

bers will look at the progress report of the Civil Service Commission they will see that work is done by the Government Printer at a profit of 50 per cent., so that it quite pays to do it.

THE HON. F. T. CROWDER: I do not see any item in this Bill which refers to the printing done outside. Is it paid for out of contingencies?

THE MINISTER FOR MINES (Hon. E. H. Wittenoom): It is not paid for out of contingencies. If the hon. gentleman desires any information on the subject I will get it for him.

THE HON. F. T. CROWDER: I know the amount is very large. What drew my attention to the matter was seeing heaps of printing coming from Mr. Traylen's establishment.

THE HON. S. J. HAYNES: There is a large item, £818, under the head of "Medical," of which no explanation is given in the Auditor-General's report.

THE CHAIRMAN (Hon. Sir G. Shenton) The hon. member cannot go back. A later item has been dealt with.

THE HON. S. J. HAYNES: I should only like to say that the item seems a large one, and I should like to have some explanation.

THE MINISTER FOR MINES (Hon. E. H. Wittenoom): The only way I can explain it is on account of the outbreaks of disease at the goldfields.

Schedule agreed to. Bill reported.

## STANDARD TIME BILL.

### SECOND READING.

THE MINISTER FOR MINES (Hon. E. H. Wittenoom): This is a short Bill to enable us to have a recognised time throughout the colony. The time fixed will be about 15 minutes ahead of the present Perth time, the actual time, I believe, being Yilgarn time. We shall then be exactly one hour in advance of South Australian time, and two hours in advance of Victorian and New South Wales time. I think hon. members will agree that it will be a great thing to have a standard and uniform time, especially if we can keep the clocks to it. I move the second reading of the Bill.

Question put and passed,

Bill read a second time.

### IN COMMITTEE.

The Bill was considered in Committee, agreed to without amendment, and reported.

## ADJOURNMENT.

The House, at 8.30 o'clock, p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, 16th July, 1895, at 4.30 o'clock, p.m.

## Legislative Council,

Tuesday, 16th July, 1895.

*Collie Coalfield: return as to—Days of Sitting—Export Duties Repeal Bill: third reading—Naval and Military Uniforms Bill: third reading—Excess Bill 1893-94: third reading—Standard Time Bill: third reading—Post Office Savings Bank Bill: second reading; committee; third reading—Federal Council Referring Bill: second reading; laid aside—Perth Mint Bill: first reading—Federal Council: appointments and resignations of members—Adjournment.*

THE PRESIDENT (Hon. Sir G. Shenton) took the chair at 4.30 o'clock p.m.

### COLLIE COALFIELD—RETURN AS TO.

THE HON. F. T. CROWDER moved that a return be laid upon the table showing—

1. What amount has been expended by the Government up to date on the Collie Coalfield.
2. The quantity of coal raised and cost per ton.
3. The quantity used by the Government, and the cost of same at per ton delivered at the Collie Railway Station.
4. What number of bores have been put down on the field, and what distances from the main workings.
5. The depth of such bores.
6. If any of the bores have passed through coal; and, if so, at what depth, and was the coal so passed through equal in quality to that now being raised from the main workings.
7. Have the Government received any fresh

report as to the quantity and quality of the coal; and, if so, when will such report be in the hands of members.

8. In case of Parliament sanctioning a railway to the Collie Coalfields, which route do the Government intend taking the line.

9. Should railway communication be established with the field, is it the intention of the Government to work the coal deposits.

10. What quantity of coal was imported by the Government for railway purposes during the past twelve months ending June 30th, 1895.

11. The cost per ton of same delivered on the Fremantle jetty.

Question put and passed.

#### DAYS OF SITTING.

THE MINISTER FOR MINES (Hon. E. H. Wittenoom) moved—"That, unless otherwise ordered, the Council do meet for the despatch of business on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, from 4.30 p.m. to 6.30 p.m., if necessary; and if requisite, from 7.30 p.m. onwards." He said: I make this proposition so that our days of meeting may be the same as those on which the Lower House meets. Although we appoint these as our sitting days, it is not necessary that we should always sit upon them. If there is no work to be done, of course, we need not sit.

Question put and passed.

#### EXPORT DUTIES REPEAL BILL.

##### THIRD READING.

This Bill was read a third time and passed.

#### NAVAL AND MILITARY UNIFORMS BILL.

##### THIRD READING.

This Bill was read a third time and passed.

#### EXCESS BILL 1893-4.

##### THIRD READING.

This Bill was read a third time and passed.

#### STANDARD TIME BILL.

##### THIRD READING.

This Bill was read a third time and passed.

#### POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANK BILL.

##### SECOND READING.

THE MINISTER FOR MINES (Hon. E.

H. Wittenoom): In moving the second reading of this Bill, I feel sure it will not take many words of mine to make it intelligible to hon. members. At present the rate paid by the bank is £3 15s. per cent., but money seems to be so plentiful in Western Australia that the Government find it hard to get this rate of interest themselves. It is not contemplated at present to reduce the rate payable to depositors in the Post Office Savings Bank, but the Government wish to have the power, if the rate of interest goes down, or if they are not able to invest the money remuneratively, to lower the rate payable to depositors. By Clause 4 the Governor-in-Council may from time to time give notice as to what the rate shall be, and when the notice is given that rate shall prevail for six months or more, but not for less. Clause 5 states that the Postmaster-General shall cause copies of this notice to be posted up at different places. This is virtually the whole Bill, and I now move that it be read a second time.

THE HON. F. T. CROWDER: I have much pleasure in seconding this motion, and I congratulate the Government on bringing forward the Bill. It has always been understood that Banks of this class are established to encourage thrift, but at the same time they must be conducted in a business way, and sentiment must not be allowed to come in. I think this Bank should pay its way, and should not become a charge on the taxpayers. In the present state of the money market, it is likely, if this Bill were not introduced, that the Post Office Savings Bank would be swamped with money, and the Government would not be able to deal with it at a percentage that would pay them. Besides this, I do not think that a Government Institution of this kind should be allowed to clash with the outside Banks. Even if the Government pay a quarter or a half per cent. less to depositors, they have the extra security in the Government being liable for the repayment of the money, which is better than having it in an institution which may at any time be reconstructed.

Question put and passed.

#### IN COMMITTEE.

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

The Standing Orders were suspended.

#### THIRD READING.

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

## FEDERAL COUNCIL REFERRING BILL.

## SECOND READING—ADJOURNED DEBATE.

THE MINISTER FOR MINES (Hon. E. H. Wittenoom) : I listened with considerable interest the other day to what was said by hon. members, and I am pleased to find that although they are opposed to the method of electing the representatives, they are not adverse to the Federal Council. There was some little difference of opinion as to the Federal Council itself. The Hon. Mr. Hackett said it was of little use ; it had no powers, and that he could not see much use in continuing its existence. The majority of hon. members, however, seemed to have different views, and considered that the Federal Council was such an important body that the greatest care should be taken in the selection of those who went to it. Thus there were two important differences of opinion expressed on this subject during the debate. I am inclined to agree with the majority of the House that care should be taken in the selection of the representatives who are sent to the Council. In the past I think care has been taken, and I hope it will be taken in the future. There are a great many advantages in connection with the Federal Council. Although it may be said to be an irresponsible body, it is a good thing to have it, if only for the purpose of enabling the politicians of the different colonies to meet together and discuss the more important questions which have bearings upon the whole of Australia. Even in small communities, if we can only get the people together, a conclusion is arrived at which is generally of great advantage to the district. How much more is this likely to be the case when we have the representatives of five or six colonies together, and who are able to discuss questions having an intercolonial bearing. If we take the subjects set forth in this Bill we all must agree that they are of great importance, and a great deal of good would be effected by having them discussed by statesmen of different colonies, who have different experiences, who hold different positions, and whose opinions have been formed under different circumstances and conditions. Therefore, I do not think this Federal Council is altogether useless. Further I may add, as I explained the other day, that any two Parliaments of colonies belonging to the Federal Council can pass an Enabling Bill, and so permit the Federal Council to deal with any

particular matter. Having dealt with it, it becomes law, and therefore it cannot be said that the body I refer to is altogether irresponsible. Whether the number of representatives sent from each colony is too many or too few, it is not my province to state ; suffice it, however, for me to say that the numbers hitherto sent from this colony have been approved by the House which represents the people, and therefore I take it that the numbers were in accordance with the wishes of the colony. The question of selection is an important one, but the mode of selection exercised here is that which prevails in the other colonies. It is laid down by law how the selection shall be made, and the law here is exactly the same as it is in the other colonies ; that is, that appointments shall be made by the Governor-in-Council. The method adopted here has also been much the same as that which prevails in the other colonies. The Premier, as a rule, has enquired as to who would care about going, and afterwards he has submitted the names for the approval of other members of the Cabinet.

THE HON. J. C. FOULKES : For the Convention of 1891 they were balloted for in the Assembly.

THE MINISTER FOR MINES (Hon. E. H. Wittenoom) : In the case I am speaking of the procedure is as I have stated it. After the Premier had mentioned the names they were approved of by the Executive Council.

THE HON. J. C. FOULKES : Not by all the members of the Executive Council.

THE MINISTER FOR MINES (Hon. E. H. Wittenoom) : The plan I mentioned was carried out, and although it gave a little trouble, it gave, I believe, general satisfaction.

THE HON. E. W. DAVIES : They were all selected by the same man.

THE HON. J. C. FOULKES : Mr. Parker said he was never consulted.

THE MINISTER FOR MINES (Hon. E. H. Wittenoom) : Whether he was consulted or not, I am not going to state. He is not here. I have not been requested to answer for him, and I shall not do so. The Government have no objection to change the method of selection of members to the Federal Council, and are perfectly willing to meet members of this House in the way they desire. To show what is intended to be done I have a written statement here which I will read, and which

can be put on record, so that there may be no mistake about it in the future. It is as follows :—

"All members of the Federal Council are appointed by the Governor in Executive Council.

"The Premier does not appoint.

"Messrs. Hackett, Loton, and Pearse were appointed on 6th December by the Governor-in-Council.

"The Governor, Sir J. Forrest, Mr. Burt, and Mr. Venn were present at the Council."

THE HON. J. C. FOULKES: Who recommended them to the Executive Council?

THE HON. D. K. CONGDON: The Colonial Secretary was not present.

THE MINISTER FOR MINES (Hon. E. H. WITTENOOM): No; I do not think I read his name out. It goes on to say :—

"The Government has no objection to members of the Federal Council being appointed by the Houses of Parliament.

"The Government will enter into correspondence with the other Governments of Australia, on the subject of uniformity of appointment of members. At present the law in all the colonies provides that the appointments are made by the Governor-in-Executive-Council.

"The present Government is quite willing, for the future, to arrange the appointments so that there shall be two from the Council and two from the Assembly, and to act in concert with the other Governments of Australia in providing for an uniform proceeding in making appointments."

From this hon. gentlemen will see that the Government have met them in the way they desire. There has been no desire in the past to make any special appointments, any more than there is a desire to do so in the future. The method of making the appointments in the past has certainly led to a little dispute and trouble, but I feel certain that if that had not arisen the system which obtained would have been allowed to go on still, without objection to it. It is like everything else; as long as things go on smoothly everything is right, but when anything arises in the shape of trouble, then an objection is raised. However, the House cannot but admit but that the Government is doing everything it can to meet hon. members' wishes.

THE HON. F. T. CROWDER: Can I speak again?

THE PRESIDENT (Hon. Sir G. Shenton): Better wait; you have the right of reply at the end of debate.

THE HON. D. K. CONGDON: I notice in the report of the debates of the Federal Council that Sir John Forrest said he did not think the method of appointment of members was exactly the correct one. By that he im-

plied it could be improved upon, and I think if what the Minister for Mines has read is followed out—I cannot say that I think it was followed out with regard to the last appointments—

THE MINISTER FOR MINES (Hon. E. H. WITTENOOM): I do not see how you can know.

THE HON. D. K. CONGDON: We can form a pretty good opinion. I say I think that if the course suggested is followed out in the future it will give more satisfaction than the method of appointment in the past. I hope the Hon. Mr. Crowder will be satisfied with the course the Government have taken.

THE MINISTER FOR MINES (Hon. E. H. WITTENOOM): I should like to apologise to the House for the omission the Hon. Mr. Parker complained of the other evening. That has been rectified to-day by sending in this notice of appointments and resignation. (See *post p.* 264.) The omission was quite an oversight

THE HON. H. MCKERNAN: I should just like to say in connection with this Bill that I am in favor of the amendment. The undertaking tendered to the House by the Minister for Mines is a very plausible one indeed, but we must remember that the present Government is not always going to be in office, and we must legislate for the future. There is hardly any reason to doubt but that this undertaking would be carried out to the letter if it rested with the present Government, but seeing, as I have said, that they will not always be in office, I think this amendment should be carried. It is a matter of history as to how this House has been treated. Undertakings have been given which have not been adhered to, and this House has, to some extent, been flouted. I hope the amendment will have the effect of preventing anything of the kind in the future.

THE HON. R. G. BURGESS: I shall support the amendment. It is a most important matter, and, as one hon. gentleman has already said, we must look to the future. Before a month is over we may have a fresh Government in office, and they may send two or three Freetraders to the Federal Council who would join with the other colonies in passing a measure which would throw open our ports. I should like to know what position our farmers would be in if this were done. I know for a fact that some of the gentlemen who went to the Council last year did not care

what was done, and they would have been willing to open our ports free to everything. That would have been a nice state of things for us, and therefore the sooner the House insists on this amendment the better.

THE HON. F. T. CROWDER: I have listened to the guarantee read by the hon. gentleman who represents the Government, and with all due respect to him, I cannot accept it. I shall therefore ask hon. members to vote for the amendment I have already moved. I do so for the simple reason that no future Government will be bound by the guarantee just read. I will go as far as to say that I honestly believe the Premier and the present Government would, if the power were left in their hands, appoint two delegates, as is desired by this House, the next time it is necessary to appoint any. But the meeting of the Federal Council will not take place for two years, and the present Government may not then be in office; and what I desire to see is an Act on the Statute Book definitely defining the powers of this House in regard to the appointments. When the Bill is before us we can say how we desire the members elected, and how many we wish them appointed. Before sitting down I must say that I cannot agree with the remarks of the hon. gentleman who represents the South-east Province—Mr. Hackett—when he said that this amendment would drive another nail into the coffin of the Federal Council. It means nothing of the sort. All I ask is, that before delegates are sent to discuss matters which are of great moment to this colony, this House shall be assured that it shall be properly represented, and if this means driving a nail into the coffin of the Council, then I have no objection to driving it. Again, I cannot follow the hon. gentleman when he said that my amendment does not go far enough. So enamoured is he with the rights of representation, that he said he would like to see the question of appointing the delegates sent to the taxpayers. This is what I want to stop. They might elect people, perhaps, who are not fit to discuss the matters which come before the Federal Council, or they might know nothing about the men they elected; and besides, we should have no say in the matter, because the members appointed by the taxpayers might not be members of this House. I thank hon. members for the support they have given me, and I am glad to see that they are in accord with my motion. I feel satisfied that one

critical member of this House can find no further fault with the amendment than that it is not grammatical and that I am jiggling to some one else's fiddling. I should like the hon. member to understand that it would be as well if he did not measure me by his own bushel, and to understand also that some members have minds of their own.

THE HON. E. W. DAVIES: I must say after listening to the arguments it occurs to me that we should be doing an injustice to ourselves if we did not take advantage of the opportunity we have and carry this amendment. The Minister for Mines has my greatest sympathy. This is the first Bill he introduced, and I am sorry it is not to pass, but I think we should not be doing justice to ourselves if we did not follow the amendment. We must assert our authority. There are not very many members of this House, and if we do not take advantage of our opportunity now, we shall be sorry for it in the future.

Amendment put and passed. Bill laid aside.

#### PERTH MINT BILL.

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

#### FEDERAL COUNCIL—APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS OF MEMBERS.

THE PRESIDENT (Hon. Sir G. Shenton): announced the receipt of the following message from His Excellency the Administrator:—

ALEX. C. ONSLOW,

Administrator,

In accordance with Section 5 of "The Federal Council (Adopting) Act. 1885," the Administrator has the honor to inform the Legislative Council that on the 6th December, 1894, the following gentlemen were appointed Members of the Federal Council of Australasia, viz.:

The Honourable John Winthrop Hackett, J.P., M.L.C.

William Thorley Loton, J.P., M.L.A.

William Silas Pearse, J.P., M.L.A.

On the 1st of January, 1895, the resignation of William Thorley Loton, J.P., M.L.A., was tendered and accepted, and on the 9th January, 1895, Henry Bruce Lefroy, J.P., M.L.A., was appointed in his stead.

Government House,

Perth 16th July, 1895.

## ADJOURNMENT.

The House at 5.20 o'clock p.m. adjourned until Tuesday, 23rd July, 1895, at 4.30 o'clock p.m.

## Legislative Assembly,

Tuesday, 16th July, 1895.

*Want of Confidence Motion—Cost of Construction of Subiaco Road—Introduction of a Fencing Bill—Collection of Stock and Crop Returns—Message from the Administrator: Appointments to Federal Council—Opening of lands for selection under the Homesteads Act—Water Supply in Tanks on Southern Cross Railway Line—Perth Mint Bill; third reading—Agent-General Bill; third reading—Depositing Stone, &c., in River: Message from Legislative Council—Licensed Surveyors Bill; second reading—Customs Duties Repeal Bill; second reading—Municipal Institutions Bill; first reading—Expenditure from Loans and Revenue upon Railways and Rolling Stock—Adjournment.*

THE SPEAKER took the chair at 4.30 p.m.

## PRAYERS.

## WANT OF CONFIDENCE MOTION.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest): Before proceeding with the questions, Sir, I should like to draw your attention to a notice of motion that has just been given by the hon. member for Albany, which, if it has the concurrence of my friend opposite, the leader of the Opposition, really, amounts to a vote of want of confidence in the Government. I should like to know whether the motion has received the concurrence of my hon. friend, because, if it has, I look upon it as a direct vote of want of confidence in the present Government; and it seems to me, Sir, altogether contrary to Parliamentary practice, for the Government to go on with the business of the country while a vote of want of confidence is pending. I do not know whether my friend

opposite is prepared to answer me. Of course, if he does not acquiesce in the motion which has been tabled by the hon. member for Albany, the Government are inclined to treat it as of little consequence. On the other hand, Sir, I would like to ask you how it is possible for the Government to go on with the business of the country when a motion, amounting to what may be regarded as a vote of want of confidence in it has been tabled? It appears to me most unusual that a notice of this sort should be given to be taken into consideration a week hence. How can the Government carry on the administration of the country while a vote of this kind is hanging over their heads? Perhaps the hon. member for Perth is in a position to assure me as to whether he is in accord with the motion or not. If he is not in accord with it, of course I will treat it merely as an ordinary motion by a private member, and will be prepared not to take any serious notice of it.

MR. RANDELL: Mr. Speaker,—Sir, I am sorry to find that the Premier has not quite recovered from his indisposition, as I notice he is still very hoarse in speaking. With regard to the question he has put to me, I am somewhat in a dilemma with regard to it. I think, however, I may say at once that the motion referred to has not my approval, in the shape in which it is presented to the House. At the same time, Sir, I would desire to express the strong feeling which I have that something should be done in the direction indicated in the motion; and, possibly, later on, I may see my way clear to move in that direction. But I am not prepared to take the responsibility at present, at any rate. How long I may occupy my present position of course, I am not able to say—if I find I have not the confidence of my colleagues on this side, I shall retire from the position; but, at present, I answer the Premier's question by saying that the motion has not my approval.

MR. LEAKE: Am I in order, Sir, in making a few observations?

THE SPEAKER: I think not.

MR. LEAKE: Merely this: the motion tabled by me was referred to by the Premier as a private member's motion, and I should like to say that the motion was the result of a meeting of certain members of this House.

MR. ILLINGWORTH: At which the leader of this side was present.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest): I have nothing further to say.