

and also east of Cuballing; that is a fact. One will find poor country no matter where one goes in those parts; but possibly the member for Guildford did not see the country round about the lakes. Did the hon. member go round the lakes?

*Mr. Johnson* : They are in a different direction altogether.

*Mr. COWCHER* : No, the lakes are in this direction. They are not large lakes, but small claypans. The line may go in a north-easterly direction, not as a goldfields railway altogether, but as an agricultural line to open up the country, and if it were so desired the line could join with the Greenhills line. I have always advocated a line in that direction, and I contend that a line should go in that direction, or through the eastern portion of the district, and ultimately junction with the goldfields line. The country warrants it as an agricultural railway. I have not made a personal inspection of the line, but I know the country and I contend that it is good and of a similar character right through, with the exception of small patches. Occasionally one might come across a small sandplain, but that is soon got over. Select committees and Royal Commissions, as far as I have seen since I have been a member of the House, do no good.

*Mr. Taylor* : This will not be a select committee.

*Mr. COWCHER* : It is of a similar character; it is an inquiry to take the responsibility from the Government, and I contend that any Government who have not backbone enough to stand by their own convictions should be got out and let another Government come in.

*Mr. Taylor* : I have been thinking that for two years.

*Mr. COWCHER* : I do not believe in putting responsibility on other people's shoulders. If we have a Government let them take the responsibility.

*Mr. Taylor* : We have not one.

*Mr. COWCHER* : I contend we have a Government who can take the responsibility, but if they are not able to do it, then they should let others take it.

*Mr. Angwin* : Do you believe that in regard to the Wagin flour-mill?

*Mr. COWCHER* : When we come to deal with the Wagin flour-mill I shall speak in the same manner as I do now. Whatever I have to say I shall say fearlessly, whether I please anyone or not. It is not the people near the Great Southern Railway this line is to serve; it is the people back from that railway. Those near the railway are fighting the battle of the routes while the people in the back country suffer. We want to serve the people in the back country, and I hope that the Government will bring down a Bill for the route as outlined by them.

On motion by the *Minister for Works*, debate adjourned.

## ADJOURNMENT.

The House adjourned at 10.31 o'clock, until the next day.

## Legislative Council,

Thursday, 22nd August, 1907.

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The PRESIDENT took the Chair at 4.30 o'clock p.m.

Prayers.

## PAPERS PRESENTED.

By the *Colonial Secretary*: Goldfields Water Supply Administration—Annual Report to 30th June, 1907.

### QUESTION—MAGISTRATE AT DERBY, A COMPLAINT.

Hon. R. W. PENNEFATHER asked the Colonial Secretary: Will he lay on the table the file of papers in connection with the complaint of John Fenner against the Resident Magistrate of Derby?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY replied: No; unless good reasons are forthcoming, it is not desirable to lay these papers on the table.

### QUESTION—MUNICIPALITY PETI- TION, COTTESLOE.

Hon. R. W. PENNEFATHER asked the Colonial Secretary: Upon what date did the Government receive a petition from the Cottesloe ratepayers praying for the formation of a municipality, and when do the Government intend to answer the petition?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY replied: A petition was received on 22nd April, 1907. Since then another petition has been received against the proposal. The Government will reply when both petitions have been fully considered.

### BILL—POLICE OFFENCES (CON- SOLIDATION).

Bill read a third time, and transmitted to the Legislative Assembly.

### BILL—PUBLIC HEALTH (CON- SOLIDATION).

#### *Second Reading.*

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. J. D. Connolly) in moving the second reading said: It is not necessary for me to go into the principles contained in this Bill, because they have already been accepted by the country for a number of years; but there are some new features in this measure which I shall touch on as I go through it. There is no great radical change from the present system of administering public health. Though an amending measure, the Bill is more a consolidating enactment. The present Act was passed in 1898, since when there have been five amending acts, one in 1900,

two in 1902, one in 1904, and one in 1906. This Bill consolidates these Acts and at the same times remedies a great number of defects found during the years of working under the present Act, which defects I shall touch on, along with the slight amendments made in the Bill. At present the administration of public health in this State is vested in the Central Board of Health, in local boards, the municipal councils, and in nominee boards appointed by the Governor-in-Council. The Bill carries out the same principle, though extending it a little. Administration will be vested in the Central Board of Health, in municipal councils as local boards, and roads boards in certain instances will be local boards, while nominee boards will exist as at present. This will be an improvement inasmuch as it will extend the system of elective local boards, that is to say, there will be less nominee boards than at present. The first alteration I draw attention to is in Clause 8, which provides that the Governor may by proclamation suspend the operation of the Act in any district. I will have something more to say on this subject later on. Members will admit that the provisions of a Health Bill must be stringent because we must provide for the worst cases, but it may be desirable, as has been found in the working of the present Act, to suspend the Act or a portion of it in portions of the State. For instance, the conditions that apply to a city may be too severe for the country. While we cannot be too strict in enforcing cleanliness and all the regulations against suburban dairies, or dairies where a great number of cows are kept on a small area or where milk is distributed, some slight alteration might be made in the case of farmers without in any way endangering public health. I do not say for a moment that the farmers' dairies should not be kept in a state of thorough cleanliness, but it may be seen fit by the Governor-in-Council to exempt them so as not to harass the dairying industry which we are trying to establish. [*Hon. W. Kingsmill*: The building regulations for instance.] Yes; certain buildings have to be carried out in the city, but something

not in accordance with the regulations might in the opinion of the inspector do in the country. That is the reason for this clause. It will only be used when necessity arises. This is a very voluminous Bill. I do not intend to touch on every clause but only on the new features as I did when introducing the Municipal Bill last year. I will deal with any of the alterations from the present Act so that members may note them. [*Hon. R. W. Pennefather*: I notice there are no marginal references in this Bill.] I do not know quite the reason, I have not inquired, but in all the Bills this session coming from the Crown Law Department there are no marginal references. The next clause to which I draw attention is Clause 38.

*Hon. M. L. Moss*: How about Clause 1, making this Bill come into force on the 1st January? The copies will not be printed by then. You might make a note of the point.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: I am responsible for having the 1st January inserted. There was some delay in printing, and on that account it was decided this year to bring the Acts into force by proclamation. It occurred to me that Parliament might object to this and rightly so, because it is giving all the power into the hands of the Government. The Government could bring the Act into force when they liked. Parliament passes a Bill, but it is not an Act until the Government proclaim it. That is why the 1st January was put in this Bill.

*Hon. M. L. Moss*: Make a note of it and make it the 1st April, because they will not be printed. That is the trouble.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: I discussed the point with the Parliamentary Draughtsmen; and seeing that we were introducing the Bill in August, it was thought the measure would get through before the end of the session and the statute would be printed in time; but if the Bill takes longer than is anticipated in going through, the amendment suggested should be made, and I will move it. In Clause 38 members will notice there is a departure from the principle that is carried out now. I may say that in some

other States—in New Zealand at any rate—the administration of the public health is carried out on a different principle from what it is in this State. There are no local boards there, but the public health is controlled by a health department. That principle is carried out in New South Wales and it is an efficient system; still it would be the means of adding considerably to the cost and I doubt if the country is ripe for it, for this is a country of immense distances and the local boards are very scattered, and I do not know if the system were carried out that it could be applied successfully in this country. We have gone a little in that direction in this clause; the positions of officers of local boards as set out in that clause are rendered more secure, their salaries cannot be reduced without the approval of the central board. That will safeguard the officers to some extent. At the present time an inspector of the local board is appointed by the members of the local board, and he has to administer the Act very often against the wishes of his own board, and the result has been that often—it has happened in the metropolitan area—that a big offender is a member of the local board, and perhaps the chairman, and if the inspector does his duty conscientiously, he finds it hard to carry out his duties. This clause gives some protection to the inspector so that he may proceed against a member of the local board as he would against any other person without fear of his salary being reduced, or without any fear of being removed from his position. In Clause 39 there is a new departure inasmuch as power is taken to appoint joint officers, or to declare certain districts for the purpose of appointing joint officers. This system is carried out in Sydney. Let us take for instance the metropolitan area: there are something like 17 or 19 local boards of health in that area, each of which employs a medical officer of health: the boards are so small in many instances that they give the medical officer anything from £10 up to £100 in Perth and I believe also in Fremantle. These gentlemen are often not qualified to carry out their duties in regard to public health. They may be

qualified medical practitioners, but they are not specialists in regard to public health matters, and I believe that only one holds a diploma of health. Where there are so many boards in one centre it is within the power of the Governor-in-Council, that is if the clause is passed, to declare a number of districts one district and to appoint a medical officer to control that district. That will not entail any extra expense on the boards because at the present time the 17 boards I have mentioned pay in the aggregate £800 a year. By paying an officer £20 a board cannot get good service, even if the man were qualified to give it, but if a good salary is paid an efficient officer can be obtained, a man who is a specialist in health matters. This system has worked well in Sydney and it is thought that it can be worked well in the metropolitan area here and possibly on the Eastern Goldfields. Those are about the only centres that the system could be applied to, as the other districts in the State are too scattered, and the combined boards would cover too great an area.

*Hon. J. W. Langsford* : The Government are to appoint and the local boards to pay.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY : The hon. member is correct. I said that this principle would apply to medical officers, but it will also apply to other officers of boards, for instance an inspector. At the present time inspectors are appointed who do not know anything of health matters, and this system will enable health officers to be appointed for one or more districts, men who are qualified in sanitary matters. The inspector will be under the direction of the health officer, and the work will be carried out well without extra expense to the health boards of the country. It is provided that the salary shall be paid by the central board, but it will be collected proportionately from each of the boards forming the combined district. In Sydney, I may mention, the health officer is entirely a Government officer and the salary is paid by the State, but there is no necessity to relieve the local boards of this expense and the country is not warranted in doing so.

*Hon. J. W. Hackett* : We will not have the money shortly to do it.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY : That is right ; there will be no additional cost to the country or the local boards, but there will be efficient officers appointed.

*Hon. W. Patrick* : But the local boards are the country.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY : There will be no difference in the cost. In Clauses 40 to 45 there is an alteration from the present Act, inasmuch as an appeal is allowed from local boards. Under Clause 44 an appeal is allowed in certain cases to the local court and in all cases to the central board, and if necessary to the Minister, which means the Governor in Council. This is a very wise provision as it has been found, and I dare say Mr. Randell and Mr. Kingsmill will bear me out in this, that often boards are too arbitrary and there is no appeal from their decision. The central board has no control over them nor has the Minister; the Minister has a control over the central board but not over the local boards.

*Hon. W. Kingsmill* : There are often sins of omission, not commission.

*Hon. G. Randell* : Commission also.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY : Very often they are acts of omission.

*Hon. M. L. Moss* : Twenty-one days is too long a time for an appeal.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY : The financial portion of the Bill will be found in Part III., beginning at Clause 48. Members will notice that under certain conditions there is an increased amount of rating; the maximum rate under the present Act is 6d. in the pound, so it is in this Bill for general purposes, except in special cases which are provided for in the first part of Clause 48. Then later on in the financial portion of the Bill, Clauses 51, 52, and 53, there is a new power entirely enabling a local board to borrow; at the present time a local board can borrow; a local body can but a local board cannot.

*Hon. W. Kingsmill* : They get loans sometimes.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY : This has been found necessary because in several instances local boards have

got into difficulties, and in the case of the Albany Board, and before that in the case of the Kalgoorlie and Boulder Roads Board, they arranged to take over the sanitary arrangements themselves; but they had no funds, and could not arrange matters. In that case with the approval of the Governor in Council and going through the procedure laid down in the Local Government Act the difficulty can be overcome.

*Hon. R. F. Sholl:* Surely they could raise a rate in the municipality.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY : They could levy a health rate, but they want a loan rate for interest and sinking fund; the rate, as members see, is 6d., but this matter can be gone into by members later on, or by a select committee, which I intend to ask members to consent to by-and-by. The drainage conditions are dealt with in Clauses 61 to 84.

*Hon. R. F. Sholl:* Are all these new?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY : Not entirely new; the borrowing clauses are new and the clause raising the rate to 9d. is new. The drainage provisions are contained in Clauses 61 to 84. The provisions under the present Act are very vague, and the clauses I have mentioned seek to make the present provisions more definite and clear.

*Hon. M. L. Moss:* Where are these provisions copied from?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY : From the Queensland Act; nearly all the provisions are taken from the Queensland Act, which is a very recent Act and is considered a good one. Some other provisions are taken from the New South Wales Act. I have a note where each of these provisions is taken from, and later on I will inform members. If members will turn back to Clause 7 it will be noticed that to avoid clashing between the health authorities and the metropolitan water and sewerage board, when it is appointed, it is provided that the provisions of the Water and Sewerage Act shall automatically supersede the provisions of the Bill, that is in regard to the drainage provisions and as far as the metropolitan area is concerned, be-

cause the Metropolitan Water and Sewerage Act will apply.

*Member:* It is taken out of their hands.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY : Yes; it is necessary to have these provisions at the present time, for this is a Bill that will apply to the whole State.

*Hon. M. L. Moss:* The Metropolitan Water and Sewerage Act is to be brought in by proclamation, and it has never been proclaimed.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY : It will not be necessary to proclaim it until the sewerage of the metropolitan area is complete, then the Act will be proclaimed and brought into force, and as soon as that is done the provisions of that Act will supersede the provisions in this Bill.

*Hon. W. Patrick:* There will be an extra-metropolitan district.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY : Clauses 61 to 84 only deal with the sewerage provisions. The sanitary conveniences and scavenging are dealt with in Clauses 90 to 105; there is not very much alteration in those provisions. At present tenements of a lesser rental value than 15s. per month need not be provided with sanitary accommodation; this is very undesirable and is grossly insanitary, and accordingly it is provided in the Bill that all houses must have drainage conveniences. I mention that because there are a number of little alterations of the scavenging regulations contained in the Bill. The by-laws are dealt with in different parts of the Bill. The provisions empowering boards to make by-laws are dealt with in Clauses 123, 167, 172, 180, 214 and 254. Members will find that the powers sought in these clauses are, though extensive, but slightly in excess of the powers given by the existing Act. Power to make additional by-laws has been added when the existing powers were found insufficient. There are powers to make by-laws as to septic tanks, for the better control of slaughtering, the regulation of food preparation and manufacture, the proper supervision of hairdressing saloons to ensure cleanliness, the manufacture of ice, and more especially for preventing

the spread of infectious diseases. Clauses 273 and 274 provide that by-laws made under the Bill must be laid before Parliament, and power is given to either House to annul any by-law—a power not contained in the present Act. In Clauses 124 to 134 we provide for the removal of dilapidated houses. The existing Act is defective, providing for the condemnation of dilapidated or unhealthy premises but not providing for their demolition. Such buildings constitute a great nuisance, harbouring undesirables and collecting filth.

*Hon. M. L. Moss:* Such power is given by the Municipalities Act.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: But this Bill applies also to places which are not municipalities. The control of public buildings, as members know, is vested in some cases in the Central Board and in others in the local boards. This is dealt with in Clauses 145 to 151. The present powers are retained, with some improvements. Power is given to close forthwith any unsafe building, and also to charge a fee for examining plans. All plans of public buildings have to be examined and approved by the Central Board. In the case of a big building this often entails considerable trouble, and as Mr. Wright will certify, some expense. The maximum fee to be charged is £5. [*Hon. J. W. Wright:* Three sets of plans for the town hall at Coolgardie have been examined.] Yes. Members will bear in mind that such buildings have to be closely scrutinised as to fire escape and ventilation, and £5 is not too high a fee. Besides, it is the maximum.

*Hon. J. W. Hackett:* Will this apply to Government buildings?

*Hon. W. Kingsmill:* Government buildings have been condemned before now.

*Hon. G. Randell:* And nothing has happened.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: The nuisances clauses are 152 to 162. These are also much improved. There is no very material alteration, but defects discovered in the present Act have been remedied. To define a nuisance is always an extremely awkward problem, and it is sought to make the definition clearer in the Bill than in the existing

Act. Offensive trades are dealt with in Clauses 163 to 173, by provisions nearly similar to those existing, the main difference being that the Bill gives a right of appeal from the decision of a local board to the Central Board. It has been necessary to allow this appeal, because all local boards wish to get rid of offensive trades in their districts. Some time ago a firm wished to establish a fellmongery in a municipality within the metropolitan area. In the position proposed the business would not have been at all offensive, but the municipality considered it would be detrimental to the locality. [*Hon. R. F. Sholl:* I think they were quite right in that case.] I think it would not have been offensive; but the municipality did not wish to take the risk, and here was a little industry which should and would have been established, but one local board would not have it, nor would another. [*Hon. J. W. Hackett:* One would not because the other would not.] The result is, the applicants were shuffled about, became tired, and now will not start the industry at all. The desire is I take it, to encourage the springing-up of local industries, and not to put obstacles in their way. The Bill will provide that such applicants, if they feel aggrieved, may appeal to the Central Board, and if necessary to the Governor-in-Council. Public abattoirs are dealt with in Clause 175. This part of the Bill is entirely new. It provides that the Government may establish public abattoirs, and in proclaimed districts where such abattoirs are established cattle may be slaughtered nowhere but in these abattoirs. [*Hon. G. Randell:* That was tried some years ago.] It is the only effective method of supervising slaughtering, by having proper central abattoirs, and having all the stock slaughtered in them. In the metropolitan area and on the goldfields little private abattoirs are scattered all over the place, and their proper supervision is quite impossible without a great army of inspectors. Public abattoirs are to be erected in Kalgoorlie; and it will be useless erecting them, though they are badly wanted, if butchers are allowed to slaughter privately. [*Hon. G. Ran-*

dell : The power ought to be exercised with great caution.] The Bill does not provide that abattoirs shall be erected, but merely provides what shall be done when they have been erected. There will be public abattoirs at Kalgoorlie and Fremantle, and this provision will meet the case when they are established. All the sections dealing with infant life protection in the existing Act are left out of the Bill, as it is the intention of the Government to introduce later on a new Bill dealing with that subject. The existing provisions are insufficient, and I think the law ought not to be administered by the local boards. [*Hon. W. Kingsmill* : When will the Bill be brought in ?] I believe it will be introduced very soon. It will be passed simultaneously with this Bill. Some delay was caused by the Superintendent of Orphanages having to visit the Eastern States, where he secured much information, which, together with the information we had previously, we hope will enable us to provide a vast improvement on the present Act, and perhaps an improvement on any similar Act in Australia. Unwholesome food is dealt with in Clauses 176 to 180. The corresponding sections in the present Act have been found particularly defective, and need considerable amendment. One marked alteration is in Clause 177, to which I would direct special attention. It is an entirely new provision, and ought to prove effective for the detection of unwholesome and adulterated food.

*Hon. L. M. Moss* : Why do you need the word "utterly" before "unfit," in Subclause (1) ? It is a rather unusual definition. You are cutting down your power tremendously by using the superlative degree. "Unfit" should be sufficient.

*Hon. J. W. Hackett* : An extraordinary word is needed.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY : Milk and dairy produce are dealt with in Clauses 181 to 190. Many of the provisions are new, and those contained in the present Act are considerably amended. The object is to lessen the possibility of adulterating milk. The sale of food and drugs, an important part of

the Bill, will be regulated by Clauses 191 to 212. I will say here, the principal reason for the Bill is to provide for the detection and punishment of adulteration, and to penalise the sale of unwholesome food. The existing provisions are altogether inadequate, and the provisions of the Bill are considered a marked improvement. There is one feature I may mention in that particular part of the Bill for the sale of food and drugs, and that is the prohibiting of the employment for the manufacture of foods of persons suffering from infectious diseases. It is made the duty of every local authority and medical practitioner who knows of a person suffering from an infectious disease who is employed in the manufacture of food or drugs, to report the case at once. For instance, if a physician attends a man for a disease, it is his duty to find out if the patient is employed in manufacturing foods or drugs, and if so, to report the fact to the local authority. Cases are known where men suffering from certain diseases have been employed in the manufacture of food and have thereby greatly endangered the lives of those who eat the food. Section 200 which deals with patent medicines is an entirely new one. A very large number of patent medicines are imported at the present time, and the vast majority of them are deemed to be unfit for use, some being distinctly harmful to health. [*Hon. M. L. Moss* : Many of them contain a large percentage of alcohol.] Yes, or even drugs that are more harmful than alcohol. In some places statutes have been enacted making it compulsory for the makers of patent medicines to publish on the labels of the bottles the contents of the medicine. This Bill does not go so far as that, but it says :—

"No person shall sell any patent or proprietary medicine unless such medicine is registered in the prescribed manner at the office of the central board, and the words 'registered with the central board of health' are distinctly and legibly written or printed on the label affixed to the bottle, pot, box, or packet containing the same."

It is well that this clause does not go

so far as the one I have mentioned wherein it is essential for the maker to publish the contents on the bottle, for it seems unfair to compel a man to disclose the contents and thus give away trade secrets. [*Hon. J. W. Hackett*: But you propose that here.] No, that is not so. The only authority who is to be supplied with the contents of the bottle is the Central Board of Health. If the board are not satisfied after examination of the medicine that it is a pure drug, then they can withhold the certificate of registration and so prevent its sale. The applicant for registration has to disclose the details of the composition of such medicine. [*Hon. J. W. Hackett*: Are the central board compelled to keep this knowledge secret?] Provision is made for that in a later section. Identification of infectious diseases is dealt with in Sections 213-248. The prevention of infectious diseases is provided for in Clauses 213-237. All powers in the present Act for the prevention of infectious diseases are preserved, while additional powers are given to the local authority. The notification of infectious diseases is dealt with in Sections 238-248. The present Act provides for the notification by medical officers of cases both to the householder and to the local authority. This Bill provides, in addition, for the notification to the Central Board of Health, so that they may know of an outbreak simultaneously with the local board. Section 242 deals with somewhat the same subject and provides for the annual notification by medical practitioners of all cases of tuberculosis. The treatment of infectious diseases is provided for under Sections 249-253. The existing provisions with regard to hospital accommodation are practically the same as in the present Act.

*Hon. J. W. Hackett*: Will you go back to Section 249 which states that the local authority has to provide a hospital for cases of infectious diseases. Is the expense of that hospital thrown on the local authority, if the Central Board wish it?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: That is the present law.

*Hon. J. W. Hackett*: But it is not the case.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: Under the present Act infectious diseases are supposed to be dealt with solely by the local authority and not by the State. The Government find one half of the money to erect the hospitals and the local board maintains them entirely. That system is continued in the present Bill.

*Hon. J. W. Hackett*: How many of those hospitals are there in Western Australia?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: Several.

*Hon. J. W. Hackett*: There is only one that I know of.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: There are one at Subiaco, a small one at Northam, one is about to be erected at Kalgoorlie, and there is one at Geraldton. The next question I shall refer to is the one that is provided under Sections 256 to 266, which deal with the registration of midwives. This part of the Bill is quite new. In England there is an Act on the same subject which came into force in 1905. It has worked well and has been much appreciated. It is deemed necessary that midwives should be registered in order to prevent unskilled and unclean midwives from causing no end of trouble and possibly the death of some people. It is also provided that if there is no medical officer within five miles the registration is not necessary. That provision is made, otherwise a hardship would be inflicted in the outlying districts, where perhaps it would be impossible, and at all events very expensive, to obtain the registered midwife. In that case registration is not insisted upon. Clause 267 is a new one so far as the law is concerned. It deals with school hygiene. At present this work is carried out, but the officer has no legal authority to touch any child or compel him to submit to examination. Technically he commits an assault by carrying out an examination. An officer has already made three thousand examinations, and in only one or two instances have parents refused to allow them to be made. This clause merely makes the officer's position legal so that if a case arises there should



be no difficulty. It is a very excellent system and was put into force when Mr. Kingsmill controlled the department. It is working very well and I think it will have a very beneficial effect. I do not know that there are any other new features in the Bill which I have not touched upon. As I said at the opening, it is more a consolidating Bill than anything else, and will remedy well-known difficulties in the present Act. The main thing sought to be enacted is that better machinery should be provided for the governing of public health generally, and more particularly for insisting upon only wholesome food being supplied to the public. There is provision for the detection of unwholesome and bad food. It is a very long Bill and one that requires careful consideration. Consequently I intend, when the second reading is carried, to ask the House to refer it to a select committee. There are a number of gentlemen here who have had large experience in health matters as Ministers, mayors and members of local boards, and I think when the Bill has been referred to a select committee, thoroughly threshed out there, and then gone through a Committee of the House, there will be a very good result.

*Hon. J. W. Hackett:* Clause 8 states, "The Governor may by proclamation suspend the operation of any of the provisions of this Act in any district or part thereof for any period." Is that the present law?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: No.

*Hon. J. W. Hackett:* That is a tremendous power. Is there anything like it in any other Act?

*Hon. M. L. Moss:* In the Building Act.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: Yes, a similar provision exists in the Building Act. For the information of the hon. member, as I have already explained it to the House, I may say the provision in this Bill and in the Building Act is made so as to prevent certain districts being treated harshly. I will give an instance where it would be very hard to apply such provisions. Take the question of dairies. We all agree it is essential that a dairy should be thoroughly clean and that the by-laws should be carried out

to the letter. At the same time there are cases where it is not necessary to apply the provision to the letter. In the case of a metropolitan dairy, which supplies a large number of customers and where there are a great many cows congregated in a small place, these conditions might apply with justice, but they would not apply in a country district. Therefore the Governor is given power to exempt certain districts of the State from the operation of certain portions of the Bill.

On motion by the *Hon. W. Kingsmill*, debate adjourned.

### BILL—PORT HEDLAND-MARBLE BAR RAILWAY.

Received from the Legislative Assembly, and read a first time.

### ADJOURNMENT.

The House adjourned at 5.30 o'clock, until the next Tuesday.

## Legislative Assembly,

Thursday, 22nd August, 1907.

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The SPEAKER took the Chair at 4.30 o'clock p.m.

Prayers.