

MR. SIMPSON: Then I beg to move that this House disagrees with the ruling of the Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: Will the hon. member bring up his objection in writing?

MR. SIMPSON: With pleasure.

The objection having been handed in in writing,

THE SPEAKER resumed the chair.

THE CHAIRMAN: I have to report that I have ruled that an amendment introduced by the hon. member for Sussex is out of order, on the ground that it imported an entirely new principle into the Bill, a principle that was not within the scope of the Bill. Exception has been taken to my ruling by the hon. member for Geraldton, who has moved that the matter be referred to the Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: The motion was not put to the committee; still I am quite prepared to say at once that I think the amendment of the hon. member for Sussex was in order. If any amendment is introduced into a Bill that is not in accordance with the original title, the title may be amended, and the amendment specially reported to the House. But this amendment of the hon. member for Sussex is, I think, quite admissible, and can be dealt with, if desired, by the committee.

THE SPEAKER then left the chair, and the committee resumed.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) moved that progress be now reported, and leave given to sit again.

Put and passed.

Progress reported.

#### ADJOURNMENT.

The House adjourned at seventeen minutes to 11 o'clock p.m.

## Legislative Council,

*Tuesday, 25th July, 1893.*

Treasury Bills Bill: third reading—Destructive Birds and Animals Bill: recommittal—Post Office Savings Bank Consolidation Bill: second reading—Supply Bill: second reading; committee; suspension of Standing Orders; third reading—Adjournment.

THE PRESIDENT (Hon. Sir G. Shenton) took the chair at 2:30 o'clock p.m.

### PRAYERS.

#### TREASURY BILLS BILL.

This Bill was read a third time, and *passed*.

#### DESTRUCTIVE BIRDS AND ANIMALS BILL.

##### RECOMMITTAL.

On the Order of the Day for the consideration of the committee's report on this Bill being read,

THE HON. J. W. HACKETT moved that the Bill be recommitted with a view, amongst other things, of striking out clause 7.

Question—put and passed.

##### IN COMMITTEE.

THE HON. J. W. HACKETT moved that clause 7 be struck out.

Question—put and passed.

THE HON. J. W. HACKETT moved, That the following clause be substituted in lieu thereof:—"Any police officer or constable, and any person from time to time authorised by the Governor, may enter upon any land, houses, or buildings whatever, whether occupied or unoccupied, and take, carry away, or destroy any destructive birds or animals found in or upon such land, houses, or buildings. The name of any person so specially authorised as aforesaid shall be published in the *Government Gazette*, and such person shall produce a copy of the said *Gazette* containing notice of his said authority to all persons in occupation of any land, houses, or buildings entered upon by him, who shall require to see the same. Any person obstructing, resisting, or hindering any police officer or constable, or any person so authorised as aforesaid, while acting in the execution of the powers conferred on him by

this section, shall be guilty of an offence against this Act."

Question—put and passed.

THE HON. G. RANDELL: I should like to draw the attention of the Colonial Secretary to the penalties provided by this Bill. In the 8th clause it is stated that—

THE CHAIRMAN (Hon. Sir G. Shenton): The hon. member is out of order. The Bill was only recommitted to alter clause 7.

THE HON. J. W. HACKETT: No, I was particularly careful to say, when I moved to recommit the Bill, "to strike out clause 7, amongst other things."

THE CHAIRMAN (Hon. Sir G. Shenton): Very well. I accept the hon. member's statement. The Hon. Mr. Randell may proceed.

THE HON. G. RANDELL: I did not intend to move any resolution on the subject. I only wished to point out that very often where an Act contains extreme penalties, it becomes a dead letter. In clause 8 it says that magistrates may not fine less than £10. I remember Acts having been altered—I think the Stamp Act was one of them—because they provided a minimum penalty of so many pounds. Such provisions give the magistrates no discretion, and hence the Act, in many instances, becomes a dead letter. I should like to suggest that instead of the clause reading "not less than £10," &c., discretion should be given to the magistrates, and that it should read "not more than," &c.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. S. H. Parker): Then move it. I have no objection.

THE HON. G. RANDELL: Then I move, That the words "and not less than Ten pounds," in the third line of clause 8, be struck out.

Question—put and passed.

THE HON. G. RANDELL: I also move, That the words "and not less than Twenty pounds," in the last line of the clause, be struck out.

The Bill was then reported.

#### POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANK CONSOLIDATION BILL.

##### SECOND READING.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. S. H. Parker): It may be in the recollec-

tion of hon. members that at the last session of Parliament, my hon. friend Mr. Morrison drew attention to the necessity of amending the Post Office Savings Bank Act. He pointed out how inconvenient it was to some people, in certain circumstances, to be debarred from placing more than £30 in the Savings Bank in any one year. Since that time the matter has been under the consideration of the Government, and now, I am happy to say, we are able to introduce this Bill. It will be observed that all the details of working the Post Office Savings Bank are provided for, and, amongst other things, the amendment suggested by my hon. friend Mr. Morrison, has been inserted. In future, instead of limiting the amount which can be placed in the Bank in any one year to £30, the Government have provided that £150 may be received in twelve months, so long as the total sum does not exceed £600. The rate of interest has been fixed at £3 15s. per cent., to be calculated on 30th June and 31st December in each year, so that on the 1st July and 1st January the interest will be added to the principal, and will then bear interest as such. Provision is made as to accounts which have not been operated on for seven years, and also for paying amounts, not exceeding £50, deposited in the name of deceased persons, to those entitled to it, without the necessity of probate or letters of administration being taken out. There are also provisions for the investment of the moneys deposited in the Bank. The Treasurer is empowered to place them in any Bank at such rate of interest as may be agreed upon; he may invest the funds in any public loan or Government securities, which, for the purposes of the Act, shall include debentures, Treasury or other bills. He may also lend on mortgage any sum not exceeding £3,000 on any one security. The Postmaster General is empowered, with the approval of the Governor-in-Council, to make regulations for carrying out the Act, and the accounts of the Bank are to be laid before Parliament not later than 30th September in every year. The Bill will, I think, place the Post Office Savings Bank in a much better position than it is at present. It will, I hope, popularise it, and, I trust, tend to increase the savings of the people.

I now move that the Bill be read a second time.

THE HON. J. MORRISON: I am sure, sir, it will be most gratifying to the colonists of Western Australia, especially those residing in the country where there are no banks except those in connection with the Post Office, to learn that the Government have introduced this Bill. The facilities given by this Bill will encourage the people to save, and thus give the working classes an opportunity of starting in business on their own account, where otherwise they might spend and waste the money they get. I notice that in clause 7 the rate of interest is fixed. I should have thought that before long it might be possible that the Government would not be able to allow £3 15s. per cent., and therefore, perhaps, it would be as well if a saving clause were inserted, by which the rate could be altered. I should also like to see provision made by which the banks could be opened at hours to suit the working classes, such as pertains under the present Act on Saturday nights. I doubt, in view of the enormous territory which is comprised in this colony, whether the period of one month provided by clause 11 is sufficient. A great many miners use the Bank, and if one were to die, say at Kimberley, it would take more than a month to hear of his death. When in committee I think it will be advisable to alter this to three months. As to the investment of the moneys, I notice that the clause says that the securities may be Government debentures, Treasury bills, or other forms of security issued and secured on the Consolidated Revenue Fund. I should like to know how this clause affects the recent transaction of the Government in taking up £10,000 or £12,000 worth of City debentures out of the Savings Bank funds? By this clause they could not be taken up.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. S. H. Parker): Better ask in committee.

THE HON. J. MORRISON: At any rate I have now much pleasure in supporting the Bill, for I feel sure it will do much good to many in whom there exists the spirit of saving, and will be, for them, the commencement of their progress.

Question—That the Bill be now read a second time—put and passed.

## SUPPLY BILL.

### SECOND READING.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. S. H. Parker): I beg to move the second reading of a Bill to appropriate the sum of £100,000 towards the Supply for the year 1894. Hon. members are aware of the object of this Bill. It is to enable the Government to pay the current expenses of the colony until the formal Estimates for the year are passed by the Lower House and approved of by this House. There is no need for me to say more than to ask hon. members to agree to the second reading, which I now move.

Question—put and passed.

### IN COMMITTEE.

The Bill was taken through committee, and agreed to without amendment.

The Standing Orders were suspended.

### THIRD READING.

The Bill was then read a third time, and passed.

### ADJOURNMENT.

The Council, at 3 o'clock p.m., adjourned until Thursday, 27th July, at 4:30 o'clock p.m.

## Legislative Assembly,

Wednesday, 26th July, 1893.

Working Expenses and Traffic Receipts of Government Railways—Carriage Charges made by Great Southern Railway Company—Tenders for Construction of Geraldton-Murchison Telegraph Line—Post and Telegraph Bill: in committee—Constitution Act Amendment Bill: in committee—Return of Correspondence re Pastoral Lease, Harvey Agricultural Area—Return showing Number of Electors on Rolls at last Revision—Adjournment.

THE SPEAKER took the chair at 4.30 p.m.

### PRAYERS.

### WORKING EXPENSES AND TRAFFIC RECEIPTS OF GOVERNMENT RAILWAYS.

MR. MONGER, in accordance with notice, asked the Commissioner of Railways whether he had observed a public statement that the traffic receipts on