

GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE

ASSEMBLY :

10. I thank you for the ample provision you have made for the public service, and assure you that uniform care and economy will be exercised in the expenditure.

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

11. I am much gratified to be able to inform you that it is no longer necessary to find employment at the public expense for large numbers of the working population. The bounteous seasons, the improved activity in industrial operations, and the opening out of legally authorised works under Government, are steadily providing legitimate employment for the industrious poor, and I look forward to continuous improvement in the condition of the larger classes of society.

12. During the recess active steps will be taken to reorganise the system of technical education, and to establish a sub-department of agriculture.

13. Preparations will be immediately proceeded with for the framing of a measure of local self-government which it is hoped will prove acceptable to all divisions of the population.

14. In dismissing you to your several districts, I pray that the Divine blessing may follow you to your homes and attend you in your various callings of life.

I now declare this Parliament prorogued until Tuesday, the 5th day of November next.

Legislative Assembly.

Thursday, 10 October, 1889.

Grafton Gaol—Redhead Coal-mine Railway Bill—Appointment to the Department of Customs—Department of Agriculture—John Massart—Noxious Trades Site—Abolition of Tolls—Brookong Shearers—Prorogation.

Mr. SPEAKER took the chair.

GRAFTON GAOL.

Mr. SEE : I desire to direct the attention of the Secretary for Public Works to the overcrowded and unsatisfactory condition of Grafton Gaol, and to ask the hon. gentleman whether he will place a sum upon the estimates for a new gaol? The old gaol is in an absolutely decayed and unsafe condition.

Mr. BRUCE SMITH : The question the hon. member has asked me is one concerning which I should be disinclined to give a definite answer without making inquiry. I should first have to receive a communication from the Minister of Justice as to the necessity for the work.

Mr. SEE : It was recommended five years ago!

Mr. BRUCE SMITH : If so, I should imagine that the work could very well afford to wait for another week. However, I promise the hon. member to give the matter my attention.

REDHEAD COAL-MINE RAILWAY BILL.

Bill read the third time.

APPOINTMENT TO THE DEPARTMENT OF CUSTOMS.

Mr. CRICK : Can the Colonial Treasurer inform me whether it is fact that a man named Berner, who was at one time in the civil service, and who received a sentence of ten years for defalcations, has been recently appointed to a position in the Customs Department, whether he now holds the position, and upon whose recommendation the appointment was made?

Mr. McMILLAN : The hon. member must surely see that a question of this kind cannot be answered without notice. It is impossible that I can give the hon. member the information he desires at the present moment.

Mr. CRICK : Surely the hon. member can tell me whether it is or is not a fact that Berner has been appointed to the department?

Mr. McMILLAN : I cannot say.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

Mr. LYNE : I should be glad to hear from the Secretary for Mines whether any arrangements have been made to establish

a department of agriculture in connection with the Department of Mines ; and if so, whether the office of secretary has been offered to any gentleman in the city outside the civil service ? If the appointment has been so offered, will the hon. gentleman have any objection to stating to whom the offer has been made ?

Mr. S. SMITH : I may inform the hon. gentleman that the Government has determined to establish a department of agriculture in connection with the Department of Mines ; but, so far, no one has been appointed to the office of secretary.

Mr. LYNE : Has an offer of the office been made to any one ?

Mr. S. SMITH : So far as I am aware, no offer of the position has been made to any one.

JOHN MASSART.

Mr. CASS : I desire to call the attention of the Minister of Justice to a case of shooting which occurred recently in the town of Dubbo, and which led to the arrest of Mr. John Massart, notwithstanding an admission on the part of the police authorities that an accident had taken place. I think some inquiry should be made as to the reasons for the arrest of Mr. Massart. I consider that a gross perversion of justice has taken place.

Mr. SPEAKER : The hon. member will be entitled to give such information as is necessary to make his question understood ; but he will not be entitled to enter into any argument.

Mr. CASS : I will avail myself of another opportunity to bring the matter under the notice of the Minister of Justice.

Mr. GOULD : I understand the hon. member desires me to give him some information with regard to the arrest of Mr. Massart for shooting a constable, the shooting being stated to have been an accident. All that I can tell the hon. gentleman is that if this gentleman has been arrested, it is the duty of the police to take him before the magistrates. The matter is one for the magistrates to deal with, it is not a matter for the consideration of any department of the Government. No department could at the present moment interfere.

NOXIOUS TRADES SITE.

Mr. LEES : Perhaps the Colonial Treasurer will be good enough to inform the House whether the Government have yet taken any steps in connection with the fixing of the site for noxious trades ? Certain persons are desirous of opening these trades ; but they do not care to set to work until some definite action is taken by the Government.

Mr. McMILLAN : The Government have not yet fixed upon a site ; but it will be one of the first matters which will be considered in the recess.

ABOLITION OF TOLLS.

Mr. McRAE : I desire to ask the Secretary for Public Works a question in connection with a subject upon which my constituents are worrying the life out of me. I desire to know whether the Government have finally determined to abolish tolls upon ferries, and if not, whether they will consider the matter with a view to some definite conclusion during the recess ?

Mr. BRUCE SMITH : Considering the large amount of assistance the Government have received from the hon. member, the announcement that his constituents are worrying the life out of him should be sufficient to induce us to take prompt action. I promise the hon. member that the matter will be very fully considered in the recess.

BROOKONG SHEARERS.

Mr. COPLAND : I should be glad if the Minister of Justice could give me an assurance that he will at once consider the question of releasing the Brookong shearers. The hon. member promised that upon the expiration of the shorter sentences he would consider the position of the longer sentenced prisoners.

Mr. GOULD : I think I cannot do better than follow the example of the Secretary for Public Works, and say that this matter will be considered during recess.

PROROGATION.

The BLACK ROD was admitted, and announced that his Excellency the Governor desired the attendance of hon. members in the Legislative Council Chamber.

Mr. SPEAKER, accompanied by hon. members, then proceeded to the Legislative Council Chamber.

Sydney : Charles Potter, Government Printer.—1889.