

HANSARD 1886, Dec 15, Victorian Parliament

Aborigines Protection Law Amendment Bill.

[COUNCIL] December 15, 1886

ABORIGINES PROTECTION LAW AMENDMENT BILL.

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

The Hon. J. LORIMER moved that the Bill be read a second time. He said that he had to apologize to the Council for asking it to deal with this important measure at that late hour of the evening. It was not his fault, however, or the fault of the Government, that the Bill had not been brought before the House at an earlier period of the session, as it was introduced and read a first time in the Assembly nearly six months ago, namely, on the 23rd June. The Board for the Protection of the Aborigines were anxious that the measure should be passed. Half-castes were multiplying very largely at the aboriginal stations. **According to the existing law, half-castes were regarded as aborigines**, but adult half-castes were quite capable of earning their own livelihood, and **the object of the Bill was to provide for their**

being gradually drafted into different occupations throughout the colony, under suitable regulations to be framed by the Governor in Council.

The Hon. J. BALFOUR, in supporting the Bill, stated that he was aware that the measure had long been desired by the Board for the Protection of the Aborigines.

The motion was agreed to.

The Bill was then read a second time, and afterwards passed through its remaining stages.