

# Legislative Council,

Monday, 18th November, 1901.

Assent to Bill—Message: Congratulation to Prince of Wales—Absence of a Member: Explanations—Papers presented—Question: Railway Engine Sparks and Collie Coal—Question: Hay and Oats, to Export—Pawnbrokers Bill, Select Committee's Report—Adjournment: Ministerial Statement.

THE PRESIDENT took the Chair at 4:30 o'clock, p.m.

## PRAYERS.

## ASSENT TO BILL.

Message from the Governor received and read, assenting to Supply Bill (£500,000).

## MESSAGE—CONGRATULATION TO PRINCE OF WALES.

Message received from His Excellency the Governor, stating that the Address of congratulation to the Prince and Princess of Wales had been forwarded to the Secretary of State, for presentation to their Royal Highnesses.

## ABSENCE OF A MEMBER—EXPLANATIONS.

HON. F. M. STONE (North), who attended for the first time during the session (having been absent in England), took the oath and signed the members' roll.

THE PRESIDENT: On the 28th August leave of absence was granted to the Hon. F. M. Stone, which leave expired on the 28th September; therefore Mr. Stone had brought himself under the provisions of Standing Orders 17 and 42.

HON. G. RANDELL (Metropolitan): It was the right and the duty of the President to bring under the notice of the House any infringement of the Standing Orders. In this case, the infringement had doubtless been due to misapprehension; and he therefore moved that Mr. Stone be heard in explanation. Several hon. members, himself included, had been under the impression that the leave had been considerably extended; and that the hon. member had not been granted farther leave was owing to some inadvertence arising from the unsettled nature of business in the House.

THE MINISTER FOR LANDS (Hon. C. Sommers) seconded the motion. After hearing the explanation, the House would probably be satisfied.

Motion put and passed.

HON. F. M. STONE (in explanation): Thanks were due to the House for this opportunity of explaining his absence. Till he came to the House this afternoon, he had been under the impression that his leave did not expire till the 27th November. It was for that reason he had not hurried out from England, and he craved hon. members' indulgence.

HON. G. RANDELL moved:

That the explanation offered by the hon. member be accepted by this House as satisfactory; and that the penalties provided by the Standing Orders be not enforced.

THE MINISTER FOR LANDS seconded the motion.

HON. J. M. SPEED (Metropolitan-Suburban): During a previous debate on the absence of this and other members, the question had been raised whether such members would refund to the Treasury the fees received by them in respect of the periods during which they were absent and did not attend to their duties. Though by no means one of the richest members, he (Mr. Speed) would, were he absent, feel it his duty to take this course, which should be followed by all whose absence was not the result of illness or of unavoidable accident. The position was now very different from what it was when Mr. Stone left for England. Then, members did not receive payment, and frequently absented themselves for several months, evidently considering their attendance unnecessary.

HON. R. S. HAYNES (Central): It was pleasing to see Mr. Stone once more in the House, to which he was an acquisition; and his explanation of his absence was surely reasonable. On this the House was practically unanimous; and no farther explanation was required from the hon. member, who, when here, did good work. [HON. J. M. SPEED: Hear, hear.] But to require absent members to make proportionate refunds of their allowance would establish a bad precedent; for a member might then attend for only five minutes per day, thus putting up a record and leading his constituents to suppose he had been doing good work. It was not for the House to dictate to a

member as to what should be done with his allowance. Let him "run the gauntlet" in his constituency.

HON. J. M. SPEED: But the matter could now be discussed.

Question put and passed.

#### PAPERS PRESENTED.

By THE MINISTER FOR LANDS: 1, Amended Regulation No. 49, under Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act. 2, Code of Signals, Amendment under Mines Act. 3, New Regulations, 158 to 163, under Mineral Lands Act. 4, By-laws of Municipalities of Coolgardie, Kalgoorlie, and Boulder.

Ordered to lie on the table.

#### QUESTION—RAILWAY ENGINE SPARKS AND COLLIE COAL.

HON. R. G. BURGESS asked the Minister for Lands: 1, If the Government intends to use Collie coal for locomotives on the Great Southern, Eastern, and other branches of the railway, during the dry season from November to March next. 2, If the Government has issued instructions through the Railway Department to clear a guard and burn the grass off the railway reserves through all the settled portions of the country, where the land has been improved for pastoral and agricultural purposes, as a safeguard against fires from the locomotives during the dry summer months.

THE MINISTER FOR LANDS replied: 1, No. Not on the lines running through the agricultural districts. 2, Yes. Instructions have already been issued.

#### QUESTION—HAY AND OATS, TO EXPORT.

HON. R. G. BURGESS asked the Minister for Lands: 1, If the Government has tried to open up a market for our surplus hay in South Africa. 2, If not, why not. 3, If the Government is aware that 68,000 tons of hay have been exported from Canada to South Africa within the last two years, and that the Canadian Department of Agriculture has contracted to supply 500,000 bushels of oats to South Africa.

THE MINISTER FOR LANDS replied: 1, No. 2, The Government

was not aware that there was a surplus over and above that required for home consumption, as in 1900 600 tons were imported into this State. 3, No.

#### PAWNBROKERS BILL.

The HON. R. S. HAYNES brought up the report of the Select Committee appointed to inquire into the Pawnbrokers Bill.

Report received, read, and ordered to be printed; to be considered at the next sitting.

#### ADJOURNMENT—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT.

THE MINISTER FOR LANDS (Hon. C. Sommers): The political atmosphere is still charged with a certain amount of uncertainty; therefore I move that the House at its rising do adjourn until the next Thursday, at 4:30 o'clock.

Put and passed.

The House accordingly adjourned until the next Thursday afternoon.

### Legislative Assembly,

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Assent to Bill—Message: Congratulation to Prince of Wales—Papers presented—Resignation of Ministers—Adjournment.

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