

Legislative Council,

Friday, 13th January, 1893.

Appropriation Bill: first reading; second reading; committee: third reading—Midland Railway Loan Bill: first reading; second reading; committee: third reading—Loan Estimates, 1893—Prorogation.

THE PRESIDENT (Hon. G. Shenton) took the chair at 10 a.m.

PRAYERS.

APPROPRIATION BILL.

This Bill was received from the Legislative Assembly, and was read a first time. The Standing Orders were suspended.

SECOND READING.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. S. H. Parker): I now beg to move the second reading of this Bill. It will be observed that the Bill is in the ordinary form, and contains, as the schedule, the Estimates passed by the Lower House.

Question—put and passed.

The Bill was then taken through its remaining stages without amendment, and passed.

MIDLAND RAILWAY LOAN BILL.

This Bill was received from the Legislative Assembly, and was read a first time. The Standing Orders were suspended.

SECOND READING.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. S. H. Parker): I beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time. It will be seen that the resolutions, which have been adopted by both Houses, are set out in the preamble; and it is provided that the Government may enter into a contract with the Company on the basis of them, and charge anything that may have to be paid under them to the Consolidated Revenue. There is also a special provision by which, if the Government take possession under clause 5, the whole property in the railway and all its appurtenances will absolutely belong to the Government without any right of redemption on the part of the Company. As I have said before, if the colony at any time has to pay £20,000, they will then purchase the line for another £500,000. If we have to take it, it will, in my opinion, be a cheap railway, for it will be a going concern, and all we shall have to do will be to pay

the interest. As to the redemption of the bonds in such an event, of course it will be possible, if the Government think it undesirable to repay them at the rate of £20,000 a year, to raise another loan and pay off the whole of the bonds. I move the second reading.

Question—put and passed.

IN COMMITTEE.

Clauses 1 to 5 passed.

Clause 6.—“Short title”:

THE HON. G. W. LEAKE: I beg to move a New Clause, as follows:—“The Government shall have the power of being represented on the Board of Directors of the Company, by some person specially appointed for the purpose, with an absolute right of veto on any matter affecting the Government or its guarantee.” I regret that I feel called upon to move this at the eleventh hour, and I may say that I do not bring this amendment forward with any idea of embarrassing the Government, but in order that we may have a reasonable check on the operations of a Company in which the Government place very great confidence. I do not think there will be any objection to the clause, as the members of the Company are men of business, and will not object to have their proceedings watched narrowly by those who find the money. I do not think I could better express the intention of the clause, if I were to take hours over it, than appears on the face of it, and therefore I will content myself with moving it.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. S. H. Parker): When I first saw this clause in print it struck me that it might be a very good one, but, having considered the matter, it strikes me there will be very little for a Government agent to do. By the provisions of this Bill, and the agreement that will be executed under it, the whole of the money is to be expended in a certain way. The National Bank is to be paid a certain sum; another Bank is to be paid a further sum; the Government is to be paid £60,000; and the balance is to be handed over to the Government to be expended on a schedule of rates to be approved by the Engineer-in-Chief. Of the £500,000, £482,000 will never go into the hands of the Company at all, for it will all be appropriated under the agreement, and is to be spent in certain ways. There would,

therefore, be nothing for a director to do. What would there be for him to veto? As to the sale of the land, there is a clause by which none of it can be sold unless with the consent of the Government. Everything is provided for, if my hon. friend will allow me to say so, very much better than under the clause he proposes. The City Council has two directors on the Waterworks Board, and the Mayor for the time being is one of them. I occupied that position for nearly 12 months, and we only had one meeting. The whole business is conducted by the manager without reference to the Board of Directors, so that the power given really means nothing. I trust my hon. friend will withdraw his amendment.

THE HON. G. W. LEAKE: If all the questions which come before this House were as lucidly explained as they have been this session by the Hon. the Colonial Secretary we should spend much less time here than we do. I think the thanks of the House are due to him for the way in which he has conducted the business during the present session, and pre-eminently, sir, are our thanks due to him for the manner in which he has explained this Bill. I have very much pleasure in withdrawing the amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Clause agreed to, and the Bill reported. The report was adopted, and the Bill read a third time, and *passed*.

LOAN ESTIMATES, 1893.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. S. H. Parker): In moving that the Message received from the Legislative Assembly, transmitting the Loan Estimates for 1893, be agreed to, I may express my regret at having to ask hon. members to consider this question on so short a notice; but on the present occasion it is, owing to certain circumstances which make the prorogation at 4 o'clock necessary, unavoidable. I move, sir, that you do leave the chair.

Question—put and passed.

IN COMMITTEE.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. S. H. Parker): I move that this Council sanctions the expenditure from Loan Account, in accordance with the Estimates laid upon the table. It will be observed that the salaries of officers, and the works proposed to be carried out during the

next six months, are all set out. These Estimates are fuller and give much more information than any previous Estimates of the kind have. The salaries are set down at £13,605. These may appear to be excessive, but when we bear in mind that the sum proposed to be spent during the half-year is £650,000, the amount does not mean more than 2 per cent. for supervision. When I first saw these Estimates it struck me that the amount for salaries was excessive, but after calculating the percentage, it did not seem so large, especially when we remember that if we build a house we have to pay the architect $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for the plans, and $2\frac{1}{2}$ for supervision. I understand from the Director of Public Works that if the whole of the £650,000 is not spent, the amount for salaries will be reduced proportionately. The principal moneys that will be spent will be those enumerated in the Loan Estimates from page 4 to page 7 inclusive [*read*]. I do not know that I need say anything further; but if hon. members require any information on any particular item, I shall be glad to give it.

THE HON. R. W. HARDEY: There is an item for the extension of the Fremantle jetty. Is it intended to further extend it?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. S. H. Parker): As far as I know there is no intention of doing so. This amount is included, I believe, because the money has already been spent.

Question—put and passed.

The Council then adjourned until 3.55 p.m.

THE PROROGATION.

At 4 o'clock p.m., the approach of His Excellency was announced by the Usher.

His Excellency came in to the Chamber, and commanded the Clerk to desire the attendance of Members of the Legislative Assembly, who, being come with their Speaker,

HIS EXCELLENCY was pleased to speak as follows:—

“MR. PRESIDENT AND HONORABLE
“GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLA-
“TIVE COUNCIL,—

“MR. SPEAKER AND GENTLEMEN OF
“THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,—

“The work of the Session having been
“completed, I have much pleasure in re-
“leasing you from your arduous duties.

"2. The several Bills which have been passed, many of them of pressing urgency, cannot fail to be of much value to the community.

"3. In regard to the Bill to amend the Constitution Act, and the Homesteads Bill, which have not become law, my Ministers hope and believe that, on further consideration, these important measures will meet with the approval and support of both Houses of the Legislature.

"MR. SPEAKER AND GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,—

"4. I thank you for the liberal Supplies you have granted for the use of the Public Service, including, as they do, provision for many works of much importance to the colony.

"MR. PRESIDENT AND HONORABLE GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,—

"MR. SPEAKER AND GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,—

"5. The resolutions you have agreed to in regard to the Midland Railway should ensure its speedy completion, and I hope no further difficulties will arise in connection with this important work.

"6. I now prorogue Parliament till Wednesday, the 26th April next."

The session then closed.

Legislative Assembly,

Friday, 13th January, 1893.

Missing Paper—Resignation of Messrs. Bush and Darlôt as Justices of the Peace—Introduction of an Electoral Act Amendment Bill—Appropriation Bill, 1893: second reading; in committee; third reading—Renewal of Hawk's Licenses—Message from Legislative Council: concurrence in Appropriation Bill—Temporary Prevention of Sandalwood Cutting—Message from Legislative Council: concurrence in Midland Railway Loan Bill—Message from Legislative Council: concurrence in Loan Estimates—Commission to inquire into the working of the Tariff Act—Opening of Refreshment Rooms during the Recess—Prorogation.

THE SPEAKER took the chair at 11 a.m.

PRAYERS.

MISSING PAPER.

THE SPEAKER: I should just like to mention to members that one of the papers laid on the table by order of the House has been taken away—the paper relating to the amounts paid to the newspapers by the Government. If any hon. member has it, I should be glad if he would place it on the table again.

MR. R. F. SHOLL: It was on the table the other day. I saw it myself yesterday morning.

THE SPEAKER: There are two returns.

MR. R. F. SHOLL: I had both of them yesterday morning, and replaced them on the table.

RESIGNATION OF MESSRS. BUSH AND DARLÔT.

MR. R. F. SHOLL, in accordance with notice, asked the Attorney General whether Messrs. R. E. Bush and L. H. Darlôt, formerly justices of the peace of the colony, resigned their positions as justices at the suggestion of the Government, or whether they did so of their own free will?

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt) replied that the gentlemen in question had resigned entirely of their own free will.

INTRODUCTION OF AN ELECTORAL ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

MR. SOLOMON, in accordance with notice, asked the Premier whether it was the intention of the Government, during the recess, to prepare an Electoral Act Amendment Bill, to facilitate the registration of voters, etc.?

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) said the Government could not make any promise, but that the matter would be carefully considered.

APPROPRIATION BILL, 1893.

This Bill was read a second time, and passed through committee without discussion; and, the Standing Orders having been suspended, the Bill was read a third time, and transmitted to the Legislative Council.

HAWKERS' LICENSES—RENEWAL OF.

MR. DEHAMEL, in accordance with notice, moved, "That in the opinion of