

Legislative Assembly,

Wednesday, 11th October, 1899.

The House met at 7-30 o'clock, p.m.

The CLERK reported that the hon. the Speaker (who had gone to Northam, with other members, to visit the annual agricultural show) was unable to be present at the time for commencing the business of the House, but would arrive in a short time.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Harper) took the Chair.

WANT OF QUORUM—ADJOURNMENT.

At 7-45 o'clock (the interval of 15 minutes having elapsed), there not being a quorum present, the DEPUTY SPEAKER declared the House adjourned until the next day.

Legislative Assembly,

Thursday, 12th October, 1899.

Question: Geological Survey of the Colony Papers presented Motion (urgency): Want of Quorum on previous day (withdrawn)—Supply Bill (No. 2), second reading, in Committee, reported—Roads and Streets Closure Bill, Legislative Council's Amendment—Permanent Reserves Bill, Legislative Council's Amendments—Wines, Beer, and Spirit Sale Act Amendment Bill, Assembly's Amendment, Council's Message—Motion: Commonwealth Draft Bill and Joint Committee's Recommendations, debate resumed, third day (adjourned)—Mines Regulation Amendment Bill, in Committee, new clause further considered, progress—Totalisator Act Amendment Bill, first reading—Motion: Albany Harbour, to remove Restriction (withdrawn)—Adjournment.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at 4-30 o'clock, p.m.

PRAYERS.

QUESTION—GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF THE COLONY.

MR. MORAN, without notice, asked the Minister of Mines, When the report

of the Government Geologist on the Geological Survey of the colony would be laid on the table of the House.

THE MINISTER OF MINES replied:—The geological report was in the hands of the Government Printer, who had a great pressure of work; but the report would be got out as quickly as possible.

PAPERS PRESENTED.

By the PREMIER: 1, Report of Metropolitan Waterworks Board, 1898-9; 2, Opinion of Harbour Master at Albany on draught of vessels entering Princess Royal Harbour; 3, Sale of working plant and transfer of plant from one Loan Work to another, Opinion of the Premier thereon.

Ordered to lie on the table.

MOTION (URGENCY)—WANT OF QUORUM ON PREVIOUS DAY.

MR. LEAKE moved the adjournment of the House, to draw attention to a certain procedure. As Mr. Speaker was aware, there was no sitting of the House on Wednesday night, owing to the want of a quorum, caused by a number of members not having returned from visiting the annual show at Northam. No intimation of an intention to adjourn the House till half-past 7 on Wednesday night, was given to members until very late on Tuesday night; and it would be in the interest of Parliamentary procedure, whenever there was an intention to adjourn the House for any public or quasi-public function, for the Premier at least to intimate his view or his wish to members who sit on this (Opposition) side. Had that been done, perhaps not only might other arrangements have been made, but members on this side of the House might have had an opportunity of visiting Northam. No mention was made of this intended visit, nor were we told there would be a special train to Northam. It was the custom, he believed, of the Administration to reserve to themselves the privilege of addressing the public on these occasions, generally to the exclusion of members of the Opposition.

THE PREMIER: That was not fair.

MR. LEAKE: From this morning's report in the Press, he noticed that the right hon. gentleman took advantage of the opportunity to say some nice, kind things in his usual strain about the mem-