

course is 2s. 6d. or 5s. The tram will run to the racecourse for a threepenny fare, so that it will be of immense advantage to the people.

HON. C. SOMMERS (North-East): This work is of great importance to the Kalgoorlie residents. It is a short formal measure, and I trust the House will pass it.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

IN COMMITTEE.

Clauses 1 to 11—agreed to.

First Schedule—agreed to.

Second Schedule:

HON. R. D. MCKENZIE moved that in paragraph 2 in the blank before "mouth" the word "six" be inserted.

Amendment passed, and the schedule as amended agreed to.

Preamble, Title—agreed to.

Bill reported with an amendment, and the report adopted.

TRUCK ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

ASSEMBLY'S MESSAGE.

Schedule of three amendments made by the Legislative Assembly now considered in Committee.

THE MINISTER FOR LANDS moved that the amendments made by the Legislative Assembly be agreed to.

Put and passed.

Resolution reported, and the report adopted.

ADJOURNMENT.

The House adjourned at twenty-five minutes past 9 o'clock, until the next day.

Legislative Assembly.

Tuesday, 6th December, 1904.

	PAGES
Questions: Lands for Agriculture, near Railways	1637
Manure Manufacture	1637
Agricultural Bank Advances, Fencing	1638
Retarus ordered: Ringbarking and Clearing	1638
Railway Accidents to Cattle	1638
Bills: Licensing Act Suspension, second reading; in Committee, reported	1639
Navigation, second reading resumed, passed	1646
Brands, second reading moved	1650
Roads Act Amendment (jetties), second reading moved	1651
Distress for Rent Restriction, second reading	1651
Annual Estimates resumed, Education, general discussion, votes passed	1653

MR. SPEAKER took the Chair at 3:30 o'clock, p.m.

PRAYERS.

PAPERS PRESENTED.

By the MINISTER for MINES AND JUSTICE: (a.) Papers relating to the release of prisoner Casely, moved for by Mr. A. J. Wilson. (b.) New Regulation under "The Explosives Act, 1895."

QUESTION—LANDS FOR AGRICULTURE, NEAR RAILWAYS.

MR. NEEDHAM, for Mr. Moran, asked the Premier: 1, Has he reliable data in his possession concerning the quantity of land suitable for agriculture, not heavily timbered, and either within a reasonable distance of a railway line, or which could be rendered available by a moderate expenditure on railway communication? 2, Will he give such data to the House at the earliest possible moment?

THE PREMIER replied: 1, The Government have already taken steps to obtain this information. 2, Such information will be submitted to the House as soon as possible.

QUESTION—MANURE MANUFACTURE.

MR. MORAN asked the Premier: Is there any information available as to the existence in the State of a quality of limestone suitable for a base for manure manufacture?

THE PREMIER replied: There are indications that such limestone exists, but up to the present the actual deposits found have not been sufficiently rich in phosphate of lime to be worth the cost of working and carriage.

QUESTION—AGRICULTURAL BANK ADVANCES, FENCING.

MR. SCADDAN asked the Premier: 1, Under which section of the Agricultural Bank Act does the Manager of the Bank instruct applicants for loans to erect 5 or 6-wire fences on already fenced and otherwise improved lands, before agreeing to the application? 2, Does he consider this a hardship on settlers where such fences are absolutely unnecessary for years to come?

THE PREMIER replied: 1, Under the general power of the manager to recommend advances, he requires borrowers to fence the land comprised in the security with a sufficient fence according to the locality. 2, No. It must be left to the manager to say what fencing is necessary for the purpose of each security.

RETURN—RINGBARKING AND CLEARING.

MR. C. J. MORAN (West Perth) moved:

That a return be at once prepared for publication, giving reliable information in connection with the cost of ringbarking in the following centres: 1, Eastern Districts; 2, Great Southern District; 3, South-Western District; 4, Northern Agricultural Districts.

The notice of motion needed amending by inserting the words "and clearing" after "ringbarking." The information sought was essential to any scheme of land settlement. The figures for the Eastern Districts would be very reliable, and the cost of clearing there should not be very high. In the Great Southern District the clearing was perhaps a little heavier, but not nearly so heavy as in the South-Western District. Any extended scheme of land settlement must include the Geraldton areas and the Northampton district. As Cato of old repeatedly said in the senate, "Carthage must be destroyed," so would he (Mr. Moran) repeat on every possible occasion, though out of order, that this country must get possession of the Midland Railway, and that the best means of getting it was by imposing a land tax.

MR. H. CARSON (Geraldton) seconded the motion.

MR. N. J. MOORE (Bunbury) moved an amendment:

That the words "and clearing" be inserted after "ringbarking." The cost of ringbarking

was from 1s. to 2s. Without the cost of clearing, the return would not be of much value.

MR. A. J. H. WATTS (Northam): The return should distinguish between the cost of clearing green and dead timber, or the result would be unsatisfactory. The difference was enormous. Green timber cost nearly four times as much as dead to clear.

Amendment passed, and the motion as amended agreed to.

RETURN—RAILWAY ACCIDENTS TO CATTLE.

MR. C. H. LAYMAN (Nelson) moved:

That a return be laid upon the table of the House showing—1, The number and class of live stock killed or injured by locomotives on the railway line between Mullalyup and Bridgetown, since the line was opened for traffic. 2, The estimated cost of fencing the unfenced portions of the railway line between Mullalyup and Bridgetown.

The object was to safeguard the travelling public against accidents on this line of heavy grades, many as steep as 1 in 40, with many high embankments, steep cuttings, and short 8-chain curves. The line was best described by the simile of a serpent in convulsions. Though the trains did not ascend the grades at a high speed, their speed was great when descending; and sooner or later a train, after running into a lot of cattle on the line, would be tipped over the embankment, and serious loss of life would result. Since he had given notice of this motion, two accidents had occurred to cattle on the line.

MR. N. J. MOORE (Bunbury) seconded the motion.

Question put and passed.

LICENSING ACT SUSPENSION BILL.

SECOND READING.

Resumed from the 1st December.

MR. C. H. RASON (Guildford): However much we may be agreed on the desirability of having some reform in the matter of liquor law, I think it would be somewhat unwise if we passed this short Bill at the present moment. We should rather defer action until we can deal with the whole subject in a comprehensive manner. True, we have before us another Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to the licensing of public-houses; but I am given to understand the Govern-

ment do not see an opportunity for proceeding with it this session; so that we have the short measure now under discussion, the object of which, if passed, is to prevent the farther granting of licenses of any description while it continues in force. It seems to me that is rather too stringent a step to take; and indeed, if we do decide to take such a step, the Bill will need to be hedged round with some precautions, lest in the desire to work reform we do what would manifestly be an injustice. For instance, there is no provision in the Bill for transferring a license from one tenement to another. Many of us know, I expect, of circumstances where the present holder of a license is building more commodious premises; but if this Bill be passed, the licensee will be unable to obtain a license for the new premises and will have to continue in the old premises. Surely that is not desirable; and manifestly, it would be desirable to make provision so that the licensing benches may continue to have the same power as they have had in the past, hedged round with restrictions and precautions, for granting a transfer from one building to another. Licensing benches have at all times been anxious, as far as possible, to convert a wine and beer license into a publican's general license; because the police have more control over the one than over the other, and because there is not so much abuse of the law by the one class of occupant as there is by the other. Manifestly, there also I submit we would have to make provision to allow the licensing benches the same power as they have had in the past, under certain restrictions, to convert wine and beer licenses into publicans' general licenses. Over and above that, this fact appeals to me, that we should approach, no matter what our personal feelings may be, the consideration of a consolidating and amending measure absolutely unbiassed, and that we should not have it forced upon us that it is necessary to do something and to do it quickly because of the existence of this present measure if it becomes law. While this measure remains in force there will be no farther licenses granted. Therefore it may be urged that, if time is taken in considering the other measure when it does come before us, we are doing an injustice to somebody who is

anxious to obtain a license in a case where the people of the district are anxious that he should have one. Seeing that the licensing meeting has only just passed, that there cannot be another meeting for another three months, and that three months must elapse before any farther licenses can be granted in the ordinary course, I would submit that we might well do without this Bill and wait until we can consider the fuller measure; but if the House is not of that opinion, then I submit it will be absolutely necessary to amend this Bill so as to provide for the circumstances to which I have just drawn attention. Although we may decide to pass an Act that no farther licenses of any kind shall be granted, I feel sure the House will not agree to such an act of injustice as to prevent the transfer of a license from the tenement of an existing licensee to more commodious premises now in the course of erection or about to be erected, and that it will not refuse to give to the licensing benches the power to convert wine and beer licenses into publicans' general licenses.

Question put, and a division taken with the following result:—

Ayes	...	...	...	27
Noes	...	...	...	11
Majority for				16

AYES.

Mr. Angwin
Mr. Bath
Mr. Bolton
Mr. Butcher
Mr. Carson
Mr. Connor
Mr. Daughish
Mr. Ellis
Mr. Foulkes
Mr. Hastie
Mr. Heitmann
Mr. Henabaw
Mr. Isdell
Mr. Johnson
Mr. Keyser
Mr. Lynch
Mr. Needham
Mr. Nelson
Mr. Quinlan
Mr. Scaddan
Mr. Taylor
Mr. Thomas
Mr. Troy
Mr. Watts
Mr. A. J. Wilson
Mr. F. F. Wilson
Mr. Gill (Teller).

NOES.

Mr. Cowcher
Mr. Diamond
Mr. Hardwick
Mr. Hicks
Mr. Layman
Mr. N. J. Moore
Mr. S. F. Moore
Mr. Moran
Mr. Rason
Mr. Frank Wilson
Mr. Gordon (Teller).

Question thus passed.

Bill read a second time.

IN COMMITTEE.

MR. BATH in the Chair.

Clause 1—New licenses not to be granted:

MR. A. J. WILSON moved an amendment:—

That after "license" the words "gallon license" be inserted.

He thought the Committee would appreciate the necessity for the curtailment of the granting of this particular class of license. Quite a number of these licenses was being granted, and the only criterion that seemed to be sought was not whether people in a given locality were adequately provided for, but what was the volume of trade being done by the particular person applying for this particular license. If inquiry were made into this matter, we should probably find that a good deal of abuse existed, even in relation to the licenses which had been already granted. He ventured to think that in the area to which this was supposed to apply, there was not likely to be any hardship inflicted in the matter of meeting the convenience of the public, so far as concerned the supply of liquor by persons who held gallon licenses. In his opinion there were too many of this particular class of license issued, and we ought to widen the scope of this clause by including the words "gallon license."

MR. FRANK WILSON had never seen such a unanimous feeling, by members supposed to be against monopolists, to create a monopoly; for we were going to pass a Bill which, he ventured to say, was not required at all. It was to do away with a system which had been established in this country from time immemorial, and in other countries in the British Empire; and for what reason? Because Ministers were alarmed at the idea that the licensing benches might do what they had never done in the past—rush a number of licenses on to the public. He had never heard of such a thing; and not only was this the position which members were taking up to-day, but the member for Forrest wanted to prohibit the issue of any gallon license. Had we lost all confidence in the licensing benches of Western Australia, those benches which had been in existence for so many years? Why should we have this indecent haste to do away with the power which already existed in our Licensing Act? In order to give time, presumably, to the public to get accustomed to having no Licensing Act or no licensing bench at all before

the new Bill was brought into operation. This new Bill was going to have a good deal of opposition when it came forward. He could promise that. It was not going to be passed into law this session, even if passed into law next session. He hoped the Committee would not pass the amendment; and he trusted too that they would not pass the clause. He admitted there was abuse in the system of licensing, but we should have abuse wherever there was a big system, and it was for the Government to see through their responsible officers that these abuses were kept down to the lowest possible limit. There was no reason why we should get into a "blue funk" over the matter, and pass a Bill which would stop the issue of all licenses. The system which had gone on fairly satisfactorily for so many years could well continue for a few months, until we had time to consider the proposed new legislation of the Ministry as in the larger measure. We should consider later on an Act to consolidate and amend the laws relating to licenses.

MR. RASON: We were taking a step in the dark, and going a great deal too far. We might very well wait until we could deal with the whole question in a comprehensive manner. The effect of this clause would be, if this amendment were passed, that we should at once put an enormously enhanced value on every business at present in Western Australia; for the simple reason that until some other legislation was brought into force no farther licenses would be granted. When that would be was an open question. It might be twelve months or two years, and until then no licenses would be granted. It was not, as it might be, that every application would be considered on its merits, nor was it that local option would apply, and that no license would be granted unless it was in a district fully in favour of it. But it was that no license should be granted at all under any circumstances. Surely that was not what the House wished. Probably the great majority of members wished to see reform in this direction, but he ventured to say that no one who had thought it over could find legitimate excuse for legislation such as this. The member for Forrest desired to stop the issue of gallon licenses; but to do that would, it seemed to him, be putting a

stop to a native industry. He thought it had been our aim in the past to encourage the issue of gallon licenses for the sale of colonial wine. He hoped the hon. member would not press the amendment, and that members of the Committee would see we were really going too far. If the Bill provided that local option should apply, he would have no objection at all; but under this Bill, no matter how much the people of a district might urge the necessity for a license, the license simply could not be granted. That seemed to lack such consideration as even temperance abstainers ought to show towards those who were not so. He trusted that we all desired to encourage temperance, but that was not the way to do it. There would be such resentment aroused by legislation like this, that those who desired it would defeat their own object.

MR. BOLTON hoped, like the member for Sussex, that the Committee would look at this matter in a reasonable light; but his (Mr. Bolton's) ideas of what was reasonable and those of the hon. member were different. He (Mr. Bolton) believed it would be reasonable to amend the clause. He was in the licensing court yesterday, and one of those anomalies came up which the leader of the Opposition had referred to, about not being able to grant licenses for new premises that had been erected, often on the site of or alongside of the old premises, or an extension of them. One case was brought up in which the licensee had died before the expiration of the license. Application was made at the court for the license to be extended to the end of the year, before the new one was taken out. That application was granted by the magistrate. Surely if the court had power to do a thing like that, it had power to deal with licenses issued for premises which had been extended or increased. If a license was in existence, this Bill would not interfere with the business.

MR. RASON assured the hon. member that it would.

MR. BOLTON: Without imputing any motives, he reminded the leader of the Opposition that when the Truck Act was under discussion, it was urged that if the date at which it should come into operation were put back, cases would be rushed in connection with that matter.

Was it not just as feasible that if we did not introduce this Bill and people knew the date or probable date when the new Bill would become law, there would be a greater number of applications between to-day and the passing of the new measure? He thought so. It was absolutely necessary that this short measure should be passed because it would mean protection, and it did not mean necessarily a monopoly. He believed it would be a good thing to pass this measure, because there would be no chance, he understood from the Government, of the larger Bill being passed this session. The Bill now before the Committee would be necessary to stop that abuse which might possibly go on if this Bill were not passed.

MR. FOULKES: The licensing benches of this State did not command his unbounded confidence. Everyone who read reports of applications and knew the districts concerned must admit that some of the benches were not worthy of confidence. Consider the scandalous state of affairs in Kalgoorlie, where hotels were separated by spaces of 50 or 100 yards. Consider Midland Junction, where, owing to the prospective influx of working men, an enormous number of licenses had been granted. At Fremantle, when the Smelting Works were established, some enterprising person obtained a license for premises about 200 yards away from the works, to catch the men on their way to and from work. This was not a party question. The preceding Government recognised that the indiscriminate granting of licenses must be stopped; and the ex-Premier (Mr. Walter James) circularised the licensing benches, calling attention to the fact that too many licenses were granted, urging them to consider carefully whether any more should be granted, and also to consider the question of State hotels.

MR. MORAN: Was that still the policy of the same party?

MR. FOULKES: All were anxiously waiting for the policy of the hon. member's party, which policy changed from day to day. In this licensing question he (Mr. Foulkes) had always taken great interest, and would on a future occasion take an opportunity of fully expressing his views. No one could maintain that we had not enough licensed houses. The main defect was the absence of a proper

authority to secure the observance of the conditions on which licenses were issued. Unfortunately there was no prospect of the larger measure passing this session; but the public would at least become acquainted with it. This short Bill would not create a monopoly. He had always maintained that no licensed victualler had a vested interest in his license; and the House of Lords had declared that to be the law. A licensee asked for renewals; he had no right to demand them.

MR. MORAN: Would that judgment settle the question of compensation?

MR. FOULKES: To discuss that point would be out of order.

MR. MORAN sympathised in this matter with the members for Sussex (Mr. Frank Wilson) and Guildford (Mr. Rason). He was not personally interested in the licensing question, and was only anxious to see Australia follow the best example to be found in the world. He was entirely free from the bias of the teetotaler, who regarded anything connected with a hotel as accursed. On the other hand, there was the strange anomaly of people directly interested in the trade voting with those directly in favour of putting it down, the result being the creation of a monopoly for those already licensed. In dealing with this the greatest social question of the day throughout the world, temporary expedients were dangerous. The great question was, Could we prevent people from drinking? New Zealand achieved "prohibition;" yet we were told that her people were not drinking less liquor on that account, but that drunkenness was transferred from the hotel to the home circle. This Bill must create monopolies in some districts. The Government said they would bring in a comprehensive measure next session. Who knew whether the Government would be in office next session? [MEMBER: Moran.] That was flattering. Who knew that the new Bill would see the light next session? The party then in power might be averse to bringing it in, or might not have the time or opportunity to repeal this Bill. Statutes were often amended; but how often were they repealed? No matter how objectionable, Acts had a habit of remaining on the statute book. We must not rush to extremes. All over Australia it had been customary to regard licensed victualling, when well con-

ducted, as a legitimate investment. Who would condemn the whole trade? The great blot on the traffic no Government ever succeeded in removing. There was practically no supervision over existing hotels. There should be better inspection of the liquor sold. We were wrangling about shadows, endeavouring to make people moral by Act of Parliament, while thousands were being killed by bad grog sold in licensed hotels with fair fronts. Right through his career he had held that it was the first duty of the Government to see that good liquor was sold and that good food was sold. To most people, good spirit when wisely used was a kind of food. What was wrong with the present or any other Government prohibiting the sale of rotten liquor such as was sold at many places on the Eastern Goldfields, where sly grog-selling was rampant, and was responsible for murder and crime?

MR. HEITMANN: The goldfields liquor was frequently better than that sold in Perth.

MR. MORAN: No doubt plenty of the Perth houses sold rank poison; yet nothing was done to prevent it. We talked about appointing two inspectors for the whole State; but we ought to spend more money, and make a feature of punishing severely all who sold poison under the name of good liquor. This practice was ruining the trade. The evil results noticeable in Australia were absent in countries where none but good liquor was sold. All over the State, and particularly in sly grog-shops connected with public works in course of construction, men were going mad from the effects of bad liquor. The Bill would not prevent this evil, but would increase it, because we should not know where the liquor was being sold. He would make any sacrifice to inculcate total abstinence on the young people of Australia. That had always been his doctrine to the young. A member said, "The Athenians understand what is good, but the Lacedemonians practise it;" and that he was only an Athenian. Another phase of the question. Some very respectable people in this State invested in hotel property. Probably the member for Claremont would not even sell a block of land for the purpose of a hotel; but the hon. member was hide-bound. Take the

ordinary case of a man who built a hotel, reasonably believing that a license would be granted. One knew of such cases, not in his own electorate; and he was not personally acquainted with those interested. We could not lightly say that a man who had spent £3,000 or £4,000 in constructing a building to meet the requirements of the Licensing Act, must lose his money; yet by this Bill he would lose it, unless he had already his provisional certificate. [MEMBER: No.] The member for North Fremantle said people never built till they got provisional certificates. It might be unwise to do so; but it was frequently done, as the member for Kalgoorlie (Hon. W. D. Johnson) knew. That hon. member would not tell the House that it was the invariable practice in this State, particularly on the goldfields, to obtain a provisional certificate before starting to build.

MR. BOLTON: The owner anticipated the action of the licensing bench.

MR. MORAN: If the members of licensing benches were not to be trusted, were there no gentlemen in Western Australia sufficiently honest to act in that capacity? What an accusation to level against persons who comprised those benches, being the resident magistrates of the State; yet we were told they were corrupt! He was not prepared to believe that. We should not lock up everybody because once or twice a crime was committed in the community. There was the example of New Zealand to guide us, and why not wait a year or so longer and see what was going to be the result of that wild and sweeping experiment in prohibition. The present Bill did not affect anyone with whom he was personally acquainted, but he regarded it as dealing spasmodically with a problem which should be treated with the greatest care.

THE PREMIER: The strongest attack on licensing benches had been made by the member for West Perth, who stated that persons having no provisional certificate would erect a public-house, knowing they could afterwards get a license under ordinary circumstances from the present benches. One of the conditions in the new Bill under which a license could be granted was in the event of its being required by residents living in the neighbourhood. He was convinced that

in many instances applications had been granted that were against the desire of residents in the immediate vicinity.

MR. RASON: Why not leave it to the ratepayers?

THE PREMIER: Because there would not be an opportunity to pass the larger licensing measure in the present session, and it was better that the whole licensing question should be dealt with in one measure as the Government proposed. In the meantime, however, no member of the House could specify a place where there was now an insufficient number of licensed houses; and if there were an ample supply of licensed houses at present, this Bill would be perfectly right and proper. If there were not that ample supply at present, let some member inform the House as to where the deficiency existed. For himself, he had never yet struck a place like that. This Bill provided that all applications for licenses should be dealt with on their merits; and the Bill recognised that if there was no need at present for more licensed houses, there could be no necessity for bothering the licensing benches to hear applications for licenses that were not wanted. As to the time during which the Bill might continue in operation if passed, he felt sure that if evidence could be brought before the House next session showing that the measure had worked badly, the majority of members would be willing to repeal it. Those members who argued against the Bill were unable to adduce any evidence to show that it would operate badly. It was said the Bill would create a monopoly; but the existing Act had already created a monopoly, and the alternatives were that there must be free trade in liquor, or there must be greater restriction than hitherto. The argument as to the Bill creating a monopoly had really no weight, because it would not extend the monopoly now existing, but would prevent any extension until the whole question could be dealt with. In other words, it would prevent the introduction of new licensees who would acquire a vested interest by having obtained a license. His observation of licensed houses was that the tendency of a licensed house was to create its own trade, rather than to take away trade from other licensed houses. What he

was saying should be the practice the member for West Perth was willing to preach. It was hoped the Committee would pass the clause. The amendment moved by the member for Forrest was one he would not oppose.

MR. FRANK WILSON agreed that any form of license would tend to build up a monopoly; but he contended that any restriction which might be put on the business would also tend to create a monopoly. In saying that no farther licenses should be granted to any person, what sort of monopoly would thus be given to those who already held licenses? That monopoly would practically become absolute. Suppose this suspension Bill were to continue in operation five years, and suppose the licenses now existing were to die out gradually in various places, what would become then of the remaining licenses? They would become greater monopolies than at present, and this was the real tendency of the Bill. The Committee had been told by a legal member that there was no vested interest in a license, as determined by the House of Lords. Whether that was so or not, we know that compensation was being paid elsewhere for the abolition of licenses, particularly in Melbourne.

THE PREMIER: They agreed to do that by their Act.

MR. FRANK WILSON: As one who had some commercial experience in this State, he felt sure that if this Bill were passed there would be an immediate advance in the value of existing licenses, that larger prices would at once be claimed and obtained from persons desiring to go in under an existing license. Why not allow things to remain as they were, until the larger measure could be dealt with next session?

THE PREMIER: This Bill would do that.

MR. FRANK WILSON: No. The Premier might argue so, in a sense, but that was not the real effect. It would be better to leave things as they were until the larger measure could be dealt with.

DR. ELLIS: It was eminently advisable the Bill should be passed, for as it would be creating no new monopoly nor any farther vested interest in licenses, it could not do serious injury to the State. There was no doubt a great evil existed in

the liquor trade through a want of inspection of the liquor sold; and until proper inspection was provided, the practice of poisoning people with bad liquor would go on. This Bill would at least prevent any increase of licenses, and that was desirable. Licensing benches were susceptible to many forms of argument, and it was well that such should not be allowed to prevail for creating new licenses until the whole subject could be dealt with; therefore it was wise to prevent any more licenses being issued. There were 22 hotels in Coolgardie, where 10 would be sufficient. In some cases there were three or four hotels alongside one another, and the townspeople could not get rid of them. A reduction in the number of hotels would make the smaller number more valuable; but it would be better to give the publican more remuneration, because the control over the quality of the liquor sold could then be more stringent. The lower the value of the hotel, the worse the liquor sold. He (Dr. Ellis) had known of cases where one glass of bad alcohol had made a man insane. It was just as bad as deliberately giving a man poison. The responsibility of selling bad liquor should be on the publican; and if the person selling bad liquor was imprisoned, there would not be such a great outcry against bad alcohol as at present.

MR. TROY: By granting licenses indiscriminately there would not be sufficient profit to publicans; and in consequence inferior liquor would be sold. There were sufficient licenses in the State at present. In fact, there were too many in goldfields towns. Surely 27 hotels in one street in Kalgoorlie were too many. If we did not suspend the granting of licenses, when the new Bill came in we would have claims for compensation; and no doubt the Opposition would ask for that compensation. The Government were wise in accepting the amendment, which would pave the way for the more comprehensive measure.

Amendment (gallon license) put, and a division taken with the following result:—

Ayes	...	...	...	22
Noes	...	...	...	15

Majority for ... 7

AYES.

Mr. Angwin
Mr. Bolton
Mr. Carson
Mr. Daglish
Mr. Ellis
Mr. Foulkes
Mr. Hastie
Mr. Heitmann
Mr. Henshaw
Mr. Johnson
Mr. Keyser
Mr. Lyuch
Mr. Needham
Mr. Nelson
Mr. Scaddan
Mr. Taylor
Mr. Thomas
Mr. Troy
Mr. Watts
Mr. A. J. Wilson
Mr. F. F. Wilson
Mr. Gill (Teller)

NOES.

Mr. Burges
Mr. Butcher
Mr. Cowcher
Mr. Gordon
Mr. Hardwick
Mr. Hicks
Mr. Isdell
Mr. Layman
Mr. N. J. Moore
Mr. S. F. Moore
Mr. Moran
Mr. Quinlan
Mr. Rason
Mr. Frank Wilson
Mr. Diamond (Teller).

Amendment put and passed.

MR. RASON: Another proviso was needed. All desired that when the Wines, Beer, and Spirit Sale Act was amended, the amendment should be comprehensive. There was danger that next session the consideration of the larger measure might be postponed; and for this Bill to remain the law for any length of time might work injustice. So that the consolidating measure might be brought in without loss of time next session, he would move an additional proviso to the effect that the Bill when passed should remain in force for a term of 12 months only, after which it should cease to be operative.

Amendment thus passed.

MR. RASON moved an amendment, that the following be added as a proviso:

Provided also that the licensing magistrates shall have full power and authority as heretofore to grant a transfer of any existing license to any new premises erected, or in course of erection, or to grant a publican's general license to the holder of an existing wine and beer license.

An application for a transfer from one licensed premises to another, though more commodious, was dealt with as a new application for a license; and unless some such proviso was inserted it would be impossible to get a transfer. There were already cases in which existing license holders wished to transfer to more commodious premises. In these two respects, the amendment would simply give the bench the power it now possessed. Surely the Committee, however strong their desire to prevent the issue of new licenses, would admit the justice of passing the amendment.

THE PREMIER: The amendment seemed unobjectionable; for the object of the Bill was not to prevent the transfer of licenses to any existing premises, or to premises now in course of erection. Personally he thought the wine and beer license very objectionable; and power to change it into a general license was desirable. In drafting the larger measure he would have favoured the complete omission of wine and beer licenses but for the fact that such licenses now in existence must be provided for.

MR. KEYSER: A number of wine and beer licensees had premises adjacent to those of general licensees; and if the former license were allowed to be converted into a general license, the general licensee would have a distinct grievance.

THE PREMIER: Such a proviso did not seem advantageous. The House could, if it wished, repeal the Bill 12 months hence; or if the principal Act were in the meantime amended, the Bill would cease to operate. Surely no Government in power next session could postpone the amendment of our licensing laws. If so, he as a private member would introduce a Bill to deal with the subject; or if the larger question could not be dealt with, this Bill could then be repealed. Being satisfied that the larger question would be dealt with, he was not inclined to accept the proposed limitation.

MR. RASON: The proviso would meet the wishes of those who strongly objected to this Bill; for it would insure that whether or not a comprehensive amendment of the principal Act was passed next session, the Bill would cease to operate, and we should revert to the old order of things.

MR. MORAN: The proviso expressed the whole spirit of this Bill, that next session we were to have a comprehensive Licensing Act amendment. Pass the proviso, and this Bill, introduced as a temporary expedient, would not be permanent. At Narrogin and similar townsites, licenses recently granted might in 12 months become rich monopolies. Why should these monopolies be for, say, two years protected from competition? If the Bill was a temporary expedient, declare so in the Bill; and do not create a huge monopoly for existing licensees.

THE CHAIRMAN: As the proposed amendment would make the Bill temporary, it must take the form of a new clause.

Clause as amended agreed to.

New Clause—Term :

MR. RASON moved that the following be added as Clause 2 :—

This Act shall remain in force only for a term of 12 months from the date of the passing thereof.

MR. ELLIS supported the new clause. The Bill would undoubtedly create monopolies for 12 months, and those monopolies should be created to overcome a greater evil. But if the Bill were not made temporary in its effect, vested interests would next session be opposed to the new Bill, in order to keep the monopoly going. If the licensees knew that their monopolies would cease at the end of a year, they would not oppose the new Bill. There could be no conceivable harm in limiting the operation of the Bill. How did we know that another place might not continue the monopoly in spite of this House? If considered advisable, we could easily extend the operation of the Bill for another year. Vested interests could keep an iniquity going year after year, especially when control had passed from a House elected by popular vote to a House elected on a basis of vested interests.

MR. FOULKES supported the new clause, which he had suggested to the mover. The clause would force the Government to bring in a new Licensing Bill next session, knowing that this Bill would, shortly after the beginning of that session, cease to operate. The new clause was the best guarantee members could have that a new Licensing Bill would be passed. If the Bill were passed for an indefinite period it would mean perhaps that no new Licensing Bill would be introduced for two or three years. The Government of the day might say, "We need not worry about the matter, as no new licenses are being granted."

MR. BOLTON: If the new clause was passed and the Bill came into operation for 12 months, there was no guarantee that the Government then in power would pass a Licensing Bill. There might be a period of six months elapsing after the expiration of the measure, when a great number of new licenses would be granted.

MR. RASON: The Bill could be re-enacted.

MR. BOLTON: There was no guarantee what would be done, and we had no guarantee that a new Bill would be introduced next session.

MR. GORDON: The new clause was necessary, as it would be a guarantee that if the Labour party were in power they would have to bring down a new licensing measure. Apparently the Labour party wished to shelter themselves behind this Bill. The Premier stated that if he were a private member—therefore he had some idea that he would soon be—he would bring down a measure similar to the one now before the House. But the Premier had advocated many matters which he did not advocate now he was in power.

New clause put, and a division called for.

MR. GORDON: A division was not called for by him. He simply asked the leader of the Opposition if it was intended to call for a division.

THE CHAIRMAN: There were distinctly two voices.

Division taken, all the members passing to the right of the Chair (Ayes).

The Chairman declared the motion carried, there being no members on the side of the Noes.

Preamble, Title—agreed to.

Bill reported with amendments.

NAVIGATION BILL.

SECOND READING.

Debate resumed from the 1st December.

MR. C. H. RASON (Guildford): I moved the adjournment of the debate with the desire simply to make myself acquainted, in some degree, with the contents of the Bill. I am bound to say I never heard a Bill containing 106 clauses presented to any House of Parliament with so little attempt at explanation, and so little reference made to any of the principles contained in the Bill. One important statement had been made by the Minister in charge of the Bill, indeed the only one of any importance, that the measure contained 106 clauses, whereas the New South Wales Act from which this measure was copied contained 172 sections. There was not the slightest reason given why other sections of the New South Wales Act had been omitted. We

had merely a statement that the Bill was necessary and that the measure had been copied from the New South Wales Act. It was a temporary measure pending the introduction of legislation in the same direction by the Commonwealth Parliament. I believe this is not one of the Bills that was left by the late Government. I believe also that it has been prepared with the approval of the chief harbour master, and I have to pin my faith to him. It is not part of the duty of the leader of the Opposition or any member of the Opposition to discuss the principles of a Bill which ought to be explained by the Minister in charge of the measure. I certainly have not time to go through every Bill introduced and endeavour to point out to members the principles of the Bill, simply because the Minister in charge of a particular department and of a particular measure does not feel it incumbent upon him to explain. I may, however, point out to members that this is a most important measure. It is true that navigation is one of the subjects with which the Commonwealth is well qualified to deal and probably will deal in the near future, and then that legislation will override the legislation of the States; but until the Commonwealth does take action in the matter this Bill, if it passes into law, will hold good. The measure contains very great powers indeed. It gives—I have briefly noted a few of the provisions—to the harbour master, or anyone deputed by him, power to board any British vessel not being a man-of-war—a man-of-war might object in a way that might be disagreeable to the harbour master or anyone appointed by him—and he can compel the master to produce the log book or any document he wishes to see. The harbour master can have the whole of the crew mustered, and he can demand almost every kind of information from the master under a penalty of £20. The Bill provides for a court of marine inquiry, and for the appointment of nautical assessors to the board. It provides for the payment of £3 a day for each of the assessors for any day on which the board of marine inquiry may sit or for any part of the day; and it gives to the chief harbour master and board the power to issue certificates of qualification for masters, mates, and engineers, and

they may cancel certificates. Indeed it gives power of a very wide and comprehensive nature, necessary powers no doubt, but powers that, unless wisely carried into effect, may bring us into serious trouble. While the present chief harbour master is the person upon whom the operation of the Bill will devolve I have no fear, knowing him to be a good officer; but I certainly view with some apprehension any change that may be made in the occupant of that office. For instance, there are powers here to condemn vessels that are unseaworthy; in regard to steamships, to order that there shall be a certain number of qualified engineers, that there shall be a master and either one, two, or three mates; and in fact it would be easily possible for anyone who wished to conduct the operation of this measure in an arbitrary manner to not only inflict a very great amount of hardship on locally owned vessels, but to interfere unduly with our shipping trade. So that I trust before this Bill goes into Committee, members who are interested in shipping or in shipping operations will give some attention to these clauses, and will be able when we reach the Committee stage to point out those which they think may lead to a great amount of hardship. There is one clause of this Bill to which I wish specially to refer. It provides—

The master of every ship to which this Act applies—

And that is every ship coming into any port of West Australia—

shall provide himself with a copy thereof, and also of all regulations made by virtue of this Act with respect to the exhibition of lights, and shall at all times keep the same on board his ship; and in case he refuses or neglects to do so, shall be subject to a penalty not exceeding five pounds.

I venture to say that the master of every vessel that comes into every port of West Australia will break that clause. It is unreasonable to expect that the master of a ship coming to West Australia perhaps once and once only, or the master of a large steamer, shall be under a penalty of £5 for noncompliance with the provision to provide himself with a copy of this measure. I do not intend to offer any objection to the second reading of the Bill. I believe the Bill to be necessary. I am aware that as things

are at present the chief harbour master and some of his officers are not armed with sufficient legal authority. I am not aware there has been any trouble hitherto; still, there easily may be trouble, inasmuch as anyone may question the legality of any action officers take, and have to take, in discharge of their duties. Some legislation such as this is undoubtedly necessary. But I submit it is the duty of every Minister to explain on an important measure such as this, as far as he possibly can, what are the principles underlying the Bill. I do not wish in any way to be unjust to the Minister in charge. I hasten to say that he did refer to another thing, another power given in the measure. It is certainly true he said it provided that there should be marked lines. I venture to say the Minister had not the slightest idea what that meant at the time, even if he has now.

MR. E. NEEDHAM (Fremantle): Whether the Minister in charge of the Bill did, in moving the second reading, give us sufficient information or not, I welcome the measure introduced for the simple reason that I think it will supply a long-felt want. We recognise in the first place that it is simply a temporary measure to operate until such time as another is passed; still we do not know when that new measure will come into existence, and there is a possibility that it may not come into use for a time somewhat longer than is generally anticipated. There is not the slightest doubt as far as West Australia is concerned there has been a great danger in connection with navigation. That is to say, there is a danger that ships may go to sea, and I believe have gone to sea, overloaded and undermanned, and not having on board sufficient life-saving apparatus for the protection of life in the event of fire or the foundering of the vessel. I am not at all going to infer that the gentleman who has been in charge of navigation in West Australia has been at all careless, but I do say there has been a difficulty to know who was the really responsible person for the administration of navigation in this State in the past; and if this Bill will meet no other difficulty than that, I welcome it. I notice from the Bill that the chief harbour master will have great powers. I think there is an omission, as far as the Bill is concerned,

in not stating what should be the qualifications of a man holding that very responsible position. So far as we at present are concerned, I believe that the gentleman now holding the position is qualified; but a change may ensue, and, as I say, I think there ought to be stipulated the conditions or qualifications of any man who holds the appointment. I think it ought to be included in the Bill that he should be in possession of an Imperial certificate, which proves he is able to take a vessel to any port in the world, and has a knowledge of everything pertaining to navigation. Again, I would like to say there has been a danger in the past as far as inspectors are concerned, in regard to looking after the various machinery in use on vessels in the discharge of cargo, and also taking cargo on board; and I think it is needless to remind the House of the fact that considerable numbers of lives have been lost and also injuries have been caused to men whilst employed on these vessels, through lack of inspection of machinery, and also through lack of inspection in seeing that the means of ingress and egress of the various ships in port are in thoroughly good condition. Provision in this matter is another phase I welcome in the Bill, and I hope that before the measure goes through Committee we shall have the duties of inspectors detailed in such a way that the inspection will not be made after the accidents have occurred, as has invariably been the position in the past, but that such a system of inspection will obtain as will considerably minimise the risk. We have simply to take up the records, and I say it is appalling to find the number of men who are almost daily incapacitated from following their employment, not through small injuries, but injuries which I regret to say completely incapacitate them from following their employment for the remainder of their lives. They become a burden sometimes to the State. Again, we have an appalling loss of life, and whether or not such a thing had been in existence, it is I think the duty of this House to pass a measure such as this to make provisions which will safeguard those men whilst working there, and at the same time safeguard the owners of the vessel from being called upon to pay very heavy damages in

certain cases. There is another phase of this measure which I think a good one. I do not think that any considerable expenditure will be involved in its operation. I believe that in other parts of the world there is a permanent board receiving permanent salaries. That is not the case here, and I think the small expenditure which will be involved in the administration of the measure is a recommendation. I dare say that, as in the case of other Bills introduced into a Chamber such as this, there are one or two defects in the measure which may be remedied in Committee. I dare say that I myself will be able to point out one or two defects at that stage, but on the whole I think the Bill is a fairly good one, and I again assert that it is welcome to the people of West Australia, and particularly to those who have to earn their living from navigation.

MR. N. J. MOORE (Bunbury): Like the leader of the Opposition, I have not had an opportunity of going through this Bill, but I sent a copy of it to a shipping association which is interesting itself in this matter. When the Bill is in Committee possibly some proposals will be brought on which will be of benefit. One thing which has just struck me is that the measure provides that foreign-going sailing vessels shall provide a number of boats for the safety of the crew in case of accidents; but many of these boats are not seaworthy. It is no good carrying a lot of boats which sink when they are lowered in the water, and I think some provision might be made that these boats should be inspected previously to a vessel leaving a port. There is no doubt that this is a measure which has been really wanted. What has been referred to by the member for Fremantle (Mr. Needham) in regard to machinery has, I think, been pretty well met by the clause inserted in another measure in Committee, providing that all donkey-engines and machinery of that kind shall be inspected by the local machinery inspector. I think that provision will safeguard the lives of those employed working in or about a ship. Until that provision was inserted it simply meant that, notwithstanding the fact that a person shipping cargo, or a person who happened to hire a donkey-engine to discharge cargo from a vessel, had to have a certificated boiler and a

certificated man to work it, a foreign-going vessel could work obsolete boilers that would be dangerous not only to the crew but also to the men working in the vicinity. I have no doubt that in Committee any objectionable features there are in this Bill will be remedied, and doubtless one or two other associations which are interesting themselves in this matter will be able to offer some suggestions that should prove of value.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (in reply): In reply to members who have spoken on the second reading of this measure, I would like to point out that in introducing the Bill on the second reading, I indicated that it was not new legislation. It is legislation that has been in existence since 1902 in New South Wales, which has by far the largest port of the Commonwealth. The Parliament of that State has not seen fit to alter any of these provisions. Moreover, similar legislation has been in existence in South Australia. The measure has been, as I pointed out, demanded by the shipping classes and the chambers of commerce at Fremantle and Perth, and also by the chief harbour master who is in charge of the navigation of this State; and I pointed out then that it does not alter or repeal any of the existing legislation, but simply makes provision by which our port can be controlled by the chief harbour master without farther expenditure and with greater efficiency. Had there been any new legislation in the measure, any new principles involved, I then might have seen the necessity of pointing them out.

MR. RASON: It is all new to West Australia.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: As the hon. member says, it is new to Western Australia. I think I pointed out that it was new to this State. Considering that the last legislation we had in this direction dates back to, I think, something like 1861, and looking at the progress of West Australia, and especially at the great trade of the port of Fremantle as compared with what she did at the time the Navigation Act was passed, legislation in this direction is necessary, as has been pointed out by members who have spoken on the second reading. I hope the Bill will receive the same support when it gets into Committee as it has received from

those who have spoken on the second reading; and I shall be glad to give information as to the details on any point that may be raised in Committee. I do not wish to convey to hon. members that I am a nautical scholar or have any special knowledge of navigation. If the subject were one dealing with some other matters in this State, I might be able to give my knowledge to the House. I hope this Bill will go through Committee, as it is absolutely necessary in the interest of the State.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

BRANDS BILL.

SECOND READING (MOVED).

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hou. G. Taylor) in moving the second reading said: I hope the leader of the Opposition will not take me to task for not thoroughly explaining this measure in moving the second reading.

MR. RASON: This is a subject the hon. gentleman should know something about.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: This is a subject of which the House is fully seized. A measure of this description was introduced into the Assembly two sessions ago by the then Premier, and a select committee was appointed to consider and report on it, that committee comprising agriculturists and pastoralists who were then members of the House. That Bill passed through all stages in this Chamber, but did not get beyond that. In regard to the present Bill, and knowing the feeling of those whom it will particularly affect, the agricultural and pastoral representatives in this House, knowing also the necessity for legislation of this description, we have removed those contentious clauses from the measure as previously introduced, and have done so with the object that this measure may speedily become law. The clause that was so strenuously objected to in the Bill as previously introduced was that affecting the continuation of existing brands, which have been used in the State for many years. That Bill proposed to repeal and render useless those registered brands which had been in use up to that time. Consequently the owners of brands did not

desire to lose the use of them, and the Bill was opposed on that ground. Through the representation they had in the Legislature of this State, that Bill was lost. The present Bill provides that existing brands shall expire with their present owners, and I think there can be no reasonable objection to that provision. I would like to say also that in the drafting of this measure we have been assisted greatly by a member of this House who is a large pastoralist, and who will be materially affected by this Bill as a large owner of sheep and stock. Members knowing that fact will realise that the Bill will meet the wishes of the stock-raising community in this State. There has been no legislation in this direction since the year 1885, when an amending Act was passed. To show the necessity for passing the present measure, I may point to the great increase in this State in the number of sheep, horses, and cattle, for whereas in 1885 the number of horses in Western Australia was 34,392, the number of cattle was 70,408, and the number of sheep was 1,702,719; the increase since that date has been great, for in 1893 we had 82,747 horses, 49,717 head of cattle, and 2,600,633 sheep. The great increase of stock in this State necessitates that our brands legislation should be swung into line with the brands law of the Eastern States; consequently this Bill proceeds on the Queensland method so far as brands are concerned, that is two letters and a numeral. The second part of the measure deals with brands; part 3 deals with their regulation; part 4 relates to the transfer and cancellation of brands; part 5 contains the rules for brands; part 6 deals with inspection; and part 7 deals with straying and unbranded stock. I feel confident that members who have any knowledge of the Brands Act—and I am sure the stock-raising and agricultural portion of the community are fairly well represented in this Chamber—will assist in the passing of this measure when it gets into Committee; and I also hope that in discussing the second reading we shall have the knowledge and information possessed by certain members, particularly the member for Gascoyne and the member for Kimberley, also those members who represent the agricultural areas of this State. I remember well the attitude

taken in regard to the Brands Bill two years ago by the agricultural and pastoral representatives. [MR. MORAN: Some of them do not want a Brands Act.] It is necessary in this State, as it has been found necessary in the Eastern States, to have the brands law brought up to date. While I do not say that Western Australia has perhaps been as famous for duffing or illegally branding cattle or sheep as have other States, still it is necessary we should have a Brands Act up to date. The provisions of the Bill do not interfere with young stock under a year old. I know from my knowledge of stock in the back country of Queensland that it will be necessary to brand them considerably younger than that, to safeguard them from being duffed or bearing the brands of some other person, because it is generally understood in stock parlance that anything one cannot "mother," somebody else will brand. That is perhaps a phrase that may be used in the stock-raising portions of Western Australia which I have not visited; but I feel confident that the system of branding being on similar lines to those of Queensland, two letters and a numeral, this method of branding is the best and most up-to-date that can be obtained. As a Bill of a similar nature has been before Parliament previously and was considered by a select committee, and as this is only a short measure, I have said sufficient to show members the necessity for passing it into law. I hope the Bill will receive the consideration which it deserves at the hands of this House, and also during its passage through Committee. I beg to move the second reading.

MR. R. G. BURGESS: I move that the debate be adjourned.

Motion passed, and the debate adjourned.

ROADS ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

JETTIES, ETC.

SECOND READING (MOVED).

MR. J. C. G. FOULKES (Claremont) in moving the second reading said: By the present Roads Act there is power given to roads boards to apply from their general revenue sufficient money for the construction of jetties in rivers; but some exception was taken last session

when an amending Bill was before Parliament to give power to roads boards to construct jetties and bathing enclosures along the seashore within their boundary. The present Bill is introduced to give power to roads boards, if they think fit, to apply half their general revenue to construct bathing enclosures and jetties along the seashore within their district boundaries. This amending Bill passed the House last session; but unfortunately, owing to various objections brought forward by persons who thought they were unduly affected by these provisions, the Bill was then thrown out. The roads board of the Cottesloe district have for a long time been anxious to erect a jetty and bathing enclosure along the seacoast; and unless this Bill is passed to enable them to do so, they will be precluded from spending any part of their general revenue in paying the cost of erecting a jetty or bathing enclosure. I hope the House will consent to pass the Bill of which I now move the second reading.

On motion by the MINISTER FOR WORKS, debate adjourned.

DISTRESS FOR RENT RESTRICTION BILL.

SECOND READING.

MR. A. J. WILSON (Forrest), in moving the second reading, said: I think this measure is one that will commend itself to the best instincts of members. Its object is to protect from distraint for rent certain implements of trade, the property of female persons. It is interesting to note that the purport of this measure is exactly what obtains at present in New South Wales, where a Bill for the purpose of effecting what is sought to be effected in this measure was successfully carried in 1898. In Victoria, a much more comprehensive measure has been passed, exempting certain goods to the value of £20 from the operation of distress for rent. In asking the House to agree to this Bill, I might, in view of that precedence established elsewhere and in operation, with very good grace ask members to go farther than I have asked them to do on this occasion; but the only protection I seek here is that any sewing machine, typewriting machine, or mangle, the property of or under hire to any female person, shall not be dis-

trained for any rent claimed in respect of the premises or place in which such sewing machine, typewriting machine, or mangle may be; provided that any one such person shall not be entitled to have more than one sewing machine, one typewriting machine, or one mangle protected from distress under the provisions of this Act. Difficulty would inevitably arise if we were to substitute for these particular articles any particulars as to specific value, because the value of these articles would naturally vary according to the amount of use the possessor has had from them; so that it seemed to me best, in order to protect these people for whom I think it will be agreed protection is necessary, to totally exempt from the operation of distress for rent the particular articles mentioned in the Bill. It will be observed that the protection is extended only to the goods enumerated here which are the property of female persons. Members will readily appreciate the serious difficulty under which women who probably have to provide for themselves, or who may be in the unfortunate position of having to provide for families, or who may have to utilise the typewriting machine, the sewing machine, or the mangle in order to enable them to make the necessary money to keep things going, would be placed in if the landlord were able to distrain upon these necessary tools of trade for the purpose of protecting himself against any rent that might be due. To deprive these people of these implements of trade in the circumstances would not only deprive them of the means of livelihood, but also of the means of liquidating any liabilities in regard to the rent of premises in which they reside. Recognising the lateness of the session, and seeing that the measure will have to negotiate another place, I hope members will not seek to make it more comprehensive. I think it meets the immediate requirements in regard to this matter, and that it is a decided advance on what obtains at present; and in the circumstances to seek to farther extend its operation to both sexes or in the direction of making it cover a fixed sum of money, or other tools of trade, or other articles such as wearing apparel, bedding or such like, would in all probability prevent the Bill being successfully negotiated in another place. The imme-

diate necessity is to meet the case of unfortunate females compelled by circumstances to earn their own living with the particular tools enumerated in this measure; and seeing that these tools are so important and necessary to them to eke out their existence, I think we are quite justified and are not unduly interfering with the rights of landlords in seeking to protect these tools of trade from the operation of the ordinary law in regard to distress for rent. I hope the measure will meet with the sympathetic appreciation of the House, in the same manner in which I myself was induced to bring it forward. I am satisfied the Bill will be the means of conferring a considerable and righteous boon to a very needy portion of the community. I have much pleasure in moving the second reading.

THE PREMIER (Hon. H. Daglish): I do not intend to offer any opposition to the proposal to read this Bill a second time, but I do not think it would be wise on the part of the hon. member to ask the House to carry it through any farther stage to-day. I myself see nothing whatever against the passage of the Bill. I think it is advisable to give protection to the tools of workers, especially those of female workers. The Bill seems an extension of that principle, and I therefore desire to support the second reading.

MR. C. H. RASON (Guildford): As far as I am concerned, I intend to offer no objection to the Bill; but the question I have to ask myself is, where is legislation of this sort going to stop? It seems to me rather farcical that we should introduce such a Bill in order to prevent a mangle being seized for distress of rent. I think the provisions of this Bill might very well have been inserted in the Local Courts Bill.

MR. A. J. WILSON: I was informed that they could not be inserted in that Bill.

MR. RASON: I can see no reason why they should not have been inserted in that Bill, and I submit it would have been far better, provided they could have been inserted in that Bill, to have inserted them there, rather than have appearing on the statute book of Western Australia a special Act to guard against seizure of a typewriting machine, a sewing machine, or a mangle for distress for rent. The object is admittedly a good one; but it is very regrettable that

it should be necessary to introduce such legislation here.

MR. H. BROWN (Perth): I agree with the member for Guildford. It is almost wasting the time of the House to deal with such legislation as we are asked to pass this afternoon. The sympathy is not particularly for the poor widow we have heard so often about; but the measure is more in sympathy with the agents of the various sewing machines. Why should these sewing machine companies have any greater protection than other persons who sell goods on credit? The Bill purely and simply is not a protection for the person for whom it is intended, but absolutely, so far as I can see, for the sewing machine companies who should have no greater protection than other persons.

MR. A. J. WILSON: The sewing machine companies do not sell typewriting machines and mangles.

MR. H. BROWN: Sewing machines are the greatest feature. If it goes abroad that we are wasting our time in protecting sewing machines and mangles, we shall be the laughing-stock of the world. It is a Bill to protect the sewing machine companies who are well able to protect themselves.

THE MINISTER FOR MINES (Hon. R. Hastie): Members will recollect that in putting through the Local Courts Bill a clause was provided protecting bedding and tools of trade up to £5 in value from distraint. I recollect that the member for Forrest moved that sewing machines should be exempted; but it was not thought wise to extend protection over the value of £5; and it now seems to have occurred to the member for Forrest that we should follow the example of New South Wales and protect sewing machines, mangles, and typewriting machines. I personally think it is a very wise thing to do. If this restrictive legislation has been useful in New South Wales, I can see no reason why it should not be useful here. I may point out that the matter referred to by the member for Perth is scarcely accurate. My recollection is that the sewing machines given to people by manufacturers are still in the possession of the manufacturers, and belong to them until the amount of money is paid off. If this be the case, this Bill will not in

any way protect the manufacturers, but rather will protect the women who own sewing machines and typewriters, and who have become possessed of them by paying them off.

MR. H. BROWN: They are not exempt against rent.

THE MINISTER FOR MINES: I cannot at present state what is the exact law on the matter; but I know that the manufacturers do not hand over the machines, and that they always have a claim on them, which claim, so far as I can see, is respected. I think the House will do no harm in protecting these deserving persons.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

ANNUAL ESTIMATES, 1904-5.

IN COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY.

Resumed from the 1st December; MR. BATH in the Chair.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT (Hon. H. Daglish, Minister).

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT.

THE PREMIER AND MINISTER FOR EDUCATION said: Hon. members will observe that the total increase in the estimates of expenditure for the Education Department is £17,170. The increase includes a sum of £1,400 for the Coolgardie Technical School, which was on last year's Estimates charged to the Mines Department. This reduces the actual increase on the Education vote to £15,770, of which a total of £13,230 is for teachers' salaries. This is not an increase in cost of administration. Last year £5,500 was provided for technical education; this year the provision it £7,801. Of that amount £1,400 was previously on the Mines Estimates, which leaves a net increase of £900. The net amount available, after providing for the Coolgardie school, is expected to be greater than £900; because it is anticipated that the Coolgardie school will be more economically managed during the next year. In other words, an expenditure of £1,400 will be more than sufficient for the purposes of that school. Arrangements are being made wherever a demand exists to provide preparatory classes for the technical school. Of course it will be understood that it is neither possible

nor necessary to provide technical schools in every district. In some cases where preparatory classes have been provided, they have died for want of adequate support. For instance, at Cue they were established last year; but unfortunately the demand for instruction was insufficient to justify the department in continuing them. They have lately been established at Bonnie Vale, and are now being established at Ravensthorpe. Any person attending these preparatory classes is eligible to compete for scholarships at the School of Mines; and provision is made this year for additional scholarships at the Technical School or at the School of Mines. A system is now under consideration for assisting students in outlying districts where there is an insufficient number of them to establish preparatory classes, by giving such students certain information and training by correspondence, so that the advantages of such schools shall be made available even to people in the most sparsely-populated districts of the State. There is a large number of new public schools either provided for or in course of erection; and additions are being or will be made to many existing schools. Most of the new schools provided are small schools in the mining or the outlying agricultural districts; and of course the expense of providing them is heavier per head than in the more thickly populated districts. I am quite willing to admit, in submitting these Estimates, that in my opinion farther provision could with advantage to the department and to the State be made for education. The vote is not so large as I should have liked it to be; and in saying this I can likewise assert emphatically that the vote is being wisely administered. The administration expenses are being kept as small as possible; and there is no undue growth in the administrative section of the department. It will be observed that in one or two instances there are small increases of salary in the cases of officers who are drawing salaries in excess of £200. In every instance the increase is the result of a definite agreement approved by Cabinet. It will be seen, for instance, that the Inspector General receives an increase to £750. That is in accordance with the decision of Cabinet at the time the appointment was conferred on him. The Chief Inspector

receives a nominal increase from £475 to £500; but he was previously in receipt of £35 in the shape of fees for examination, and as these fees are abolished, he is actually receiving £10 less than he received during the last financial year. These fees have likewise been abolished in the case of the other inspectors; and their items show an apparent but not an actual increase. These represent a transference from the contingency vote to the salary vote. The only addition is that of a new inspector at £205 for six months; and this, with the increase of £60 on account of the abolition of fees, makes a total apparent increase of £265 for the inspectorial staff; but the actual increase for that staff is, independent of the new inspector, only £5. The new inspector is required in order that the work of inspection may be thoroughly carried out. The present staff is insufficient, and members will readily recognise that as the number of schools increases, and especially as schools increase in the more remote districts, we must have some increases from time to time in the inspectorial staff, in order that adequate supervision may be exercised over the manner in which the schools are conducted. There are several other small increases. The accountant, for instance, has a small increase; and two clerks who were receiving over £200 have increases, one of £15 and the other of £10. All these are increases granted by Cabinet, and are due to the adoption of the Public Service Commission's recommendations, which recommendations were agreed to by the last Government. Provision is likewise made for an increase in the item for an inspectress of needlework. Last year £100 was provided to pay her for only part of her time. Now it is found that the demands upon her are so great that her whole time must be devoted to the service of the department; and therefore the item of £175 represents six months at the rate of £100 a year and six months at the rate of £250. The proposal is to appoint her at £250 instead of £100; and she will be required to devote the whole of her time to the work, instead of reporting, as in the past, only on specimens of needlework submitted to her. Again, with regard to the principal of the Training College, there was an agreement made by Cabinet that his salary should rise from £400 to £450 by four

annual increments. One of these annual increments is provided on the present Estimates. For the Training College assistants likewise it was agreed that salaries with increments should be provided; and here again the provision of these increments has necessarily been made. These are the only increases that are outside the principle laid down by me when introducing the Budget. I hope these Education Estimates will go through without alteration, though I should not be so anxious for that if the Committee had the power to increase as well as to reduce items.

At 6-30, the CHAIRMAN left the Chair.
At 7-30, Chair resumed.

[General discussion followed.]

DR. ELLIS: The position of Western Australia in regard to technical education was anything but satisfactory. The amount we were spending was small compared with what was spent by the other States of Australia. The Government might, not this year but in making provision on the Estimates next year, double the vote if not do more than that. Queensland spent £19,000 in technical education, while we only spent £6,000 and New Zealand spent £16,000. As we were the wealthiest State of the group, having more money per head than any other State, it was a very anomalous position to be in. The Treasurer might move a stage higher than technical education as regarded those who lived on the Eastern Goldfields. At present the place that carried the greatest part of the brains of the population was unable to make use of those brains. The country might consider some arrangement by which the Adelaide University examination preparation or the Adelaide University examinations could be carried out on the Eastern Goldfields. There were numbers of youths on the goldfields willing and ready to get an advanced education which would fit them to take many positions in the State, but there were no means of getting that requisite education. A case came under his notice not long ago of a couple of youths in Coolgardie who wished to enter the railway service. These youths inquired what was necessary; and were told they had to pass certain examinations, but on the

Eastern Goldfields there was no place where they could acquire the necessary information to pass the examinations to get into the public service of the State. In New Zealand any boy who displayed sufficient ability had the opportunity of acquiring scholarships and other advantages which enabled him to educate himself. In this State there were three heads of departments who educated themselves in New Zealand in this fashion. It was highly desirable that some action should be taken in the State to allow the more intelligent youths who were willing to work an opportunity of acquiring knowledge. Nothing paid a State so much as increased knowledge. There was no more excellent way of spending money. It was superior to bringing in the best class of immigrants. It was better to have highly educated citizens than an extensive population. The Minister for Education might see if some arrangement could be made by which the Eastern Goldfields or other centres sufficiently populous should have schools, so that education would be advanced a stage beyond the present position. At present the school age ceased at 14 so far as the State was concerned, and there were no means of acquiring information from the State beyond that period. Certain religious institutions did their best to give a high education to the youth of the State, and all honour was due to them for doing so. Surely the State should be willing to take on their proper responsibility and see that the youth had an ample opportunity of acquiring higher education which had become essential in the struggle for existence. The sections of the race that had high education and the greatest amount of knowledge was the section that survived best in the struggle for existence. He hoped a University would be established before many years were over, but we should get together the material for supplying that University when it was established. There was a great step at the present time between the University and the highest State school, except the High School in Perth. It was to be hoped the Minister would see the necessity as soon as possible for arranging for a higher class of education in the most populous centres of the State, so that when we considered the

question of establishing a University we should be in a position to have scholars in the State for that University.

MR. NEEDHAM: While recognising that the sum on the Estimates for education was a fairly large one, he regretted that we could not afford to make it larger. Of all the items on the Estimates the Education votes ranked amongst the most important. He was sure every member sincerely regretted that we were only able to devote £5,000 or £6,000 for technical education. If we were going to educate the youth of our country and compete with other nations we must, he thought, in the very near future, enlarge this vote. America and Germany made a special feature of technical education, and in those countries we saw the beneficial results of the large amount of money which they expended. They set us an example worthy of following. The most important part of a young man's life was that between the time he left school and the time he finished his apprenticeship. We ought not to have the drifting system which to a certain extent existed to-day. A lad simply went to his work in the morning, put in so many hours in a workshop in a kind of way, and spent the night anyhow. We should encourage him to go to a school where we could help him to educate himself in the various ideas relating to the life he was going to follow, and help him to compete in the battle of life. The sum on the Estimates was far below the amount requisite for that particular item. He recognised that just now we could not increase it, but the subject was worthy of the consideration of any Colonial Treasurer, to increase this amount and give the youth of this State every advantage in the way of technical education. He would not be a party to confining the system merely to large centres, but would put it within the reach of all. If possible, wherever a number of youths congregated he would make it easy of attainment. He would not like to have a youth to travel 10 or 14 miles, as the case might be, to receive this technical education; because though really moved with the best intentions the amount of temptation which came across his path might sometimes prevent his getting to that goal which we would like to see him reach. It was the duty of the Gov-

ernment to afford every opportunity for the spread of education, and to give to the youth of our country a chance of competing in life's battle.

MR. DIAMOND agreed with every word that had fallen from the member for Fremantle, but could not endorse everything that had been said by the member for Coolgardie. Of course the member for Coolgardie claimed for the goldfields a monopoly of the producing capacity and mental power of the country. Apparently if the goldfields monopolised the brain, they would not require such a large expenditure on education as those down here, with their very limited capacity. In reference to technical education, he trusted members would give this matter serious thought. In a young country like this we wanted firstly to give our children a primary education; then when we went farther we wanted to teach them how to make use of the natural products of the country. If this was to be a great country we must have our lads, or a large proportion of them at any rate, brought up to know all about mining.

MR. MORAN: And agriculture.

MR. DIAMOND had that down on his list. We must teach lads the arts of agriculture, how to produce the greatest amount of food from the land; also pastoral pursuits, which he did not think could be overlooked in a matter of this description, with the enormous area of suitable land we possessed in our northern and north-west districts. As to how this technical education should be imparted, he was not quite in favour of a multiplicity of schools, but would like to see perhaps fewer technical schools and a larger number of travelling teachers. In a centre such as Kalgoorlie, he would think one school sufficient; that was to say, one staff should be sufficient, giving its attention to the whole of the neighbouring district. The same to a certain extent should also obtain in the metropolitan area, but he could see plainly now that under the present system there was far too great and growing a tendency to encourage boys to be trained to be clerks either in the civil service or in mercantile offices. At the present moment—he spoke really from experience—there were far too many lads being brought up with a view to becom-

ing bookkeepers, shorthand writers, typewriters, etc. This country never could be a great country unless the youth of the State were taught, if possible, to make a living to a very large extent away from the towns. Whilst placing great importance on their training in regard to the production of minerals and the arts of agriculture, sheep farming, and other industries, he was not overlooking the necessity of our lads learning mechanical arts; and technical schools should be managed so as to give the boy who acquired or developed a taste for a particular mechanical industry or agricultural industry, an opportunity of becoming skilled in that particular department. In Fremantle, at any rate, there was too great a tendency for lads to look upon themselves as destined for a higher walk in life than their fathers occupied. He did not say for an instant that a lad who learnt to be a carpenter or blacksmith was not every bit as good an ornament to society as a lad who became a clerk. Nearly every lad one came across in Fremantle wanted to know if one could give him a billet in his office. The result was that if a clerk was wanted in a mercantile office and was advertised for, the number of applications was really appalling. He was not at all pleased with that state of affairs. We had far too many clerks and far too many lads growing up with the ambition of becoming clerks because there were no other billets available. He knew lads personally who would like to go on to a Government farm to become farmers, or to go to a technical school and study horticulture, vine growing, fruit growing, or would like to learn to handle horses, sheep, or cattle; but there were no billet openings for them. Coming to the subject of university education, we were expecting too much. If our universities were to be founded like the universities in the East, on the basis of the English universities, we had better leave them alone altogether. The United States had colleges or universities where practically the whole system of education was technical. Lads who had gone from primary education, reading, writing, arithmetic, etcetera, could be boarded, lodged and taught in those admirable State universities for from £40 to £60 per annum. There was education which of course included the

learning of the gentler arts and perhaps languages and other things, what was called classical education; but there were few lads in this community who required them, and their parents were able to send them to one of the universities in the Eastern States or even England; and before we even considered the advisability of going to the expense of classical university education in Western Australia we should first of all look at the fact staring us in the face that we had a growing population of boys, and these boys should be trained and developed in regard to the natural products of this country. He approved of the setting aside of large blocks of land for the endowment of a future university; but we should make no attempt at present to start a university in Western Australia the same as existed in the Eastern States, which in some respects had resulted somewhat disastrously, and which financially were not the success which they might be to the State. It would be well to leave the question alone for a few years, always keeping it in view; but before we spent a lot of money on classical education, teaching boys dead languages and various other subjects which were not of much use in the industrial life of Australia, especially in this the youngest of the States, as it were, we should adopt a right course in connection with technical education. There was the question of evening classes in connection with education. These technical classes were doing good work. He could speak from experience of the one he was connected with in Fremantle, the Fremantle boys' school technical evening classes, which had done valuable work.

MR. MORAN: Were the boys taking up trades or using the knowledge as ornamental intelligence?

MR. DIAMOND: We had lads studying electrical engineering, general engineering, and many other subjects. There was a drawing class, which was principally attended by young ladies.

MR. MORAN: The trouble was that we had not the factories and places to put them into.

MR. DIAMOND: There was a big workshop just started in Fremantle.

MR. MORAN: And they brought every single one of the hands from New South Wales, and sacked every local man.

MR. DIAMOND: Then it was our duty to train our boys to fill the places in those factories, and until we trained them we could not expect people to employ them. We had to supply youths to take the place of men eventually in those big workshops, and he supposed we should expect people to employ our own lads, but we could not expect them to employ young lads who had not had any training. These technical evening classes so far as Fremantle was concerned had, he repeated, done good work. These classes had been almost exclusively managed by boards under the Inspector General of Schools, and lately some proposition was made for bringing all the technical classes under his rule, working with the various committees. That had received a lot of consideration by the committee with which he was associated, and the proposals had been approved. The committee would work heart and soul with Mr. Purdie, the director, in the good cause, and this was one respect in which technical education could be farther encouraged and developed by the Government. There was the matter of school cadets, and he supposed their technical education was technical education in the art of war. Apparently we were setting the wrong way about it. The clothing for the boys was paid for by the parents, the suits were made in a Melbourne factory, and the rifles were bought in Belgium. There did not appear to be anything particularly patriotic about this, and he thought the matter worthy of consideration by the Minister for Education. More suitable clothes should be provided. It was a common occurrence for lads to faint and fall down when on parade in hot weather, the clothing being so heavy. If the rifles were not made in Australia they should be made in the mother country.

MR. NELSON congratulated the Ministry on placing a substantial increase of money on the Estimates for technical education. No subject was more worthy of attention and care than education. A little more than a year ago the president of the Australasian Association of Science expressed the opinion that the English people were actually two generations behind Germany in the matter of education. Some members would know that in Germany the State school standard

was much higher than in Australia; and if a boy did not reach the requisite standard prior to his going to work, he had to continue his education by attending evening classes until he reached 18 or 19 years of age; continuing his work in the day-time and his education in the evenings. It was recognised that much of the commercial and industrial advancement of Germany was due very largely to the wise utilisation of those resources on which ultimately depended that thorough knowledge imparted by a proper system of technical education. He agreed with what had been said in reference to the establishment of a university in this State. It would be a grave mistake to spend a large sum of money in imparting an education of a high classical nature. We ought to make the education of our youth, as far as possible, a preparation for the actual work of life, by making it the foundation of that industrial efficiency which was necessary; and the education to be given in a country like this was that to which the Government should give special attention. For example, he understood that land to the value of considerably over £100,000 had been placed with the trustees of a prospective university in the State. This was a grave blunder; for if we were to have a university at all, it should be essentially a technical one. The present Government House building, possibly extended and adapted, might be made to serve this purpose. [Interjection.] The Minister for Mines now remarked that Government House was not empty; but let not the hon. member be too impatient. He (Mr. Nelson) had promised His Excellency to give him at least another three years, and after that probably the building would be empty, and then it could be utilised more successfully for the purpose he had mentioned than for its present use. As to the Training College, he understood the pupils in training were receiving an essentially abstract education; that they were being well educated, but there was no special training preparatory for the work of imparting knowledge to others when they became teachers in our State schools. It was recognised by those who studied this question that it was necessary, in order to successfully teach, that the teacher should have not only the necessary knowledge,

but sufficient training to enable him to impart that knowledge; therefore there should be special training and special experience for those who had to impart knowledge to children in the State schools. The work of a teacher depended largely on the training of that teacher, as well as on the knowledge he had to impart. It had become a truism that the children could not be taught adequately unless the teacher had some elementary knowledge of the psychology of children, and at the same time some training in the special work of teaching. He understood that nothing of this kind was being done in the Training College, but that the education imparted to the teachers was of the ordinary kind, and in the course of a year or two those teachers would be drafted into the State schools. It would be far wiser, as he understood was done in Adelaide and elsewhere, to require the pupils in the Training College to devote a portion of their time to the actual work of training as teachers, day by day, so that when the time came to send them into the State schools as teachers they would have a practical acquaintance with their profession. It was not enough to give to a person a theoretical knowledge, but he should have actual training in the work he would have to do; therefore we should make provision for some special training on the part of teachers, by selecting certain schools from which certain pupils might be sent to undergo a period of training, as was done elsewhere. He was pleased to find that the Government had increased the amount of money for technical education, and this money could not be more wisely spent than in giving the right kind of education; but he had heard that there was very little attempt in our State schools to impart scientific instruction. Even theoretical science was a splendid training for young men and young women. In Queensland, at least one scientific subject was taught, and he had known teachers do excellent work in imparting knowledge to children in some of the leading sciences. The tendency now was to appraise purely classical education at a much lower value than hitherto, and to recognise the importance of scientific training; and while it was wise to increase the money vote for technical education, it would be better if

in addition to that the Government would improve the system of education taught, and would follow in the matter some of the leading countries of the world.

MR. RASON: The Government in this State need not fear to spend any reasonable sum of money on education, if spent wisely; but it did not follow that much of the increase in this vote would be spent wisely, for it appeared to be made up mainly in increases of salaries, and in the transfer of some items previously provided for in the Mines vote, thereby increasing this vote, while the Mines vote also showed a heavy increase. He agreed with everything said as to the benefit to be expected from technical education. Those nations which gave the greatest attention to technical education had made the greatest progress; but when it was said we should endeavour to teach our youth the work they would be called upon to perform in life, we were confronted with the difficulty as to what was going to be their work in life. We could teach the lad the theory of electrical engineering and of various handicrafts; but to make a tradesman of him it was essential to have practical training as well; and the only satisfactory way in which that could be obtained was to have the youth apprenticed to a trade. Unfortunately, the difficulty of doing so was every day getting more pronounced in West Australia. There were no openings. People in positions were called upon time after time to find openings in the Government shops for youths to learn trades, but were met with the difficulty: "No room for apprentices. We have the standard prescribed number." It was impossible to put a lad in a place to learn a trade. Electrical engineering offered many inducements for a youth, and it was possible to obtain a very good theoretical training, but it was next door to impossible to find an opening to gain a practical knowledge. There was the greatest difficulty in getting a lad indentured to a trade; yet objection was taken by the workmen that the lad should not be employed unless apprenticed, no matter how much knowledge that lad might have on the subject. Although we might give the lad a technical education, we would have the greatest difficulty, unless circumstances altered, in finding an opening for him to obtain practical knowledge. In

agriculture almost the same difficulty existed. We might give a youth a college education on this subject, but we would find considerable difficulty in dealing with a number of students. An opening had been found for a limited number of youths on a Government agricultural farm, which might be called a practical agricultural college; but we would have to go farther to do any good. He (Mr. Rason) would like to know the practical result of the Training College. The expenditure this year amounted to over £4,000, in addition to the cost of upkeep and interest on the cost of a very extensive building. If we had set up a white elephant and inaugurated something of no practical good, we should get rid of it at the earliest opportunity; but if the Minister could assure us that the college was of good service, we should continue it. He was pleased the vote for manual training had been increased. No Government should take it for granted that, because a vote for education was increased, the cause of education was advanced. If the money was spent in administration only, not much good was done to the cause.

MR. NANSON directed attention to the need for doing something in regard to education in the thinly populated parts of the State, more particularly where there were only half-a-dozen to a dozen children of school-going age. The regulations did not provide for a school being established where there were 12 children of school-going age. True, the department provided that where parents would make provision the department would subsidise each child to the extent of £5; but he knew three localities in his constituency where children were growing up absolutely without education. The member for Hannans claimed that the department should direct special attention to scientific and technical education; but the first duty of the State was to see that every child, no matter how remote the situation, should at least have reading, writing, and elementary arithmetic. We had established a system of free education; but that system did not apply in an appreciable number of instances to children in agricultural back-blocks. How could we expect people of small means to go out to remote parts of

the State and thus deprive their children of that most inestimable advantage, some form of education? There were children growing up in a most deplorable state of ignorance in this State, and the Minister should endeavour to devise some means by which the difficulty might be overcome. He (Mr. Nanson) knew of a small struggling farmer who paid £50 a year to have his children educated. We could get over the difficulty to some extent without involving any large expense. The Educational Department need not demand in all instances the same high standard on the part of teachers. That was desirable in large centres; but where there were only half-a-dozen children it was better to have the hedge-school, as it was called in old days, where children were taught to read and write and spell, rather than have no schooling. It was almost hopeless to expect any young man or woman to go out to the districts referred to, and accept the miserable salaries which would be paid to them; but men of a certain type could be got to go out to them. Elderly men of decent character, perhaps in other respects failures, could be availed of for this purpose; and though not the best type of teacher, they were better than none. The Minister should in these localities altogether relax the examination tests, and be satisfied with a teacher of decent character if he were able to teach reading, writing, and the simpler rules of arithmetic. Portable schools, costing £100 to £150, could also be provided, and moved from one locality to another as occasion required. When Minister for Works he (Mr. Nanson) had a plan of such a school prepared; but the cost seemed somewhat too large. Better have a cheap school and a cheap teacher than no school and no teacher. The permanent officials of the department, though in almost every respect excellent men, had a weakness for showing thoroughly good results. In the far-back districts sensational results must not be expected—no big percentage of passes, nothing that would strike the public eye like the technical schools, the night classes, and the manual training in Perth and in the goldfields centres. But though the back-country work was very unassuming, it was the most important of all the work the

department had to do, because it was foundation work. We had laid down the principle that education should be free; and before we extended our education from elementary to secondary as we were now doing, we should, in justice to the pioneers in the wilderness, do everything possible to ensure that their children should not be deprived of all the educational advantages the State had to offer.

MR. MORAN strongly supported the preceding speaker. Members from the Eastern States had grown up in the presence of the very difficulties mentioned by the hon. member. Every native of the back-blocks in the East was well acquainted with the difficulty of providing education for the children; and those connected with Education Departments knew that there was still enormous difficulty in making life in the back blocks sufficiently attractive. If we were to expand and to make the lot of such people happier and more in keeping with the ordinary advantages of civilisation, we must educate their children. In such countries as New South Wales and Queensland the difficulty had in part been met by the provisional or itinerant teacher, teaching half a day at one place and half a day at another, in half-time schools. That was subsequently followed, as population increased, by a provisional school which had not achieved full State-school rank. The difficulty consisted in the awful conditions of living for the teacher. Often a small salary was paid because the school was of a low grade. No Australian Government had ever conceived a national policy of inverting expenditure by feeding the outskirts so as to make the people there willing to remain. This State should pursue a vigorous policy of extension in the back blocks, both mining and agricultural. In the past we had in this respect far eclipsed anything Australia had previously seen. Still, much remained to be done. The department should turn its intelligence and vigorous attention to providing some sort of efficient education, even where there was only one family, which would radiate fresh rays of civilisation and make life more endurable; for certainly if the outskirts withered, so would the heart wither here in Perth.

MR. COWCHER supported the preceding speakers. Several places in his

own constituency had tried hard for the last two years to get schools; but the number of children at each being only 12 or 14, the requests had been refused. The department did not seem to care whether there were or were not schools in certain districts. Where the children were few the teacher should be paid a little extra.

MR. TROY: As one who had had something to do with the Education Department in New South Wales, he would draw attention to the need for establishing primary schools throughout the State before considering the establishment of a university. In mining localities numbers of children had not received, and had no possibility in present circumstances of receiving, even the rudiments of an ordinary education. People in these localities should be first considered; and when the whole of the children of the State were receiving an ordinary education, the Government might turn their attention to higher education. In New South Wales, where he had been connected with the Education Department, a half-time school was provided for places where the small number of children did not permit of establishing an ordinary school. A teacher attended one half-time school for three months and another for three months. Much was said to-night on encouraging technical education; but though the Estimates showed an increase for this item, one could not gather where or how it would be expended. Apparently it was now spent principally in Perth and on the Eastern Goldfields. Other parts of the State should have the advantage of the expenditure. For educating children for pastoral and agricultural pursuits, an experimental farm in New South Wales had attracted large numbers of students; but the education given was of no value. He had never known anyone educated in such a school to turn out either an agriculturist or a pastoralist. Put the pupils under the care of an experienced farmer, who would teach them not the science, but the practice of agriculture. He had seen hundreds of boys engaged in learning how to grow a turnip; and on an ordinary farm not one of them could earn bread and butter. The expert knowledge of the teacher was not combined with practical experience.

MR. MORAN: That was not so in New Zealand.

MR. DIAMOND: Nor in America.

MR. TROY: How was it that the most successful agriculturists in Australia had not received any scientific education? The member for Guildford (Mr. Rason) said that in this State it was impossible for boys to be apprenticed to trades because of the objection raised by workmen.

MR. HARDWICK: Quite right. Take the case of the saddlers' union.

MR. TROY: On the goldfields, particularly on the mines, boys were employed in the workshops; and no objection was raised. At Day Dawn, 20 boys were engaged in the workshops, and no objection was raised to the employment of these youths.

MR. RASON: Were they learning a trade?

MR. TROY: They were learning to become mechanics. It was pleasing to know that the vote had been increased for educational purposes; and it was to be hoped the money would not be spent in administration, but in increasing the number of teachers and schools throughout the State.

MR. CONNOR: From Cossack to the farthest end of the coast, there was only one school. There were townsites in the northern part of the State, established for over 20 years—Derby and Wyndham—but there was no school at either place, and the people were told that the reason a school was not provided was that they could not tally the number of children. He remembered the time when there were the full number of children at both places, and he (Mr. Connor) got as far as having the erection of a building sanctioned; but the order was subsequently withdrawn. People who had families would not stay at these places, because they could not get facilities for their children to be taught. He knew grown-up men who had never seen a school, had never been taught their a-b-c. We wanted to look at the question from a practical standpoint. On the Estimates, there were items such as £650 for servants for the Training College. Why should the State spend such a large sum for servants for a Training College when important seaport towns were without primary schools? It was to be hoped the time would come

when members would look at the question from a broader national standpoint, and no matter what the cost was, see that in the principal towns on the coast where there were Government servants with families, schools should be provided. A private member did not seem to have any influence with the department. He (Mr. Connor) had brought this matter up every year when the Estimates were before the Committee, but could not get schools established. There were numbers of items which might be taken off the Estimates, and the money spent in establishing schools in outlying districts. There was an item for 20 clerks; another item, packer at the stores. We should spend all the money we could afford in education; and it should be differently spent from what it had been in the past. Take the district of Wagin. He knew people there with large families who had applied for a school, but could not get it. They had the requisite number of children, but a school was not established. A few days ago he was in this district, and met a valuable settler who had come over from South Australia. That settler told him (Mr. Connor) that he must leave the district because he could not get educational facilities for his children. This man had offered to find quarters and board at a nominal cost for a teacher, and the surroundings for the teacher would be everything that could be desired, for the mother of this settler's children was a highly educated woman. He impressed on the Ministry the necessity for the establishment of primary schools at least at Derby, Wyndham, and Hall's Creek, before we talked of the establishment of secondary schools and a university in Perth. If schools were provided in the far North, people would be prepared to keep their families there.

MR. HENSHAW would not begrudge a sum considerably in excess of the amount asked for on the Education Estimates. If we extended the system of education, we should increase the efficiency of the workers throughout the State and elevate our standard of education. Every facility should be given in outlying districts to enable children to receive primary education. He strongly supported the principle of technical education. He had seen the advantages derived from that system in the other States, and in

spite of what had been stated by members of the Opposition, he knew from his experience of scores of young men who had learned their trades in technical schools, almost without outside assistance. In these schools here and in other States, young men received on one night a theoretical lesson and perhaps a couple of nights later a practical lesson on the same subject. He would like to combat the slur cast on the workers by the leader of the Opposition and the member for South Fremantle, that workers desired to restrict the system of apprenticeship, to discourage it, and boycott their fellow workers if they had not indentures. The workers desired to see a system of apprenticeship prevail, and the rotten system of improvers done away with. We had seen the bad results, and should get rid of them; and bring about a *bona fide* system of apprenticeship. The member for Fremantle had referred to carpenters, and had stated that they objected to apprentices being employed. Not long ago, the carpenters applied to the Court of Arbitration, asking the court to insist on a system of apprenticeship being adopted. The real reason was that we in Australia were of a nomadic tendency; both employers and employees, travelling from one State to another, and employers would not take upon themselves the responsibility of apprentices. There was a very strong objection to the number of shops and factories being run by boy labour, but that was a wise and just opposition. In this and other States he knew numbers of factories where men had been turned off and boys put on in their stead. This was going on in this State. If we could force the employer to apprentice boys and teach them trades, then it would be a great satisfaction; but at present many employers engaged an undue proportion of boys, and when the boys reached the age of 16 or 18 years and asked for an increase of wages, they were discharged. The consequence was there were a lot of jackaroos in this State. It was this state of affairs that caused the carpenters to go to the Arbitration Court, asking the court to restrict the number of boys to be employed.

MR. SCADDAN : There was one phase of the question to which he desired to briefly refer. In spite of the remarks of

the leader of the Opposition and the member for Fremantle, there were at present a number of lads employed on the large mines in the engineering shops. They were not apprenticed to trades on the mines. Lads were taken on and placed in charge of screw-cutting machines, and remained there until they asked for a rise in wages. There was no encouragement given to a boy after he left school. Lads had to take on bottle-washing in cordial factories, or wheeling sand, or anything to earn a few shillings. There was no objection raised by unions to legitimate apprentices, but there was objection to improvers, as they were called. This was only fair and reasonable, taken in whatever trade one liked. Even on big mines where we had engineers and managers, instead of encouragement being given to Australians we found Yankees sent out and Londoners. We should take immediate steps to deal with those managers and others, to have certificates granted by the Government of Western Australia. Then we should give youths encouragement to study in mining schools to make themselves qualified for the billets at present filled by Yankees. The system of indenturing had been found to work well in England. This matter should be grappled with early. There was a great outcry throughout Western Australia by unions that there was no system of apprenticeship. Unionists objected to the system of having improvers, and they did so for their own benefit and for the benefit of the youth in this State. In regard to primary education, it was only fair to the Education Department that he should state his experience on the matter. He made an application shortly after being elected for a school in a certain portion of his district. The application form was sent in, and three weeks after it was lodged the school was opened, the number of children being 23. The residents assisted the Education Department by arranging for a teacher and throwing open the institute, which they built with their own money, for the purpose of opening the school. In agricultural districts he had had it brought under his notice there were places in which there was no system of education whatever. It was not so great hardship in some cases, where the parents had

been educated and were prepared to give their children some little insight; but there were in Perth many children attending boarding schools because there were no schools in the districts from which they came. As to technical education, most of our children attended such schools merely for a hobby, and when they left them they did not turn their hands to wood-working or anything more substantial. We ought to put our primary education on a sound basis wherever possible. He believed the Government were going in for a system of immigration, and if we got these people in Western Australia settling on the land we must look out for giving their children education.

MR. FRANK WILSON: With regard to the mining industry, we knew that America had mines many years before Western Australia. She had vast resources, vast population, and innumerable colleges for the education of the people, and with those opportunities for gaining experience in the mining industries, not only gold-mining but every other class of mining, the men turned out in America must of necessity have a knowledge that must at least be equal to, if not in advance of, that possessed by Australians. Why condemn men because they came from London or America? He welcomed them for their vast experience, and we should not be so bigoted or narrow-minded as not to benefit from the education some of those men had received. As to this educational vote, we wanted to give the youths of the State the means and facilities obtainable to acquire useful knowledge and become good citizens; but he did not like to hear any reflection cast on what had already been done in Western Australia. Great things had been done in the past, especially by our old Premier, Sir John Forrest, in the early days, a man who did more in a short time probably than had been done in any other portion of the British Empire, to his knowledge at any rate. Let us be thankful for what we had received in the past, but at the same time not say "enough." Still, people who went to the back blocks could not expect to get a teacher for every child.

MR. BUBGES: Then we ought to have another system and put people where they could.

MR. FRANK WILSON: In that case we might prohibit people from settling on our land, unless they were single men or men without families. Wherever we could grant facilities we must do so. We had a system in vogue whereby the parents of eight children—he thought that was the number—who were living in an outlying centre could receive some contribution from the Education Department for the engagement of a teacher. He had occasion some time back to apply to the department. A family of four or five in a district could not get educational facilities, and wrote to him, and he was told that if there was another family of two or three children to make the number up to eight, the Government were prepared to give a grant—he thought £5 per head—towards a teacher. The requisite number of children could not be found in the neighbourhood, and the Government did the next best thing, namely to give a supply of books in order that the parents might do their best to educate the children themselves. With regard to this question of technical education, he was in accord with it from head to foot. He believed lads should be encouraged to learn a trade and learn something in the technical colleges, during their earlier years, which would assist them when they came to practical work and served time or apprenticeship to the different trades. The tendency, as in all countries where trades unionism was rampant, was to restrict the employment of the youth of the country, to restrict the number of boys in any given calling, to restrict the number of apprentices. Wherever there had been an application to the Arbitration Court with regard to the wages and conditions of labour, we had this selfsame question brought up—an application to restrict the number of youths employed. [**MEMBER:** Improvers.] Anything one liked. We had no right to restrict the avenues of employment for our boys. If we were going to spend money in educating lads in the direction referred to, what use would it be if we closed the doors of our factories when they wanted to try earnestly to work to earn their living? The Judge who presided over the Arbitration Court pointed out that the Legislature had insisted that a person 16 years of age was a full-fledged worker, and that as

soon as he reached that age he must receive the full wages which would be paid to a man 30 or 40 years of age who had all his life been engaged in the trade. The sooner we remedied that state of affairs, and the sooner we left the doors of our factories open to our youths, the better it would be for this country. Let us make them useful men. Let them serve their time either under indenture or under agreement, which one liked. He did not attach much weight to the indenture system. Twenty years ago indentures were gradually being dropped in the old country, not only by the request of the employers but the lads themselves. The lads preferred to go into large engineering factories in the North of England untrammelled, so that if they did not get advanced enough they could leave one place and go to another. A person might get his lines from one place for two years and then go to another place and get his lines for two years.

MR. BOLTON: They called themselves "improvers."

MR. FRANK WILSON: No.

THE CHAIRMAN: The hon. member was getting a long way beyond the question of education.

MR. FRANK WILSON: was discussing technical education.

THE CHAIRMAN: No.

MR. FRANK WILSON: Absolutely.

THE CHAIRMAN: Passing reference had been made to the question of those educated in technical schools not being able to become apprentices to trades; but he did not think that permitted the hon. member to elaborate on this question to the extent he was doing. The hon. member was now elaborating on the question of apprenticeship.

MR. FRANK WILSON: was pointing out how absurd it would be to spend money on technical education, if we were going to close the avenues of employment.

THE CHAIRMAN: The hon. member might discuss that, but not elaborate as he had been doing.

MR. FRANK WILSON: Lines given by an employer to a person were regarded as just as good as an indenture, and such document was accepted by the Board of Trade in the old country. A lad having a reference from his last employer might then go up for examination, and rise to

be engineer or perhaps chief engineer. That was as good as an indenture. The tendency of trade unionism was restriction every time, and was going to be the curse of the rising generation. He hoped we should soon have an Agricultural College provided in this State, for such institutions had proved a great benefit in the Eastern States, and even some of the youths from Western Australia had been trained there. Now that agriculture was becoming an exact science, it was most necessary that those who were to make the land productive should have the best form of education for the purpose; and if provision could be made for an Agricultural College in this State, the agricultural industry would be able to compete effectively with that of the Eastern States, and this country might become a large exporter of grain.

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS (Hon. W. D. Johnson): In connection with the work done in the technical schools, he desired to add his praise of what was being done in those schools by the different masters. The youths there were getting an insight into different trades; but the education received in the technical schools was not sufficient. It had been said that the workers in this State objected to the employment of apprentices. He gave that a flat contradiction, for what the workers wanted was that there should be a limit to the number of apprentices. The position was that if a lot of boys got into a workshop, they were not taught as they ought to be. The only thing the workers desired, and this had been argued before the Arbitration Court, was that there should be some system of indenture in this State; for it was almost impossible to get a boy bound as an apprentice to a particular trade in Western Australia. He knew many factories that would take numbers of boys and put them to a particular kind of work, keeping them at that work until they got practically as expert as a general workman would be. Then when the boys asked for an increase of pay, the employer would say he did not want them any longer. Those boys would go to some other shop, perhaps obtain employment as improvers, and after working again at some particular branch of the trade and learning that only, they might again apply for an increase of wages, and away

they would go again. This happened to boys time after time, until some of them got sick and left the business. Some boys continued in a particular branch of work, and not being all-round workmen in that trade they were known as jackaroos. He knew half-a-dozen lads in Kalgoorlie whose parents would be glad to apprentice them to a trade in a place like Perth, and pay all necessary expenses, if they could only get a chance for the boys to learn a trade, particularly where a boy had shown special ability in a certain direction. Take carpentering, for instance; a lad might go into a large place like Ferguson's, be put to sash and frame making, and be kept at that branch of work until he could turn out as much as an ordinary workman. Those boys would get no opportunity of learning that trade generally. In joinery, the joiner in Western Australia was not equal to the joiner in England, for here a joiner must be both carpenter and joiner. A lad would go through such a shop, getting no knowledge of the business beyond one branch of it; he might be kept in a shop for three years, and the difficulty would then be to find an employer who would take him as a competent worker. A person might employ him only in a particular branch of the work. No member of this House could show where a boy could in this State get this general knowledge in a workshop. It was true the workers had said in the Arbitration Court that the number of apprentices should be limited; but the object of this was to get competent tradesmen, and not have boys turned out with a knowledge of one branch only.

MR. FRANK WILSON: Was that not objecting to the boys when the workers wanted to limit the number of apprentices?

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS: Yes; but the sole desire of the workers was to get lads to learn the trade generally, and not to be confined to one branch of it. The difficulty in this State was to get good competent tradesmen, unless they had come from the Eastern States. He had never yet met a good tradesman who was trained in this State. His remarks applied also to the engineering trade, in which lads did not get an opportunity to learn engineering. He would like members to assist him now in getting some

lads he knew who wanted an opportunity to learn the engineering trade. He was trying at present to get two lads taken into the Midland Railway Workshops to learn the trade.

MR. RASON: Could not the hon. member get them in?

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS: It was true the workers objected to improvers, to boys who had worked in a particular line and were kept at it until they were able to compete against men who had learned the trade generally. Workers did not object where there was a genuine apprenticeship.

MR. BOLTON: At Bucklands Hill, in the Cottesloe district, there were 171 children of school-going age, and only 56 of these children attended the school at Cottesloe, more than a mile away; yet the Education Department did not endeavour to erect an infants' school at Buckland Hill. This showed the necessity of spending on primary education without going to the back-blocks. Three Government employees were engaged teaching in the technical schools. One man receiving 12s. 6d. a day from the Government was paid 12s. 6d. each lecture at the schools, and delivered two lectures a week. It would be better to engage competent tradesmen who were not in receipt of daily wages to teach in the schools; or this particular teacher should not work for the Government on the two days that he taught in the technical school.

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS: Some other man would have to be employed.

MR. BOLTON: The Minister evidently desired one man to get two men's pay. The member for Sussex spoke of a boy serving two years in one shop and then going with a piece of paper to another shop and serving two years. These boys called themselves improvers. They were not apprentices. The apprentice worked on a scale of wages until he completed his term, and then became a mechanic. On the other hand, the boy serving two years in one shop and two years in another shop was an improver, and was not employed by the owner of the second shop in order that he might learn his trade, but because he was expert at one particular line.

[MR. QUINLAN took the Chair.]

MR. HARPER: Members were entitled to know the result of the expenditure of money on technical education, and how many youths made use of the technical education in after-life. The money was wasted if youths did not make use of the education afterwards. While we had an enormous number of children in outlying districts to whom it was difficult to give education, we should be cautious in regard to spending money on technical education. One branch of technical education that was absolutely neglected was in regard to the cultivation of land. One member strongly advocated the establishment of an agricultural college; but he (Mr. Harper) was doubtful about the value of an agricultural college. We should have experimental farms on which the practical knowledge required for the cultivation of soil and the study of stock could be carried out. The system was attempted in a small way, but not in the whole-hearted way it should be. We could not get good teachers in this class of work unless we got the man who thoroughly knew his subject, the man who had succeeded in it; and we must make it worth the man's while to leave his independent life. Technical education had reached its highest standard in the United States. In regard to agricultural education, the system there was to find a first-class all-round agricultural man and put him in charge of an experimental farm as general manager. Though this man was in charge of the farm he had nothing to do with the technical teaching. Farms were established in different districts where conditions varied, and on each farm there were experts in the various branches of agricultural work. That was the system we should establish here. We should divide the country into sections and have experimental farms according to the varying conditions; and each farm should be managed by a man well up in the business, who should be given ample funds to provide for specialists in the different branches of agriculture. By that means we would develop the agricultural industry, and would draw away from the towns a number of youths seeking clerical work. This was the curse of our modern civilisation, and one we should do our utmost to combat. The more steps taken to give technical education in the towns, the more the young

man would be drawn to a town; but the more conveniences provided to make a success on the land, the more we would draw the youths away from the cities. Before the next Estimates were prepared the Government should go thoroughly into this question of education in regard to land development.

MR. A. J. WILSON: There were schools at the different timber mills in the South-West, but half-time schools should be established at the large camps lying from six to twelve miles from the mills. This would prove a great convenience to families living back in the bush. There was no school at North Dandalup, and provision for a half-time school there would confer a great advantage on the people at that mill. Some votes in connection with this education matter would require consideration. He regretted to find that whilst other officers in high positions in the service were down for an increase, a gentleman whom he regarded as one of the most capable officers in the department appeared to have been entirely overlooked. As to technical education, we could all appreciate the wisdom and necessity for it. A good deal of difficulty arose in the minds of boys and girls after they left school as to what they would be likely to do. Some thought they would like to follow one mechanical line or another, and after they had had a taste of it, they disliked it and desired to take up some other branch. The principal virtue of technical education was that it gave an opportunity to lads or girls, whilst at school, to inculcate in their minds, not merely a fancy for any particular trade, but a desire to learn all they possibly could of it. One of the most important duties in education was in reference to cookery. We found that there had been a curtailment of about £500 in one of these votes, whereas the vote should rather have been substantially increased than decreased. If not in the interests of the medical fraternity, we should, in the interests of public health, see that more adequate provision was made for this important department in connection with our education. He had no desire to enter into a discussion on apprentices and that sort of thing; but we found there was a tendency on the part of some members, whenever there

was a chance of working in anything against the workers or the movement with which the large majority on this (Government) side of the House were concerned, to do so quite apart from whether the matter had any bearing on the point under discussion.

MR. KEYSER: The best asset any nation could have consisted of an educated population; and for that reason he supported a large increase in this vote. The greatest drawback the Education Department had to contend with was in the education of the children in the back blocks. He did not agree with the argument that those who had failed in every other walk of life should be employed by the Government on the back blocks to teach children there.

MR. NANSON: Better that than no one at all to teach them.

MR. KEYSER: People who had not been successful in any vocation of life were not those who would exercise the patience necessary on the part of a teacher, and they would not stay a month on the back blocks where children were to be educated. The hon. member said if we could not get teachers who expected a good salary to go there, let us send cheap teachers. He (Mr. Keyser) did not think that a cheap man in any department of life was better than none. We all recognised that it was a good thing to afford education, but how could we send teachers to every family in the State, to every back block where there were five or six children? It would mean at least £10,000.

MR. CONNOR: It would be money well spent.

MR. KEYSER: It was a question of finances. The member for Coolgardie said he agreed that the vote for education ought to be doubled. It was all very well for an irresponsible member who had not to find the cash to talk in that manner. As regarded the apprentice business, he was sorry the Labour members were not honest. We knew that we were trying to restrict the number of apprentices, and personally he was in favour of restricting them. When he served his apprenticeship of six years, his employers were taking on more apprentices as improvers, and those who had served their time were immediately dismissed after their term was up. That

was the case to-day. Unless we restricted the number, we should have fewer adults employed. When men had families, surely work ought to be found for them in preference to boys. The time was coming fast when Australia would have to subsidise every child, in order to increase the population. They did that in the old Roman days.

MR. NANSON suggested to the Minister that it would be an instructive and useful return if the hon. gentleman would endeavour to ascertain the number of children in Western Australia living at a distance of seven miles or more from the nearest State school. He ventured to think that if a return of that nature could be compiled, the Minister would be somewhat surprised to learn how many children there were in Western Australia who, to all intents and purposes, had been denied those educational facilities which were given in the towns. The member for Albany misunderstood him when criticising him for advocating the engagement of cheap teachers and persons who were ne'er-do-wells. What he (Mr. Nanson) intended to say was that rather than have no teacher at all, we should certainly avail ourselves of persons who, according to the standard of the Education Department, were not regarded as fully qualified. No one would like better than himself to see most qualified teachers in these country districts, but the position in his district--and doubtless other agricultural members could bring forward instances--was that in quite a number of centres there were from six to a dozen children who were altogether deprived of educational facilities. It was useless to say these children should be given teachers who had passed the standard of the Education Department, and then at the same time say that financial difficulties prevented us from supplying these teachers. Whilst these financial difficulties were altering, these children were growing up in the blindest ignorance. There were settlers who, simply out of their own resources, managed to keep teachers who did fairly well, and yet who would not satisfy the requirements of the Educational Department. Would any practical-minded member urge that those persons making that sacrifice and getting teachers of a kind were not doing their duty to their children better

than they would be if they did nothing at all, and refused to engage a man because he did not come up to the standard of the Education Department? It would be much better to give the old education such as was given in the hedge schools in Ireland a hundred years or more ago, when there was rudimentary instruction, such as teaching reading, writing, and simple addition, than it would be to see children growing up as he had seen them growing up in this country, as blankly ignorant almost as an aboriginal native. Members not aware of these circumstances could hardly realise the heart-breaking state of affairs in the back country. As to the grant of £5 per head, the departmental regulations were not altogether in accord with common sense. The grant was given where eight children could be gathered together; but where the number was less than eight, school books were substituted for the grant. Why deny that grant to a man with a family of six? Elementary education far transcended technical instruction. If the Minister could do something to solve this problem in the back country, he would earn the gratitude of many hard-working settlers. If one went to the back blocks and talked of agricultural colleges, people who could not get even the elements of education for their children would not laugh: they would be more inclined to swear.

MR. BURGESS supported the preceding speaker. He had found great difficulty in getting educational facilities for scattered settlers. The department complained of the hardships which must be endured by teachers with small salaries; but in view of the extravagant expenditure on training colleges, manual classes, cookery classes, and so forth, the Government ought to give some facilities at all events to the children of settlers who were tenants of the Crown. In large towns children received a good education almost free of charge; and for outlying districts itinerant teachers, if they taught for only two or three days in each week, would be of some advantage to the children, who would otherwise grow up little better educated than the aborigines. The member for North Fremantle complained of children having to walk 1½ miles to school. Many country school

children walked from two to five miles, and did not grumble. Let the Minister secure a return showing schools to which children had to walk four miles or over. That might be secured through the police; but only at election times did policemen appear in outlying districts. Before another year passed some provision should be made to deal with the difficulty, which was daily becoming more acute. Instead of embarking on wild schemes of immigration, let us make provision for people already here. How could such schemes be successful if the immigrants found on arrival that their children must grow up uneducated?

MR. HARDWICK: The Minister for Works had discussed the question of apprentices. Did the Government infer that it was necessary for a boy to serve five years to bootmaking? Modern bootmakers worked in teams; and each worker must be a specialist. A smart boy could acquire a knowledge of one branch of the trade in 12 months, and would be much quicker at that branch than a general tradesman of the old school. It would be hard to compel every boy to learn the whole trade; for how then could our boot factories compete with those of up-to-date countries? The same remark applied to sash factories. Was it necessary that a boy should serve five years to making jam tins? If so, it would be long before this State could establish factories.

MR. N. J. MOORE: It seemed to be recognised that the increase of £17,170 on these Estimates was fully justified. As to immigration, the originator of the scheme should bear in mind that the lack of educational facilities in scattered districts would imperil its success. In a district not far from Greenough, only 15 out of 20 members of a corps of militia could write their names. Agricultural colleges and experimental farms should go hand in hand. A member said that no student at an experimental farm ever became a successful farmer.

MR. WATTS: Very rarely.

MR. N. J. MOORE: One of the most up-to-date farmers in the hon. member's own district (Northam) had acquired his experience at the Roseworthy Agricultural College, South Australia; and other pupils of that college had been successful. True, boys who did not wish to become

farmers would be failures even if educated at the best college in the world. New Zealand was paying a great deal of attention to experimental farms and agricultural colleges. If we were to compete in the world's market it was necessary that the young men who were adopting agriculture as a business should be up to date. In New Zealand experiments were being made not only in regard to the most suitable manures for use in the soil, but in regard to the best class of sheep to breed, the most economical not only from a wool-growing point of view, but for meat supply. It was to be hoped something would be done at an early date to establish experimental farms and agricultural colleges in this State.

MR. DIAMOND: The remarks which he had made in favour of technical colleges were distinctly founded on what he had read of the immense success of these colleges in America. He was aware that the Roseworthy College in South Australia had been an object-lesson. The member for Mount Magnet had spoken of the agricultural colleges of New South Wales; but it was a most unfortunate illustration. Almost every illustration from that State or from the State of Victoria was unfortunate. The management of the sand-shifting in New South Wales was a failure; so was the experiment with agricultural colleges. The technical colleges of the United States had been a great success. The young men of the country who had taken up the occupations of agriculture, fruit-growing, and vine-growing from a liking for the work had been most successful. From his reading, the ambition of the average young man in America was not limited to becoming the secretary, the treasurer, or the president of a trades union.

MR. TROY: Or a Cingalese agent.

MR. DIAMOND: The hon. member could not interject without being personal or insulting. In the United States hundreds, if not thousands, of young men of good education went into the agricultural colleges, although their parents had not large means, and when there was a big harvest season going on out west on the prairies, these young men left their colleges to go and farther increase their experience. We should turn out a class

of young men like that in Western Australia. As to the question of apprentices he was sorry the Minister for Works and the member for Collie had accused him of making statements which were untrue. He (Mr. Diamond) would not dream of accusing those members of making statements deliberately knowing them to be untrue, but he asserted without fear of contradiction that in Fremantle, if not at the present moment within the last few months, it was impossible to apprentice a lad to the carpentering, joinery, or sash and door making trades because the number of apprentices would be too large. He did not wish to see lads drifting into workshops, and before they had gained sufficient knowledge being turned away. He wanted to see youths educated so as to become proper tradesmen. Members on the Government side had the same object as himself, but there were different ways of arriving at the same idea; still members should not accuse each other of sinister motives.

[**MR. BATH** took the Chair.]

HON. F. H. PIESSE understood that strong representations were made for education to be supplied to the sparsely-settled districts in the State. In some localities every consideration seemed to have been given to the requirements of the people, while in other directions the districts were neglected. In some instances efforts had been made to educate the children in a district, but there was a difficulty in obtaining teachers suitable for the work. Almost in every occupation it was difficult to get people to go out of the city to take up duties in the country, and this applied to teaching. Teachers preferred to remain in the towns or in close proximity to the towns. That should not deter the Education Department from doing all it possibly could in affording advantage to the growing population in country districts. There were cases in which six to ten children could be found in certain localities, and in a settlement close by a similar number of children. Something should be done to carry out the itinerant system which was started some years ago. No doubt that practice was in existence, but it was not carried out as far as it might be. In country districts children were growing up without the ordinary rudimentary

education. They were not able to obtain primary education. Every inducement should be given in the case of outlying districts to attract people to settle on the land. Everyone was glad to see settlement on the goldfields; but there should be settlement on the land which was essential to the country, and inducements should be offered to people to go out by affording them the advantages of education for their children. When proper representations were placed before the Education Department, endeavours had been made to meet the cases, but in many instances the number of children was not sufficient to form a school. Some assistance should be rendered by establishing a system of teachers travelling from one place to another, holding a class in one place in part of one day, and in another place in another part of that day. There were children in the country districts who were willing and anxious to learn, and country children were very quick in picking up education. It was strange the amount of knowledge children gained in a year or so. In regard to the question of agricultural colleges, some members had expressed themselves as opposed to this system, pointing out that boys who had attended agricultural colleges had not made successful farmers. There were always exceptions to a rule, no matter in what sphere of life one moved; some persons were successful, others were not. This was not because the young men did not receive education, but because of the want of application. Speaking of a knowledge of some of the colleges in the Eastern States, he might say that the Roseworthy College stood pre-eminently as one of the best agricultural colleges in the Eastern States. Then there was the Hawkesbury College, which had come into prominence recently and which was situated within 30 miles of Sydney. At this college there were 136 permanent students, and a number of other students were provided for in the town of Richmond, and these attended the college for instruction. A great number of successful men had been turned out of that college, also from Roseworthy. Dookie College had been mentioned as a failure; but men had been turned out from that college who had become successful farmers. Because of failures, were we to condemn colleges? We

should not try to prevent the establishment of agricultural colleges because there had been some failures. He knew of a number of young men who had been trained for two years at these colleges, and who became successful as agriculturists. The information which they had gained had been of immense advantage to them and to those who had been instrumental in sending them to the colleges. We were just on the dawn of the greatest advancement in agricultural science that the world had seen or was ever likely to see. We found that everywhere great attention was being given to what was called scientific agriculture. That was the application of manure in infinitesimal proportions to the land so as to give the greatest results. Attached to the agricultural colleges were chemical laboratories for the use of the students. This country could not go too far in this direction. It was no use standing at a few pounds, for we must have every appliance to carry out the work successfully, and we must have good men to conduct the affairs of such a college. This country with such vast possibilities should do all it possibly could in the way of establishing an up-to-date college in every respect. One member had referred to training in regard to an important matter. Some remembered the time when 4lb. to 5lb. of wool was cut from a certain class of sheep, while to-day from the same class of sheep farmers obtained 11lb. to 12lb. of wool. Such advance had been made as the result of education. Men had been able to instruct others in the right direction. We had a country rich in possibilities, and should instruct our youths in order to make them useful citizens and in order that they might develop the country. In that way our expenditure would be repaid. We should also provide our youths with literature to show them what was done in other countries; and our country already prosperous would become more prosperous still. First of all there should be the ordinary system of education, and then there should be a scientific education which would assist in placing the people on the land, and would be a corollary to the scheme of assisted immigration.

THE PREMIER: Many subjects had been mentioned during the discussion, but

some were foreign to the work of the Educational Department. He intended only to refer to one or two points directly affecting the work of the department mentioned during the discussion. The most vital question was that raised by the member for Greenough (Mr. Nanson) with regard to providing means for teaching children in sparsely-populated districts. The department had undoubted difficulties in that respect in finding teachers of the standard that had been sought to be maintained, and in finding the money to enable it to establish schools in places where there were only a couple of families with children; but it might be possible to carry out the suggestion of the hon. member to apply the principle of giving a subsidy for each child regardless of the total number included, and without having too nice a consideration for the exact scholastic attainments of the teacher. The State having undertaken the work of education, owed a duty to the children of the State generally; and while it could not be expected that the same facilities should be offered in places where the population was thin, an effort should be made to prevent any child growing up entirely without education. He would consult with the officers of the department with a view to seeing what alteration in the regulations could be made. Another question raised by the member for Greenough was that of the use of portable schools. This was a subject he (the Premier) had submitted for the consideration of the Minister for Works some little time ago, not knowing at the time that the matter had been previously under discussion. He found out afterwards that certain steps had been taken, as the member for Greenough now indicated, but that the plan suggested was a comparatively costly one; and he had thought it desirable to suggest to the Minister for Works not only the desirability of introducing a portable school system if a cheap and useful design could be adopted, but likewise the desirability of cheapening the standard plans for larger schools; because he believed it possible to lessen the cost of buildings without impairing their advantages in regard to ventilation or light, at the same time giving adequate accommodation without interfering with the stability of the buildings. The

Minister for Works was looking into this question as well as the other question of portable schools. A plan of using these portable buildings had been adopted with advantage in other States; and in all probability we could get a suitable class of building and thereby save considerable expense, not only in the erection of a building, but likewise in the case of a district which might lose its population; and it might be possible to deal with both these questions at an early date. The cost of education might be reduced in that way without interfering with the teaching; and there was a chance of extending educational facilities generally to children throughout the State without great expense. The member for Guildford (Mr. Rason) raised the point that nearly the whole of the increased expenditure in the Educational Department represented an increased cost of administration. It was pointed out by him (the Premier) when previously speaking that almost the whole of the increased expenditure was devoted to the payment of salaries of teachers, not in increased salaries, but in the payment of additional teachers. If new schools were opened, we must have new teachers. The only increases of salaries were purely nominal increases in accordance with the regulations long since drawn up, and which must be paid. When a teacher received the maximum salary payable under the regulations for any class, he was not at all unduly paid. There was an increase of £13,230 for teachers' salaries out of a total increase of £15,570, so that it could not be contended that the increase in administration was a heavy proportion. The cost of administration was being kept down as low as possible. Some items which appeared to show increases in the cost of administration really represented engagements entered into by the department which must be fulfilled, or represented the transfer of small sums from the contingency vote to the salaries vote, not being additional cost to the administration at all. Nearly every penny of increased cost was money being spent in offering increased educational facilities throughout the State. One member raised an objection as to the employment of teachers of night technical classes who were working during the day-time. If we were teaching blacksmithing

we must, in order to do so, get the best tradesman available in the vicinity of the school, and to do that we must get a man who not only was constantly employed but who commanded the highest salary, who would be both constantly employed and highly remunerated because he excelled in his work. It would be impossible to expect to retain the services of that teacher if he were to be prevented from working on two days of the week. He (the Premier) was much surprised that any such suggestion should have come from the hon. member. Another member raised the question of the result of our technical teaching. He did not know whether it was possible very easily to find out what the result was. We could only find out the class of the teaching. We could satisfy ourselves of its efficiency, and he was satisfied that any member who himself had made personal inquiries into the working of the technical school would be prepared to certify as to the efficiency of the staff employed there. But there was a very interesting feature in regard to the work of the technical school, that being that a great proportion of the pupils were a long way past the ordinary school age, whose primary education had long since been finished. He found, for instance, that out of 754 students who attended the technical and evening classes last year there were 236 under 18, 221 between the ages of 18 and 21, and 297 over 21. This showed undoubtedly that the school was meeting a big requirement, in that persons who had reached maturity indicated a desire to complete their education on the scientific side of the trades they happened to be following. That was a very important and a very great work indeed. The member for Kimberley drew special attention to the want of schools in the northern part of the State. If his memory served him correctly, that matter was at present under consideration by the department.

MR. CONNOR: It had been under consideration for the last 12 years.

THE PREMIER could not answer for that, but if he remembered rightly the hon. member recently brought the matter under notice, and at present certain reports were being called for. As soon as those reports were received the question would be dealt with, and he hoped

it would be possible to deal with it in a manner which would be satisfactory to the hon. member. He did not think it necessary to say more than that he was extremely grateful to members for the many kind remarks they had made in regard to this department; not that he took to himself any of the credit that had been given. He could not do that; but he was very gratified to find that the work of the Education Department, in which as a private member he always took a great deal of pleasure, was generally recognised as being very valuable to the interests of the State.

Generally (salaries, subdivision 1), £112,055 :

Item—Government Schools, £104,000 :

MR. NEEDHAM: Would the Minister keep in mind the promise made in reference to ability and seniority? He found that at present in the Government schools those who had been in the service a considerable time had not received that promotion to which their ability and length of service entitled them. Teachers who had been in the service five or six months were promoted over the heads of teachers who had been there for years. He did not think that was just, and he thought it was only necessary to call the attention of the Minister to the fact, and the hon. gentleman would take the earliest opportunity of remedying that state of affairs. We had already discussed the question of seniority and merit, and he thought it was the expressed opinion of this House that where the other conditions were equal those who had the seniority were to receive promotion.

THE PREMIER certainly was not going to commit himself to a promise that seniority should be the main consideration which settled promotion. He recognised that we must give great consideration, especially in the Education Department, to merit; and merit must be shown by capacity as indicated in the result obtained in the school examination. If the hon. member brought up any case in which he thought that an injustice had been done, he (the Premier) would gladly inquire into it. But he thought it impossible in any department, and more particularly in the Department of Education, to lay down a hard and fast rule.

HON. F. H. PIESSE: After looking through the Estimates he could not see any other item upon which he would like to draw attention to a fact he desired to bring under notice. That was in regard to the erection of schools. He wished to know why people were called upon to build schools for the accommodation of the teachers and the education of the children in some localities, whilst in other localities of about the same population they were not so called upon. We might find a locality where a school was built and furniture provided by the Government, whilst in another place that was not done, and this created discontent. Perhaps the Minister would look into the matter. He (Hon. F. H. Piesse) would bring up the subject later on, and the Minister might state some ground upon which to work.

THE PREMIER: If the hon. member would give particulars, he (the Premier) would inquire, and if the circumstances warranted it he would have those schools which had been erected by the Government removed, in order to do away with the injustice.

HON. F. H. PIESSE did not want the buildings removed, but wished the Government to pay for the others.

Other items agreed to, and the vote passed.

Cadets (salaries, subdivision 5), £800:

Item—Staff, £800:

MR. N. J. MOORE: Was this for an instructional staff? As it was hoped that the cadets would eventually join the militia, it was reasonable that the Commonwealth instructors should devote some time to drilling the cadets, thus effecting economy. There were Commonwealth drill instructors in most towns.

THE PREMIER: A list of the cadet staff was not at the moment available; but he would look into the matter to ascertain whether assistance could be procured from the defence officers. It was right that they should give such assistance.

Vote put and passed.

Compulsion (salaries, subdivision 6), £784:

Items (3)—one (chief) at £230, one at £180, two at £170:

MR. NEEDHAM: Did this represent one chief and three assistants?

THE PREMIER: Yes.

MR. BURGESS: Were these all the compulsory officers in the State?

THE PREMIER: Certain other officers, including the police, acted as compulsory officers, but were not permanently engaged at the work. The police did not receive any extra pay for their assistance.

Other items agreed to, and the vote passed.

This completed the votes for the department.

On motion by the PREMIER, progress reported and leave given to sit again.

ADJOURNMENT.

The House adjourned at two minutes to 11 o'clock, until the next afternoon.

Legislative Council, Wednesday, 7th December, 1904.

	PAGE
Select Committee's Report on Aborigines Protection Bill	1674
Private Bill: Kalgoorlie Tramways Racecourse Extension, Recommitment, reported	1675
Bill (public): Municipal Institutions Act Amendment, second reading resumed, adjourned	1675

THE PRESIDENT took the Chair at 4.30 o'clock, p.m.

PRAYERS.

ABORIGINES PROTECTION BILL.

SELECT COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

HON. W. KINGSMILL brought up the report of the select committee appointed to inquire into the Aborigines Bill.

Report to be considered on the next Tuesday.