

[*The Council meets at 2.30 o'clock p.m.*]

ORDER PAPER.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Monday, the 12th day of September, 1881.

NOTICES OF MOTION.

1. The Honourable Mr. WHITAKER to move, That leave be given to introduce a Bill intituled "An Act to amend 'The Sheep Act, 1878.'"
2. The Honourable Mr. WHITAKER to move, That leave be given to introduce a Bill intituled "An Act in supplement of "The West Coast Settlement (North Island) Act, 1880," to provide for the administration of Reserves made for Natives within the Confiscated Territory."
3. The Honourable Mr. MANTELL to move, That leave of absence be granted to the Honourable Mr. Menzies for the remainder of the session, on urgent private affairs.

ORDERS OF THE DAY.

1. Harbours Act 1878 Amendment Bill—to be committed. (Hon. Mr. Reynolds.)
2. Licensing Bill—consideration of reasons of House of Representatives for disagreeing to amendments of the Legislative Council.

REASONS.

The excision of section 5, and part section 6, disagreed with, because this alteration strikes at the root of the local-option principle in its application to existing licenses. The essence of that principle is that the persons interested in the existence or non-existence of any particular group of public-houses should have the power of suppressing them without outside interference. If two or more localities which have conflicting opinions on the subject are combined in one district, and have to elect the same Board, one or more of such localities will be over-ruled by the others, and the question settled for them by localities which are not interested in or affected by *their* public-houses. The alteration of the clause as proposed restores it almost *verbatim* to that of the Act of 1873, which proved a failure on this very ground; and, though it might be thought that the discretion of the Government would, in the definition of districts, be sufficient to avoid this evil, it has proved entirely otherwise, and the failure of the Act of 1873 to become operative, may, in a very great degree, be attributed to this cause.

The amendments eliminating the New Zealand wine license from the Bill, in clause 29, subsection 3, clause 31, and parts of clauses 44 and 46, are disagreed with, because, the New Zealand wine license was placed in the Bill at the recommendation of the Royal Commission on Local Industries, which made a careful inquiry into the subject, and came to the conclusion that the wine industry was an important one, and capable of great development, and that the best way to encourage it was to allow the wine to be retailed upon payment of a nominal license fee. They consulted the head of the Customs Department, Mr. Seed, and he entirely approved of the proposed step, and suggested that the system in operation in New South Wales for many years should be adopted—viz., that the native grown wines should be allowed to be sold by retail under a £1 license.

In parts of the colony, viz., north of Auckland, Wanganui, Nelson, and central Otago, the soil and climate are eminently suited for wine growing, and wines of great purity and value are already produced there; but no extensive trade in them can be carried on so long as it is forbidden to retail them, except under a publican's license.

Under the Bill the Licensing Bench have it in their discretion to grant the license; and that should be a guarantee against the New Zealand wine license being abused for sly-grog selling. The Licensing Committee would only grant New Zealand wine licenses to vigneron, respectable persons known to be engaged in the production of New Zealand wines, confectioners of good repute, or others who should satisfy the Bench of their fitness to hold the license. It is represented by those well acquainted with the vine-growing districts that the establishment of this form of license would give a vast impetus to this industry, and that large tracts of country now lying waste would be brought under cultivation, and large numbers of people would find remunerative employment. It is, therefore, sought to try the experiment, in the belief that great good will result from it; and that if any of the evil consequences which have been suggested should ensue, they will speedily make themselves seen, upon which the Licensing Bench can refuse to renew the licenses, or the Legislature can abolish the system. No vested interest can grow up under a nominal license fee. It has been ascertained that an extensive illicit trade now goes on in New Zealand wine, owing to the prohibitory nature of the existing law, and it is thought desirable to put a stop to this by permitting that to be done lawfully and under proper regulation, which will otherwise be done unlawfully, and under no regulation at all.

The striking out of the words "or road districts," in clause 68, is disagreed with, because by clause 109 there will probably be cases, where "The Counties Act, 1876," not being in force, fees may be payable to Road Boards.

The insertion of new clause 96, disagreed with, because it gives too much power to lessors, sufficient power being already granted in clause 95.

The amendment in clause 140, and the addition of clause 141, disagreed with, because it is considered that three months is too short a time to allow before the innkeeper shall be at liberty to dispose of goods left in his charge, and that six months should be allowed as in the original clause.

New clause 229 disagreed with, because it does not provide for the payment of a fee by clubs; and also because it is considered that there should be an annual report from each club to the Colonial Secretary, stating that such club continues to fulfil all the conditions on which its charter was granted.

3. Pensions Bill—consideration of the reason of House of Representatives for disagreeing to the amendment of Legislative Council.

REASON.

The House of Representatives disagree to the amendment made by the Honourable the Legislative Council in the Pensions Bill, 1881, for the following reason: Because the Pensions Bill, 1881, being a money Bill, any amendment thereof by the honorable the Legislative Council is an infringement of the privileges of the House of Representatives; and the House of Representatives do not deem it necessary to offer any further reason, hoping the above may be sufficient.

4. Adoption of Children Bill—consideration of amendments by House of Representatives.
5. Native Land Division Bill—second reading. (Hon. Mr. Whitaker.)
6. Masterton and Greytown Lands Management Act 1871 Amendment Bill—to be committed. (Hon. Mr. Whitaker.)
7. Prisons Act Amendment Bill—to be committed. (Hon. Mr. Whitaker.)
8. Rabbit Nuisance Bill—second reading. (Hon. Mr. Whitaker.)
9. Timaru Water-race Reserve Bill—second reading. (Hon. Mr. Whitaker.)
10. Post Office Bill—to be committed. (Hon. Mr. Whitaker.)
11. Dog Registration Bill—to be committed. (Hon. Mr. Whitaker.)
12. Timaru Harbour Board Act Amendment Bill—to be committed. (Hon. Mr. Whitaker.)
13. Southland Agricultural and Pastoral Association Reserve Bill—to be committed. (Hon. Mr. Nurse.)
14. Akaroa High School Bill—to be committed. (Hon. Mr. Peacock.)

Tuesday, the 13th day of September, 1881.

ORDERS OF THE DAY.

1. Timaru Harbour Board Endowment Bill—third reading. (Hon. Mr. Wilson.)
2. Supreme Court Practice and Procedure Bill—to be further considered in Committee. (Hon. Mr. Whitaker.)
3. Representation Bill—to be committed. (Hon. Mr. Whitaker.)
4. Fencing Bill—second reading. (Hon. Mr. Whitaker.)

Wednesday, the 14th day of September, 1881.

NOTICE OF MOTION.

1. The Honourable Mr. MANTELL to move, That this Council, having taken into consideration the papers laid upon the Table relative to the Himatangi back-rents, is of opinion that the payment of the money due in respect of those rents by the recognized owners of the Himatangi Block should no longer be delayed; and that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Government.

PETITIONS, PAPERS, AND REPORTS.

FRIDAY, 9TH SEPTEMBER, 1881.

REPORTS.

154. Survey Department: Annual Report of the Year 1880-81. C.-4.
(By command.)

SELECT COMMITTEES.

For Saturday, the 10th day of September, 1881:

Local Bills Committee (A), at 10.30 a.m., in No. 1 Committee room.

Bill for consideration—Borough of Hamilton Boundaries Bill.

For Monday, the 12th day of September, 1881.

Local Bills Committee (A), at 10.30 a.m., in No. 1 Committee room.