

Royal harbour. All the Government could do was to dredge the harbour, and it was then for the harbour authorities to say what ships could come in with safety. He hoped the hon. member would withdraw his motion. He (the Premier) would not take the responsibility of giving any directions to the Harbour Master with reference to the draught of ships coming to Princess Royal Harbour at Albany.

MR. LEAKE: If the right hon. gentleman would make inquiries, he (Mr Leake) would be satisfied.

THE PREMIER: Inquiry had been made with a desire to help the hon. member, and he wished the Harbour Master would make an increase regarding the draught of ships that could come into the harbour; but the only way the Government could do it was by dredging, and that he hoped to be able to do as soon as we had some dredge available.

MR. LEAKE (in reply): The right hon. gentleman did not quite appreciate the motion. If the restriction were not general, perhaps it would not do very much harm; that was to say, assuming there was sufficient water in the harbour, the Harbour Master would permit those ships to come in. Suppose that at high water he would allow a ship drawing 27ft. to come in, well and good; but as the matter was represented to him, in no case would he allow a ship drawing over 26½ft. to enter, no matter what water was in.

THE PREMIER: Supposing the captain would not come in?

MR. LEAKE: But when captains wanted to come in, the Harbour Master would not allow them, even though there might be 32ft. or 33ft. of water. He did not want the Premier to make any order upon the Chief Harbour Master; but he knew that in Albany they said the pilot was perfectly willing to bring these ships into the harbour, but he must not do so because of the instructions issued by the Chief Harbour Master at Fremantle.

THE PREMIER: The instructions were suggested to the Chief Harbour Master by the Harbour Master at Albany.

MR. LEAKE: There was no desire to create difficulty or unpleasantness; and, having brought the matter before the House, he asked leave to withdraw the motion.

THE PREMIER: The matter would be further inquired into.

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

#### ADJOURNMENT.

The House adjourned at 10-50 p.m., until the next Tuesday.

### Legislative Council,

Tuesday, 17th October, 1899.

Papers presented—Harbour and Pilot Services, Report of Joint Committee—Midland Railway Company, Joint Committee, discharge of order—Destruction of Kangaroos, notice of motion withdrawn—Motion: Australian Contingent, Transvaal—Messages: Assent to Bills—Divorce Bill, postponement (two months)—Patents, Designs, and Trade Marks Bill, in Committee, postponed clauses, reported—Electoral Bill, first reading—Constitution Acts Amendment Bill, first reading—Supply Bill (No. 2), all stages—Agricultural Bank Act Amendment Bill, first reading—Public Service Bill, second reading (moved)—Bank Note Protection Bill, second reading—Adjournment.

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

#### PRAYERS.

#### PAPERS PRESENTED.

By the COLONIAL SECRETARY:—1, Agricultural Bank, Interim Report, year ending 30th June, 1899; 2, By-laws, Coolgardie Roads Board; 3, Correspondence, establishment of Naval Station at King George's Sound; 4, Gold Mining Statistics, 1898; 5, Geological Survey, Report for 1898; 6, Metropolitan Waterworks Board, Report of Works carried out to 30th June, 1899; 7, Meteorological Observations, Perth Observatory and other places, 1898.

Ordered to lie on the table.

## HARBOUR AND PILOT SERVICES.

## REPORT OF JOINT COMMITTEE.

HON. R. S. HAYNES brought up the report of the Joint Select Committee on the administration of harbour and pilot services.

Report received, and ordered to be considered on the next Tuesday.

## MIDLAND RAILWAY COMPANY—JOINT COMMITTEE.

Order read, for presentation of report of the Joint Select Committee.

HON. R. S. HAYNES moved that the order be discharged. When he had moved that the Joint Committee be appointed, there was no suggestion that another Joint Committee was to be appointed to inquire into the administration of the harbours and pilot services of the colony, and he had thought there would be ample time to deal with the subject of the Midland Railway Company. There had also been appointed a Joint Committee to inquire into the Commonwealth Bill; and as many members were also members of these several committees, the increase of work had prevented this committee from being called together. It was now found impracticable to proceed with this inquiry, and inasmuch as he intended in a short time to leave for England, he moved that the order be discharged, in the hope that at a future time he might be able to take the matter up.

Question put and passed, and the order discharged.

## DESTRUCTION OF KANGAROOS.

HON. C. E. DEMPSTER said he had a motion on the Notice Paper, requesting the Government to prevent the destruction of kangaroos for their skins only, in all parts of the colony south of the Murchison River; but he now found that the Government had taken the necessary steps, by proclamation in the *Government Gazette*, to carry out this object. The proclamation would bring kangaroos under the Game Act, and would prohibit their destruction except for purposes of food. Should it be found necessary to destroy kangaroos in the South-Western Division, the people there would no doubt request that the district be excluded from

the proclamation. He did not intend to proceed with the motion.

Notice of motion withdrawn.

## MOTION—AUSTRALIAN CONTINGENT, TRANSVAAL.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. G. Randell) moved:

That this House desires to express its loyalty and devotion to Her Majesty the Queen, and its sympathy with Her Majesty's Government in the difficulties that have arisen in South Africa; and is of opinion that Western Australia should co-operate with the other colonies of Australia in despatching a military force to the Transvaal.

He said: In submitting the motion, only a few words are necessary from me. I am not, as hon. members know, a man of war, but it behoves us to fall into line with the other colonies in this matter, whatever our opinions on the question may be; and I confess I am very much more satisfied to-day than I was a fortnight ago, as to the position of affairs in South Africa. At that time there were some lingering doubts in my mind, and rather strong doubts, as to whether the British Government had justice on their side, but these doubts have to a very large extent been removed by further information received since then from different sources. Although I do not believe for one moment that the war, which I fear has now begun, is for the establishment of the franchise for the Uitlander population, as they are called in the Transvaal, the state of affairs there is so serious as to deserve serious and careful consideration at the hands of all persons who belong to the British dominions. The state of affairs is tending to destroy British influence and power in South Africa; and, having come to that conclusion from what I have read, I have now less hesitation, at any rate, in submitting the motion. Although the forces which are to be sent from Australia are numerically small, the prestige attached thereto, and the evidence which they give of the hearty union and sympathy with the mother country, are of very great importance, not only in regard to the mother country herself in the difficulty and trouble which have arisen, but also as an evidence to the world at large that the interests of the British Empire, although divided by great distances in

many instances, are one, and that we are ready to help one another. This is a true federal spirit. Though we may not desire to join the Australian federation, we all of us are heartily in union with the sentiment of federation, so far as it can be carried out, with the mother country. We desire to remain under her ægis and protection, and we feel we owe to the mother country a great debt for having given to us the immense territory of Australia, and which we as members of the House are helping to administer to the best of our ability. I have, therefore, now pleasure in submitting the motion, though the pleasure is mingled with regret, because a state of war is to be deplored, and there is little doubt that this may prove to be a serious business. Hon. members, I am sure, will approach this question with those mingled feelings of regret and pleasure. In the Boers we have to meet with a brave people, and, to a certain extent, we have thought they are defending their liberties; at the same time, they are a menace I believe to the Cape of Good Hope, Natal, and other colonies in South Africa. Therefore, we may feel on pretty sure ground now that the British Government have been forced into taking this step, as a matter of self-preservation, in order to maintain British supremacy, not only in South Africa but in all parts of the world.

HON. F. M. STONE (North): I rise to second the motion proposed by the Colonial Secretary, and in doing so I may express, with him, regret at the occasion having arisen. Still, it is a pleasure to second such a motion, because it will show to England that we are second to none in loyalty to our Queen and country. It will also show, not that England is in any danger, but that we are prepared to take our part in upholding the honour and integrity of the British Empire. The force we send may be small, yet it indicates to our Queen and country that we are, as I say, prepared to take our part; and I think it will show we have men of the right kind, that we have men prepared to uphold England in a time of danger. I am glad to see the call has been responded to in the way it has been; that, as we have heard, more have volunteered than are required, and that the men are of a

splendid stamp. I trust they will not lose the confidence placed in them, and that they will come back to us loaded with honour and glory.

Question put and passed.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY further moved that the Governor be requested to forward the foregoing resolution, by cablegram, to the Right Hon. the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Question put and passed.

#### MESSAGES—ASSENT TO BILLS.

Messages from the Governor were received and read, assenting in the name of Her Majesty, to the following Bills:—Public Education Bill, Companies Duty Bill, Wines, Beer, and Spirit Sale Amendment Bill, Municipal Loans Validation Bill, Customs Consolidation Act Amendment Bill, Insect Pests Act Amendment Bill, Truck Bill, Excess Bill (financial year 1897-8), Dog Act Amendment Bill, Weights and Measures Bill, Bees Bill, Proof of Acts and Documents Bill, Criminal Evidence Bill, and Supreme Court Criminal Sittings Bill.

#### DIVORCE BILL.

##### POSTPONEMENT.

Order read for resumption of Committee, Clause 2.

HON. F. M. STONE (in charge of the Bill) moved that the order be postponed till this day two months.

Motion put and passed, and the order postponed.

#### PATENTS, DESIGNS, AND TRADE MARKS BILL.

##### IN COMMITTEE.

Consideration resumed from October 3 at postponed clauses.

Clause 24—Amendment of specification:

HON. F. M. STONE moved that after "request," line 2, Sub-clause 3, the words "and shall hear and decide the case subject to an appeal to the law officer" be inserted. At present the Bill stopped short, and he proposed that, on notice being given, the Registrar should hear the case, but that his decision should be subject to appeal to the law officer of the Crown.

Amendment put and passed.

HON. F. M. STONE further moved that the word "registrar," in line 1, Sub-clause 4, be struck out, and "law officer" inserted in lieu thereof.

HON. F. WHITCOMBE: Did the amendment mean that the Registrar should not hear the application at all?

HON. F. M. STONE: When such notice was given, the Registrar should hear the case, subject to appeal to the law officer.

HON. F. WHITCOMBE: Sub-clause 4 did not necessarily apply only to cases of appeal. If "registrar" were struck out, the power of the Registrar to hear the case would to a large extent be abolished.

HON. F. M. STONE: Sub-clause 3 originally stopped short, but it had been altered, and now read: "Where such notice is given, the Registrar shall give notice of the opposition to the person making the request, and shall hear and decide the case, subject to an appeal to the law officer."

Amendment put and passed.

HON. F. M. STONE further moved that after "shall," line 1, Sub-clause 4, the words "if required" be inserted; also that in line 3 the word "Registrar" be struck out and "law officer" inserted in lieu thereof; also that all words after "allowed," line 5, be struck out.

Amendments put and passed.

HON. F. M. STONE further moved that after Sub-clause 4, the following be inserted to stand as Sub-clause 5:

Where no notice of opposition is given, or the person giving notice does not appear, the Registrar shall determine whether, and subject to what conditions, if any, the amendment ought to be allowed.

No provision was made to enable the Registrar, under the circumstances set forth in the sub-clause, to determine where and under what conditions an amendment should be allowed; and this amendment supplied the omission.

Amendment put and passed.

HON. F. M. STONE further moved that the following be inserted, to stand as Sub-clause 6:

When leave to amend is refused by the Registrar, the person making the request may appeal from his decision to the law officer.

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

Clause 106 (previously postponed) — agreed to.

First, Second, and Third Schedules — agreed to.

New Schedule:

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY moved that a schedule be added, setting forth the form of application for a patent.

Schedule put and passed.

Preamble and title — agreed to.

Bill reported with amendments, and report adopted.

#### ELECTORAL BILL.

Received from the Legislative Assembly, and, on motion by the COLONIAL SECRETARY, read a first time.

#### CONSTITUTION ACTS AMENDMENT BILL.

Received from the Legislative Assembly, and, on motion by the COLONIAL SECRETARY, read a first time.

#### SUPPLY BILL (No. 2).

Received from the Legislative Assembly, and, on motion by the COLONIAL SECRETARY, read a first time.

Standing Orders suspended by resolution, to allow of the Bill being passed through all stages at one sitting.

#### SECOND READING.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY, in moving the second reading, said: The introduction of this Bill has been somewhat delayed, in consequence of the protracted nature of the business in another place. The months are passing, and as provision must be made for the public service of the colony, it is better that a temporary Bill should be brought forward, than expenditure be incurred and the sanction of Parliament sought afterwards. Nearly four months have elapsed since Parliament entered on the session, and nearly three and a half months since we entered on the new financial year. There is every indication at present that the amount of revenue estimated by the Treasurer will be realised. As members are aware, the revenue has hitherto kept up very well indeed, the month of September being almost a record month; and although perhaps October, which I believe is generally not such a good month, may not come up to expectations, yet

from the expansions that have taken place—notwithstanding the difficulties which have arisen in financial and mercantile circles through the unrest in the Transvaal—I think there is every reason to believe the estimate the Treasurer gave in his Budget speech will be realised.

HON. F. T. CROWDER: South Africa is a new thing to go on.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: I am afraid the trouble has been in existence for some time. I have the duty of moving the second reading of the Bill.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

IN COMMITTEE, ETC.

Bill passed through Committee without debate, reported without amendment, and report adopted.

Bill read a third time and *passed*.

#### AGRICULTURAL BANK ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Received from the Legislative Assembly, and, on motion by the COLONIAL SECRETARY, read a first time.

#### PUBLIC SERVICE BILL.

##### SECOND READING (MOVED).

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. G. Randell): In moving the second reading of this Bill, I do not propose to say much on the subject. The Bill is to a large extent, with a slight modification, a copy of the Act in operation in Queensland. There are Civil Service Acts in some other colonies, notably I believe in Victoria, where the measure has been amended repeatedly, and I understand it is not giving satisfaction at the present time. I am not sure I would be correct in saying the Civil Service Acts have not given satisfaction wherever they have been introduced, but I am sure I am right in saying they have not fulfilled the expectations of those who were eager to have them. This Bill transfers to a considerable extent the responsibility and duty which, perhaps from one point of view, properly rests upon Ministers of the Crown. I believe the reason why this question has been put forward from time to time is on account of the importunity to which hon. members—I do not know it has been the case with members of this House, but it has been with members of another place, at any rate—have been

exposed on the part of people desiring to get either themselves or their friends into the civil service of the colony. No doubt sometimes members have felt this to be a considerable bore, and they would be very glad, perhaps, to be relieved from this duty. I take it that even if this Bill passes, persons who are so anxious to get into the public service will find some method of approaching members of Parliament and endeavouring to get their influence. Whether that influence can be brought to bear upon a Civil Service Board as constituted under this Bill, I am not prepared to say: if the Bill passes, events will prove. I believe the Colonial Treasurer estimated it would cost about £5,000 to administer the Bill. Members will observe that the chairman of the board is to have a salary of £800, and it is intended to provide two other members with salaries of £600 each. Why £800 should be given to the chairman and £600 to each of the other two, I am unable to explain. I should have thought an extra £100 quite sufficient for the honour of taking the chair, because I take it that the duties of the members of the board will be pretty equally divided, or they should be. The Bill provides for the formation of a board, and I need hardly say the constitution of that board will be the crux of the whole measure. If we obtain men with strong backs and a good knowledge of the public servants and of their abilities, perhaps the board will give considerable satisfaction; but it is not easy to find men of that description even for a Civil Service Board. Where they will be selected from, of course I am unable to say, but I can only suppose that it would be almost necessary to have one at least of the officers now in the public service, because of his knowledge of the public service, and his ability to guide the other members, at all events in the starting of the operations of the board.

HON. F. T. CROWDER: That is just what we do not want.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: I understand some members do not think any member of the civil service should be appointed a member of this board. I have thought over the matter very considerably, and I think the board would to a large extent be a failure unless they had at least one member of the civil

service who has had a good deal of experience in the administration of some department, if not more than one department, of the civil service. However, I do not know that I need dwell upon that. That is my own personal opinion, and I do not think that opinions as to whom the board should consist of have been expressed by those who have spoken on the subject. I think it would be very desirable to have a legal man on the board, and another should be a good man of business, and a man of great intelligence, education, and ability. Strength of character is absolutely necessary for a man who is to be a member of a board of this description. I do not know that I should envy any man having this position, because he will be exposed to persistent complaints and applications, and also to charges of unfairness in administration, however good he may be, and however fairly he may administer affairs, because in a large business like the public service there will always be some dissatisfied members who will think their abilities have not been properly recognised, and that they do not fill the positions for which they are fitted. After being constituted, the board will, under Clause 7, be immovable except upon a resolution of both Houses of Parliament. There is a provision, however, for the suspension of an officer for certain causes, and there is also a provision for him to vacate his office. Provision is made for the appointment of a deputy to fill the position of a member who may be ill, and unable for the time to occupy his position. To this extent, at all events, the Bill has been very carefully drawn so as to provide the machinery for administration. Admission to the service in the first instance will be by competitive examination, as will be seen in Clause 4, and further on. Persons applying will have to possess a certain degree of education, and afterwards they may be promoted—according to their efficiency and the ability they display in the discharge or their duties—from a probationer in the 6th class up to the 1st class. There are two divisions of classified civil servants, and one division of unclassified. The ordinary division will include all officers appointed by the Governor who are not comprised in the professional division. The unclassified division will include all

officers not appointed by the Governor. It will be seen that Clauses 24 to 29 (inclusive) exclude State school teachers from the operation of this part of the measure, and if the Bill gets into Committee—

HON. F. T. CROWDER: "If"?

HON. F. WHITCOMBE: "If"? and this a Government measure!

HON. F. T. CROWDER: This is the first time I have heard the leader for the Government use the word "if," in regard to a Government measure getting into Committee.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: I will put it in another way, and say that when the Bill gets into Committee, I intend to move that teachers shall be excluded from the operation of the measure, excepting as to the status they occupy in the civil service. This is provided for to a certain extent in the last paragraph of Clause 40, which I propose to alter, and which at present sets forth: "The provisions of the fifteen last preceding sections shall not apply to officers employed as teachers in State schools or provisional schools." The board have pretty considerable powers, but the Governor-in-Council, in other words the Government of the day, have a considerable amount of control over the board.

HON. R. S. HAYNES: Pressure.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: It is provided that in certain cases the Government may go out of the classification, or outside the civil service altogether, in appointing officers to a given department; but such cases will be only in connection with the appointment of persons having special knowledge and training, probably professional men; and this is a wise provision because it makes the Bill in this direction a little more elastic than it otherwise would be. The measure, taken altogether, is somewhat rigid, and the board will be tied very considerably as to salaries paid and the classes into which civil servants are moved from time to time. A system of classification prevails to a large extent in the civil service at the present time, and though we may occasionally hear complaints, if both sides of the question were investigated, it would be found that fairness is observed in all departments.

HON. R. S. HAYNES: In the past?

HON. F. T. CROWDER: What about the Estimates this year?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: When officers complain, it may be safely concluded there is something behind, and that ability and attention to duty always secure reward sooner or later.

HON. F. WHITCOMBE: Chiefly later.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: Complaints may have been heard as to nepotism in the public service, but it has not come under my notice, either when I was a private citizen or since I became a member of this House and a member of the Government. If there be favouritism in regard to relationship, scarcely in any case does that originate amongst the heads of the departments. If there has been any favouritism in regard to getting appointments—and this specially refers to the years before 1898—it has been mostly amongst the inferior officers of the lower departments; and I am certain of this from the knowledge I have of the public service. At any rate, since I have been a Minister I have found it much more difficult to obtain a situation for a person who would be fitted for a position in the public service, than I did when I was not a member of the Administration; but that may be because I want to protect myself from anything like a charge of putting friends of mine into appointments.

HON. F. T. CROWDER: You are only one man in the Ministry.

HON. R. S. HAYNES: All the posts were filled up before you joined the Ministry.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: The Bill provides that probationers must insure, and this is a very wise provision which answers two purposes. In the first place, the provision ensures that only healthy officers will be obtained, because a probationer must pass a very strict examination by the medical officer of an insurance society; and in the next place it ensures to the civil servant, especially if he take up a particular form of policy, some provision for his more mature years. All the members of the civil service are not strong, hearty men, and some inconvenience has arisen from this fact, and it is desirable as far as possible that public servants should be sound and healthy. The Bill further provides that the Government may reduce the

number of public servants, if they deem the step necessary. The Government, while they would no doubt refer such a matter to the board, retain the power independently to curtail the number of officers, should the exigencies of the service necessitate retrenchment. The Minister or permanent head may, under the Bill, suspend an officer, but the permanent head has to make a report to the board, who must undertake an inquiry into all the circumstances, and make a recommendation to the Governor, though that recommendation may be overridden or disregarded. Increases of salaries and promotions have to be recommended by the board, as will be found by reference to Clause 38. The Bill requires that officers shall devote their whole time to the service, and not take work outside so as to come into competition with persons engaged in business or a profession. That is the procedure to a large extent at the present time, and while we do find from time to time, complaints that members of the public service take positions in competition with those who have to get a living outside, a hard and fast line is almost impossible, and very little objection can be made, if the practice of taking outside work be not carried too far. Public servants, like everyone else, are desirous of making the best they can of their opportunities, and if a civil servant have special knowledge on any particular subject, he likes to make some use of that knowledge, especially when, as we know, the salaries in many cases are very small; indeed, I may say that salaries in the public service are in many cases inadequate for the duties performed. We find, on the other hand, that persons are anxious to get into the public service and take low salaries, with the prospect of promotion in the future. Questions of the rights and obligations of civil servants have to be decided by the Governor, or in other words by the Executive Council. Power is given to the board to investigate into all matters which may be brought before them, or which they may think necessary to investigate in the interests of the service; and they may go at any time into any of the departments, and require an officer to give information. The principle underlying the Bill is a good one, and hon. members can judge as well as I whether the Bill as

drawn—and it is drawn very well, and rather simply, compared with Public Service Acts in many of the other colonies—is calculated to carry out in the best possible way the object sought. The measure will no doubt relieve Ministers of what are sometimes unpleasant duties, and also free hon. members from persistent requests to use their influence towards getting persons into the public service. I have read the Bill through several times in order to make myself acquainted with its provisions, and my belief is that the measure will to a great extent disappoint the persons who have been so eagerly asking for this legislation. Officers of the public service may find that they have exchanged one hard master for probably a harder master still; and one defect in the Bill may be to prevent persons of superior ability from obtaining positions to which they may be entitled, and which they would probably secure if the civil service were administered as at present by the Ministers and the permanent heads of departments. The permanent heads are a most important class of civil servants, who are brought directly into contact with the large number of officers under them, and, in many cases, are in sympathy with those officers, and willing and ready to do the best possible in their interests.

HON. F. WHITCOMBE: And hide their faults.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: And in some cases, perhaps, willing to hide their faults.

HON. F. WHITCOMBE: In too many cases.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: I do not think hon. members will complain of that, so long as it is not to the detriment of the public service.

HON. R. S. HAYNES: We never do complain.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: That shows an honourable opinion and feeling in the House. These are some of the directions in which the Bill will operate, and I am glad to have the opportunity of testifying that, to my knowledge, the heads of departments are in perfect sympathy with officers under them, and do their best to stimulate and encourage those officers, often suggesting alterations in their interests, which,

owing to the exigencies of the Treasury, cannot be carried out. I would like to say that during the depression of last year, the loyal feeling displayed by all classes of the public service entitles them to our respect and esteem.

HON. R. S. HAYNES: Especially the Lands Department.

On motion by HON. F. M. STONE, debate adjourned until the next Thursday.

# BANK NOTE PROTECTION BILL.

## SECOND READING.

HON. F. M. STONE, in moving the second reading, said: This is a very short Bill, for the purpose of preventing the defacing of bank notes, a practice which has become an undesirable custom. Hon. members may have seen bank notes which are made a means of advertising, people using large rubber stamps and disfiguring the notes both back and front, with printing in the interests of their businesses. I intend to suggest, when the Bill is in Committee, that Clause 2 of the Bill be amended so as to make it read as originally introduced into the Legislative Assembly. Sub-clause *a* of Clause 2 now reads: "Every person who within six months after the issue thereof defaces any bank note by writing, printing," etcetera; and this simply means that any person may deface a note, so long as it is not done within six months of the issue. To allow the clause to remain as drawn would defeat the very object of the measure, and I think the Bill must have been taken through another place in rather a slovenly manner, or the member in charge did not quite understand it.

HON. R. S. HAYNES: Members did not know what they were talking about.

HON. F. M. STONE: I propose to put this clause in the same condition as it was when introduced in another place, and provide that after a note is issued, any person defacing it at any time shall be deemed guilty of an offence. I do not propose that Sub-clause *b*, which provides that "any bank which issues defaced, torn, or unclean notes shall be guilty of an offence," shall remain in the measure. The alteration will place the banks in this position, that they will be able to get at any person found defacing a bank note. What I shall propose is in force in Tasmania and Victoria, and I think also in



New South Wales; in either New South Wales or South Australia. I think that in Victoria it has been in force for the last 15 years.

HON. C. A. PIESSE: What penalty?

HON. F. M. STONE: Not exceeding £5. I happen to have a new bank note, and can show in what style people start to deface notes.

HON. C. A. PIESSE: Pass it round.

HON. F. M. STONE (exhibiting a bank note): "Kelly and Co., Boot and Shoe Manufacturers and Importers, Howick street, Perth, W.A." The Bill proposes to put a stop to that sort of thing. This note was not stamped for purposes of identification. The Bill provides that if the holder of a bank note stamps it for the purpose of identification, he shall not be deemed to have committed an offence. I believe that sometimes you see "Charles's Sweep" stamped all over a note. I move that the Bill be now read a second time.

HON. F. T. CROWDER: I have much pleasure in seconding the proposal, and I think everyone will admit that the banks have a perfect right, the same as ordinary people, to have their property protected. We find in the other colonies that the banks are protected. We should remember that the banks here have to pay the Government 2 per cent. for the issue of these notes, and last year the amount paid to the Government for their issue was £6,600. It is not an uncommon occurrence at the present day for a firm to use the bank property for the purpose of having a cheap advertisement on it. At the present day a rule has been adopted by banks, or one bank in particular, that when notes come in with an advertisement they shall not be re-issued; the object being to stop parties using them from having a cheap advertisement. Considering the amount of the cost to the bank to do this, it would absolutely be better to issue gold and do away with the notes, for not only would the 2 per cent. paid to the Government be saved, but also the cost of all these notes. The Bill, as it has come down to us, is most unfair, one provision in it being, I suppose, inserted in a playful way to try to rub it into the banks. It says any bank shall not issue an unclean note.

HON. A. P. MATHESON: Hear, hear.

HON. F. T. CROWDER: What is an unclean note?

HON. A. P. MATHESON: There are lots of them, and I have never seen a clean one.

HON. F. T. CROWDER: I think the banks are to be congratulated on issuing respectable notes. As far as I know, they have never issued really dirty notes, except in one instance. If the Bill were carried as it stands, it would be absolutely impossible for banks to carry on their business. They would rather pay gold. A man who had a bad feeling against a bank could say, "I will not take that note: it is an unclean one; give me another." I think members will agree to have that clause cut out of the measure. It is not necessary to say much more upon the matter. The Bill is a simple one, and I think the banks in this colony should have the same right as banks in other parts of Australia.

HON. A. P. MATHESON: I intend to support the second reading of the Bill, and to support it later on in Committee in the condition in which it stands at present. We have just heard what Mr. Crowder said about Sub-clause (b), which provides that a bank shall not issue defaced, torn, or unclean notes. I consider this a most salutary provision. We are all thoroughly aware of the disgusting, filthy, and loathsome condition in which bank notes that circulate through the country districts of the colony are usually to be found.

HON. C. A. PIESSE: In towns, too.

HON. A. P. MATHESON: Very possibly in towns, too; but I notice it more particularly when I leave Perth. I would ask members to consider very carefully, when they go into Committee, what they will do with this Sub-clause (b), and I would recommend them to turn to *Hansard* to see the very ample discussion which took place in the other House prior to the insertion of this sub-clause, because if they do that they will see the sub-clause was inserted after very careful consideration. I happened to be in the Assembly when the Bill was being discussed, and this little measure received unusual attention at the hands of members there. As I understand, Mr. Stone took objection to a person being permitted to deface a bank note after six months.

HON. F. M. STONE: Within six months.

HON. A. P. MATHESON: The Bill says every person who within six months defaces a note.

A MEMBER: After issue.

HON. A. P. MATHESON: Every person who does so is subject to a penalty, and that is very fair. I take it that after six months a person is at liberty to put his advertisement on a note. I think that is the objection to the clause. The clause says that any person or any bank that within six months of the issue of a bank note defaces it will be subject to a penalty. Is not that so?

HON. F. T. CROWDER: The note is stamped, and may not be issued for two years afterwards.

HON. A. P. MATHESON: Oh, I see, that is the trouble. Of course it is possible that banks do keep their notes in reserve for a long time. My opinion is that if a bank note gets currency for six months in this colony, it is almost certain to be afterwards in such a condition that the bank should retire it and issue a fresh note. Everyone knows the way these bank notes pass from hand to hand, and the condition they get into. I intend to support the second reading.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

#### ADJOURNMENT.

The House adjourned at 5:56 until the next day.

## Legislative Assembly,

*Tuesday, 17th October, 1899.*

Petition: Peppermint Grove, etc., Water Supply (private) Bill, in opposition—Papers presented—Question: Breaksea Island New Light—Question: Transvaal, Civil Servants Volunteering—Harbour and Pilot Services, Joint Committee's Report—Midland Railway Company, Joint Committee, postponement—Cottesloe Lighting and Power (private) Bill, Select Committee's Report—Peppermint Grove, etc., Water Supply Private Bill, Select Committee, extension of time Motion: Leave of Absence—Statutory Declarations Amendment Bill, first reading—Supply Bill (No. 2), third reading—Annual Estimates: Debate on Financial Statement, second day (adjourned)—Motion: Draft Commonwealth Bill, Joint Committee's Recommendations, debate resumed, fourth day (adjourned)—Dentists Act Amendment Bill, in Committee, reported—Excess Bill (1898-9), second reading, in Committee, reported—Noxious Weeds Bill, discharge of order—Adjournment.

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

#### PRAYERS.

PETITION—PEPPERMINT GROVE, ETC., WATER SUPPLY (PRIVATE) BILL.

MR. RASON presented a petition from the Cottesloe and Peppermint Grove Roads Boards, in opposition to the Peppermint Grove, Cottesloe, and Cottesloe Beach Water Supply (private) Bill.

Petition received, read, and referred to the Select Committee appointed to report on the Bill.

#### PAPERS PRESENTED.

By the PREMIER: Transvaal, resolution passed at Cape Town acknowledging sympathy of Australian colonies with demands of Uitlanders.

By MINISTER OF MINES: Geological Survey, Report for 1898.

By COMMISSIONER OF RAILWAYS: Fremantle Water Supply, Correspondence as ordered.

Ordered to lie on the table.

#### QUESTION—BREAKSEA ISLAND NEW LIGHT.

MR. LEAKE asked the Premier, Why provision was not made upon the Estimates for the erection of the new light on Breaksea Island, as promised by the Director of Public Works on the 6th September last.

THE PREMIER replied:—Provision was not made on the Consolidated Revenue Estimates, because it was the