

province of the other House to deal with. I move that the Bill be read a second time.

Question—put and passed.

#### ADJOURNMENT.

The Council, at 10:30 o'clock p.m., adjourned until Thursday, 5th October, at 4:30 o'clock p.m.

## Legislative Assembly,

Wednesday, 4th October, 1893.

Facilities for landing Live Stock at Fremantle—Report of the Locomotive Workshops Commission—Railways Act Amendment Bill: first reading—Constitution Act Amendment Bill: Conference with the Legislative Council—Stamp Act Amendment Bill: third reading—Eastern Railway Improvement Bill: third reading—Public Institutions and Friendly Societies Lands Improvement Act Amendment Bill: third reading—Mineral Lands Act Amendment Bill: third reading—Electoral Bill, 1893: second reading—Constitution Act Amendment Bill: Message from the Legislative Council—Loan Estimates, 1893-4: further considered in committee; transmitted to the Legislative Council—Bonus for production of payable Lead and Copper Ore—Native Troopers and Truckers for the Kimberley Districts—Government Advertisement in the *Argus* as to the best route to the Eastern Goldfields—Adjournment.

THE SPEAKER took the chair at 4:30 p.m.

#### PRAYERS.

#### FACILITIES FOR LANDING LIVE STOCK AT FREMANTLE.

MR. RICHARDSON, with leave, without notice, asked the Director of Public Works whether his attention had ever been drawn to the absence of any convenience, in any shape or way, for the shipping or landing of live or fat stock at Fremantle, or its neighbourhood?

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. H. W. Venn) said his attention had been very forcibly drawn, on the previous day, on the occasion of the shipping of some sheep, to the absence of facilities for such purposes at Fremantle; and he had issued instructions

that a portable race be at once made to provide such facilities. The demand, up to the present, for conveniences for loading sheep or stock had been very small—in fact, he might say that no such demand had been made—but he thought that improved facilities should be provided; and instructions to that effect had accordingly been issued.

#### REPORT OF THE LOCOMOTIVE WORKSHOPS COMMISSION.

MR. HARPER: Might I ask the Premier if he can give the House any information as to when the Locomotive Workshops Commission is likely to make its report?

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest): The report was sent in to me yesterday. I have not had time to read it yet. The evidence is very voluminous, and it will be impossible for me to have it printed before the end of the session. I shall be glad, however, to place the manuscript upon the table of the House for the information of members.

#### RAILWAYS ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Introduced by MR. VENN, and read a first time.

#### CONSTITUTION ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

##### CONFERENCE WITH THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

At five minutes to 5 o'clock p.m. the business of the House was suspended, and, the names of the Managers for the Conference with the Legislative Council upon the Constitution Act Amendment Bill having been called, the Managers withdrew.

At half-past 7 o'clock p.m. the House resumed.

The Managers having returned, Sir JOHN FORREST reported to the House that the Managers of the Assembly had acquainted the Managers of the Council that the Assembly hoped that the Council would recede from those of its amendments to which the Assembly had disagreed, but that the Managers for the Council had insisted upon their amendments.

Report adopted.

**STAMP ACT AMENDMENT BILL.**

Read a third time, and transmitted to the Legislative Council for their concurrence.

**EASTERN RAILWAY IMPROVEMENT BILL.**

Read a third time, and transmitted to the Legislative Council for their concurrence.

**PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS AND FRIENDLY SOCIETIES LANDS IMPROVEMENT ACT AMENDMENT BILL.**

Read a third time, and a Message transmitted to the Legislative Council informing them that the Assembly had agreed to the Bill without amendment.

**MINERAL LANDS ACT AMENDMENT BILL.**

Read a third time, and transmitted to the Legislative Council for their concurrence.

**ELECTORAL BILL, 1893.****SECOND READING.**

**THE PREMIER** (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) : I rise to move the second reading of a Bill to amend the Electoral Act of 1889. I regret, sir, that this very important Bill should not be in better hands than mine to pilot through this House, because not only is it a very important measure but also a measure that no doubt would have been better placed in the hands of someone learned in the law. But I may say this : I have given the matter a good deal of consideration, and I am acquainted with all the provisions of the Bill. I have also had the advantage of closely looking through the Bill with the Acting Attorney General, the present Colonial Secretary ; so that I hope, when we get into committee on the Bill—although I may, perhaps, have to ask the indulgence of members to some extent—I shall be able to explain, in some measure, or so far as it may be necessary, the main provisions of the Bill. I think it will be conceded by those who have closely looked into the Bill that it is a very simple one,—most important and very precise, but at the same time it is eminently simple. We have also had the great advantage, in dealing with this important matter, of having for our

guidance the most recent legislation on the subject adopted by the colony of Queensland, where my friend Sir Samuel Griffith, who is considered to be one of the ablest Parliamentary draftsmen in Australia, introduced and passed a similar measure into law as recently as last year. As our amended Constitution will be in all particulars—all important particulars, at any rate—the same as that of Queensland, we have a great advantage, I say, in having for our guidance an Electoral Bill drafted by so eminent a draftsman, and so recently dealing with this question. All at once it will occur to members that whatever may be necessary in connection with the registration of voters and with the compilation of the electoral roll will have already occurred to that experienced draftsman, and that he has already amply provided for it in the Bill of which this is a counterpart. We have not introduced, as members will notice, a new Electoral Act altogether, because we found that a great many of the provisions of our own existing Act were very good, and that it was not necessary, at the present time at any rate, to alter them. Therefore we propose an amendment of our own Act, as well as the adoption of the necessary provisions of the Queensland Act. We propose to omit the whole of the first part of our existing Act, and also a few other clauses, as stated in Clause 2 of the Bill. One thing will be noticed at once by members, and no doubt it will be to some extent a source of disappointment to them—that there is no provision in this Bill for the transfer of voters from one district to another. The fact of the matter is this : we found, after consultation with Sir Samuel Griffith and Sir Thomas McIlwraith, that in Queensland it had been found impracticable to deal with this question of transfers ; and we came to the conclusion that it was impracticable here. In the first place, to allow these transfers would be at once contrary to the new Constitution Act. The Bill we passed the other day provides that before a man can have his name on the electoral roll he must have been twelve months in the colony and six months within the district where he applies to have his name inserted. If that provision stands, how can you allow that man to have his name transferred to the

roll of another district, when he has not been six months in that district? So we came to the same conclusion as Sir Samuel Griffith and the present Premier of Queensland, Sir Thomas McIlwraith, did, that it was impossible to provide for these transfers; therefore no provision for them is made in this Bill. After all, I do not think there is so much in it as members sometimes are inclined to believe. There is a little hardship sometimes to persons who happen to change from one district to another, that they should have had the same privilege in one district and not in the other. But, after all, that is only a hardship should there be an election on; and elections do not come very often. As the Attorney General said once here, one would think from the arguments of some members that the only object a man had in coming to this colony was to have a vote. But we would have to provide elections for them, for elections do not, in the ordinary course, occur very often in this colony. We have only had one, I think, during the last three years; and it can be no great disappointment if a man should happen not to have a vote because he had transferred his residence from one district to another less than six months before an election takes place. I think that very few persons are likely to be inconvenienced in this way. After all I do not think it is a matter they would feel very much; because, when persons are travelling about and moving their quarters from one district to another, they have generally many other matters to think about besides getting on the electoral roll at once. Generally they have to look after things of more material concern to themselves. Although I am prepared to admit there is some hardship, which I would like to avoid, in being deprived of your vote in this way, still it does not often happen; and, as I have said, there is no getting over it. So long as the provision embodied in the Constitution Act prevails which says that a man must reside six months in the district, so long it must be impossible to place him on the roll by transfer. I may also point out that in this Bill we have provided, too, only for annual registration. In the colony of Queensland they have quarterly registration, but we have not considered it necessary at present to provide for this

frequent registration here. It incurs a great deal of trouble and expense. We should have to have Registrars appointed for no other purpose, all over the colony, who would have their work to do all the year round; and we do not think we need go at present to that expense and that trouble. Annual registration is, we think, under present circumstances, sufficient. It is found sufficient in municipal affairs, in which people generally take a great deal of interest, because municipal affairs affect their own pockets. With rate-payers we have only annual registration; and we thought that with our small population, some 60,000 or 65,000 all told, it was not necessary at present to go into a more elaborate system of registration in connection with Parliament. There will be no reason why we should not go into it by-and-bye; but at the present time, we thought it was quite unnecessary to have other than annual registration. I may point out that we have retained—it is perhaps unnecessary for me to tell members that—the main provisions of our existing Electoral Act, which will not be altered. One of them, and a very important one, which we do not touch by this Bill, is the system of providing for what I may call absentee voting. I really myself cannot see any good reason, nor have I ever heard any good reason, why a man should not be allowed to exercise this right. Some persons call it proxy voting, but it is not proxy voting at all; because voting by proxy is to get someone else to vote for you, whereas the practice I refer to is the voter's own deliberate act, just as if he were personally present at the election. The voter goes before a magistrate, obtains a voting paper, records his vote, and the magistrate there and then posts it; which is quite as deliberate an act as if the voter went to the polling booth in person. It must be remembered we are a scattered population, and have not the same facilities for travelling about as people have in older communities; and, so long as we retain the system of double or plural voting, so long I think you ought to give people this privilege of absentee voting. In Victoria they give it with one hand, and take it away with the other; if you are so many miles away you can vote in this way; but if you are beyond that distance you cannot. I think, if you grant the

privilege at all, you should give everyone the right of exercising it. Our present law allows it, and I have heard no good reason why it should not continue, so long as the system of plural voting exists. One of the most important provisions of the Bill, and, I think, one of the best provisions of the whole Bill so far as electors are concerned, is that which provides that all ratepayers already on the Municipal roll in towns, or who are on the electoral roll of a Roads Board district, will be entitled to have their names placed on the Parliamentary roll for that district, without any action on their part whatever. The clerk of the magistrates of any district, is, under this Bill, required to send in, and the clerk to the roads board of any district is required to send in, at certain times, to the Electoral Registrar, a list of all persons on the electoral roll, showing where they live, and their occupation, and the particulars of their qualification, and all other particulars showing their claim to be on the roll; and shall certify the same to be correct. This being done, the names of all these persons will be entitled to be placed on the electoral roll to be prepared under this Bill, for their respective districts, without any further trouble. I think that will be a great advantage, because there are so many persons in this colony, although entitled to a vote; who will not go to the trouble of having their names put on the roll. The effect of this provision will be that all persons in Perth and all other towns in the colony who are on the municipal roll will also be on the electoral roll. If the rateable value of their property is £25 and upwards they will be placed on the electoral roll for the Upper House; and, if they are ratepayers at all they will be on the electoral roll for the Legislative Assembly. That arrangement, as I have said, will be a great advantage, because we shall then know that we shall get all the ratepayers at any rate upon these new electoral rolls. This is no new idea on our part. We borrowed it from the colony of Victoria. I believe that is the only colony where it is adopted; and, it is said by those acquainted with the matter, that it has proved of the greatest boon, and of the greatest good, because all that is best in the colony becomes in this manner represented on the electoral rolls of the colony. Therefore

we propose to adopt the same system here, and include in the electoral roll all whose names are on the rolls of the various Municipalities, or on the rolls of the various Roads Boards, throughout the colony, which, I think, cannot fail to have a great influence for good. I will now deal with some of the principal clauses of the Bill. I do not intend to say very much about them at this stage, because, when we go into committee I will be able to deal with each clause as we come to it. In the first place, I may say that there is to be a Registration Court appointed for each electoral district. Clause 7 provides for the constitution of these Courts. It says: "The Registration Court shall be constituted as follows:—"  
 "(a) The Special Magistrate; or (b) any "Police or Resident Magistrate; or (c) "any two or more Justices of the Peace "for the colony; or (d) any two or more "persons appointed by the Governor in "Council to perform the duties and exercise the powers of the Court; or (e) "all or any two or more of the above-mentioned persons." Provision is also made for the appointment of the chairman of the Court, and the decision of the majority of the members is to be the decision of the Court; and, in estimating the majority the chairman is to have a vote, and, when the numbers are equal, a casting vote. Clause 10 provides for what I have just referred to, as to placing the names of ratepayers on the electoral rolls. It says: "The clerk of "every local authority in Western Australia shall, during the month of January in every year, make out a list to "be called 'The List of Ratepayers,' containing in alphabetical order of surnames the name of every male person "whose name appears in the Electoral or "Voters' Lists of such local authority." I may say that, in the interpretation clause, the "local authority" is defined to mean "the Council of a Municipality, or the Road Board of a Road District." In Clauses 14, 15, 16, and 17 it is clearly defined what any other person claiming to be on the roll has to do. In the first place he has to make his claim upon a prescribed form, and he has to answer certain questions which appear on the form, and to make a declaration to the effect that the answers given are true. The questions relate to his age, occupa-

tion, place of abode, particulars of his qualification, his birthplace, and the length of his residence in the colony. Clause 17 says: "The claim must be signed by the claimant, with his own hand, and be declared before, and attested by, a Justice of the Peace, or an Electoral Registrar, or the head male teacher of a Government school, or an Inspector, Sub-Inspector, or Sergeant of Police, or a Postmaster, each of whom is hereby authorised to take such declaration." Clause 18 provides what the Justice of the Peace or other person attesting the claim has to do. It says: "The Justice or other person attesting the claim shall, if he is not personally acquainted with the facts, satisfy himself by inquiry from the claimant or otherwise that the answers to the questions are true, and shall sign at the foot of the claim a certificate in the following form, or to the like effect, that 'is to say;—I, J.P. [or as the case may be] hereby certify that the above-named A. B. has satisfied me, after full inquiry, that he possesses the qualification above stated.' It will be seen that we make provision that these claims are not to be attested unless the magistrate or other person attesting them is satisfied, after full inquiry, that the claimant possesses the qualification which he says he possesses. There is a penalty not exceeding £50 upon any person who certifies to a claim "without personal knowledge or full inquiry." I do not think it will be necessary to have this penalty in the case of Justices, but still there it is; and it will make those who are authorised to attest these claims careful before they do so. I think this is very necessary, unless we are to have claims admitted indiscriminately. Clause 22 is a very important one. It defines what are the duties of the Electoral Registrars. It says: "Between the first and fifteenth days of February in each year the Electoral Registrar for every district shall examine the electoral rolls then in force for the Province and District respectively, and after inquiry of the residents in the District, and the inspection of the lists of ratepayers of any local authority furnished as aforesaid, lists of lessees and licensees of Crown lands, and any other documents accessible to him, shall place the word

"dead' against the name of every person named in any such roll whom he has reason to believe to be dead, the word 'left' against the name of every person whose qualification is residence whom he has reason to believe to have left the District, and the word 'disqualified' against the name of every person whom he has reason to believe to have no qualification or to be disqualified." The Registrar cannot himself strike anyone's name off the roll. He has to send a notice to any person whose name it is intended to omit from the roll,—

MR. SIMPSON: To a dead man?

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest): He has to send the notice anyhow, to the usual or last known place of abode of any man whose name it is proposed to be omitted. This notice will be to the effect that unless the person whose name is about to be omitted proves, on oath, to the satisfaction of the next Registration Court that his qualification is still subsisting, his name will be struck off the roll. A list of all persons whose names it is proposed to be omitted has to be published by the Registrar. Then the Registrar has to prepare the electoral list for his district, showing all persons qualified, or claiming to be qualified to vote for a member to serve in the Legislative Council, and another list dealing in the same way with those entitled to vote for the Legislative Assembly. Clause 26 tells you the form in which these lists are to be prepared. Clause 29 describes the mode of making objections. It says: "Any person named in any Electoral Roll for the time being in force in any Province or District objecting to any other person as not entitled to have his name retained on any Electoral List for such District, may, on or before the seventh day of March in every year, give or transmit by post to the Electoral Registrar, a notice in writing," according to a prescribed form. Then the Registrar has to give notice in writing to the person objected to, setting forth the objection made, in order that the man may have an opportunity of proving his right to have his name retained on the roll. Clause 32 and the next succeeding clauses deal with the revision of the electoral lists by the Registration Court for each district. Members will notice that there is great power

given to these Courts, but not more than necessary. Everything is done in a systematic way. They have only to inquire into the cases that come before them, or, by Clause 33, they can correct any mistake or supply any omission which appears to have been made in the list, in respect of the name or place of abode of any person included in the list, or the nature or description of his qualification. Then we come to Clause 36, which deals with the method of compiling the electoral rolls, after the electoral lists have been revised. The Registrar of the district has to make this compilation, and to send the roll to the Returning Officer. Clause 39 deals with the duration of rolls. It says: "The annual Legislative Council roll, compiled as aforesaid, shall be the Roll of Electors entitled to vote in the Electoral Province at all elections of members to the Council held between the first day of June, inclusive, in the year in which the roll was, or ought to have been compiled, and the thirty-first day of May, inclusive, in the next year, and the annual Legislative Assembly roll, compiled as aforesaid, shall be the roll of electors entitled to vote in the said district at all elections of members to the Assembly held between the same days; and the said rolls respectively shall, except as by this section is provided, be during that period conclusive evidence of the title of every person therein named to vote." There are some provisos as to disqualifications; and the old rolls are to continue in force until the new ones are complete. Clause 43 makes provision for facilitating the holding of the first general election under the new Act. It may be necessary to have this first election held earlier than the date ordinarily provided for holding such elections; and therefore power is given in this Bill, as is given in the existing Act, for the rolls to be made up earlier than they would be in the ordinary course of events. The next clause, and the succeeding clauses, deal with some minor points connected with the conduct of elections, which are already provided for in our existing Act. For instance, the same person may be appointed Returning Officer for any one or more district, and provision is made for the appointment from time to time of polling places

for any district; and when a larger number of electors is likely to vote at a polling place than can conveniently vote in one polling-booth, the Returning Officer may appoint other polling-booths at the same polling place. Clause 48 is an important one. It provides that any candidate, after nominating himself, may retire from his candidature, provided he gives, not later than two clear days after the day of nomination, a notice to the Returning Officer, notifying his retirement from the contest. In that case the retiring candidate saves his deposit of £25, which candidates are required to make under our existing Act. Clause 49 provides a number of questions which Returning Officers are empowered to put to voters, such as "Have you been within the last nine months *bonâ fide* resident for a period of one month within this electoral district?" That is where a person claims to vote in respect of the qualification of residence. This is a clause that is found in the Queensland Act. Clause 50 deals with the consequence of not giving satisfactory answers to the prescribed questions. There are several other provisions under this part of the Bill, which I need not refer to at present. Then we come to Clause 58 and the following clauses, which deal with offences under the Act. There are penalties for intrusion into polling booths, and interfering with the presiding officer or the electors actually voting; and penalties for interrupting, obstructing, or disturbing the proceedings at an election. There is also a penalty of £50 for wilful neglect on the part of an Electoral Registrar in the performance of his duties; and a penalty of £100 for any undue influence at an election by public officers concerned in the election. There is also a penalty, and a very high one, in the case of wilful neglect on the part of Returning Officers, or refusal to perform any of the duties imposed upon them under the Act. These penalties are made so high, I presume, in order to make these officers careful, and to secure the purity of elections, as far as possible. Clause 64 provides a penalty in the case of persons who wilfully mislead the Electoral Registrars. It says: "Every person who wilfully misleads any Electoral Registrar in the compilation or preparation of any list, or who wilfully inserts or causes to be inserted

"therein any false or fictitious name or qualification, shall on summary conviction of any such offence be liable to a penalty not exceeding Twenty pounds, or to be imprisoned for any period not exceeding three months." That is a stringent clause, but the next one is still more so. It provides that "Every person who—"  
 "(1) wilfully makes a false answer to any of the questions hereinbefore authorised,  
 "or (2) wilfully makes a false declaration when required to make a declaration under this Act, or (3) wilfully makes any false statement in any claim to be inserted in an Electoral List, or (4) wilfully makes any false statement, orally or in writing, in any Registration Court, in anywise affecting or relating to the qualification of himself or any other person, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanour, and on conviction thereof shall suffer the penalties for wilful and corrupt perjury." Under the next part of the Bill, power is given for remunerating Returning Officers and Electoral Registrars for the performance of their duties, and also for remunerating Municipal and Road Board clerks for preparing the ratepayers' lists for the use of the Registrars. I think I have now dealt with the principal provisions of the Bill. I believe that, the more members look at it, the more will they be satisfied that the object of the Bill is to give to every person who is entitled to a vote under the Constitution Act an opportunity of recording his vote without any unnecessary restriction. It also just as clearly seeks to prevent persons who are not qualified to vote from voting; and I think no one can complain of that. While we want to give everyone who is entitled to vote an opportunity of exercising that privilege, we also want to be equally strict in preventing persons who are not qualified from exercising that privilege. As I said before, we are fortunate in having for our guidance, in framing this Bill, the Queensland Act, which was only revised last year. That Act was gone into carefully and thoroughly, and we have profited by the experience of that colony. All the difficulties which we would have had to find out for ourselves had been found out for us, and the remedies also provided. I have taken a great deal of interest in this matter for a long time. I have been

studying the Electoral Acts of all the Australian colonies, and I think that this one of Queensland is far more simple and more precise than any that I have had brought under my notice. As I said at the beginning, I shall be glad, when we go into committee, to do my best to explain anything that may be required by hon. members; but I have no hesitation in commending the Bill most strongly to the favourable consideration of the House. I now beg to move its second reading.

MR. DEHAMEL: I do not think it will be necessary for me or any member of this House to criticise this Bill before its second reading. It is certainly one of the most carefully considered Bills that have been presented to this House. In fact it is a treat to deal with a Bill like this, which I consider a great credit to the draftsman. But there is one thing I am sorry to see: it contains no provision for the transfer of voters. At the same time this transfer of voters will not affect the making up of the register for the next ensuing election, which must soon take place; and, possibly, before any other election takes place, the Electoral Act may be amended, to provide for the transfer of voters in the future. Of course, the Bill having only recently been placed before us, I do not suppose any one of us has thoroughly considered it; but, in committee, I dare say, we shall rectify any small blemishes there may be upon the Bill. I am very glad to support the second reading of such a Bill.

MR. CONNOR: I do not intend to oppose the second reading, but I would like to draw the attention of the Government to some anomalies in the present electoral arrangements, more especially as regards the North. The district which I represent is not, I am sorry to say, a very important one from an electoral point of view at present—I mean we have not many electors; but we hope to increase in importance in that respect in the future. What I wish to point out is, that at present, so far as I know, the bulk of the electors of the district have to travel about 240 miles to enable them to have their names placed on the electoral list.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest): We can alter that, under this Bill, easily.

MR. CONNOR: I only wish to point out the difficulties we have been under,

up to the present. I am glad to hear that this Bill will relieve us from the disabilities we have been placed in this respect, and for that reason I shall be very happy to support it.

MR. R. F. SHOLL: I think the Government is to be congratulated on having brought in such a well-considered and well-thought-out measure as that before us. I think this Bill deals satisfactorily with many of the objections, and with many of the difficulties that were found in working under the old Act. At the same time, even in this Bill, I see a difficulty in enabling electors to record their votes in the more scattered districts of the colony. Of course, polling places cannot be established every few miles, all over the sparsely populated pastoral districts of the colony. Neither can magistrates be always obtained for attesting people's votes. I understand that even under this Bill, if you are too far from a polling place to attend in person, you have to go before a magistrate, or some other person authorised by the Governor-in-Council, to have your vote attested before it can be forwarded to the polling place. I know it is most difficult, in the Northern parts of the colony, for people to record their votes, for the reason I have alluded to. It is almost impossible in many cases to obtain a magistrate or a justice for this purpose; and it is almost too much to expect that the Government can foresee the requirements of every part of the colony, and appoint persons to take the votes of every one on the roll. Although I notice that other facilities are given under this Bill for persons to get on the roll, still I see a difficulty in the way of many voters, especially in the northern parts of the colony, being able to record their votes on the day of the election. It has always been a reproach against the Northern districts that they contained so few voters. But it should not be forgotten the difficulties that lie in the way of people entitled to votes even getting their names on the roll, and the still greater difficulty in the way of recording their votes. Even in our towns, where none of these difficulties exist, we know that many people are very apathetic in this respect, and do not care to go out of their way to record their votes. Can it be wondered at that in

the Northern districts of the colony, where, as has been pointed out to-night, people have to travel hundreds of miles before they can get their names on the roll—can it be wondered at that there should be so few voters in those districts? I should like also to have seen in this Bill, under the manhood suffrage clause, that within a radius of five or six miles personal registration of voters should be insisted upon—that is, that those who wanted to get on the roll should personally apply to get their names inserted. It would be no hardship to a man, only a few miles from the place of registration, to insist upon his making a personal application to have his name placed on the roll, if he wanted a vote. I should like to see a small fee charged for registration, let it be ever so small. I think that the man who would go to the trouble of personally applying for a vote, and who would not begrudge paying say a shilling for the privilege, would be worthy of the privilege. But I think the man who is content to leave it to other people to get him on the roll, and will not trouble himself at all about it, ought to be left out. There may be difficulties in the way of carrying out what I have suggested. No doubt the Government have considered the matter, if they have gone into the matter thoroughly, as I understood the Premier to say he had. But I think this Bill would have been a better Bill, if it made some provision for meeting the difficulties I have referred to.

MR. SIMPSON: I am sure the Government are to be congratulated on the careful and precise measure they have put before the House in the present Bill. I think it goes much further to support the Constitution Act than the existing Electoral Act. To my mind the schedules of the existing Act entirely cheat the lodger voter out of his vote. It may have been done unintentionally, but the fact remains. Admirable, however, as this Bill is in many respects, I am sorry to say it has some blemishes in my eyes. I regret to see that the £25 deposit, in the case of candidates at elections, is still insisted upon in the present Bill. I think it is unnecessary, and I think it is an anomaly. After abolishing the property qualification of candidates, why should we still insist upon a man finding £25 at election times, before he can become a



candidate for a seat in Parliament? I know it will be alleged that the reason is to prevent people putting up bogus candidates for the sake of harassing *bond fide* candidates. I admit there is something in that. But seeing that it has been abolished, within the last seven years, in most communities—

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest): Not in Victoria and Queensland, anyhow.

MR. SIMPSON: What I say is this: we have liberalised the franchise, and we have abolished the property qualification of members, and I think we would have acted more logically if we had also abolished this other relic of past days, the £25 deposit. It secures no advantage to the public.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest): In keeps away fellows who know they have no chance.

MR. SIMPSON: If anyone is really desirous of being a candidate for a seat in this House, is he likely to be kept away for the sake of £25? Why not insist that he shall be worth £25 in landed property?

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest): He has to pay it down. It is only a deposit.

MR. SIMPSON: I say we are distinctly departing from the principle of our amended Constitution. We profess to have abolished the property qualification, yet here we have a remnant of it. We have abandoned the position that a candidate must have property in land, but we insist upon his having property in sovereigns, to the extent of £25 at any rate. And we may rest assured that a man is not going to put his bottom dollar down, on the chance of its being returned to him or not. Another practice that I am sorry to see continued in this Bill is that of proxy voting. The Premier told us it was not proxy voting, but simply absentee voting, to enable the man residing some distance from the ballot box to go and record his vote before a justice of the peace, who will post it for him. That is the theory of it. That may be the theory of it, but what is it in practice? I will give the hon. gentleman an illustration. I have had some little personal experience of how this proxy voting theory works out in practice. When I had the honour of being elected to a seat in this House three

years ago, five proxies were received by the Returning Officer at that election, and one certainly—perhaps two—were from Ministers of the Crown.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest): How can you tell that?

MR. SIMPSON: Excuse me.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest): I won't excuse you. Proxy voting is as secret as the ballot.

MR. SIMPSON: There is very little secret about proxy voting. Not only were two of these proxy votes from Ministers of the Crown, but three out of the five were informal. I know of an election in this colony, within the last five years, where an elector not very far off went to get 33 proxies. They said to him, "Who are they for?" "Oh," he said, "a friend of mine;" and he got those 33 intelligent electors to go before a local justice and vote for the candidate he asked them to vote for. We are told that this Bill has been largely adopted—

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest): It is not in this Bill at all; it is in the old one.

MR. SIMPSON: I am aware of that. We are told by the Premier that this Bill has been largely adopted as the result of the wide experience and legal knowledge of that eminent statesman, Sir Samuel Griffith. I ask him wherever did Sir Samuel Griffith support proxy voting? Here we propose to enable men to vote, right away from the influence of local public feeling and local public opinion, and go to a magistrate, possibly hundreds of miles away from the scene of the election, and there vote by post for Mr. Jones, or Mr. Brown, or Mr. Robinson—it does not matter much which. I say that the admission of this principle into our electoral law is a distinct blot upon it. Another blot on this Bill, as I have said—and I say it again—is to continue the present practice of insisting upon every candidate for a seat in Parliament to deposit his £25 with the Returning Officer before he can seek the suffrages of his fellow-men. The very basis of this new Constitution Act is that property shall not be an essential qualification for either the Upper or the Lower House, and that manhood alone shall be the simple essential. That is the principle. Now we are going to insist that, instead of a candidate having a certain amount of land, he shall have seven

ounces of gold. What is the difference? Is it logical? I think it will be admitted that almost every man—nine out of ten men—could rake up £25; but it is the principle of the thing that I object to, as illogical and inconsistent with the fundamental principle of our new Constitution. So far as I have seen the working of the principle in this colony, one of the best men that ever stood in the public interest in this colony, a man we all know and all respect, through being rejected, had to forfeit his £25. In that case this deposit system simply did an act of injustice to a good and upright man, who, if he had polled another vote, would have saved his £25. I think the Bill is a carefully compiled one, and it is practically a democratic Bill, with the exceptions I have indicated. I do not know of any other part of the world where that system of proxy voting exists.

**THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest):** The hon. member can call it proxy voting, but it is not so.

**MR. SIMPSON:** It has been so known in this colony up to the present.

**MR. A. FORREST:** It is absentee voting.

**MR. SIMPSON:** The hon. member says it is absentee voting. The hon. member desires to perpetuate absenteeism in this form. As I have said before, I think the Bill is a carefully compiled Bill, and likely to be useful to the country; but it has the two great blemishes I have referred to: it continues property qualification in a different form, and perpetuates on the statute-book the system of proxy voting.

**MR. A. FORREST:** I also congratulate the Government on bringing into this House a Bill that, I believe, will be acceptable to all the members of the House. We are not surprised to find the hon. member for Geraldton twisting and turning round, on most occasions, in this House.

**MR. SIMPSON:** It is not very manly to attack a man when you know he cannot reply.

**MR. A. FORREST:** The hon. member objects to a candidate having to make a deposit of £25, but I think all other members will agree that, if you have to fight a man at an election, you want to fight someone who is likely to come pretty

close up to you. You don't want to fight a man of straw, or a man who is not likely to get two or three votes, and who is simply put up to harass you and annoy you. I am sorry myself that this £25 is not £50. Unless you have this deposit, *bonâ fide* candidates will be put to a lot of trouble and expense for nothing by having to fight with opponents who are put forward simply to harass them, although they have not the slightest shadow of a chance of being elected. I believe that deposits are required in England—I have read of their being forfeited; and if we follow the English practice we cannot go very far wrong. The other objection which the hon. member has to the Bill is because it continues what he calls the system of proxy voting. I think the Premier has explained that it is not proxy voting at all. It is adopted in the interests of those who have a stake in the country, by allowing them to go before a magistrate to record their votes, if they have property in the district where the election takes place, without compelling them to go a long way to do so in person. I am sure no one can object to anyone living in Perth, who has property at Roebourne, or the Gascoyne, or the Murchison, being able to record his vote without having to go all that distance to do it. It is the same under the present Act. If the Government had introduced the "one man one vote" principle into this Bill, I am sure it would not have passed. The good sense of the people of the colony would not have allowed us, at any rate at the present time, to come down to the "one man one vote" idea. They feel that those who by their industry and energy have been able to acquire a little property in another district of the colony, should have a voice in the selection of the representative of that district. What is the difference, whether he puts his voting paper in the box himself, or goes before a magistrate and gets him to send it by post? No one knows for whom he votes, any more than if he put his voting paper in the ballot box himself. I say the Bill is a good one, and I believe it meets the wishes of both sides of the House. It is a liberal Bill, and it will be a serviceable Bill; and, so far as I am concerned, I have not the slightest fault to find with it at all.

MR. TRAYLEN: The hon. member for West Kimberley has suggested that the deposit required of candidates should be increased to £50; but I think £25 is sufficient. I must admit I never heard so strong an argument against having a deposit at all as we heard this evening from the hon. member for Geraldton; but I think the case he referred to was an exceptional case. There is so much, too, to be said on the other side, against those who are not likely to receive some measure of support coming forward to harass *bonâ fide* candidates. I think the community—putting it on a rather low ground—should protect itself against the expense of having to print ballot papers with the names of candidates who are not *bonâ fide* candidates, but who are simply put forward with the view of harassing other candidates. I must hold to the £25, although I must admit that the hon. member for Geraldton made out a very strong case against it. I can only think it was a very unique case the hon. member quoted, one that will very seldom be paralleled. I think the hon. member for East Kimberley (Mr. Connor) also made a good point, when he spoke of the difficulty of persons residing scores and hundreds of miles from a registrar, in getting their names on the roll. The Government have provided for this in the present Bill, but, I think by an oversight which can easily be remedied in committee, they have almost nullified their good intentions in this respect. I will read Section 14, which says: “A “person claiming to have his name inserted in the Electoral List of voters “for an Electoral District or for an “Electoral Province in respect of any “qualification to vote for such Province, “situate or arising in such district, may “deliver his claim, or send it by post to “the Electoral Registrar for such district.” It will be seen that the person claiming may either deliver his claim personally—that is one method—or he may send it by post. In some districts of the colony postal communication is very imperfect and uncertain. Why should a man not be allowed to send his claim by a messenger, or any other way, so long as the claim is delivered? I join with those who have expressed regret that this Bill does not make any provision for transfers. The Premier says it would be im-

possible to do so, or that it has been found impossible to do so in Queensland. Personally, I firmly believe it would have been one of the easiest things in the world to do, and I am sorry that the Ministry have not seen their way clear to insert the few simple words which would have got over it.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest): What about the Constitution Act, which provides that the voter must have resided six months in the district?

MR. TRAYLEN: The Constitution Act provides that before you shall get on the roll at all you shall have resided so long in the colony, and so long in the district where you claim to have your name put on the roll. But, what I say is this: once having got on the roll, there is no reason that I can see at all why there should not be a provision inserted that, as you move from district to district, you may take your credentials with you, and vote where you go to.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest): Sir Samuel Griffith says it cannot be done, and Sir Thomas McIlwraith, too.

Motion put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

#### CONSTITUTION ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

#### MESSAGE FROM LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL RE CONFERENCE.

The following Message was received from the Legislative Council:—

“*Mr. Speaker,*

“The Legislative Council acquaints the Legislative Assembly that it does not now insist on its amendments in ‘The Constitution Act Amendment Bill,’ in respect of which a conference was invited by the Legislative Assembly. The Legislative Council requests that the Bill may be returned forthwith.

“GEO. SHENTON,

“President.

“Legislative Council Chamber,  
“Perth, 4th October, 1893.”

Ordered—That a Message be transmitted to the Legislative Council, returning the Bill as requested.

#### LOAN ESTIMATES, 1893-4.

The House went into committee for the further consideration of the Loan Estimates.

**Vote—Salaries, £20,435 2s. :**

MR. DEHAMEL said this was an enormous sum for salaries to officers to supervise the loan expenditure for one year. Were all these officers necessary? He understood, last year, that they were only temporary hands, but there seemed to be just as many as ever.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) said a great many had been knocked off since last year, as the hon. member would see if he referred to the second and third columns of the return, on page 4. On the Estimates for the half year ended June 30 last, there were 112 officers provided for, whereas on the present Estimates there were only 78 officers provided for, for the whole year.

MR. MOLLOY pointed out that the estimated expenditure for last year was £640,000, and it was estimated that the amount required for salaries to supervise that expenditure would be £13,605, out of which only £8,931 had been actually expended. Now, no less than £20,435 was asked for to supervise an expenditure of a lesser sum. He should like some explanation why this should be necessary.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. H. W. Venn) said he was afraid he must be a little dense, as he could not quite follow the hon. member. Although the works for which votes were taken last year were not absolutely carried out, still a very large proportion of the expenditure on salaries was incurred in paying temporary officers who were employed in getting the work ready,—in preparing plans, etc., for the proposed undertakings. That, he thought, was clearly shown by the Estimates.

MR. A. FORREST said what they wanted to know was, what all these officers were now wanted for,—all these engineers and assistant engineers, and engineering surveyors, and assistant engineering surveyors, and land surveyors? Where were they all to be employed? Were they all employed on the Yilgarn Railway, or the Mullewa Railway, or where? The Mullewa Railway passed through no freehold land, nor the Yilgarn Railway either; and therefore no land surveyors were required in connection with those lines. Why did the Government want them to vote all this money to pay land surveyors?

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) said the money would not be used unless it was wanted.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. H. W. Venn) said it would be impossible to give on these Estimates all the information which the hon. member asked for, as to the actual work upon which every one of these officers would be engaged. Such a thing was not done anywhere; but he was quite prepared to give every information as to how every individual officer on these Estimates was engaged. So far as surveyors were concerned, the Government required very accurate surveys made of all lands resumed for railway purposes, and this involved a considerable expenditure. Until the present Engineer-in-Chief came here, we actually never had proper surveys of lands taken for railway purposes, and many people did not know where their boundaries were.

MR. MOLLOY said the loan expenditure for the previous year was £200,000, while the cost of supervision was £8,931. Now it was proposed to increase it by £12,000.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. H. W. Venn) said that the estimated expenditure last year was £640,000, while the estimated cost of supervision was the figure stated by the hon. member. But a good deal of this was expended in preparing indents of material outside the colony, and fixing quantities.

MR. R. F. SHOLL inquired how long the dredge *Premier* would be retained at Albany, as there were other pressing dredging works required in other parts of the colony.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. H. W. Venn) said that up to the present the dredge had been engaged in forming a channel in Princess Royal Harbour, 300ft. wide and 30ft. deep. That was practically completed, but it was in contemplation to widen the channel to a width of 600ft. At present she was deepening the approach to the town jetty, and it was found that this work would take longer than they had anticipated, because the bank or obstruction she had to remove was not pure sand, and was held in solution, and the work did not make such rapid progress as it otherwise would. Still it was very neces-

sary work. So far as he was at present advised, when this approach to the town jetty at Albany was completed, it was intended that the dredge should proceed to Fremantle, or some other part of the colony, where harbour improvements were desirable.

MR. RICHARDSON asked when the dredge was likely to be at liberty to be engaged on the proposed river improvements at Fremantle, in connection with the harbour works scheme, which, he believed, was the work she was principally imported for.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. H. W. Venn) said that at the present moment they had the Priestman grabber being erected at Fremantle, for work at the river bar, and they expected to be able to increase the depth of water across the bar to enable the *Premier* to get inside the bar, to commence operations there. He was not advised at present how long it would take before this could be done, but he did not think it would be any great length of time, although the Engineer-in-Chief was not particularly anxious to undertake any large dredging operations in this locality before the mole now in course of construction was farther out into the sea. Still, for all that, active preparations were being made, so that when the inside was sufficiently protected, and a passage across the bar prepared, no time should be lost in proceeding with dredging operations inside the bar.

MR. LOTON said he noticed that estimated expenditure in connection with loans for the next twelve months was £903,181. Were all our outstanding liabilities included in that amount, including the stores account? This stores account was very difficult to follow under the present system, and he was not sure whether the Director of Public Works himself knew what all the outstanding liabilities of his department were. He was not himself aware that this amount, large as it was, included everything.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. H. W. Venn) said that under the system of keeping the public accounts it was impossible for him to give the hon. member such information as he would like. He did not quite recognise these stores in the same light as his hon. friend the Treasurer did.

These items did not become chargeable to a vote until they were issued.

THE PREMIER (Hon Sir J. Forrest) said he did not profess to quite understand the system of Railway Stores Account, but it was a system that had been in force for some years, and he thought it worked fairly well, without unduly interfering with the working of the department. It probably tended to economy that these stores should be regarded as part of the Treasury assets. He believed the system was capable of being made to work well; at any rate, he intended to look into it himself as soon as he had time. As to these Loan Estimates, no doubt these figures looked somewhat formidable, and members might, perhaps, not be able to grasp them without some difficulty. But, the truth of the matter was, these Loan Estimates had always been a source of trouble; the items were so big, and covered so many different items, and so many persons were employed, it was difficult for any member to offer an opinion upon them. The present Government had improved a little upon them, he thought, though, perhaps, not very much. Still they were better than they used to be, and certainly conveyed more information to members. At the same time they were not what they ought to be, and he must see if he could not get some more information furnished to members next time. In South Australia, their Loan Estimates were in the same form as ours but they gave the name of every officer. He did not know that that was any great advantage, as the money had to be paid just the same. But he thought that probably some further information might be given as to the occupation of these officers—not individually, perhaps, but in batches. He hoped another year to have both the Loan Estimates and the ordinary Estimates ready to be laid on the table of the House at an earlier period of the session—soon after the House met, in fact; rather than have the trouble of preparing them in the midst of the work of the session. He would also make an effort to give more information on these Loan Estimates, so as to put members in as good a position as possible to deal with them. After all, no matter how much members might talk, or he might say, these works had to be carried on; and we must trust those whom we employ to control the

execution of these works. The Engineer-in-Chief, who had the supreme control of our public works, told the Government that he wanted these officers; and what were they to do? Although there appeared to be a great many officers, still they had a lot of work to do, and they did it very well. Everything that had been done of late had been done well, and very systematically too, in the Public Works Department. A great deal had been done in that department in putting things on a proper basis, all of which costs money. But everything was now done under a proper system, both as regards contracts and other matters; and he believed it would be found it was a good thing in the end. Without saying that Mr. O'Connor had not some faults—he believed he had some; he was somewhat obstinate, to start with—still he was a thoroughly good man and a hard-working man, and he took great interest in his work; and he did not think they would go far wrong in standing by him. If he spent a little more than some members thought he should, the work was very well done at any rate. He did not think that the Engineer-in-Chief was an extravagant man; and, altogether, he thought we had cause to be satisfied with the great works—because they were great works, when you bore in mind the resources of the colony—carried out, under his control and supervision, during the last two years. Large contracts had been undertaken and carried out well, without any law suits, and everything was working smoothly, which showed there must be some good management. He could only say he could not throw much light on these Estimates, but he believed they had been prepared with care, and that they would be administered cautiously and carefully.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. H. W. Venn) was glad to hear his hon. friend the Premier speaking as he had. The difficulty which they had in preparing these Loan Estimates was to forestall what works would really be carried out during a given time. The Government were not in a position to know the exact date when all these works would be undertaken, and they had to do the best they could under the circumstances. In estimating the staff, or the number of officers that might be required,

they had to provide a sufficient staff for the works that were enumerated on these Estimates; but it was impossible at the present moment to say how far these Estimates would be adhered to in detail, as regards the works to be carried out. At the same time, provision must be made for carrying out all or any of them. If some of them were not carried out, as shown on the Estimates, then proportionately the amount expended in salaries would be less. He thought it must be admitted that these Estimates were an improvement upon former Estimates, and, as time went on, he hoped they would be able to produce as perfect Estimates as were produced in any part of the world. Their desire was to bring down Estimates that would be clear and intelligible to hon. members. Their desire was to give members every possible information, and in such a form as to be understandable by all. That was the Premier's desire, and he was sure it was his own desire; and he trusted that before long they would be able to prepare them in such a way as to meet with the entire approval of the House.

Vote agreed to.

Vote—*Loan 1884*, £3,003 6s. 9d. :

Agreed to.

Vote—*Loan 1888*, £2,539 2s. 7d. :

Agreed to.

Vote—*Loan 1891*, £612,188 9s. 4d. :

Agreed to.

Vote—*Loan 1893*, £285,400 19s. 6d. :

Agreed to.

Resolutions to be reported.

The House having resumed,

THE CHAIRMAN reported that the committee had considered the Estimates of the Expenditure from Loan Accounts, and had agreed to the same.

Report adopted.

Ordered—That the Loan Estimates be transmitted by Message to the Legislative Council, and their concurrence desired therein.

#### BONUS FOR PAYABLE LEAD AND COPPER ORE.

MR. SIMPSON: In rising to move the motion standing in my name—"That in the opinion of this House, with a view to the further development of the mineral lands of the colony, it is desirable to offer a bonus for the production of payable lead and copper ore,"—I have only one

desire, and that is, not in any way to endeavour to press upon the Government, or to induce them or this House, to assent to a motion by which any industry in this colony will be pampered. But it is well known that we have a large quantity of lead ore, and a considerable number of languishing lead and copper mines in this colony. I had occasion recently to inquire into the details of the work done in connection with these mines, and I find that they have not been sunk to depths sufficient to prove that they are absolutely payable. We know that the lead and copper market is very low all over the world, and this fact may operate in the minds of some members who may regard this motion as inopportune. But, sir, this colony went to a large expense some years ago in building a railway from Geraldton to Northampton, where our lead and copper deposits are located. Some members may remember that Northampton in those days was a very thriving village—I may say one of the most important country towns in the colony. But all those mining works which gave it that importance are now deserted. There is practically not a bit of mining going on in the district; and it was represented to me by my constituents that if a bonus were offered for the production of lead and copper ore—payable ore, not unmerchantable ore—it might contribute to the resuscitation of what at one time was an important industry in that district, and that the district might go ahead, and become a valuable settlement to the colony. At the same time, it would also have the result of contributing to make a railway, which is now facetiously dubbed a “white elephant,” become a reproductive work. I think all members will agree with me that it is much to be regretted that this line is not reproductive in any sense at present; and if by some slight stimulus like this it might be made so, it would be a useful thing for the country. It will be seen that the matter, so far as my motion goes, is left entirely in the hands of the Government, as to the form which this encouragement should take, and also as to the extent of it. If the Government, should this motion be adopted, would undertake to look into the matter, I am sure they could do something

that would do good to the country, and particularly to that part of the country where these mines are situated. If I understand the feeling of this House at all, I know it is only too glad at all times to do all it can to help any industry, so long as in doing so it does not damage the revenue of the colony. There is a possibility that richer ore may be discovered than has yet been discovered at the depths which have already been sunk—ore which may become payable; and if we succeed in establishing this industry on a firm basis, we shall be establishing an industry that made South Australia—there cannot be a get away from that; and if we can by some slight stimulus put this industry here in a sound position, it would be of the greatest benefit to the colony. It would create a large centre of population, it would make the railway pay, and I have no doubt do much good to the country. I have much pleasure in submitting my motion for the favourable consideration of the House.

MR. CANNING: If the hon. member, before moving his motion, had informed us how to bring back the conditions which made the copper industry in South Australia so successful, he would have made out a strong case in support of the motion; but I am utterly at a loss to understand in what possible way the Government would be justified in giving one single pound by way of a bonus to foster the production of a commodity the price of which is so low in the markets of the world at present as not to be payable. Unless the Government are prepared to say they will supplement the difference between the price it realises in the European market and the amount necessary to make the industry a profitable one, I am utterly at a loss to know how they can help the industry in any way. If the production of copper and lead at the present time could be carried on profitably, there would be no necessity whatever for any Government of the day offering a bonus or doing anything to promote such an industry, beyond providing facilities for the transport of the ore to a port of shipment.

MR. SOLOMON: I can hardly follow the mover in this matter. If the ore were raised, I think the best assistance the Government could give would be to smelt it on the spot. If sufficient ore could be

raised to warrant such an expenditure, I should be one of the first to support it; but I cannot conceive in what other way the Government could assist this industry at the prices now ruling in the market for lead and copper ore.

MR. PIESSE: We are all aware of the richness of the Northern part of the colony in lead and copper ore, and if we thought this bonus would assist the development of these mines in any way, I think we should all be glad to support the motion; but I cannot see that any help we could give in this direction would have any beneficial effect, for the reason that the markets are against the production of these ores at the present time. As for offering a bonus to make the railway profitable, I am afraid that the bonus would be more than the profit obtained in return, and, therefore, so far from being a gain to the State, it would be a loss. In fact, every bonus offered by the Government in this colony has been a failure. The hon. member might as well have asked for a bonus to assist sandalwood holders to get rid of their wood, or for a bonus to assist every industry, and everybody all round. It would be quite as justifiable as his present motion. No doubt the hon. member is prompted by a very good motive, to assist a section of his constituents; but we must all admit that a bonus offered now to induce people to raise these two minerals would do little or nothing to benefit those people, for the reason that the markets of the world are against them.

MR. A. FORREST: I think that the thanks of this House and of the country are due to the hon. member for Geraldton, because I take it that his sole object in introducing this motion is to benefit his constituents. But I hardly think that the good sense of the House will lead it to support the motion seriously, because most members must be aware that the bonus system in this colony has been a failure. Not long ago a bonus of £250 was offered for the encouragement of the jam industry, and the money was paid, too; but no jam factory has been opened here from that day to this. I hardly think that Parliament and the country are going to subsidise an industry which we all know will not pay, at present prices; and especially when we know that

none of these mines are at present working at all. Of course I give the hon. member great credit for his foresight in bringing the matter forward, because he represents that part of the colony, and the elections will be coming on very shortly.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest): I cannot say that this matter has been placed before the House by the hon. member in his usual clear and emphatic manner. He has not given us very many facts or figures, nor shown us what would result from this bonus. In fact, I came to the conclusion, when listening to him, that his heart was not in his motion. He did not seem to me to be so earnest as he usually is. I sympathise with him to some extent, because I know he has often spoken in this House against bonuses. I remember when I suggested a bonus to encourage deep sinking at Yilgarn, he made one of his most dashing speeches in opposing the proposal. I have been curious enough to refer to what the hon. member did say on that occasion, and these were his words: "Altogether, he thought this proposal to subsidise mining companies would do more harm than good to the mining industry, on the conditions mentioned in this motion. He thought the Government would do splendidly for gold mining, and splendidly for the shareholders in our gold mines, if they allowed them to go gold mining themselves." Well, that was all right from the hon. member's point of view at that time, though not from my point of view. If we could do anything to encourage the raising of lead and copper in the Northern part of the colony, it would be a good thing for that part of the colony, and for the country generally. But the difficulty is, it won't pay. Therefore, what is the use of encouraging people to go in for it? I know it is quite distressing to go to Northampton now, when I remember what it was years ago—and I was not there in its best day, when all was bustle and business, whereas now it is a ruined and deserted village. The inhabitants who formerly thrived on mining have turned their faces upon it, and taken up farming or pastoral pursuits, and there is no mining at all, the township itself being quite deserted and the mines abandoned. Therefore I can easily understand the hon. member, after visiting the district, re-



volved in his mind how he could bring about a change, and do something to restore the place to its former prosperous state. I am afraid that the only thing that will do this is an increase in the price of copper and lead. At present, we know, it won't pay to raise these ores; and the industry is one of those we can do nothing for, however desirous we may be to revive it. There is splendid lead there, but you cannot raise it at anything like a price that will pay. Therefore I am afraid the hon. member will have to be content to let his motion go by the board, and wait for better prices. I can well understand his desire to do something for that part of the colony, and to assist an industry that ought, under more favourable circumstances, to be a great benefit, not only to the people there, but to the whole colony. I am very sorry indeed for the people of Northampton. It was a very important part of the colony at one time, but adverse circumstances have brought about a change, and I see no way at present of improving the present state of affairs.

MR. SIMPSON: I can only thank members for the kindly way they have received this motion, although unable to affirm it. The Premier has exactly stated my object in bringing it forward. When one goes to the Northampton of to-day, and sees miles of thoroughfares, splendid roads, and good buildings, one may gather an idea what the place was in its prosperous day; and one cannot help being desirous of doing something to endeavour to revive its departed prosperity. I may point out that this motion does not resolve itself into a motion for assistance to a defunct industry. I know that we have to face an adverse market, and what I asked the House to affirm was the desirability of offering a bonus for the production of "payable" ore. I do not know myself, as a practical man, what really would make it pay, but, I thought, if there was a possibility of the Government doing something in the matter, I was justified in asking them to do so. Possibly if the Government could be induced to make use of one of their bores to test the locality for coal—I believe there is a possibility of obtaining fuel there—we might then, if successful, make these mineral deposits pay.

Motion put and negatived on the voices.

#### NATIVE TROOPERS AND TRACKERS FOR THE KIMBERLEY DISTRICTS.

MR. CONNOR, in accordance with notice, moved, "That in view of the danger and loss being caused in the Kimberleys through the action of the blacks, it is necessary to have established a force of native troopers and trackers, for the protection of the settlers and their property in those districts." He said: In bringing this motion before the House, I may say I am not doing so entirely on my own responsibility. My action is partly the result of many communications from settlers, not only in the district that I represent, but also in the neighbouring districts; and partly because I personally know, and have experienced, the troubles, the dangers, and the losses which the settlers and pioneers in those districts are subject to in connection with the action of the blacks. It is hardly necessary for me to refer to the many sad—you cannot call them accidents, but murders—that have taken place in that part of our territory; but I may mention a few, without going into detail. I will first refer to the butchery by the blacks of a man whose name is associated with the pioneer work of the Kimberley district,—John Dusack, himself a protector of the natives. After conducting an expedition overland from New South Wales for the purpose of settling here with cattle—a trip which took him two years and three months to perform—he was ruthlessly slaughtered by natives within two months of his arrival. That is one instance. Then I might refer to the murder of another settler who was highly respected, but who was butchered to death by the blacks. This case was reported to the Government, and what did the Government do? They sent word to the police, to go and find out the names of the men who committed the murder, bring them in, and have them tried for their lives before a jury. Anything so absurd was never mooted. To go and find out their names! Why these blacks have no names. Pardon me, I made a mistake; I ought to say that each of them has half-a-dozen names. They don't know their own names. They are called anything,—Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and so on to the end of the week. The next murder I will refer to was that of

Miller, at Mt. Dockerell. He also was a protector of natives, and a man who was highly respected, and a credit to any place he might settle in, and who did all he could to develop the mining industry of this colony. I know, myself, personally, he was a man who would not allow any person to interfere with the natives of his district. What was the result? They speared him to death. Then we have the example of Sergt. Troy, who died in a *melée* with the blacks; so that it may be said that was no fault of the blacks. That is true. He met his death through an inexperienced constable, which shows that some of the men sent up to these districts as policemen are unfit for the work, and proves that my motion is necessary. These are only a few of the murders committed by the blacks. Many a man has been killed and the murderers never brought to light. We have found their bleached bones afterwards. Others have been maimed for life. We all know that a murder occurred up there within the last few days, when Trooper Collins was killed, and, in the *melée* that followed, many others were killed and wounded. I mention these things in order to show the House that the time has arrived when we should take some decided steps for the protection of the settlers in these outlying districts of the colony. I do not refer to any particular district, but those outlying parts of the colony where these troubles with the blacks occur. In addition to the loss of human life there is also the loss of cattle, horses, valuable brood mares, and other property. I can speak now with confidence, because what I say I saw. Within the last six months, I have myself been over the country, and I have seen the remains of native camps—principally near water holes, as the drought prevailed—covered with the bones of the settlers' cattle, like a slaughter yard. Cattle are killed by these blacks without any discrimination, no matter whether they want them for food or not. There is another fact to be borne in mind, and that is this: the herds which these slaughtered cattle belonged to become really of no value to the people who own them, because when these blacks get among them they make them so wild that, in a country which is not fenced, it is impossible to handle them. No doubt

there will be a lot of sentiment spoken about putting these blacks off their own country, and no doubt exception will be taken to the idea of dispersing them. But I hold that it is simply a question of whether the natives are to have the country or the whites. It is no use in putting a tooth to it; that is what it comes to. It is simply a question of whether we or they are to have this country. The Government of this colony charge our pastoral lessees as heavy, if not heavier rent than any other colony in Australia does. I am not quite sure, but I think I am right in saying that they charge a heavier rent. I do not see why, if they do that, they should not in return afford some protection to these pioneer settlers, who carry their lives in their hands, in extending the settlement of the country. The Government take care that these settlers pay them their rents, and very high rents too—rents which in comparison with South Australia are exorbitant—and I do not see why we should not receive some Government protection, to the extent that the sister colony protects her settlers.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest): Don't we do as much as they do?

MR. CONNOR: I do not think so. The question of whether we should have black troopers or white police, to give us this protection, has to be dealt with. I hold that, although we have at the present time a very excellent force of white troopers in the Northern districts of this colony, still they are not adapted for this kind of work. Nature did not intend them for the work which I should suggest it is necessary to perform. I should be very sorry to propose that the native force which I think it is necessary to form should be given *carte blanche* (so to speak) to go and shoot these blacks. But I hold that these blacks should, by some means or the other, be got away from those places for which the Government charge the settlers rent, and got away at the expense of the Government. I hold that it is utterly impossible for white troopers, however suitable in other respects, to do that; and I think the time has arrived—I am sorry to say so, but I think the time has arrived—I am not responsible, as I said before, for this motion myself, but am acting under instructions from my constituents—but I

say the time has come when the Government should establish a force of troopers, be it black or white, sufficient to cope with this native difficulty. Another difficulty which occurs in connection with this business is the want of horses for supplying the police force at present in the district. One of my constituents has called my attention to this matter in a letter, in which he says, "We have at Wyndham, the head centre of the police force, nine saddle horses and one draught horse to supply six troopers."

MR. R. F. SHOLL: The draught horse is for the native trooper, I suppose.

MR. CONNOR: These police horses are deficient both in number and quality. They are not supplied with sufficient artificial food to give them any stamina, and, when a party of five or six go out to endeavour to prevent depredations being committed by natives, or to try to arrest natives who have committed crimes, the result is they have to come back. They are practically useless for a month's expedition, and there are none others to replace them. I brought this matter under the notice of the Commissioner of Police myself. Now we come to a matter which I think is very well worthy of the consideration of the Government, and that is this: at the present moment there is not a single justice of the peace in the whole of the East Kimberley district, nor on the gold-field. That is a fact.

THE PREMIER (HON. SIR J. FORREST): There are two Magistrates.

MR. CONNOR: I do not wish to bring this as a complaint against the Government, but to show the necessity of having more justices appointed. In East Kimberley there is not a single justice. I think the matter only requires to be brought under the notice of the Government to have it remedied. It is necessary to appoint a magistrate if only to swear in special constables, should the necessity arise for doing so. I think, sir, I have now pretty well exhausted my wallet. This matter which I have brought before the House in this resolution is a matter that must be dealt with sooner or later. The expense, to my mind, in keeping up a force of black troopers that would be an effective force would be very much less than the expense of keeping up a force of new chums, a lot of fellows who come here from London, with testimonials

showing they are well-conducted fellows. If you put them in the bush they are lost. They might have been the finest fellows in the world in a place like England, but to send them to the wilds of Australia to protect the settlers against the depredations of the blacks, is simply a farce. I think the time has arrived, and I hope this House will agree with me, when the motion I have proposed should be carried into effect. I have very much pleasure in moving it.

MR. A. FORREST: In rising to second the hon. member's motion, I may say I very much regret that I am not a native of the country he comes from; if I were I might entertain the House for the next half-hour. But he has so fully explained the object of his motion that he has left but very little for me to say, except that the district I represent adjoins his own. The natives in certain parts of that district are certainly a very good class of natives, and most useful to the settlers living in the district; and I should be very sorry indeed to see a force of native troopers sent to that part. Still there are natives of other parts of the country, the hill tribes, who are very savage and very destructive. I know that on our station, the other day, they found twelve of our bullocks which had been speared and roasted by these natives. I believe that in all the hill country in the Kimberleys this native difficulty will be a very troublesome one, and no doubt it will be imperative for the Government to take other steps than they have up to the present time to show these natives that it is a question of whether we or they are to have the country. This motion does not interfere, or propose to interfere, with the natives on the lowlands, or the river country near the coast. It is only intended to apply to the hill tribes, who have no intercourse with the white population. They drive the settlers' sheep and cattle to the hills, and simply laugh at their pursuers; and, if the Government could see their way to establish a force of native troopers to deal with these hill tribes, no doubt it would be a proper course to adopt. My experience of civilised natives is that the first strange native they see they think he is going to kill them, and their sole object is to kill him before he has a chance of doing so. I should object most strongly to any patrol

of native troopers in the lowlands; but if a force of natives of the Swan could be taken to the Kimberley district, in charge of an experienced officer—not a man from London or Melbourne—acquainted with the natives of the country, and used to the bush, I think the result would be beneficial. Let this officer take, say, ten native troopers from this part of the colony, and let this force travel among the hill tribes, both in West and East Kimberley; and I think we should find that this native difficulty might be put an end to. As the hon. member for East Kimberley has told us, a great many valuable lives have been lost through these blacks, and I ask whether the life of one European is not worth a thousand natives, so far as the settlement of the country is concerned. A native does nothing to improve the carrying capabilities of the country; he does nothing at all in fact, unless it is some mischief. I am speaking of these hill tribes. They are utterly useless. You can do nothing with them, and they won't have anything to do with the whites, except to spear their sheep and cattle. They used to live on kangaroo, but now nothing will do them but the settlers' sheep; and they put the settlers at defiance. I have seen them myself, on the top of a hill 2,000ft. high, rolling stones down upon you. I think if the Government could see their way clear to establish a proper force of native troopers, under an experienced and responsible officer, to protect the lives and property of the settlers in these districts, they would be taking a step in the right direction.

On the motion of MR. R. F. SHOLL, the debate was adjourned until the next sitting of the House.

#### "ARGUS" ADVERTISEMENT RE ROUTE TO GOLDFIELDS.

MR. DEHAMEL, in accordance with notice, moved, "That in the opinion of this House the notice issued by order of the Commissioner of Railways on the 25th August last, and published in the Melbourne *Argus*, advertising the route *via* Fremantle as the most convenient and expeditious to the Goldfields, is detrimental to the interests of other portions of the colony." The hon. member said, though the object of the motion had been in a measure removed by

the statement interjected by the Commissioner when he gave notice of it, that the advertisement referred to had been withdrawn, yet he thought this was a matter that should not be altogether slurred over. It was a matter to his mind demanding some expression of opinion from the House, in order to prevent a recurrence of anything like it in the future. He should like to call the attention of members to the advertisement itself. It was as follows:—

#### GOVERNMENT RAILWAYS OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

#### YILGARN AND COOLGARDIE GOLDFIELDS.

#### QUICKEST AND CHEAPEST ROUTE, VIA NORTHAM.

#### 76 MILES OF THE YILGARN RAILWAY OPENED.

Those desirous to reach the West Australian Goldfields will find the most convenient and expeditious route *via* Fremantle, Perth, Northam and Doodlekine (76 miles on the Yilgarn Railway), to which place a daily service of trains runs from Northam, in connection with the Government trains from Fremantle. The railway from Doodlekine to Southern Cross will be opened for traffic in sections of 18 miles monthly, henceforth, until completed.

Distance from Fremantle to Doodlekine, 154 miles.

Fares:—First-class, £1 8s.; Second-class, £1 2s.

Distance from Doodlekine to Southern Cross, 90 miles; from Southern Cross to Coolgardie, 120 miles.

Opinion of Mr. David Lindsay, the explorer, as to the best route, extracted from the *West Australian* of 18th August, 1893:—"There is no doubt the route—I have not been from Esperance Bay across the Dundas Hills—but I think that the nearest, and at present the best, route would be from Northam, then to Doodlekine by train to Southern Cross, and thus on to the field."

By order of the Hon. the Commissioner of Railways.

JOHN DAVIES,  
General Traffic Manager.

Perth, 25th August, 1893.

The object of that notice being so published in the *Argus* was, no doubt, to attract traffic to Fremantle, and take it away from Albany. He thought, if any benefit was to be derived from the traffic going to these goldfields, that Albany was certainly entitled to have her fair share of it, along with other ports. He would

ask the Commissioner of Railways whether he thought that Albany was a foreign port, or an alien portion of the colony. It was actions such as these that gave ground for the impression that the Government regarded some portions of the colony with greater favour than others. He should like to know from whom this notice emanated, and the reasons for its ever having been inserted. He would also like to remind the hon. the Commissioner that we were now living under Responsible Government, and that in the position he occupied in that House as a Minister, he was as much the Minister for Albany in the South as he was for Perth and Fremantle, or for the North, or any other part of the colony. It was an exceptional thing for a Minister to use the great powers which were committed to him, to benefit one part of the colony really and truly at the expense of another. The mischief in this instance had been stopped, and therefore it was not his intention to say anything more about it. But he felt it due to the people of the South—not only to those whom he represented, but also to those between Beverley and Albany—that the House should, by some expression of opinion, show that they were not in accord with actions of this kind, which were really actions that were likely to cause friction and ill-feeling between one part of the colony and another. He trusted that his action in bringing this matter before the House in this way would prevent the Minister for Railways, or any other Minister, from abusing his powers and privileges, to condemn one part of the colony at the expense of another, at any future occasion. He begged to move the motion standing in his name.

MR. PIESSE, in seconding the motion, said he did so for the reason that representations had been made to him with regard to this same advertisement, which was copied into the *Albany Advertiser*, and complaints were made about it by many people. He thought they possibly took it in a more serious light than they need. Still, he could not help thinking that the insertion of a notice like this in an influential journal like the *Argus* was rather unfair to one part of the colony. He thought a notice indicating the best routes to the goldfields might have been

published, without pitting one part of the colony against another. He thought it should be left to those who came here to choose by which route they preferred to go. If the Government had simply inserted a notice pointing out the different routes for reaching these goldfields, and let people take their choice, there would have been no cause for complaint. No doubt this advertisement was called forth by reason of another advertisement stating that the Albany route was the best and the nearest route; and as he understood the Government advertisement had been withdrawn, he would not say any more, except that he hoped there would be no recurrence of it. He thought we should give every opportunity for new arrivals to travel over the Great Southern Railway as well as our Government railways. He had pleasure in seconding the motion.

THE COMMISSIONER OF RAILWAYS (Hon. H. W. Venn) said the whole thing was in a nutshell. It emanated from a very laudable desire on the part of the Railway Department to do the best they could in the interest of the Government railways. It would not, however, have entered into his mind to have published such an advertisement, if the Albany people had not done the very same thing to draw attention to what they called the superior advantages of another route, with the result that many who went that way were stranded on the way, at Katanning or Broome Hill, without means to reach the goldfields. It was consequently suggested that the Railway Department should take some steps to indicate to people coming here by what route they could reach these Coolgardie goldfields. He was also advised that the Albany people even went on board the steamers there to induce people, who were booked through to Fremantle, to land at Albany and go to the goldfields by way of the Great Southern Railway. All this coming to the ears of his department, and being anxious to get as much revenue as they could, they thought they should step in and give people who were coming into the colony as much information as might be desirable as to the nearest route. It was not their desire to pit Fremantle against Albany at all; and it would not have occurred to him at all to have approved of such an advertisement had not action

been taken previously by the Great Southern Railway people to induce the goldfields traffic to go by way of Albany. After that action on the part of the Great Southern Railway Company to divert the traffic to their line, was it not perfectly right on the part of the Government, or at any rate on the part of his department, to protect its own interests, and to indicate to intending miners the best route? He quite agreed with the hon. member who had brought forward this motion that, as a Minister in charge of a public department, he was not only Minister for Perth and Fremantle, but for the whole colony. He thought the present Government had shown their desire and anxiety to serve the interests of Albany as of any other part of the colony. This advertisement had only appeared three times in the *Argus*, when it was withdrawn, because it struck him that, under the circumstances, it might create some ill-feeling between Albany and Fremantle. But there had been no desire on his part to decry Albany in any way. After all, these people could take their choice as to which route they followed. Under the circumstances, he hoped the hon. member would withdraw his motion, for he did not think the House would agree to it, after the explanation he had given. Possibly such a thing would not occur again; there might be no necessity to have recourse to it. At the same time, when we had a large population coming into the colony, he thought it was our bounden duty, if we intended to encourage them at all, to give them every information as to the best route they could take. He was very glad to have had an opportunity of making this explanation, and, after hearing it, he hoped the hon. member would withdraw his motion.

MR. R. F. SHOLL said the hon. member who brought this motion forward had asked the Government the other evening to caution people from rushing here to our goldfields. The same hon. member now found fault with the Government for giving information to people likely to come here, so as to correct certain misrepresentations which had been made by the Albany people as to that route affording greater facilities for reaching the goldfields. They all knew that was quite a mistake; and the Gov-

ernment—whether with the intention of conveying correct information, or with the object of bringing revenue to their own railways—inserted this advertisement. He did not know whether it was wise on the part of the Government to cater for business in this way; but this advertisement was only a counterblast against the advertisement of another railway company, who had taken the initiative. He thought it was a satisfaction to know that we had someone over our railways anxious to make them as remunerative as possible; and it could not be gainsaid that the statements contained in this advertisement were quite correct, so far as the best means of reaching the Yilgarn goldfields was concerned. He thought the Government would have been to blame if they had allowed a rival private company, by exaggerated statements, to try to divert the traffic which ought—not only in the interests of the travellers themselves, but of all concerned—to go by our own railways.

MR. THROSSELL said he considered the action of the Government, in making known to intending new-comers the best route to our goldfields, most commendable. At a time when, according to some of the papers, we were threatened with an inundation of 10,000 people, he maintained it was business-like on the part of the Commissioner of Railways to seek to secure a fair share of the profit to be derived from this influx. He should like to see the Government go much further than this advertisement, in the way of giving information about the colony. He should like to see them publish an epitome of our land laws, and disseminate the information in the other colonies. He thought the Commissioner of Railways deserved commendation, instead of condemnation, for his action in this matter. He had always commended the action of the Great Southern Railway people in doing the very best they could to ensure a revenue for their railway by doing what they were doing. It was, after all, simply a matter of business rivalry, and he strongly supported the action of the Government in this matter.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) said he really thought the hon. member who brought this matter forward had made too much of it. He agreed with

the hon. member to some extent. He did not think it was a good thing for us to advertise one part of the colony, if it was likely to injure another part,—of course that went without saying. But, after all, this was a very small matter. He himself should have preferred information being given to the travelling public as to the different routes available for reaching the goldfields; but the General Traffic Manager, possibly, did not look upon it in that light. His object was to seek to get as much traffic as he could for our own railways; and, seeing others resorting to advertisements, he probably thought he might do the same. But this Government notice was immediately withdrawn when the matter was brought prominently before the Commissioner; and he should have thought that was quite enough without making so much ado over such a very small matter. He thought, after the explanation of his hon. friend the Commissioner, the hon. member might very well withdraw his motion.

MR. DEHAMEL said that the hon. member for the Gascoyne, with his usual inconsistency, had found fault with the action he had taken in this matter as being inconsistent with what he did the other night to try to induce the Government to warn people not to come here. So far from being inconsistent, his action this evening was thoroughly consistent with his action the other evening, because this advertisement appeared as a sort of inducement for people to come here. The hon. member also said that certain misrepresentations had been previously made by the Albany people. He denied that *in toto*. He also said that people on their way to the goldfields had been stranded at Broome Hill and Katanning. No one had been stranded there; the statement was absolutely untrue. This was not a question of the Great Southern Railway against the Government railways. The whole fact of the matter was this: some merchants in Albany raised a subscription among themselves to publish the notice referred to, for the information of miners coming over; and they asked the Great Southern Railway to publish this notice for them. But the people of Albany provided the money, and the Company only gave a small contribution towards its publication. That was the whole history of it. But, though private people might

do these things, it was not the duty of the Government of the colony to advertise one route as against another and to seek to divert the traffic of one part of the colony to the detriment of another. It had caused a great deal of friction in the district which he represented; but, having heard the explanation of the Commissioner of Railways, and feeling sure it was a thing that would not occur again, he had much pleasure in withdrawing his motion.

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

#### ADJOURNMENT.

The House adjourned at seven minutes past 11 o'clock p.m.

### Legislative Council,

Thursday, 5th October, 1893.

Stamp Act Amendment Bill: second reading; committee; suspension of Standing Orders; third reading—Public Health Act Further Amendment Bill; first reading—Eastern Railway Improvement Bill: second reading; committee—Mineral Lands Act, 1892, Amendment Bill: second reading; committee; suspension of Standing Orders; third reading—Immigration Act, 1893, Repeal Bill: committee; suspension of Standing Orders; third reading—Appropriation Bill: committee; suspension of Standing Orders; third reading—Elementary Education Act Amendment Bill: committee—Chinese Immigration Act Amendment Bill: committee—Loan Estimates, 1893-4: approval of—Distillation Act Amendment Bill: first reading; suspension of Standing Orders; second reading; committee; third reading—Adjournment.

THE PRESIDENT (Hon. Sir G. Shenton) took the chair at 4:30 o'clock p.m.

#### PRAYERS.

#### STAMP ACT, 1882, AMENDMENT BILL.

##### SECOND READING.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. S. H. Parker): This Bill is necessary to