

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Friday, 1st April, 1881.

Railway Refreshment Room Licensing Bill, 1881: second reading; in committee—Message (No. 12): Reply to—Stamp Duties Bill: re-committed—Loan Bill: re-committed—Message (No. 9): Reply to—Adjournment.

THE SPEAKER took the Chair at seven o'clock, p.m.

PRAYERS.

RAILWAY REFRESHMENT ROOM
LICENSING BILL, 1881.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. A. C. Onslow) moved the second reading of a Bill to enable the Police or Resident Magistrate of a district to issue a certificate for a license to the keeper of a railway refreshment room in the district of such Police or Resident Magistrate, at any time between any two ordinary quarterly licensing meetings. The hon. gentleman pointed out that serious inconvenience might arise to the public if it should not be possible to grant these licenses immediately upon the opening of a railway refreshment room, instead of having to wait until the next licensing day came round.

MR. RANDELL asked if the keepers of these refreshment rooms would be under the same regulations as the keepers of hotels and other licensed houses under the Wines, Beer, and Spirit Sale Act?

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. A. C. Onslow): Precisely.

The Bill was then read a second time, and committed.

IN COMMITTEE.

The various clauses were agreed to without discussion.

Preamble and title agreed to.

Bill reported.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE EASTERN DISTRICTS: REPLY TO HIS EXCELLENCY'S MESSAGE.

The Order of the Day for the consideration of His Excellency's Message relating to the development of the Eastern Districts (*Vide* p. 122, *ante*), being read,

MR. STEERE said he was sure every hon. member must appreciate the interest which His Excellency the Governor felt in the development of the Eastern Districts, as was manifested in the Message sent by His Excellency to the House on the previous day. At the same time, he thought hon. members would agree with him that the subject was one which could be more advantageously discussed at the ordinary Session of Council, when there would be a fuller attendance of members, than it could during the present Session. He would therefore move the adoption of the following reply to the Message received from the Governor on the subject: "In reply to Your Excellency's Message No. 12, in which you suggest the propriety of nominating a Committee to be composed of members of this House for the purpose of collecting full information on the various subjects referred to in the Message, and for advising as to what steps should be taken to further the settlement of the Eastern Districts generally, and also the success of the Railway; the Council, whilst thanking Your Excellency for your suggestion, and fully recognising the great importance of the questions which are alluded to, is of opinion that matters requiring such grave consideration could be more advantageously discussed at the next Session of the Legislature, when there would be a full attendance of members, thus ensuring a fuller expression of opinion than could be obtained at the present time, in consequence of the absence of so many of the members of the Legislative Council."

The reply was agreed to without discussion.

STAMP DUTIES BILL.

This Bill was again re-committed, for the purpose of introducing some verbal amendments, which were agreed to without discussion. (*Vide* "Votes and Proceedings," p. 50.)

LOAN BILL, 1881.

The Order of the Day for the third reading of this Bill being read,

MR. STEERE moved that the order be discharged and the Bill re-committed. The new clause introduced the other day provided that the annual expenditure required for certain purposes connected with the Loan shall be annually submitted to "the Council." It had been pointed out to him that these words might apply as well to the Executive Council as to the Legislative Council, which of course was not the intention of the House. He therefore proposed to introduce the word "Legislative" before Council, in the clause referred to, and also another slight verbal amendment.

The Bill was then re-committed, and the amendments submitted by the hon. member were agreed to *sub silentio*.

REPLY TO MESSAGE (NO. 9): RAILWAY SURVEYS.

MR. STEERE moved the following Resolution:—"In reference to Message "No. 9 from Your Excellency, forwarding "a Memorandum from the Commissioner "of Railways as to the probable cost of "surveying the line of the Eastern Railway from the termination of the second "section to York, the Commissioner is "correct in presuming that such a survey "is intended as would connect the present "surveyed route to Northam with the "town of York by the best route possible, "the cost of which survey he estimated "at from £300 to £400. The Council "therefore recommends that a Supplementary Estimate be submitted to the "Council for a sum not exceeding £500, "for the purpose of providing for the "proposed survey."

The resolution was agreed to without discussion.

The House adjourned at a quarter to eight o'clock, p.m.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Monday, 4th April, 1881.

Message (No 15): *Re Audit Bill*—Audit Bill, 1880: Reply of Secretary of State to Memorial—Transfer of Land Act, 1874, Amendment Bill, 1880—Railway Refreshment Room Licensing Bill, 1881: third reading—Stamp Duties Bill: third reading—Loan Bill, 1881: third reading—Adjournment.

THE SPEAKER took the Chair at seven o'clock, p.m.

PRAYERS.

MESSAGE (No. 15): *Re AUDIT BILL*.

MR. SPEAKER announced the receipt of the following Message from His Excellency the Governor:—

"The Governor has the honor to lay "before the Legislative Council a copy "of a Despatch from the Secretary of "State on the subject of the Audit Bill, "in which His Lordship states that he "approves of the course taken by the "Governor in withholding his assent to "the Bill; that he concurs in the views "which the Governor expressed upon the "subject of it in his Message No. 22, of "the 2nd September; that His Lordship "is therefore unable to accede to the "Memorial forwarded to him by Your "Honorable Council, wherein you requested that the Governor might be "directed to assent to a similar Audit "Bill if introduced next Session; but that "he will be happy to consider any Bill "founded on the recommendations of the "Commission appointed by the Governor "to consider and report on the question "whether any improvements could be "introduced in the mode of keeping and "auditing the accounts.

"The Report of the Commission alluded to has already been received and "considered by the Governor, and a Bill "to give legal effect to the Regulations "suggested by the Commission will, as "stated by the Governor in his Message "No. 22, of the 2nd September, be presented to you at the next Session of "Council. In the meanwhile, the recommendations of the Commission are about "to be provisionally enforced in the "Financial Departments concerned, and "the Governor has no doubt that the "changes proposed will be highly beneficial to the Service. The Report of