

Legislative Assembly,

Wednesday, 12th July, 1893.

Legislation regulating width of Tires and Yoking abreast—Dangerous state of North Fremantle Bridge—Jetty Accommodation and Cattle Yards at Owen's Anchorage—Post and Telegraph Bill; first reading—Constitution Act Amendment Bill; first reading—Post Office Savings Bank Consolidation Bill; first reading—Return showing Revenue from Press Telegrams, etc.—Treasury Bills Bill; further considered in Committee—Adjournment.

The SPEAKER took the chair at 4:30 p.m.

PRAYERS.

LEGISLATION RELATING TO WIDTH OF TIRES AND YOKING HORSES ABREAST.

MR. PATERSON, on behalf of MR. RICHARDSON, in accordance with notice, asked the Attorney General whether it was the intention of the Government, this session, to introduce legislation regulating the width of tires used on declared roads, and also compelling teams to be yoked abreast when travelling on public roads.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt) replied, as follows:—As to the first portion of the question,—the control and preservation of the roads being vested in Local Boards throughout the colony, the Government do not feel themselves justified in proposing legislation of the character indicated in the question until the Road Boards have had an opportunity of expressing an opinion. As to the second portion of the question,—the Government do not intend to propose any further legislation, as the Road Boards at present have full power under "The Roads Act, 1888."

DANGEROUS STATE OF NORTH FREMANTLE BRIDGE.

MR. PEARSE, in accordance with notice, asked the Director of Public Works if his attention had been called to the dangerous state of the North Fremantle Bridge; if so, what steps he proposed to take in the matter.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. H. W. Venn) replied that his attention had been drawn to the state of this bridge, and that an officer

had been sent to make an inspection, and any necessary repairs would at once be effected.

JETTY ACCOMMODATION AND CATTLE YARDS AT OWEN'S ANCHORAGE.

MR. R. F. SHOLL, on behalf of MR. A. FORREST, in accordance with notice, asked the Director of Public Works when the Government intended to provide jetty accommodation and yards at Owen's Anchorage, for the unloading of cattle, as promised during the last session of Parliament.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. H. W. Venn) replied that the Government intended, if possible, to make provision for this on the forthcoming Estimates.

POST AND TELEGRAPH BILL.

Introduced by MR. BURT, and read a first time.

CONSTITUTION ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Introduced by Sir JOHN FORREST, and read a first time.

POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANK CONSOLIDATION BILL.

Introduced by Sir JOHN FORREST, and read a first time.

RETURN SHOWING REVENUE FROM PRESS TELEGRAMS.

MR. R. F. SHOLL: Before moving the motion standing in my name, I should like, if the House will allow me, to alter the wording of it, by striking out the words "from outside the colony." I want to find out the revenue received from telegrams—not only those forwarded from outside the colony, but all telegrams—so that the amount may be compared with the sums paid by the local newspapers for telegrams. It has been stated in the Press that they contribute one-fourth of the revenue received by the Telegraph Department, and I want to find out what the Press telegrams actually amounted to. Therefore, with the leave of the House, I move that a Return be laid upon the table of the House showing:—

1. The total amount received by the Telegraph Department for telegrams

received from January 1st, 1892, to the 30th June, 1893.

2. The amounts paid by each newspaper published within the colony out of the total amount received from January 1st, 1892, to the 30th June, 1893.

Motion put and passed.

TREASURY BILLS BILL.

IN COMMITTEE.

ADJOURNED DEBATE.

Clause 5: "The principal sum for which any such Treasury Bills may be made out and issued shall be secured upon the Consolidated Revenue Fund."

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) moved that all the words after the words "shall be," in the third line, be struck out, and that the following words be inserted in lieu thereof:—"chargeable upon and paid out of the moneys to be raised under the Loan Act, 1891, or any other Loan Act passed after the passing of this Act, and so far as funds for the payment of any such principal sum shall on the maturing of any such Bill not have become available under the operation of the Act or Acts, every such sum shall be chargeable upon and paid out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund. Such last mentioned fund shall, in respect of every such payment, be reimbursed out of moneys to be raised under the said Act or Acts, as soon as the same are available." It would be in the recollection of the committee that when the Bill was under discussion the other day, objection was taken to this clause, and he promised to amend it on the lines of the Bill of last session. The amendment now moved made the clause, almost word for word, the same as that Bill.

Motion put and passed.

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 6.—"All the said Treasury bills, when due, and all coupons for interest thereon, shall be payable by the said Colonial Treasurer at the Treasury of the said colony."

MR. LOTON said he supposed the Government had fully considered the desirability of making the interest upon these Treasury bills payable at Perth only, instead of also making them payable in London, where they were most likely to be taken up. It appeared to

him that this was an important point, because, so far as his general experience went, it was likely to militate very much against the Government raising this money with the same facility as they otherwise could, and possibly not on such favourable terms, if they made the interest payable only in this colony. Perhaps the Government would consider the point before the Bill went through its remaining stages.

Clause agreed to.

Clauses 7 to 12, inclusive:

Agreed to.

Clause 13.—"All such sums of money as shall be raised by Treasury bills under the authority of this Act may be applied for the works, services, and charges following, or any of them, that is to say:—

"1. Any works or services authorised by the Loan Act, 1891, or any other Loan Act passed before or after the passing of this Act.

"2. Any works or services included in any Appropriation Act and any charges provided by statute and made payable out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund."

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) moved, That all the words after the word "Act," in the third line, be struck out, and that the following words be inserted in lieu thereof:—"shall be applied towards the works and services authorised by the Loan Act, 1891, or by any other Loan Act passed after the passing of this Act." This would meet the objection that had been raised to the clause as it stood.

Motion agreed to.

Clause, as amended, put and passed.

Clause 14.—"All Treasury bills already issued by the Colonial Treasurer, and dated the first day of May, 1893, shall be deemed to have been issued under the authority of this Act, and be subject to the provisions of this Act."

MR. SIMPSON asked what the amount was that was raised on the 1st May?

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest): £20,000.

MR. R. F. SHOLL said he regretted to see from the return laid on the table that out of that amount a sum of £16,000 odd had been taken from the Savings Bank funds. He presumed the Government had considered the matter,

but he questioned the wisdom of locking up this money in Treasury bills.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) said it had been done under the Act, and he supposed it was all gone now.

MR. LOTON said although the Government had invested the Savings Bank funds in Treasury bills, it would be competent for the Treasurer to negotiate these bills at any time with private individuals.

Clause put and passed.

Preamble and title:

Agreed to.

Bill reported.

ADJOURNMENT.

The House adjourned at five minutes past 5 o'clock p.m.

Legislative Assembly.

Thursday, 13th July, 1893.

Population of the Colony—Sandalwood Reserves and Inspectors—Erection of Northam Hospital—The Auditor General and the Works and Railways Department; appointment of a select committee—Treasury Bills Bill; consideration of committee's report—Engine Sparks Fire Prevention Bill; second reading; referred to a select committee—Post and Telegraph Bill; second reading—Post Office Savings Bank Consolidation Bill; second reading—Adjournment.

THE SPEAKER took the chair at 4:30 p.m.

PRAYERS.

POPULATION OF THE COLONY.

MR. DEHAMEL, in accordance with notice, asked the Colonial Treasurer whether the population of the colony did not now exceed 60,000 in number.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) replied that the Government believed

that the population of the colony did exceed 60,000, but the Registrar General had not yet made his official report.

DECLARATION OF SANDALWOOD RESERVES AND APPOINTMENT OF INSPECTORS.

MR. THROSSELL, in accordance with notice, asked the Commissioner of Crown Lands,—

1. What was the object of the Government in forbidding the cutting of sandalwood in the Yilgarn and certain other districts of the colony.
2. The names of officers appointed as Inspectors of Reserves, their duties and salary.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. W. E. Marmion) replied, as follows:—

1. To conserve a natural product of the colony, for which there is no demand at present, the supply already cut and ready for shipment being far in excess of the demand for some time to come.
2. Mr. Marwick, of York, has been appointed inspector at a salary of £200 per annum, the appointment being temporary. His duty is to prevent the cutting of sandalwood upon the reserved area.

ERECTION OF NORTHAM HOSPITAL.

MR. THROSSELL, in accordance with notice, asked the Director of Public Works when it was the intention of the Government to proceed with the erection of a hospital at Northam, for which funds were voted last session of Parliament.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. H. W. Venn) replied that the Government intended, if possible, to provide funds for this work on the Estimates.

THE AUDITOR GENERAL AND THE RAILWAYS AND WORKS DEPARTMENT.

APPOINTMENT OF A SELECT COMMITTEE.

MR. DEHAMEL: In rising to propose the motion standing in my name—"That, in the opinion of this House, it is desirable to appoint a committee to inquire into the charges and allegations concerning the Railways and Works Department,