

Clause 195—"Power of Registrar to strike names of defunct companies off register :"

THE HON J. W. HACKETT said that this clause gave the Registrar a very beneficial power, but it was marred by leaving it altogether to the Registrar to take the initiative. Under the Bill the Registrar would have so much to do that when asked why he did not move in the matter he might reply that it was no business of his. He proposed to amend the clause by adding the words, "of his own knowledge, or upon information supplied in writing by a creditor or a shareholder," between "Registrar" and "has" in the first line. This would enable a creditor or shareholder to put the Registrar in motion.

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

Clause 196—"Foreign company not to commence or carry on business until provisions of this section complied with."

THE HON. J. W. HACKETT said that sub-section 5 provided that the company should have an office in the colony, and he took the same objection here as he had done in a previous clause. He thought they should compel the company to have an office or place of business in a town or place approved by the Registrar, otherwise a land company, for instance, might carry on business in Perth and have its office in Wyndham. He moved that the words "some town or place to be approved of by the Registrar in" be added to the end of line 1 of the clause.

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

Clauses 197 to 200 put and passed.

Clause 201—"Penalty on company not complying :"

THE HON. J. W. HACKETT said that while there was a penalty for non-compliance with the Act, it would be, in certain cases, impossible to enforce it. However, he believed there was no way out of the difficulty.

Clause agreed to.

Clauses 202 to 248 agreed to, with verbal amendments. [*Vide* Council Minutes, 1892, p. 19.]

THE HON. J. W. HACKETT moved—That progress be reported.

Question—put and passed.

ADJOURNMENT.

The Council, at 4:40 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, 29th November, at 3 o'clock p.m.

Legislative Assembly,

Friday, 25th November, 1892.

Report of Mr. Allison Smith upon Railway Workshops
—Export Timber Branding Bill: first reading—
Perth Gas Company's Act Amendment (Private)
Bill: Report of Select Committee—Public Health
Act Further Amendment Bill: point of order:
referred to a Select Committee—Adjournment.

THE SPEAKER took the chair at 2:30 p.m.

PRAYERS.

REPORT OF MR. ALLISON SMITH UPON RAILWAY WORKSHOPS.

MR. R. F. SHOLL, by leave without notice, asked the Commissioner of Railways whether it was his intention, and when, to lay Mr. Allison Smith's report upon the Locomotive Branch of the Railways upon the table of the House.

THE COMMISSIONER OF RAILWAYS (Hon. H. W. Venn) replied that the matter was still under the consideration of the Government, but no decision had been arrived at. If there was a desire that they should do so, the Government would not object to lay the report upon the table.

EXPORT TIMBER BRANDING BILL.

MR. PATERSON, in accordance with notice, moved for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the branding of jarrah and karri timber prior to exportation.

Agreed to.

Bill introduced, read a first time, and ordered to be printed.

PERTH GAS COMPANY'S ACT AMENDMENT (PRIVATE) BILL.

The Order of the Day for the consideration of the report of the select committee upon this private Bill having been read, and the Chairman of Committees having informed the House that the Bill contained the several provisions required by the Standing Orders,

MR. CANNING moved that the report of the select committee be adopted.

Agreed to.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL.

POINT OF ORDER.

THE SPEAKER: A question arose when the House was in committee on this Bill the other day as to whether, the House having gone into committee on the Bill, it was competent to have it referred to a select committee; and progress was reported in order that the point raised by the hon. member for Geraldton might be considered. I since have considered it, and have formed the following opinion, which I will read to the House:—

A question having arisen as to whether when the House has resolved itself into a committee on a Bill it would be in order for the committee to entertain a motion to refer the Bill to a select committee, I am clearly of opinion that such a motion would be out of order, as it is only the House itself that can order a Bill to be referred to a select committee.

The usual course is to refer a Bill to a select committee after the second reading, or on the motion being made for the Speaker to leave the chair for the purpose of considering a Bill in committee. Occasionally, however, it becomes necessary to send a Bill to a select committee after the House has gone into committee, and the question for decision is, at what time a motion for such purpose should be made.

Our own Standing Order No. 292 says, "No motion for referring a Bill to a select committee shall be considered after the Chairman of Committees of the whole House shall have reported the Bill."

I am then of opinion that we should adopt the practice as explained in "May's Parliamentary Practice," viz., that when the Clerk reads the Order of the Day for resuming the committee on a Bill, if it is desired that the Bill be referred to a select committee, a motion should be made that the Order of the Day be discharged, and that the Bill be referred to a select committee.

If the hon. member for Geraldton wishes to do that, now is the time for him to do so.

MR. SIMPSON: Then I beg to move that the Order of the Day for the adjourned consideration of this Bill in committee be discharged, and that the Bill be referred to a select committee.

Agreed to.

A ballot having been taken, the following members, in addition to the mover, were elected to serve upon the committee: Mr. Throssell, Mr. Traylen, Mr. Solomon, and Mr. Quinlan.

ADJOURNMENT.

The House adjourned at ten minutes to 3 o'clock p.m.

Legislative Assembly,

Monday, 28th November, 1892.

Amendment of Education Act—Proposed Deviation of Eastern Railway Line—Completion of Busselton Jetty—Return showing the number, &c., of Government Employés—Report of Analysis of Liquors seized by Police—Industrial and Reformatory Schools Bill: second reading—Message from the Governor: Appointment of Sir John Forrest and Sir James Lee Steere to Federal Council—Homesteads Bill: second reading—Adjournment.

The SPEAKER took the chair at 7.30 p.m.

PRAYERS.

AMENDMENT OF EDUCATION ACT.

MR. SIMPSON, in accordance with notice, asked the Premier whether it was the intention of the Government to amend the Education Act, in accordance with the promise made by the Premier during last session of Parliament.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) replied that he was not aware of having made any definite promise, and that the Government did not propose to do anything in the matter at present.