

Motion (Mr. W. H. SUTTOR) proposed :
That the bill be now read the third time.

Mr. DE SALIS : A number of members have come into the House within the last few minutes. It must have been out of pity for the Government, because there was no quorum, and there was a probability of some amendment being proposed to the effect that some of the proposed works should be sent to the Public Works Committee. I intended to move an amendment ; but I thought it would be useless, as the gentlemen who came into the House had not heard the arguments on the subject.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

Bill read the third time.

ON LING.

Mr. JACOB : With the permission of the House, I should like to ask the Vice-President of the Executive Council if the Government have come to any determination in reference to the report of the Select Committee upon the Case of On Ling?

Mr. W. H. SUTTOR : I can only inform the House that my hon. colleague the Minister of Justice is giving the case his attention ; but he has not yet arrived at any conclusion in reference to it.

ADJOURNMENT.

Mr. W. H. SUTTOR : I beg to move :
That this House do now adjourn.

In doing so I would ask hon. members to attend here at half-past 11 to-morrow, to enable the bills which have been passed by this House to be sent to the Legislative Assembly.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

House adjourned at 8'45 p.m.

Legislative Assembly.

Wednesday, 9 October, 1889.

Mr. Schey's Notes—Commissioner of Fisheries—Eveleigh Signal Station—City Tramway Terminus—Assault on Journalists—Advertising on Postage Stamps—Robberies at Redfern Railway-station—Case at Parramatta—Bridges at Quirindi—Broken Hill Water Supply Bill (second reading)—Redhead Coal-mine Railway Bill (second reading)—Adjournment (Personal Explanation)—Mr. Justice Windeyer).

Mr. SPEAKER took the chair.

MR. SCHEY'S NOTES.

Mr. SCHEY : I desire to draw attention to the fact that during the debate on the loan estimates at an early hour this morning a number of private manuscripts and printed documents belonging to myself were removed from the table. I do not desire to cast any reflection upon any one ; but it will be apparent that if the matter is considered a joke, the joke has gone far enough. These papers and memoranda are exceedingly valuable to myself, and represent a considerable amount of hard work. They were probably removed with the view to prevent my speaking at length, as I intended to do, on the subject-matter of the debate ; but as a great many of the memoranda are of a private character, and as certain of the manuscript and printed reports cannot be replaced, I trust that the hon. gentleman who removed them will return them to me without further delay.

Mr. MELVILLE : The hon. gentleman has forgotten to explain that these documents were lost by him during the time that the House had adjourned for refreshment !

Mr. SCHEY : I am not quite clear as to the precise time when the documents were removed from the table ; but it is my opinion that they were not taken during the adjournment for refreshment, but while the debate was proceeding. A circumstance occurred which gives me that impression. An hon. member had walked round the table and had taken up one of the papers from which I was quoting. In order to obtain it I had to follow the hon. member some distance from where I was standing, and my impression is that while I was doing this some hon. member removed my manuscript notes and other papers from the table. I do not wish to carry the matter any further ; but I trust that the hon. member's gentlemanly feeling will prompt him now to terminate the joke and return the papers.

COMMISSIONER OF FISHERIES.

Mr. SCHEY : I desire to ask the Colonial Secretary a question without notice. It is currently reported in the city to-day that the Colonial Secretary contemplates appointing Mr. Alexander Oliver to the position of Commissioner of Fisheries. As such an appointment would be exceedingly distasteful to a great number of persons engaged in the fishing industry, I should

like to have the assurance of the Colonial Secretary that the rumoured appointment is not in contemplation.

Sir HENRY PARKES : I can readily give my assurance that there is no foundation for the rumour referred to by the hon. member, and I think I may say that the appointment is one very unlikely to take place. So far as I know, no step has been taken, and no thought has been entertained in the direction indicated ; nor do I think Mr. Oliver has any idea of the thing himself.

EVELEIGH SIGNAL STATION.

Mr. SCHEY : I desire to draw the attention of the Colonial Treasurer to a paragraph which appeared in the *Suburban Times* in reference to the dangerous proximity of the signal weights at Eveleigh to the public thoroughfare, and I trust that he will bring the matter under the notice of the commissioners.

Mr. McMILLAN : I may say in reference to this and other matters of detail of a similar character that it would be far better for the public to approach the commissioners direct. It does not seem to me that it is a proper thing that, because the Minister is the medium of communication between Parliament and the commissioners in important matters, these small questions of railway detail should be brought before the House. Any hon. member can approach the commissioners either by letter or personally, and any member of the public can do the same ; and I think it would be better if these matters were dealt with by direct communication. I shall, however, bring this matter under the notice of the commissioners.

CITY TRAMWAY TERMINUS.

Mr. CULLEN : I wish to draw the attention of the Colonial Treasurer to a newspaper paragraph with regard to a proposed alteration in the starting place of the trams. One of the redeeming features in our tramway system is that the trams from the eastern and western suburbs bring passengers down to the neighbourhood of the water side and serve an enormous harbour traffic, and the traffic going to the north shore. It appears from a paragraph in the *Daily Telegraph* that it is proposed to remove the starting place of the trams from Bridge-street to Bent-

[Mr. Schey.

street. This will very greatly diminish the value of the tramway service. There is no doubt that one of the reasons given for this change is a very strong one, namely, that there is danger in crossing Bridge-street at the present time ; but even if it cure that danger, the proposed remedy is an unnecessary and costly way of doing it. I wish to ask the Colonial Treasurer if the paragraph referred to is authorised, and if it is, will he have the matter very carefully looked into, so that we may still retain the great benefit of getting as close to the harbour traffic as possible by tram ?

Mr. McMILLAN : It seems to me that the whole of this tramway arrangement is of a very makeshift character. There is no doubt that there is great danger at the Bridge-street crossing ; and probably what the commissioners are doing now is an interim arrangement with a view to future arrangements when the system is more complete. I will look into the matter.

ASSAULT ON JOURNALISTS.

Mr. THOMPSON : Has any report been made to the Government with regard to an assault alleged to have been committed on two journalists yesterday evening by a policeman off duty ? It is stated that on one of the gentlemen referred to offering to give the man in charge the serjeant refused to take him, as he was a policeman. If this turns out to be the case, will the Government see that speedy justice is done ?

Sir HENRY PARKES : The Government have no knowledge of the circumstances to which my attention is called ; but it may nevertheless be the case that it is reported to the police authorities. I will inquire as soon as I can into the circumstances ; and if anything of the sort has occurred I will ascertain all the particulars.

ADVERTISING ON POSTAGE STAMPS.

Mr. CRICK : I should like to know from the Postmaster-General whether Mr. Tate has paid anything into the Treasury for the right of advertising on the back of postage stamps ; if so, how much has he paid, and what guarantee will he give the Government that he will continue the payments under the contract ? I should like the Postmaster-General also to state, if he can do so without divulging a private

matter, the names of the sureties for the payment by Mr. Tate of the amount he has agreed to pay.

Mr. D. O'CONNOR: The agreement is that Mr. Tate shall pay £750 in advance, and he will receive no consideration until that money is paid. He is allowed a couple of weeks during which to sign the contract. I am not sure whether this period has yet expired or not; but I shall be able to tell the hon. member to-morrow.

ROBBERIES AT REDFERN RAILWAY-STATION.

Mr. WALL: Has the attention of the Colonial Treasurer been directed to the fact that a number of robberies were perpetrated at the Redfern railway-station on the occasion of the Eight Hours' Demonstration? It appears that a large number of cases occurred, and I would suggest that some provision should be made in future for adequate police protection.

Mr. McMILLAN: A matter of this kind is very difficult to deal with. We all know that traffic is very much congested at Redfern on holiday occasions on account of the insufficient accommodation, and that some scheme must be very soon carried out with a view to provide better accommodation. I shall lay the matter before the commissioners.

CASE AT PARRAMATTA.

Mr. MELVILLE: Will the Minister of Justice inform the House if any action has been taken to investigate the case before the magistrates at Parramatta, to which I called attention the other day?

Mr. GOULD: I took action in the matter directly it came under my notice, and called on the bench at Parramatta to report on the circumstances of the case. Until I receive that report, it is impossible that I can state what action I shall take. I may say that from what is disclosed from the papers themselves, the matter is one that appears to call for an inquiry.

BRIDGES AT QUIRINDI.

Mr. TURNER: I wish to call the attention of the Secretary for Public Works to the fact that some bridges in the vicinity of Quirindi were washed away by

the flood last Sunday, and to ask if he will be good enough to take steps to repair them as soon as possible?

Mr. BRUCE SMITH: If the hon. member will favour me with a note giving particulars of the bridges, I shall take care that a report is obtained immediately.

Mr. McFARLANE: I may inform the hon. member that I have already taken action in this matter.

An HON. MEMBER: Quirindi is not in the hon. member's electorate!

BROKEN HILL WATER SUPPLY BILL.

SECOND READING.

Mr. J. P. ABBOTT rose to move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

He said: The only advantage of dealing with the bill during the present session is, that it may be taken up at an advanced stage during the coming session. This is a measure that, I believe, will be in the interests of the people of Broken Hill, and I think it will be found by hon. members, if they peruse the bill, that the interests of the public are largely conserved with regard to a supply of water. There is no obligation on the part of people in the district to take the water. If the mains are laid down along a street, there will still be no obligation on the part of the owners of property to connect, and until they do connect they will not be charged for water. The committee to whom the bill was referred made provision for an advanced rate during the first two years after the passing of the act and for a lower rate—I think 9d. per 100 gallons—after that period.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

Bill read the second time.

In Committee:

Clause 2 (Conditions prior to acquisition of land).

Mr. CRICK thought it far from desirable that an important bill of this description should be rushed through Committee. He did not know who was looking after the interests of the public in this matter; but it was evident that the interests of the Barrier Ranges and Broken Hill Water Supply Company (Limited) were being conserved. The clause said:

Before the company shall put into force any of the provisions contained in this part with respect to the acquisition of land otherwise than by agreement, the following conditions and provisions shall be observed.

The bill contained no provision for redress in the event of these conditions and provisions not being observed. The bill, moreover, gives this limited company power to acquire land.

Mr. J. P. ABBOTT: The hon. member will see that compensation is provided!

Mr. CRICK was aware of that; but the company were in a position to acquire land and then turn round and say, "We are by law required to do certain things; but the law is so lax that we can say we will not do them, and you will have no redress." These gentlemen would, moreover, get power under this bill to charge a water rate about six times the amount of the rate charged in Sydney. The hon. member having taken the bill into Committee, might now consent to report progress and to resume the consideration of the bill at this stage next session.

Mr. J. P. ABBOTT: I do not propose to go beyond the Committee stage!

Mr. CRICK would like to know of what use it was for the Committee to provide for certain provisions and conditions being carried out, and at the same time providing no penalty. It was the duty of the Government to look after the public rights in this matter.

Mr. WALL said the clause appeared to him to contain what the hon. member for West Macquarie was contending for, because, unless the company carried out certain provisions and conditions, they would not be able to take the action for which the clause provided. He took it that if the company failed to comply with these conditions the bill would, in this respect, be inoperative.

Mr. J. P. ABBOTT said that if the hon. member for West Macquarie had taken the trouble to read through the bill, he would have seen that there was no obligation on the part of the people of Broken Hill to take the water. Hon. members knew very well that as soon as mains were laid down in Sydney householders were compelled to connect; but, under this bill, there would be no such compulsion. The water which would be conserved under this bill was at a considerable distance from Broken Hill, and was not at present available for the supply of water to the town. He did not agree with the hon. member for West Macquarie that anything more was required in this clause. It provided that the

[*Mr. Crick.*]

company should have power to do certain things only when they had done certain other things. If they did what the clause allowed them to do without taking the necessary preliminary steps, he supposed they would be liable to an action.

Mr. W. BROWN hoped the bill would be allowed to pass. The municipal council of Broken Hill had taken it into consideration, and did not in any way object to its provisions.

Clause agreed to.

Clause 5 (Penalty for destroying works).

Mr. CRICK said the term of imprisonment provided for might reach ten years, and he thought that very excessive. He moved:

That the word "ten" be omitted with a view to insert in lieu thereof the word "two."

Mr. J. P. ABBOTT: I accept the amendment.

Amendment agreed to.

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 21. The price to be charged by the company for water sold shall in no case exceed one shilling and sixpence per hundred gallons for one year from the date when the said company shall commence to supply water, and thereafter ninepence per hundred gallons.

Mr. DIBBS said that as far as he could gather this was a mere speculative bill to enable a few individuals to sell certain rights to a company. Some years ago a measure known as the Penrith Gas and Water Supply Act, and containing 104 clauses, was passed through this House in a very hurried manner in the interests of a few gentlemen who desired to sell certain rights to a company. He believed the project had been hawked about from pillar to post for the last three years. The time allowed for the commencement of the work would fortunately expire in November; but meanwhile the municipal council, who desired to proceed with some works, were placed at a great disadvantage. It seemed to him that members of Parliament were being used in the interests of syndicates, irrespective of various towns being afforded a proper water supply. He would test the feeling of the Committee by moving:

That the words "and sixpence" be omitted.

Hon. members would see that that would leave the price at 1s. per 100 gallons.

Mr. J. P. ABBOTT said that if the leader of the Opposition would read the

evidence of Mr. Gordon, hydraulic engineer, and the evidence of Mr. Derry, the engineer who laid out all the works, he would see that it was absolutely necessary to allow the company to charge 1s. 6d. per 100 gallons at least for the first year. The bill was in the interests of the mines, which were absolutely dependent upon water. Had it not been for the Proprietary Company's dams during the last year or two many of the Broken Hill people would have been without water at all. There was no obligation for the public to connect with the mains. It was not as in Sydney, where, if the main ran down the street, the adjacent owners must connect or pay, whether they used the water or not. Two committees had dealt with the bill, and under the circumstances he trusted the amendment would not be pressed. After the first year the charge for the water would be 9d. per 100 gallons. Last year the people were paying as high as 5s. and 7s. per 100 gallons.

Mr. DIBBS said he would not press the amendment.

Mr. BRUCE SMITH had had the opportunity of looking at the evidence given before the committee, and it substantiated what had been stated by the leader of the Opposition. Mr. Darley, the present Engineer-in-Chief for Harbours and Rivers, was asked to express his opinion upon evidence given by Mr. Derry, evidently in favour of the company. Mr. Derry said that for the first year the company could supply water for 1s. 6d. per 100 gallons if only 120,000 gallons were used ; at 9d. per 100 gallons if double that quantity were used ; and, later on, if the demand increased to 400,000 gallons, at 6d. per 100 gallons. Mr. Darley, in his evidence, said that 120,000 gallons of water daily was absurdly small for the population, and that, at a cost of 1s. per 100 gallons, there would be a return of £60 per day, which would nearly pay back the cost of the works for the year. Hon. members would all admit this statement, because the community was growing, he might say, geometrically, and what the population of the township would be five years hence it was impossible to predict. He thought, from a cursory view he had taken of the bill, that it would be found that this was a huge monopoly as regarded the catchment area, and if the company had the mono-

poly of this area, although the public might not be found to take the water from the company, no other company could come in and use it. Even if only 120,000 gallons of water per day were consumed, it was shown by one of the most eminent authorities in the country, that the company would pay off the whole of the capital cost in one year. This was not a solitary instance of this kind of thing. We had all heard lately of the enormous profits which had been made by the Broken Hill Tramway Company. That company, by being allowed to make a charge of 2d. or 3d. per ton per mile, was at the present time, he would not say paying a dividend, but stowing away, in one shape or another, 100 per cent. per annum. He did not wish to stop the progress of the bill. He wished hon. members, however, would reflect as to what would be the profits of this company if, instead of consuming 120,000 gallons per day, it consumed—what even Mr. Derry thought it might consume—400,000 gallons per day. This would give quite £100 per day, and it would pay off the whole of the capital cost of the company in about six months. If the contention were right, that upon the supply of 120,000 gallons per day at 1s. per 100 gallons, this company could pay off its capital cost in one year, this capital cost would be paid off, if 1s. 6d. per 100 gallons were charged, in eight months.

Mr. DIBBS : Does this not show the necessity for the Government to take some responsibility in connection with these bills ?

Mr. BRUCE SMITH said the Government had taken notice of the matter, and the Secretary for Mines had framed certain amendments ; but he did not anticipate that the bill would have come on to-night, and consequently the amendments could not now be brought forward. The matter was one which ought not to be hurried through. It could never be acknowledged that a company of this kind should be allowed a monopoly of this magnitude. He admitted that the people were not bound to take the water ; but with the exception of what could be obtained from the Stephens-Nolans Creek, there was no other supply. The evidence of Mr. Darley alone was sufficient to satisfy him that this was a greater monopoly even than the Broken Hill tramway, which was

now paying 100 per cent. profit. If he had his way in regard to that company, their profits would come down, or the public of Broken Hill would have a different railway service between Broken Hill and the South Australian border. He urged the House to pause before it granted the powers sought to be given.

Mr. J. P. ABBOTT said it was to be regretted that the hon. member who was at the head of the department which had charge of similar works, had not taken the trouble to read the bill, which had been before the House for a considerable time.

Mr. BRUCE SMITH wished to remove a misapprehension. The matter was one which came within the Mines Department. He had quite enough to do in his own department, without adding to his obligations. The Secretary for Mines, he had already explained to the Committee, had read the bill, and also that he had prepared amendments; but not anticipating that the bill would now be brought forward, his colleague had not those amendments with him.

Mr. J. P. ABBOTT did not care a pin whether the bill went along or not. The Government, however, at this hour of the day, had no right to raise the objections which the Secretary for Public Works had done. The hon. member had not read the evidence, or he would not have made the statement he had made. The hon. member had referred to the evidence of Mr. Darley. He admitted all Mr. Darley's qualifications, but a more eminent engineer than he—Mr. George Gordon, who was sent for from Victoria—also gave evidence which the hon. member had not read.

Mr. DIBBS: Is Mr. Gordon a shareholder?

Mr. J. P. ABBOTT: Yes.

Mr. DIBBS: That is rather an awkward position!

Mr. J. P. ABBOTT remarked that Mr. Gordon was called as a witness, and he gave evidence to the effect that he did not anticipate that there would be such a sale of water as that suggested by Mr. Derry for the first year; but probably, however, by the end of the year there would be nearly that quantity sold. Mr. Gordon did not think that 1s. per 100 gallons would cover the first year's expense. The lowest rate at which he thought water could be supplied for the first year was 1s. per 100 gallons.

[*Mr. Bruce Smith.*]

Mr. DIBBS: Unfortunately, he is a shareholder.

Mr. BRUCE SMITH: Even that evidence is damaging to the bill!

Mr. J. P. ABBOTT said it was not to be supposed that because Mr. Gordon had an interest in the bill he would commit perjury. The Committee might just as well deal with this bill as any other.

Mr. S. SMITH said that when the bill was before the House at a former stage he pointed out that there were several amendments which he desired to move. He urged that the bill go no further, and that it should be recommitted next session. He would suggest that the clause should be postponed.

Mr. J. P. ABBOTT said as there appeared to be no chance of getting the bill through Committee to-night, it was his intention to move that progress be reported.

Mr. LYNE said there was a great necessity for a measure of this kind; and if a private bill were not passed, the Government should undertake the work themselves. He did not understand why the Government had not provided for a water supply in the case of Broken Hill in the same way that had been done in the case of various other country towns, including Albury, Wagga, Goulburn, Bathurst, and Hay.

Mr. S. SMITH remarked that he intended to propose a scheme for Broken Hill which would be better than any of the others.

Mr. LYNE said the work should not be delayed, and he was sorry that it was intended to move the Chairman out of the chair. It would be better to allow the bill to go through, and leave the two matters to which objection was taken to be dealt with next session. Nothing was more necessary than a supply of good water at Broken Hill; and whether the work was carried out by private enterprise, or by the Government, it should be undertaken without delay. The charge of 1s. 6d. per 100 gallons for the first year was too high. It meant £100 a day, or £36,500 a year. It was an extortionate sum to charge the people. The promoters should not expect to obtain a profit on their operations during the first year or so. The charge at first should not exceed 6d. per 100 gallons. Another objection to the scheme was that it would usurp possession of the whole of the watershed,

the area specified being 200 square miles. If amendments were made in regard to the two points he had referred to the bill should be allowed to pass.

Mr. CRICK said the bill in its intention was a good one, and he would be glad to assist the hon. member to pass it next session. It would be better to withdraw it for the present, and introduce a new bill. It was necessary to preserve the rights of the owners of land on the catchment area. The bill gave the company a legal right over the land of private owners within the catchment area. He wished to compliment the Government on their grand indifference to a bill of this magnitude. Had it not been that he rose to call attention to it, the bill might have been galloped through Committee without the rights of the public being sufficiently protected as against the monopolist company.

Progress reported.

REDHEAD COAL-MINE RAILWAY BILL. SECOND READING.

Mr. ABIGAIL rose to move :

That this bill be now read a second time.

He said : I have been asked by the hon. member for Hartley, Mr. Hurley, to take charge of this bill. As I understand that there is no great objection to it, I have much pleasure in complying with his request.

Mr. CRICK : I rise to order. I wish to take you ruling, sir, whether an hon. member can move the second reading of a bill for another hon. member? I have heard you rule frequently that a motion of this kind cannot be moved by one hon. member for another.

Mr. SPEAKER : The hon. member is quite in error. I have never ruled to that effect. I have ruled on the contrary, that where an hon. member states that he makes the motion at the request of the hon. member in charge of the bill, and in his unavoidable absence, he can be allowed to do so. If the hon. member for West Sydney makes such a statement now, he will be in order in moving the second reading of the bill.

Mr. ABIGAIL : The hon. member for Hartley is at Cobarr on public business, and he has written me a letter, asking me to take charge of the bill.

Mr. GARRETT : On the point of order I think I am right in stating that after a bill has been read a first time it is then the property of the House, and any hon. member can make a motion regarding it.

Mr. SPEAKER : That is the law of Parliament in the House of Commons ; but under a precedent established by my predecessor, Mr. Speaker Barton, the same rule does not exist in this House. It will be remembered that during last Parliament, with the concurrence of the House, I changed the procedure to some extent, and it was then arranged that the rule in this House should be that an hon. member could move the second reading of a bill for another hon. member, but only in that hon. member's unavoidable absence, and at his request.

Mr. ABIGAIL : The objects of this bill are so thoroughly well known that it is not necessary for me to explain its provisions. It is for the extension of an act passed in 1883, with a view to enable the Redhead Coal-mining Company to make certain deviations. The bill has been investigated by a select committee, who reported favourably.

Question proposed.

Mr. BARBOUR : As a member of the committee to whom this bill was referred, I wish to say that evidence was adduced to prove that the bill was a desirable one to pass, and that under its operations a large amount of labour would be employed. No one will be prejudiced by the bill ; but, on the contrary, it will be an advantage to the public generally.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

Bill read the second time, and reported from Committee without amendment.

ADJOURNMENT.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION—MR. JUSTICE
WINDEYER.

Motion (by Mr. BRUNKER) proposed :
That this House do now adjourn.

Mr. CRICK : I desire to make to the House a short statement, somewhat of the character of a personal explanation. It will be remembered that a few days ago, after being kept out of bed two nights, and under the strain of considerable excitement, I was guilty of conduct which no one in or out of Parliament more deeply regrets than I do myself. What

I still more deeply regret is that any blame should be attached to the party to which I belong on account of this erratic and ill-advised action on my part. I take the whole blame of what I did. There can be no doubt that hon. members sitting on this side endeavoured to the best of their ability to restrain me and to keep me quiet; but such is my temper that when it gets beyond my control no power on earth will keep me quiet. When I had time to reflect I felt indeed—not for myself—because I will certainly admit that I do not very much care on that account—I felt, I say, that I had struck a severe blow at the dignity of Parliament, and, secondly that I had done my party a great injustice. I desire to take the whole blame of the proceeding upon myself, and I intend to resign my seat, and to allow the electors of West Macquarie an opportunity to say whether they consider my conduct fits me to remain in Parliament.

Mr. D. O'CONNOR: There is no need for the hon. member to do that!

Mr. CRICK: During this session I have tried, so far as my knowledge and ability have permitted me to be of any assistance to hon. members, to pass legislation which I have considered good in the interests of the country. I have undoubtedly made a mistake, however, and I am free to admit—no one will more readily do so—that if by stopping out of Parliament for the next three years the memory of what happened on the day to which I refer could be effaced, I would gladly stop away. What I object to is statements by the public outside and by the press making it appear that my action was in any way whatever approved of by the Opposition. During the time I was in the quasi-custody of the Serjeant-at-Arms I received a terrible grueiling from the leaders of my party; and I should like to state that during the time I was outside the Chamber so deeply did I feel the injustice I had done my party that I wrote out my resignation and asked an hon. member to forward it to you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. DIBBS: Hear, hear!

Mr. ABIGAIL: I saw it!

Mr. CRICK: I do not think my party ought to be blamed for what I did. I have always been known to be an erratic man; my hon. friends on this side could not understand my action when some

[*Mr. Crick.*

months ago I delivered a strong speech in favour of the Land Bill of the Government. I cannot see why the protectionist party should be asked to suffer for my misdeeds. As I have said, I will give the electors an opportunity to say whether I should be here or not. If they say I should not be here, I shall be quite content to stop away. I have very little desire to stop in Parliament. During the time I have been here, I have spent about two nights of every week without seeing my bed, and I do not know that that can be described as a very delightful mode of life. In the dispensation of Providence, I am a bachelor up to the present time, and I can perhaps afford this peculiar indulgence better than others hon. members can afford it. I desire to repeat, however, that all those who represent the party on this side strongly disapproved of my action last week. They expressed their strong disapprobation of my conduct. I felt that I had done wrong in a moment of excitement, and that I did not at the time realise what I was doing. In my calmer moments, I undertake to say that there is no man in this House who values the dignity of Parliament more than I do. I feel that Parliament does its best, and noblest work from its moral effect. Having made this statement—having stated that I deeply regret what occurred last week, and that as far as I am concerned, such conduct shall not be repeated if I should happen to be returned to the House again—I have no desire to further occupy the time of hon. members.

Mr. J. P. ABBOTT: I think it only right to say that the proceedings of Parliament during last week are viewed from one end of the country to the other with the most absolute horror. I happen to have just returned from a distant part of the country, and I can truthfully say that all classes of the community strongly condemn certain proceedings in this Parliament during last week. We meet here as delegates of the people to carry on the business of the country. If Parliament is to be brought into contempt and ridicule, if it is to be made a place which no decent man will enter, we shall fall among evil times so far as the welfare of this community is concerned. I am pleased to think that on this side of the House at all events a large majority, at least three

fourths of hon. members who sit here, are prepared to put down anything like larrikinism in this House. I have always expressed the wish that the Government would act promptly and with force with the various kinds of disorder which we have seen arise. There is no excuse or palliation to be offered for the conduct of the hon. member for West Macquarie. If the hon. member feels that he cannot restrain himself and control himself when here as hon. members of this House should control and restrain themselves, he should stay out of the House altogether. No man can expect to get on here who is not prepared to submit at times to rebuff. I was glad to hear the hon. member admit that his conduct could not be in any way palliated. I do hope that there will be no necessity for enforcing and putting into operation stringent rules. On four occasions I have taken a prominent part in connection with the proceedings of the Standing Orders Committee, and acting on behalf of Mr. Speaker, I have two or three times brought up a report from the committee. I do not care how stringent our orders are made, I am sure that the majority of hon. members will vote for them.

HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

Mr. J. P. ABBOTT: They will not affect hon. members who can control themselves, who observe the decencies of debate, and who desire to carry on the business of the country. But they will affect men who cannot restrain and control themselves. I hope the House will at an early opportunity in the coming session deal with our rules, and make them as stringent as they can possibly be made.

Mr. CRICK: I shall be very glad to assist!

Mr. J. P. ABBOTT: I am glad to hear the hon. member say so. I admit that I was very pleased to hear his speech, and to hear him announce his determination of going before his constituents. I believe there is a very useful career before the hon. gentleman, having regard to his abilities, if he will only take care of himself, and will keep himself under control. If the hon. member, however, is to be forever nagging and interfering with other hon. gentlemen, then his usefulness here will be lost to the country. The hon. member has the makings of a good man

in him if he will only take care of himself: he has any amount of intelligence, and he has more knowledge of parliamentary business than nine-tenths of hon. gentlemen; yet he cannot and does not control himself. I have some Irish blood in me; in fact, I am nearly a pure bred Irishman.

Mr. ABIGAIL: The hon. member for Wentworth himself kicks over the traces sometimes!

Mr. J. P. ABBOTT: That is only when the hon. member irritates me. What I desire to point out is that it is no punishment if, when an hon. member disregards the rules of the House, he is simply ordered in and out of the custody of the Serjeant-at-Arms. I should have liked to see the hon. member for West Macquarie kept in the custody of the Serjeant-at-Arms until he had paid some heavy fine. I do hope that this will be a turning point in the hon. member's career, because, as I have said before, there is much usefulness in him if he will but control himself.

Mr. CHANTER: I desire to call the attention of the Minister of Justice to a petition which I presented to this House some months ago with regard to the conduct of Judge Windeyer.

Mr. BRUCE SMITH: On behalf of the Government, I would ask the hon. member to postpone his remarks upon this question to some future occasion. The hon. member is doubtless aware that they can lead to nothing at the present stage of the session. From what I know of the Government, the action of the hon. member in merely drawing attention to the matter in this House will not produce any effect. The hon. member would do much more good if he would privately draw the attention of ministers to the matter. The hon. member knows that the House sat until 6 o'clock this morning, and that during last week we spent three nights in this Chamber. As we have to meet tomorrow at half-past 11, I put it to the hon. member that it would be only reasonable on his part to allow ministers who have had to stick to their posts recently, almost with military strictness, to obtain some much needed rest. The effect of the hon. member continuing his observations now will be that on our resuming after refreshment we shall probably be led into a several hours debate without any effect whatever.

Mr. SPEAKER: I may point out to the hon. member that his motion for the appointment of a select committee is still upon the business-paper, and will preclude him from entering into the merits of the case in any way whatever.

Mr. CHANTER: I was not about to deal with that particular case. I was about to give the Minister of Justice some further information in connection with some other case in regard to which some action should be taken at once. In deference to the wishes of hon. members, however, I will not refer to the matter now. I will content myself with stating that in the opinion of some of the most eminent men in this city the case, which it is my intention to bring under the notice of the Minister of Justice, calls for immediate interference with a view to that respect which is due to justice being paid to it.

Mr. LYNE: I was not aware that it was the intention of the hon. member for West Macquarie to make the statement he made to-night. I can only say that for my part, and for the part of the leaders of the Opposition who are not now here, the conduct of the hon. member was regretted by every one of us, and that the Opposition as a body will be very glad indeed to hear the sentiments the hon. member has expressed to-night. No hon. member can have observed the hon. member's action in this House without knowing that he is possessed of far more than the usual amount of ability. It is to be hoped, I am sure, that the hon. member will have a career of usefulness. I believe such a career is before him, and that what has recently taken place, instead of being to the hon. member's detriment, may aid him in keeping better control over himself in the future.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

House adjourned at 6.9 p.m.

Legislative Council.

Thursday, 10 October, 1889.

Assent to Bills—Redhead Coal-mine Railway Bill—
Prorogation.

The PRESIDENT took the chair.

[Mr. Chanter.

ASSENT TO BILLS.

Royal assent to the following bills reported:—

Toronto Tramway Bill.

Warwick Farm Railway Bill.

Leconfield Coal-mine Railway Bill.

REDHEAD COAL-MINE RAILWAY BILL.

Bill received from the Legislative Assembly, and read the first time.

PROROGATION.

Shortly before noon his Excellency the Governor entered the Council Chamber, and took the chair.

A summons was sent to the Legislative Assembly requesting the attendance of members in the Council Chamber, who, being come with their Speaker,

Mr. SPEAKER presented the Appropriation Bill, the Loan Bill, and the Railway Loan Redemption Bill, to his Excellency for the royal assent.

Bills assented to.

His EXCELLENCY delivered the following speech:—

HONORABLE GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, AND GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY:

It affords me much satisfaction to be able to release you for a time from your arduous and successful parliamentary labours. The work of the session now closing will bear favourable comparison with that of any former period; and in pursuing your private avocations you will be sustained by the just consciousness of having rendered important services to the country.

2. The new Land Act is a measure calculated to establish improved relations between the different classes engaged in pastoral and agricultural industry; to foster and maintain confidence in the investment of capital, and to increase the demand for labour, in connection with country pursuits. The acquisition of freehold homesteads for cultivation and farming purposes has been rendered more easy and certain; special provision has been made for bringing inferior and scrub lands under profitable occupation; a lengthened and