

or other public institution in Western Australia.

MR. GEORGE: On the question of fairness in this matter he would rather rely upon the member for the Swan (Mr. Ewing) than the member for East Perth (Mr. James); for as a federationist the member for East Perth opened his arms widely, inviting all the world to come to Western Australia, but when a few chemists had come here from New South Wales he wanted to prevent them from earning a living. That hon. member belonged to "groperland" and had all the instincts of the "groper," whereas the other member had come from a colony where the intellects of the people were a bit widened.

MR. A. FORREST: Where was "groperland"?

MR. GEORGE: Somewhere in Western Australia.

MR. JAMES said he was not ashamed of it.

MR. GEORGE: The clause perpetuated a wrong in driving people away from this colony. He moved that progress be reported.

MR. JAMES: That was no objection to the amendment.

Motion put and passed.

Progress reported, and leave given to sit again.

ADJOURNMENT.

The House adjourned at one minute past 11 o'clock, until the next day.

Legislative Council, Wednesday, 25th October, 1899.

Paper presented—Commercial and Business Holidays Bill, first reading—Bank Holidays Amendment Bill, first reading—Agricultural Bank Act Amendment Bill, third reading—Bills of Sale Bill, in Committee, Clauses 5 to 8, progress—Motion: Harbour and Pilot Services, Joint Committee's Report (adjourned)—Adjournment.

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

PRAYERS.

PAPER PRESENTED.

By the COLONIAL SECRETARY: Return showing land under wheat, oats, barley, hay, and potatoes in Western Australia during seasons 1898-99 and 1899-1900; also Breadstuffs Statistics of the colony, 1896 and 1899.

Ordered to lie on the table.

COMMERCIAL AND BUSINESS HOLIDAYS BILL.

Introduced by HON. A. B. KIDSON, and read a first time.

BANK HOLIDAYS ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Introduced by HON. A. B. KIDSON, and read a first time.

AGRICULTURAL BANK ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Read a third time, and passed.

BILLS OF SALE BILL.

On motion by HON. A. B. KIDSON, the House resolved into Committee to further consider the Bill.

IN COMMITTEE.

Clause 5—Interpretation:

HON. A. B. KIDSON moved that in line 4, the words "in writing or by parol, or partly the one and partly the other," be struck out, and the words, "by deed or by parol" be inserted in lieu thereof.

Amendment put and passed.

HON. A. B. KIDSON moved that in line 6 of interpretation of "bill of sale," between "body" and "ante-nuptial" the words "and register under the provisions hereinafter contained" be inserted.

Amendment put and passed.

HON. F. T. CROWDER moved that in interpretation of "registrar" the words "Supreme Court" be struck out, and "companies" inserted in lieu thereof. On the annual Estimates, provision was made for a registrar of companies, and if the Bill were passed in its present shape it would have to be amended later.

HON. A. B. KIDSON: There was no objection to the amendment, but it was inadvisable to pass it because the registrar of the Supreme Court had always had charge of the registration of bills of sale.

HON. W. T. LOTON: The amendment could be effected in another way. The question might arise as to whether the registrar of the Supreme Court in the near future would be the registrar of bills of sale.

HON. A. B. KIDSON: He should be, under this Bill.

HON. W. T. LOTON: Provision was made on the Estimates for a registrar of companies, who would undertake the registration of bills of sale. To meet any difficulty that might arise, instead of striking out "Supreme Court" the words "or registrar of companies" could be inserted after "Court."

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

HON. W. T. LOTON moved that after "Supreme Court" the words "or registrar of joint-stock companies" be inserted.

Amendment put and passed.

HON. A. B. KIDSON moved that in the interpretation of "bill of sale by way of security," after the word "sale" in line 1, "or debenture" be inserted in each case.

HON. W. T. LOTON: What would be the effect of the amendment; or what was the necessity for it?

HON. A. B. KIDSON: A debenture was really in the nature of a bill of sale, and the object was to bring a debenture under the same category as a bill of sale.

HON. W. T. LOTON: Would that include Government debentures?

HON. A. B. KIDSON: No.

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

Clause 6—Bill of sale to contain names and addresses of parties:

HON. A. B. KIDSON moved that after the word "situated," in Sub-clause 3, "at the time of the granting of such bill of sale" be inserted. As the sub-clause stood, it was absolutely necessary that the place where the chattels were situated at the time a bill of sale was given should be specified. In practice, that was an absolute impossibility in many instances, and therefore he proposed to add the words mentioned in order to get over the difficulty.

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

Clause 7—agreed to.

Clause 8—Attestation and registration of bill of sale:

HON. F. T. CROWDER moved that Sub-clause 3 be struck out, and the following inserted in lieu thereof:

That a notice containing a summary of the bill of sale intended to be registered shall be filed with the registrar, who shall thereupon enter same in a book to be kept for that purpose. The registrar shall number each notice so filed consecutively in each year, and shall mark upon each such notice the date of filing, and keep a register book in the form of the second schedule to this Act. A fee of 2s. 6d. shall be paid to the registrar on the filing of such notice. The registrar shall keep a proper alphabetical index of the names of the parties contained in such notice. Upon the expiration of 14 days from the filing of such notice, and upon presentation of the bill of sale, together with a copy of same to be filed, the Registrar shall thereupon register such bill of sale in manner hereinafter provided, unless within the meantime a *caveat* has been lodged as hereinafter mentioned, in which case such registration shall not be made until the removal or withdrawal of such *caveat*, and provided also that the 14 days hereinafter have also expired.

Under Sub-clause 3, it would be necessary for a person desiring a bill of sale to file a schedule and inventory, and that would mean great expense. If his amendment were passed, it would only be necessary to issue a notice. Referring to the last part of Sub-clause 3, two parties might agree that a *caveat* should be entered against a bill of sale the day after registration had been applied for; that *caveat* might be removed the following day, and then under this provision in the sub-clause, the bill of sale would have to be registered immediately. What he desired was that a bill of sale should not be registered in any circumstances until 14 days had expired.

HON. A. B. KIDSON: That was what the Bill provided.

HON. F. T. CROWDER: Would the hon. member point out where?

HON. A. B. KIDSON: In the last sub-clause.

HON. F. T. CROWDER: As he had said, a *caveat* might be lodged a day after a bill of sale had been given, and might be withdrawn the day after that, and then the registrar was bound to register three days after the filing of the copy bill of sale, instead of 14. His amendment said:—"Such registration shall not be made until the removal or withdrawal of such *caveat*, and provided also that the 14 days hereinafter have also

expired." In the present sub-clause, nothing was said about 14 days expiring.

HON. A. B. KIDSON: The consideration of the clause might be postponed. He understood Mr. Stone intended to move that the whole of Sub-clause 3 be struck out absolutely, and nothing inserted in its place. The hon. member had informed him he would be present at eight o'clock, and it was now within a few minutes of that hour. Perhaps that latitude might be given to the hon. member. He moved that the consideration of Clause 8 be postponed.

Motion put and passed, and the clause postponed.

Clause 9—agreed to.

Clause 10.—Periods for registration:

HON. A. B. KIDSON suggested the word "fifty," in line 2 of Sub-clause 1, be struck out and "thirty" inserted in lieu. A limit of 30 miles was ample for cases in which registration had to take place in seven days, and 14 days should be allowed in regard to places more than 30 miles from Perth. It did not always follow that a place where a bill of sale was executed was near a railway line or easy of access; and in his own experience, many instances had occurred in which great difficulty arose in getting documents down in time for registration.

HON. F. T. CROWDER: An amendment he intended to move followed on that which had been postponed.

HON. W. T. LOTON: One important clause having been postponed, we might as well postpone the Bill altogether. Several amendments on the paper were involved in the question of what should be done with Clause 8.

HON. A. B. KIDSON: Only two.

THE CHAIRMAN: The difficulty to which Mr. Crowder called attention was that to proceed would be a waste of time, as the Bill would have to be recommitted.

HON. A. B. KIDSON: The hon. member (Mr. Stone) would be present in a few minutes.

HON. F. T. CROWDER: The amendments standing in his name were not exactly his own, but had come from a body of gentlemen who represented commercial feeling in Perth; and as the main clause was postponed, and his amendments followed on that clause, he was lost. He was not a lawyer, but a layman; and had he known the clause

would be postponed, he would have engaged a lawyer to sit beside him.

HON. W. T. LOTON: The Committee could not consider Clause 8 now until the Bill had been gone through, and it would be of no use making a lot of amendments which would affect Clause 8. All the Committee could do now might have to be undone afterwards.

THE CHAIRMAN: The hon. member was perfectly right. Clause 8 could not be dealt with now until all other clauses in the Bill had been gone through.

HON. A. B. KIDSON: There was no reason why the Committee should not proceed with the other clauses of the Bill and amend them, if necessary, and afterwards Clause 8 could be considered. All clauses affected by Clause 8 could be postponed.

HON. F. T. CROWDER: The hon. member should have been prepared to deal with Clause 8 to-night, as the proposed amendments had been before hon. members for a fortnight.

On motion by HON. A. B. KIDSON, progress reported, and leave given to sit again.

MOTION—HARBOUR AND PILOT SERVICES.

JOINT COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

HON. F. T. CROWDER moved that the recommendations contained in the report of the Joint Select Committee on harbour and pilot services be agreed to.

THE PRESIDENT: The evidence taken before the joint committee had only been laid on the table this evening, although the report of the committee was laid before hon. members a week ago.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (HON. G. RANDALL): The recommendations of the committee involved the expenditure of a considerable sum of money. So far as he had read the report, he was inclined to agree with many of the recommendations. The report recommended the establishment of telegraphic communication with the island of Rottnest. As hon. members had not yet had time to consider the report thoroughly, or the evidence upon which the members of the committee had based their report, it was not desirable that the report should be considered to-night. The evidence which had been taken was of a voluminous character; he had not had time to read

the report carefully himself, and was therefore not prepared at the present moment to speak on the recommendations of the committee. A great deal of care had been taken by the committee to arrive at their conclusions, and some important evidence which concerned the port of Fremantle and the safety of shipping arriving there had been collected. The report dealt with the Harbour Master's Department, and with the pilot service at Rottnest, which was under the Harbour Master, and the report embodied statements or facts which were of great importance to the port of Fremantle; therefore it was only right that members should have time to consider the report and read the evidence. It was possible some hon. members might cavil at the conclusions come to: he did not say they would, but it was desirable that hon. members should thoroughly consider the report and the evidence which was now before them. If hon. members came to the conclusion that the recommendations of the joint committee should be adopted, then the report would occupy a higher position in public estimation than if the House adopted the report to-night in a perfunctory and hurried manner. He moved that the debate be adjourned until the next Wednesday.

HON. D. K. CONGDON: There was a good deal of evidence to go through, and the subject was of importance to the colony. Hon. members should have sufficient time to consider the report, so as to be able to lay their views before the House if necessary.

Motion put and passed, and the debate adjourned accordingly.

ADJOURNMENT.

On motion by the COLONIAL SECRETARY, the House adjourned at 8-27 o'clock until the next Tuesday.

Legislative Assembly.

Wednesday, 25th October, 1899.

Motion: Extra Sitting Day Motion: Transvaal War: Fund to Relieve Distress (negatived) Motion: Federation, to Defer new Public Works (negatived) Papers presented Motion: Cattle Restriction, Northern Territory and East Kimberley—Motion: Railway Administration, Censure (debate adjourned)—Cottesloe Lighting and Power (private) Bill, Select Committee's Report Immigration Restriction Amendment Bill, second reading, Division (negatived)—Imported Labour Registry Amendment Bill, second reading, Division (negatived)—Adjournment.

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

PRAYERS.

MOTION—EXTRA SITTING DAY.

THE COMMISSIONER OF RAILWAYS (Hon. F. H. Piesse), in the absence of the Premier, moved:

That the sessional orders be amended, so that this House shall, for the remainder of this session, sit on Mondays from 7-30 p.m.

It was now desirable, owing to the session drawing to a close, that we should sit as often as possible, and take the opportunity of sitting on Mondays, thus getting an extra day during the week. He hoped there would be no objection to the motion.

MR. LEAKE (Albany): Personally, he was not in favour of the motion, because he thought that if the work was brought down to the House it could be done perfectly well without encroaching on Mondays. Busy men in the city found it very difficult even now to attend to their private business and the business of this House, for practically three days were occupied in parliamentary work. If the Government desired to get through the business more expeditiously, we might undertake to sit until midnight on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, instead of adjourning so early as at present. In his opinion, we could get through more practical work after 10 o'clock in the evening than by sitting two or three hours on Monday. Parliament had been sitting for four months, and, with the exception of the Constitution Bill, he did not think we had passed any measure of great moment outside purely formal business. Even now, the Government had one or two important measures to propose. He urged the Government to