

Legislative Council,*Thursday, 20th July, 1893.*

Export of Gold—Agricultural Bureau: Proposed establishment of—Treasury Bills Bill: second reading; committee—Supply Bill: first reading—Post Office Savings Bank Consolidation Bill: first reading—Adjournment.

THE PRESIDENT (Hon. Sir G. Shenton) took the chair at 4:30 p.m.

PRAYERS.**THE EXPORT OF GOLD.**

THE HON. J. W. HACKETT asked the Colonial Secretary whether, in view of the statement made in the Governor's Speech that a large quantity of gold has been taken out of the colony without being entered at the Customs, it is the intention of the Government to make such alterations in the law as to render more effective the provisions for entering at the Customs all gold exported, the produce of the colony.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. S. H. Parker) replied: This matter is under consideration, but the Government has not yet determined whether to propose any alteration of the existing law or not.

AGRICULTURAL BUREAU—PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF.

THE HON. J. G. H. AMHERST asked the Colonial Secretary what steps, if any, the Government propose to take with the object of carrying out the proposals made by a Conference of Vine and Fruit-growers, as brought under the notice of the Premier by a deputation on the 15th April last.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. S. H. Parker) replied: The Government propose to establish an Agricultural Department, and, if possible, to place a sum on the Estimates as a salary for a secretary.

TREASURY BILLS BILL.**SECOND READING.**

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. S. H. Parker): In rising to move the second reading of this Bill, I do not think it will be necessary for me to speak at

any great length. Hon. members will bear in mind that during last session a similar Bill passed the lower House, and when it was passed into this House, in consequence of the figures not being quite in accord with the facts then existing, it was not proceeded with. Since that time, although the Government have done their best to raise the balance of the money under the Loan Act of 1891, it has been found impossible to place a Loan on the London market with any chance of success. It is necessary, however, that the Government should raise money, otherwise the public works must cease. In these circumstances it has been deemed advisable to ask Parliament to give its sanction to the raising of £500,000, which is a little more than the balance of the authorised Loan, by means of Treasury bills. This Bill has received the assent of the Legislative Assembly, and it now comes before us. It will be observed from the various clauses that the Treasurer is authorised to raise half a million of money by bills, the longest duration of which will be five years, and at a rate of interest not exceeding five per cent. It is also provided that the money shall be expended in carrying out the works authorised by Parliament, and that out of any moneys that may be raised under the Loan Act of 1891, or any other Loan Act, these Treasury bills shall be recouped. In the event of no moneys being raised under the Loan Act, then the bills shall be met out of the Consolidated Revenue. I can only now commend this Bill to the consideration of the House; and I may state that unless the Government obtain the authority contained in it, it will be necessary to stop all works. I move the second reading.

THE HON. J. MORRISON: While supporting the Bill, with great pleasure, I would, if in order, ask the Colonial Secretary if it is intended that an issue of the bills shall take place elsewhere than Perth, and also whether the issue will be by tender or otherwise. I notice several clauses in the Bill where these questions may crop up, and I should, therefore, like to have an answer.

THE PRESIDENT (Hon. Sir G. Shenton): The Colonial Secretary will have an opportunity of answering the hon. member in his reply.

THE HON. E. T. HOOLEY: I opposed this Bill last session because I considered that there was then no necessity for the issue of Treasury bills. Since then the circumstances have changed, and I think it is now desirable that the hands of the Government should be strengthened by having this power, which I am sure they will not abuse. At the same time I am not in favour of Treasury bills, and I wish the money could be raised by other means. The principle of them seems to be the same as one person getting another to endorse a bill for him. In the other colonies it has been proved that Treasury bills are not altogether a success; but at the same time it is better that the Government should raise money by this means than stop the public works. I have much pleasure, therefore, in supporting the second reading of the Bill.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. S. H. Parker): The Hon. Mr. Morrison will observe by the tenth clause that the bills may be sold outside the colony. Of course when we want money we go to the London market, and I have no doubt but that these bills will be negotiated there. As to whether the bills will be issued by tender or otherwise, I take it, is a question for the Government; but hon. members may feel assured that we shall endeavour to obtain the largest amount possible for them. As a rule, I think, Treasury bills are not issued by tender, but to persons applying for them at a certain rate of interest.

THE HON. J. W. HACKETT: In regard to this Bill, I am entirely in accord with my hon. friend opposite; but I should like to remind hon. members that it is by no means on all fours with the measure which came to so disastrous an end last session. The Government then asked power to raise £836,000 by means of Treasury bills, while, by their own confession, the amount should have been reduced to £436,000, and a question arose whether this House could or could not make the reduction. The Colonial Secretary said it could not be done, and in consequence of the attitude he assumed (I was in accord with the Bill myself) hon. members were compelled to vote against the Bill *in toto*. There is nothing of that kind in this Bill. It is merely a measure to give the Gov-

ernment power to raise funds, if necessary, to help them over the stile. It involves no principle, nor does it fulfil the object of my hon. friend Mr. Morrison, as shadowed forth in the very judicious speech he made last session in wishing to substitute local loans for outside loans. Up to very recently the orthodox opinion on the subject ran in one direction only in Australia, it being considered better to bring money from abroad at a moderate rate of interest than to take it out of the pockets of those in the place at a higher rate. This opinion has, however, during the last two years undergone a great change, and the predilection for raising money inside the colony is now as strong as was previously the prejudice against that course. This Bill, however, raises no question of this kind. It merely authorises the Government to raise funds by Treasury bills until the last instalment of the Loan is received from London. The Bill carefully guards—too carefully to my mind—that the bills shall be repaid from the money eventually procured from the English investor. It is, therefore, entirely an unobjectionable measure, because it neither violates or pledges us to a principle. For my part, I hope the Government, when they next come before this House with a Bill of this kind, will distinctly take the direction advocated by my hon. friend Mr. Morrison, and instead of proposing to issue Treasury bills of a short currency, will seek to lay the foundation of raising money by local loans in contradistinction to the plan of obtaining the money outside the colony. I have great pleasure in supporting the second reading of this Bill.

Question put and passed.

IN COMMITTEE.

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

SUPPLY BILL.

This Bill was received from the Legislative Assembly.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. S. H. Parker) moved the first reading of the Bill.

THE HON. G. W. LEAKE: I should like to ask what is the meaning of the term "Consolidated Revenue Fund" mentioned in the Bill?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. S. H. Parker): That is the title prescribed by the Constitution Act.

Question put and passed.

POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANK CONSOLIDATION BILL.

This Bill was received from the Legislative Assembly, and was read a first time.

ADJOURNMENT.

The Council, at 4:55 o'clock p.m., adjourned until Tuesday 25th July, at 2:30 o'clock p.m.

Legislative Assembly,

Thursday, 20th July, 1893.

Grant of Pastoral Lease applied for by Robert Heron to another Person—Fencing by Government of Private Lands along York-Beverley Railway—Opening for Selection of Midland Railway Reserves—Dipping Imported Fruit Trees and Vine Cuttings—Supply Bill: third reading—Post and Telegraph Bill: in committee—Adjournment.

The SPEAKER took the chair at 4:30 p.m.

PRAYERS.

GRANT OF PASTORAL LEASE APPLIED FOR BY ROBERT HERON TO ANOTHER PERSON.

MR. DE HAMEL, in accordance with notice, asked the Commissioner of Crown Lands,—1. Whether he did not, in February, 1892, receive from Robert Heron, of Coolup, an application, with deposit thereon for £5, for the conditional purchase of 400 acres of land, portion of Pastoral Lease $\frac{6}{625}$, held by the said Robert Heron. 2. Whether, on the 23rd March, 1892, the said Commissioner did not refund the deposit, on the ground that the application was inadmissible by reason of the land being in the Harvey Agricultural Area, and unsurveyed. 3. Whether this portion of the said Agri-

cultural Area has been yet surveyed; and, if so, when. 4. Whether, in February last, the conditional purchase of the same land was not applied for and granted, before survey, to another party over the head of the previous applicant; and, if so, why this injustice was permitted. 5. Did the Commissioner of Crown Lands propose to compensate the said Robert Heron for the loss he has sustained through the action of the Lands Department in this matter?

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. W. E. Marmion) replied:—1. Yes. An application was received from Robert Heron for the land referred to in February, 1892. 2. Yes. It having been the practice not to entertain any application for lands in Agricultural Areas before survey, the applicant was informed that his application was inadmissible, and deposit was refunded on 30th March, 1892. 3. No. This land has not yet been surveyed. 4. In February Mr. J. N. Cox applied for 700 acres of land under Conditional Purchase, including the piece previously applied for by Mr. Heron, and his application was dealt with in a similar manner to that of Mr. Heron; but in May last, on Mr. Cox renewing his application, and strong representations being made to me to the effect that the total shutting up of the lands in Agricultural Areas, pending survey, was retarding settlement, and the fact of Mr. Heron's previous application having been overlooked, I consented to accept Mr. Cox's application, pending survey. 5. It is not proposed to compensate Mr. Heron. The value of any improvements made by him on the land will, under the terms of his Pastoral Lease, be paid to him by Mr. Cox.

FENCING BY GOVERNMENT OF PRIVATE LANDS ALONG YORK-BEVERLEY RAILWAY.

MR. CONNOR, on behalf of Mr. MONGER, in accordance with notice, asked the Commissioner of Railways why the Government had not fenced in all private lands between York and Beverley, through which the present Government railway runs.

THE COMMISSIONER OF RAILWAYS (Hon. H. W. Venn) replied that there was no liability on the part of the Government to fence in freehold