

of any cattle, the property of another person," be struck out.

Amendment—put and passed.

MR. R. F. SHOLL thought the clause was a very proper one, but the penalty appeared to him rather low. They must bear in mind that it was very difficult to obtain a conviction in these cases, and he thought the penalty should be more severe.

MR. DARLOT said he quite agreed with the hon. member that the penalty was too low, and he would make it three years' imprisonment, instead of six months.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. W. E. Marmion) thought the hon. member might be satisfied with twelve months.

MR. DARLOT said he would be happy to meet the hon. gentleman's wishes in that respect. He moved that the word "six," before the word "months," be struck out, and the word "twelve" inserted in lieu thereof.

Amendment—put and passed.

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt) moved that the following new clause be added to the Bill, to stand as Clause 16: "This Act and the Police Act, 1892, shall be read and construed together as one Act."

Clause—put and passed.

Bill reported, with amendments.

COMPANIES BILL.

The following Message was received from the Legislative Council:—

"Mr. Speaker,

"The Legislative Council having this day passed a Bill intituled 'An Act to consolidate and amend the law relating to Companies,' presents the same to the Legislative Assembly for its concurrence.

"GEO. SHENTON,

"President.

"Legislative Council Chamber, Perth,
"9th December, 1892."

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) moved that the Bill, transmitted by the foregoing Message, be now read a first time.

Question—put and passed.

Bill read a first time.

MESSAGE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AGREEING TO BILLS.

THE SPEAKER announced that he had received the following Message:—

"Mr. Speaker,

"The Legislative Council acquaints the Legislative Assembly that it has this day agreed to the undermentioned Bills, without amendment:—

1. A Bill intituled "An Act to amend 'The Perth Gas Company's Act, 1886,' and to extend the Powers and Privileges of the Company."
2. A Bill intituled "An Act to confirm certain Expenditure for the year One thousand eight hundred and ninety-one."

"Legislative Council Chamber, Perth,
"13th December, 1892."

ADJOURNMENT.

The House adjourned at seventeen minutes past 3 p.m.

Legislative Council,

Wednesday, 14th December, 1892.

Light for shipping at Carnarvon—Public Institutions and Friendly Societies Lands Improvement Bill: committee—Industrial and Reformatory Schools Bill: second reading—Adjournment.

THE PRESIDENT (Hon. G. Shenton) took the chair at 7.45 o'clock p.m.

PRAYERS.

LIGHT FOR SHIPPING AT CARNARVON.

THE HON. R. E. BUSH asked the Colonial Secretary if any arrangements have been made with regard to placing a light at Carnarvon, for the convenience of ships visiting that port.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. S. H. Parker) replied: The Government propose to place a sum on the Estimates of 1893 for the purpose, and

in the meantime—pending the erection of a lighthouse—arrangements have been made to have a light-boat, showing a light on all nights on which steamers are due or expected.

PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS AND FRIENDLY SOCIETIES LANDS IMPROVEMENT BILL.

This Bill was considered in committee, and agreed to without amendment.

INDUSTRIAL AND REFORMATORY SCHOOLS BILL.

SECOND READING.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. S. H. Parker): Hon. members who have read this Bill will have observed that the object of it is to provide Industrial Schools for such as come within the definition of neglected children, and Reformatory Schools for such children as may be convicted of any offence. Firstly, it will be seen that the Governor in Council is authorised to establish these schools, and to appoint suitable officers and servants. It is provided that every child under the age of 16 shall come within this Act, and every child who answers any of the descriptions mentioned in the 6th clause shall be deemed to be a neglected child. This clause reads:

"Every child who answers to any of the descriptions hereinafter mentioned shall be deemed to be a 'neglected child' within the meaning and for the purposes of this Act:

- "1. Any child found begging or receiving alms, or being in any street or public place for the purpose of begging or receiving alms.
- "2. Any child who shall be found wandering about or frequenting any street, thoroughfare, public house, or place of public resort, or sleeping in the open air, and who shall not have any home or settled place of abode, or any visible means of subsistence.
- "3. Any child who shall reside in any brothel, or associate or dwell with any person known or reputed to be a thief, prostitute, or drunkard, or with any person convicted of vagrancy under any Act now or hereafter to be in force.

- "4. Any child who, having committed an offence punishable by imprisonment or some less punishment, ought nevertheless, in the opinion of the justices, regard being had to the age of such child and the circumstances of the case, to be sent to an Industrial School.
- "5. Any child whose parent represents that he wishes such child to be sent to an Industrial School, and gives security to the satisfaction of the justices before whom such child may be brought, for payment of the maintenance of such child in such school.
- "6. Any child under fourteen years of age certified in writing by the Chairman of a District Board of Education to be habitually absent from school, and to be beyond the control of his parents.
- "7. Any child born of an aboriginal or half-caste mother."

These are all neglected children. Then, by clause 7, if any police constable finds any child which he may deem to be a neglected child, he may take such child before a magistrate, and such magistrate is empowered to send the child to an industrial school until it attains the age of 16 years. I do not think it will be said that such provisions as these are unnecessary; and I have not the slightest doubt that when the Bill becomes law, and sufficient funds are provided, it will be the means of reclaiming many children who are now outcasts and lead to their being brought up as good children. With regard to reformatories, it is provided that any child convicted by a judge or justice of any offence may be sent to a reformatory for any term not less than two years nor more than seven years. It is also provided that if any child is imprisoned under any sentence, he or she may be transferred to a reformatory for such period not exceeding seven years as the Governor-in-Council may order. The other provisions simply provide for the carrying out of the Bill. A form of mandate in the shape of a warrant, which shall be signed by the judge or justice, is given, and the Governor-in-Council is empowered to discharge or release any inmate of a reformatory or industrial

school, if deemed advisable. Then there are provisions under which any inmate may be put out to service on certain conditions. When any child who is an inmate of one of these institutions becomes entitled to any landed property, the superintendent will have all the powers of a guardian, or rather of a trustee, to manage the estate, collect the rents, bring actions, employ agents, and pay any moneys coming into his hands, after deducting a small commission and refunding 1s. per day for the child's maintenance, into the Post Office Savings Bank, there to accumulate at compound interest until the child arrives at the age of 21 years. I do not think I need say more in regard to the Bill. Hon. members, however, are aware that, although we have a reformatory at Rottneſt, it is not established by legal enactment, but by the 34th clause of this Bill it is provided that it shall in future be deemed to be a Reformatory School. We have an Industrial Schools Act, passed in 1874, but this Act chiefly relates to orphanages, and under it it is not competent for a magistrate to send a child there, unless the institution is prepared to receive it; and, as hon. members are aware, the management of these institutions would not be prepared to take children off the streets, and much less those who have been convicted. At the present time a few boys are kept at Rottneſt, but there is a difficulty in regard to their management and control, owing to there being no special provisions relating to that school. Only recently application has been made to send some female children to an industrial school, but, unfortunately, there is no establishment to which they can be sent. When this Bill becomes law, it is proposed to establish a reformatory school for girls as well as boys, and I trust it will have the effect of reclaiming these children from an evil course of life. I now move the second reading of the Bill.

THE HON. J. W. HACKETT: This, sir, is a Bill that has been greatly needed in this colony for many years past, and certainly it has not been brought in before it was wanted. As far as I have been able to gather from a brief perusal of the Bill, it follows the model of those in force in the other colonies, and which are considered to be among the best enactments

of their kind. In following them, however, a large number of words appear to have crept in, which I think the Bill would be better relieved of, and while, therefore, the principle of the measure will commend itself to hon. members, in committee a considerable number of important verbal amendments will be required to be made. I may point out that the school at Rottneſt is at present comparatively useless, because at the present time children pass out at the age of 14, and the superintendent has pointed out more than once the necessity that exists for raising the age to 16 years, if he is to do any good with them. I feel sure that this Bill will do much good, and I have, therefore, great pleasure in supporting it.

Question—put and passed.

ADJOURNMENT.

The Council, at 8.20 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, 15th December, at 7.45 o'clock p.m.

Legislative Assembly, Wednesday, 14th December, 1892.

Laying of returns to Orders of the House upon the Table—Improved School Accommodation at Albany—Selection by W. A. Land Company of Albany Town Lands—Action *re* Petition of William Wilkinson—Conveyance of Passengers, &c., by Canning Timber Company over Railway—Recent Prosecutions of Publicans for Breach of Licensing Laws—Perth Railway Crossing Improvement Bill: first reading—Carriage of Rolling Stock, &c., over Government Railways—Cost of Maintenance, &c., of Engines Imported from New Zealand—Cost of Surveys of Yilgarn Railway Routes—Stock Route between Kimberley District and Roebourne—Police Act, 1892, Amendment Bill: report—Seab Act, 1884, Amendment Bill: second reading—Federal Council Referring Bill: second reading; and in committee—Jury Exemption Bill: second reading—Transfer of Land Bill: second reading—Adjournment.

THE SPEAKER took the chair at 7.30 p.m.

PRAYERS.