

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Friday, 19th September, 1879.

Coal Seam on the Upper Irwin—Message (No. 14) from His Excellency the Governor, re Duplicate Cable from Singapore to Port Darwin—Message (No. 15), acknowledging Addresses—Message (No. 16): Assenting to Bills—Right-of-way to Grants severed by the Eastern Railway Line—Stamp Duty Bill: first reading—Masters of Vessels Act, Repeal Bill: third reading—Adjournment.

THE SPEAKER took the Chair at 7 o'clock, p.m.

PRAYERS.

COAL SEAM ON THE UPPER IRWIN.

In reply to the question asked by MR. CROWTHER, on the 16th September,

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. M. Fraser) said the Government intended to have a close examination of the locality of the coal seam on the Upper Irwin made so soon as the state of the weather would admit, and, if such examination proved that it was desirable, would cause a further investigation by digging or boring. An item of £100 would be placed on the Estimates for such purpose.

MESSAGE (NO. 14): DUPLICATE CABLE FROM SINGAPORE TO PORT DARWIN.

MR. SPEAKER announced the receipt of the following Message from His Excellency the Governor:

"The Governor has the honor to forward for the consideration of Your Honorable Body a letter (15th July, 1879) from the Colonial Secretary, New South Wales, and the Chief Secretary, Victoria, urging that this Colony should contribute towards the Eastern Extension Telegraph Company, for a second cable to be laid from Singapore to Port Darwin, together with a memo. (10th September, 1879) by the Surveyor General on the subject.

"It appears to His Excellency that this Government can hardly withhold its acquiescence in an arrangement which has been concurred in by the rest of the Australian Colonies, and which will not entail a greater cost than £367 per annum, and if Your Honorable Body concurs in this view His Excellency will intimate to the

"other Colonies that Western Australia will join in the scheme.

"Government House, Perth, 18th September, 1879."

The consideration of this Message was made an Order of the Day for September 22nd.

MESSAGE (NO. 15): REPLY TO ADDRESSES.

MR. SPEAKER also announced the receipt of the following Message from His Excellency the Governor in reply to Addresses adopted by the House:

"The Governor has the honor to acknowledge the receipt from Your Honorable House of the following Addresses:—

"No. 6.—Requesting His Excellency to place on the Estimates a sum of £500, as a grant to the Municipal Council, Fremantle, for the improvement of a Public Park.

"No. 8.—Requesting His Excellency to introduce a Bill for regulating the sale of Poisons.

"No. 11.—Stating the views of Your Honorable Body, with respect to the appropriation of Waste Lands North of the 19th parallel.

"No. 12.—Expressing an opinion that no fee should be charged for the removal of timber, for the cutting of which a license fee has been paid.

"Nos. 14 and 15.—Stating the arrangements which Your Honorable Body considers desirable, with respect to the establishment of Steam Communication between this and the other Colonies.

"Nos. 16 and 17.—Stating the sums which in the opinion of Your Honorable Body it is desirable should be placed on the Estimates for the ensuing, and expended during the current year, on the upkeep of Roads.

"No. 18.—Expressing the wish of Your Honorable Body that certain provisions should be made in the Estimates for the ensuing year, for the introduction of Nominated and Coolie Immigrants.

"No. 18 A.—Stating the opinion of Your Honorable Body that it is undesirable that the Colony should at present contribute to the cost of a Colonial Museum in London.

"In reply, His Excellency has the honor to inform Your Honorable House that he has already given effect to the wishes of Your Honorable Body in respect to some of the foregoing Addresses, and that he will have much pleasure in complying with the prayer of the remainder.

"Government House, Perth, 19th September, 1879."

MESSAGE (NO. 16): ASSENTING TO BILLS.

MR. SPEAKER informed the House that he had received another Message from His Excellency the Governor as follows:—

"The Governor has the honor to inform Your Honorable House that he has assented, in Her Majesty's name, to the undermentioned Acts passed by the Legislature during the present Session:—

"18. *An Act to amend 'The Branding Consolidation Ordinance, 1864.'*"

"19. *An Act to consolidate and amend the Law for preventing Frauds upon Creditors by Secret Bills of Sale of Personal Chattels.*"

"20. *An Act to amend 'The Auctioneers Act, 1873.'*"

"Government House, Perth, 19th September, 1879."

RIGHTS OF WAY TO GRANTS SEVERED BY EASTERN RAILWAY.

MR. HARDEY, in accordance with notice, asked the Colonial Secretary by what means the Government—the Eastern Railway having severed the greater portion of the grants along the line—intended to give the proprietors of the grants so severed, a right of way between one portion and the other, and on what conditions?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy) replied as follows:—No general rule can be laid down; each case being considered by itself when the amount to be paid for land taken is under consideration, and the owner informed by the Commissioner of Railways what is intended to be done in respect to right-of-way, when making offer of compensation.

STAMP DUTY BILL.

A Bill intituled an Act to impose certain Stamp Duties, was read a first time, on the motion of the Colonial Secretary (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy).

THIRD READING.

The Masters of Vessels Act, Repeal Bill, 1879, was read a third time and passed.

The House adjourned at half-past seven o'clock, p.m.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Monday, 22nd September, 1879.

Assistant to Superintendent of Roads—Conveyance of Inland Mails by the Police and extension of the Money Order System: Report of Select Committee—Point of Order—Absconding Debtors Act, Amendment Bill: in committee—Message (No. 14): Subsidy of Duplicate Cable between Singapore and Port Darwin: considered in committee—Privileges granted to Pastoral Leaseholders: Report of Select Committee—Stamp Duty Bill: second reading—Adjournment.

THE SPEAKER took the Chair at 7 o'clock, p.m.

PRAYERS.

ASSISTANT TO SUPERINTENDENT OF ROADS.

MR. MONGER, in accordance with notice, asked the Colonial Secretary, if the Superintendent of Roads is accompanied by a Draftsman, Assistant, or other officer connected with the Works Department when travelling on duty; and, if so, what salary and allowances are paid to this second officer.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy) replied as follows:—Mr. Birch, the Draftsman in the Public Works Department, has been sent with Mr. Higman on his inspection of the Albany Road work. Mr. Higman has not been accompanied on any other occasion by a Draftsman, Assistant, or