

Legislative Council,

Monday, 11th December, 1899.

Papers presented—Question: Annual Estimates—Mines Regulation Amendment Bill, third reading—Seats for Shop Assistants Bill, third reading—Fisheries Bill, Recommittal, reported—Constitution Acts Amendment Bill (Redistribution, etc.), in Committee, resumed and adjourned—Companies Act Amendment Bill, in Committee, progress—Sluicing and Dredging for Gold Bill, second reading, in Committee, reported—Fremantle Harbour Works Railway Bill, second reading, in Committee, reported—Mineral Lands Amendment Bill, first reading—Land Act Amendment Bill, first reading—Mining on Private Property Amendment Bill, first reading—Perth Tramways Amendment Bill, first reading—Metropolitan Waterworks Amendment Bill, first reading—Adjournment.

THE PRESIDENT took the Chair at 7:30 o'clock, p.m.

PRAYERS.

PAPERS PRESENTED.

By the COLONIAL SECRETARY: 1, By-laws of Fremantle Municipal Council.
2, Beer Duty Act, additional regulations.
Ordered to lie on the table.

QUESTION—ANNUAL ESTIMATES.

HON. F. WHITCOMBE, without notice, asked the Colonial Secretary Whether it is his intention to bring down the Estimates of Expenditure for the 12 months commencing 1st July last, for the consideration of this House; and, if so, when?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: The Estimates have been in the hands of hon. members for the last two months.

HON. F. WHITCOMBE: When are they coming on for discussion?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: When we get the Appropriation Bill from the other House.

MINES REGULATION AMENDMENT BILL.

Read a third time, and *passed*.

SEATS FOR SHOP ASSISTANTS BILL.

Read a third time, on motion by Hon. F. M. STONE, and *passed*.

FISHERIES BILL.

RECOMMITTAL.

Order read, for the third reading.

HON. F. M. STONE moved that the Bill be recommitted for amending Clause

4. It would be better to strike out the words "with a seine net," in lines 1 and 2, and then the Bill would provide that no person should fish with a seine net unless he had a license. The object was that the inspector should be able to know who had seine nets which were used in shallow waters and in estuaries. The last paragraph stated that every person who caught fish in Western Australian waters for sale with a seine net except as aforesaid, without being licensed, or employed for that purpose another person who was not so licensed, should be guilty of an offence; but there was no penalty stipulated. He had moved that the latter part of Clause 4 be struck out, but it was still in the Bill.

Motion put and passed, and the Bill recommitted.

IN COMMITTEE.

Clause 4: Fishermen fishing for sale to be licensed:

HON. F. M. STONE moved that the words "with a seine net" after "sale," in line 1, be struck out; also that after "sale," in line 2 of the last paragraph, the word "or" be inserted; further, that the words "except as aforesaid" after "net," in line 2, be struck out.

Amendments put and passed, and the clause as amended agreed to.

Bill reported with further amendments, and the report adopted.

CONSTITUTION ACTS AMENDMENT BILL.

IN COMMITTEE.

Consideration resumed from 6th December, on proposed new clause relating to newly divided provinces, and on amendment.

HON. J. W. HACKETT: In default of the required majority being present to pass this Bill, he suggested that progress be reported. One difficulty about the amendment discussed at the last sitting was that within one month of the coming into operation of the Bill, the sitting member was to elect which province as divided he would represent, and thereon his seat for the original province became vacant. Supposing two of the members who were at present sitting for the North-East province resigned their seats, and within a month after the coming into operation of the Bill they elected to