-
terest—Land Titles Index—Water Supply on the
Murchison Goldfields—Post Office at Cue, and Mail
arrangements on the Murchison Goldfields—Prop-
osed Bonus for early completion of the Murchison
(Cue) Telegraph—Motion for Adjournment—Appoint-
ment of Teacher of Method—Smoking on Railway
Platforms, etc.—Appointment of Inspector of Stock
for Southern portions of the Colony—Water Supply
for Locomotives between Northam and Southern
Cross—Reformatory for Girls—Townsite at “Han-
nan’s Find”—Telegraph line between Southern Cross
and Coolgardie—Water Supply for Cossack—New-
castle Railway Station—Midland Railway Company:
payment of interest: motion for adjournment—Rock-
ingham-Jarrabdale Railway: freight rates—Appoint-
ment of a Civil Service Commission—Prorogation.

THE SPEAKER took the chair at
noon.

PRAYERS.

MESSAGE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE
COUNCIL.

ELECTORAL ROLLS BILL.

The following Message was delivered
to and read by Mr. Speaker:—

“Mr. Speaker,

“The Legislative Council acquaints
“the Legislative Assembly that it has
“agreed to a Bill intituled ‘An Act to
“authorise the immediate preparation of
“the New Electoral Rolls to be compiled
“in accordance with the Constitution Act
“Amendment Act, 1893,’ subject to the
“amendment contained in the schedule
“annexed; in which amendment the