

AYES.

Hon. J. Cornell	Hon. G. W. Miles
Hon. J. Cunningham	Hon. J. Mills
Hon. E. H. Harris	Hon. A. H. Pantou
Hon. J. J. Holmes	Hon. T. Moore
Hon. J. W. Kirwan	(Teller.)
Hon. A. Lovekin	

NOES.

Hon. H. P. Colebatch	Hon. A. J. H. Saw
Hon. J. Duffell	Hon. Sir E. H. Wittenoom
Hon. R. J. Lynn	Hon. E. Rose
Hon. J. Nicholson	(Teller.)
Hon. A. Sanderson	

Clause thus passed.

Bill reported with a further amendment.

BILL—WORKERS' HOMES ACT AMENDMENT.

In Committee.

Hon. J. Ewing in the Chair; the Minister for Education in charge of the Bill.

Clause 1—agreed to.

Clause 2—Amendment of Section 3:

Hon. J. CORNELL: The Leader of the House stated that the object of the clause was to extend the freehold sections and that it was not intended to affect what is known as Part III. There would be less confusion if the University, education, and corporation endowment authorities agreed to Parliament passing a measure dedicating these lands to the Crown. If a worker had a home on endowment land, he would hold a lease of the land, but the house would be his under Part IV. of the Act.

Progress reported.

House adjourned at 4.48 p.m.

participated in the formation and completion of the contract to build and purchase the Waroona-Lake Clifton Railway without the authority of Parliament, and in defiance of a resolution passed by the Assembly as to the order of building railway lines in the State, are deserving of the utmost censure; and the Government that have known of the facts in connection with the said contract and withheld them from the knowledge of the House and the people has forfeited the confidence of this Assembly.

The PREMIER (Hon. Sir James Mitchell—Northam) [4.34]: I must accept this as a no-confidence motion. I move—

That the House do now adjourn.

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 4.34 p.m.

Legislative Council,

Tuesday, 20th December, 1921.

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The PRESIDENT took the Chair at 3.0 p.m., and read prayers.

ADJOURNMENT—WANT OF CONFIDENCE MOTION IN ASSEMBLY.

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION (Hon. H. P. Colebatch—East) [3.2]: In view of circumstances which have arisen in another place, I do not propose to ask the House to consider any of the business on the Notice Paper. It is my desire to meet the convenience of hon. members as far as possible, and I deeply regret that it is not practicable for me at the present time to do anything except ask them to adjourn from day to day. To-morrow we shall probably know more clearly which will be the most convenient course to adopt. I do not wish to anticipate the result of a debate in another place; all I can say to hon. members is that, if I shall still be Leader of the House, the Government will recognise the impossibility of finishing the business of the session before Christmas, and hon. members will not be asked to deal with any matters before Christ-

Legislative Assembly,

Friday, 16th December, 1921.

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The SPEAKER took the Chair at 4.30 p.m., and read prayers.

MOTION—WANT OF CONFIDENCE.

Waroona-Lake Clifton Railway Purchase.

Hon. P. COLLIER (Boulder) [4.32]: I desire to give notice that at the next sitting I will move—

That in the opinion of this House the Ministers in the present Government who

mas except such matters as must be dealt with before Christmas. After that, it will be for the House to indicate to what date it wishes to adjourn.

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 3.3 p.m.

Legislative Assembly,

Tuesday, 20th December, 1921.

Motion: Want of Confidence in the Government Page 2488

The SPEAKER took the Chair at 4.30 p.m., and read prayers.

MOTION—WANT OF CONFIDENCE IN THE GOVERNMENT.

Waroon-Lake Clifton Railway.

Hon. P. COLLIER (Boulder) [4.32]: I move—

That, in the opinion of this House, the Ministers in the present Government who participated in the formation and completion of the contract to build and purchase the Waroon-Lake Clifton railway without the authority of Parliament, and in defiance of a resolution passed by the Assembly as to the order of building railway lines in the State, are deserving of the utmost censure; and the Government who have known all the facts in connection with the said contract and withheld them from the knowledge of the House and the people, have forfeited the confidence of the Assembly.

I am sorry that this motion should in any way interfere with arrangements that hon. members may have made regarding their movements during the Christmas holidays. We all had hoped that we should have been able to continue our comparatively peaceful progress through the legislative programme before the House, which would have enabled us to close the session before Christmas. However, I want to say at once that the members of the Opposition disclaim any responsibility whatsoever for any interruption that may be taking place. Owing to circum-

stances which were divulged by the Premier on Thursday evening last, during the course of his speech in introducing the Loan Estimates, a condition of things was revealed which members of the Opposition felt it was their imperative duty to take notice of. Notwithstanding any inconvenience that may be caused, and notwithstanding the fact that it probably means returning to our labours after the holidays, I feel that I am only acting in the best interests of the country in submitting the motion which stands in my name on the Notice Paper. Circumstances connected with the special lease of Lake Clifton will be well within the knowledge of those members who occupied seats in this Chamber during the last Parliament. In 1916 a Bill was introduced and passed through Parliament. That measure provided for a special lease being granted in respect of the Lake Clifton area, comprising some 4,200 acres. The object was to enable the concessionaire to work the lease and obtain for commercial purposes the lime which was known to exist at the bottom of the lake. Under that lease, also, power was conferred upon the concessionaire, or upon any person to whom he might assign his lease, to construct a railway. I do not contend that the action of the Lefroy Government in purchasing that railway was in any way illegal. We know that under Section 13 of the Act power was conferred upon the Government of the day, or their heirs and successors, to purchase the railway. Thus, I am not contending that anything unconstitutional, illegal, or contrary to the laws of the land was done. What I do say, however, is that, while the Government were within their rights in purchasing the railway without Parliamentary authority, they were morally wrong in doing so. That is an aspect of the question to which I propose to return later. I have no doubt, knowing as I do that there has been a great demand for the file dealing with this particular matter since the tabling of the papers on Thursday last, that it has been impossible for perhaps the majority of hon. members to have an opportunity of perusing that document. I have made extracts from the file which commend themselves to my judgment, and which I believe to be essential to arriving at a proper understanding as to the facts. I purpose at this stage to read extracts from the file in order that those hon. members who are not acquainted with the contents of the file may be in possession of the details and thus be able to come to a conclusion on the facts disclosed. It is known to all that the Lefroy Government decided to purchase the railway. Negotiations regarding the purchase seem to have been opened up early in 1918. We find that the file opens with a letter from the chairman of the Council of Industrial Development—I understand Mr. C. S. Nathan was the gentleman—to the Minister for Industries. The extract I shall read is to be found on page 1 of file 99/19, and is dated 5th September, 1918. The extract refers to