

evening) I hoped he intended to spend some little money in endeavouring to ascertain whether it is possible by some scientific means to do away with this pest. If it is possible, as we know it is possible in the case of the bubonic plague which can be spread by rats, it may also be possible to spread by infection some disease among the rabbits which will get rid of the pest, without going to an enormous expense in putting up what is called a rabbit-proof fence. I also notice no reference is made in the Speech as to the intention of the Government to establish Circuit Courts throughout the State. These Courts would relieve magistrates considerably from great responsibility, and be a satisfaction to litigants. I am glad to learn there is to be a consolidation and simplification of the laws of the State, and that is a reform greatly needed. In speeches made by the late Attorney General, it was brought to our minds there was great need for law reform. Referring to the difficulty with regard to the labour question arising out of the strike at Fremantle I am glad to notice the firm stand that has been taken by the Commissioner of Railways. No one desires more than I do to give the Government ample means to ascertain which is the right course, so as to ensure to the workers a fair day's wage for a fair day's work, and duly protect the interests of the whole of the community. But when it was stated that the Commissioner must give in to these men by conceding exactly what they require, and that they will not consent to have a board of conciliation and arbitration in this matter, then I say these men deserve no support from any member of this House; and I am delighted to note the part taken by the so-called Labour party in this House. I trust the Commissioner of Railways will receive not only the support of the Labour members, but the support of every member in this House. I thank hon. members, and you (Mr. Speaker), for the patient hearing given me on this my first attempt to speak in this House; and I trust that in the future my utterances may be of some benefit to the constituency I represent, and to the State generally. I thank you.

Mr. T. HAYWARD (Bunbury): It is my intention to confine my remarks

principally to one paragraph of the Governor's Speech, and that is in reference to immigration and settlement on the soil. As an employer of labour for something like forty years, I never experienced difficulty in obtaining the labour I required until within the last year or two. In my district agricultural labourers are not to be procured at any price. I know that employers have been offering from £1 to 30s. a week with board and lodging for agricultural labourers, and yet cannot get the labour they require, and in consequence a large area of land that otherwise would have been planted with corn this season will be left idle. This applies in a greater degree to the dairying industry, for in my district at the present time there is not half the amount of butter made that was made there 20 years ago, and the reason is that it is impossible for those living on a farm to find time to milk the cows, and labour cannot be obtained. The owner of one of the finest herds of cows in the South-West district, who had not only one of the best farms but also every appliance necessary for the dairying business, has found such great difficulty in procuring labour that he has had to abandon the dairying business; and at present there is not a pound of butter made on that farm. The cows have had to be sold off, and the land is depastured with sheep. That is the case also on other farms in my district. The member for Subiaco (Mr. Daghish) said he was opposed to the importation of any but British labour. I have done my best to get farm labourers to come out from England, particularly last year, but I did not succeed; and if hon. members will make inquiry as I did with regard to farm labour in England, they will find there is nearly as much difficulty in getting labour to work the land in England as in this country. The member for East Perth (Hon. W. H. James) somewhat anticipated my remarks as to the means of providing labour. I am under the impression that our only chance is to get, as he said, Scandinavian labour, and I think we should get German labour as well.

A MEMBER: What do you think of the Boers?

MR. HAYWARD: I would also go to Holland for labour. I have had some

experience in employing German labour, and I must say those people make very good settlers. As members are aware, in Denmark and Sweden in particular there is more butter made in proportion to the inhabitants than in any other part of the world. I would also point out that Danish butter is fetching the highest price in the English market. I think the only remedy for this state of things would be, if it were possible, to settle such families on the soil; to give them every facility for acquiring a fair amount of land, so that they can grow food for their cows; and to establish creameries and butter factories, to which they could supply their produce in large or small quantities. A reference was made by the member for Sussex (Mr. H. J. Yelverton) to the proposed purchase of the Stirling Estate. Needless to say it has been reported that the Minister for Lands has decided not to purchase this estate, although it has been offered to the Government at a fair price, on the ground that the Government already possess plenty of land of their own. That is correct; but the land owned by the Government is of such an inferior quality that to a great extent it is not worth fencing, and certainly not worth cultivating; and at the present time that is about the only piece of land available for settlement in that district. I regret very much that it has been decided not to buy the estate. I believe the Commissioner himself examined the land. In conclusion I may say there appears to me to be a disposition on the other side of the House to dictate to those on this side where they should sit. I do not think that is proper. I, for my part, shall not accept dictation as to where I shall sit. I intend to carry out all the pledges I have given during my electioneering campaign, and I intend to sit here and to do my duty to the best of my ability for the whole State, and also for my own district.

On motion by MR. WALLAGE, debate adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT.

On motion by the PREMIER, the House adjourned at 10:31 o'clock until the next day.

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Legislative Council,

Thursday, 4th July, 1901.

Papers presented—Question, Camels Importation—Question, Apples Importation and Restriction—Question, Census Returns—Papers: School of Mines, to establish—Papers: Liquor Sold to Natives, Conviction at Bridgetown—Papers: Mail Services, Esperance—Motion: Royal Visit, Railway Fares, debate resumed—Address-in-reply, fourth day, adopted—Adjournment.

THE PRESIDENT took the Chair at 4:30 o'clock, p.m.

PRAYERS.

PAPERS PRESENTED.

By the MINISTER FOR LANDS (Hon. C. Sommers): 1, Report of the Department of Land Titles; 2, Report on Gaols and Prisoners; 3, Reserves under the Permanent Reserves Act, 63 Vict., No. 24; 4, Regulations under "The Stock Diseases Act, 1895"; 5, Regulations under "The Land Act, 1898"; 6, By-laws under "The Roads Act, 1888," "The Cemeteries Act, 1897," and "The Land Act, 1898"; 7, Documents re Kurrawang Wood Syndicate.

QUESTION—CAMELS IMPORTATION.

HON. R. S. HAYNES asked the Minister for Lands: 1, How many applications have been made to the Government from the 1st January, 1900, up to the present time, for leave to import camels. 2, The name or names of the applicant or applicants. 3, The date or respective dates. 4, What was the reason for prohibiting the importation of camels into the State. 5, Does the reason still exist.

THE MINISTER FOR LANDS (Hon. C. Sommers) replied:—1, Four; 2 and 3, Faiz Mahomet, 3rd October, 1900, A.U.S.N. Co., 14th January, 1901, Abbeullah and Rassaul, 19th February, 1901, S. D. L. George, 25th February, 1901; 4, Camels were prohibited from coming to Western Australia from Asiatic ports on account of glanders, foot and mouth, and other diseases; 5, Yes.

QUESTION—APPLES IMPORTATION AND RESTRICTION.

HON. G. RANDELL asked the Minister for Lands: If the experts of his department have reported on the question of