

occupy. My brother members have had an opportunity of doing so before. It is a great pleasure to me to see you occupying the position, and I do not think the distinction could have fallen upon anyone better fitted to bear it. It is a fitting illustration of how a man who leads an honest and upright life obtains the confidence of those he lives among. It proves that those who try to live their lives in a proper manner, with honesty of purpose, can succeed to the highest honours the country can bestow.

THE HON. H. MCKERNAN: I have much pleasure in supporting the motion of the hon. the Colonial Secretary, although I should have been glad if he had given us some more information as to the Bill than he did. It is, no doubt, an admirable measure; but there are items in it the House are entitled to know more about. Certain things are to be done by regulation. We have no regulations before us, but I hope, when we get into committee, we shall have full information upon the subject. Under clause 10, sub-section (3), it is stated that the commanding officer of any corps may, subject to regulations, appoint to his corps all non-commissioned officers not included in the last preceding paragraph of this section. I do hope, when the Bill is in committee, the Colonial Secretary will alter this, so that appointments shall be made by competitive examination. In clause 34 it is stated that only men between the ages of eighteen and thirty-five shall be qualified for enlistment into the militia, and between the ages of eighteen and thirty for enlistment in the permanent force. According to that a man who is over thirty-five years of age, and who may have been long in the volunteer service, will not be entitled to become a member of the permanent force. I hope I am wrong in this view, and that men in the volunteer force will be allowed to join the permanent force if they wish. Another point not mentioned in the Bill is this: it is well known that men like a change in their commanding officers, and I think provision should be made that these officers should be changed every five years. This would promote the efficiency of the corps and promote respect for the officer. Reference was made by the Colonial Secretary to the recently established mounted corps in Perth. The admiration of the hon.

gentleman for this corps has been very well represented to the House in his own language. I am a member of that corps, and I have the honour and dignity of holding the distinguished position of a full private.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

ADJOURNMENT.

The Council, at 6 o'clock p.m., adjourned until Thursday, 9th August, at 4.30 o'clock p.m.

Legislative Assembly,

Wednesday, 8th August, 1894.

Release of Prisoner John Gittings—Survey of Townsite at Bamboo Creek—Erection of Condon-Marble Bar Telegraph Line—Decking of Cossack Wharf—Telegraph Line from Marble Bar to Bamboo Creek—Appointment of Medical Officer at Pilbarra—Construction of Subiaco Road—Shelter Shed and Level Crossing at Subiaco Station—Approaches to West Perth Station—Leave of absence to Mr. Darlot—Purchase of Diamond Drill by the Government—Private offers for construction of Goldfields Railways—Papers re appointment of Mr. Edwards as Veterinary Surgeon—Bankers' Books Evidence Bill: third reading—Adjournment.

THE SPEAKER took the chair at 4.30 p.m.

PRAYERS.

RELEASE OF PRISONER JOHN GITTINGS.

MR. TRAYLEN, in accordance with notice, asked the Attorney General:—

1. What reasons had led the Government to release John Gittings from prison?
2. What was the unexpired term of his sentence?

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest), on behalf of Mr. Burt, replied that the reasons which led the Government to release John Gittings from prison were as follows:—His sister, Miss Mary Gittings, a respectable young woman, holding satisfactory references and introductions, came from England with the express purpose of rescuing and reclaiming her brother, and made an appeal to the Government to allow her to take him to England, to care for him in his old age. She had a passage provided for him, and was most anxious that she should have the opportunity of trying to lead him to a better life. The matter was so serious, being no less than the release of a prisoner who had been sentenced by the Court to a period of ten years, that it occupied the serious consideration of the Government, and Mr. Justice Stone, who tried the case, was referred to, and His Honour replied:—"The application of Mary Gittings is a very exceptional one, and not likely to be followed by applications of a similar nature. Her brother is an old man, and was convicted so far back as 1861, and was also sentenced by me in 1893 to ten years penal servitude. There were circumstances of aggravation surrounding his offence, which, with the bad character he bore, led me to pass what I considered rather a severe sentence. Taking into consideration the prisoner's age, and the praiseworthy desire of his sister to reclaim and remove him from his old haunts of vice, I shall be glad if the clemency of the Crown can be extended to him." The prisoner was sentenced to ten years penal servitude on the 11th of April, 1893. At the time the application was made he was 62 years of age. The Government considered it one of the most remarkable cases of natural affection that had ever come under the notice of any member of the Government. Here was a depraved old man who had led a depraved life for 30 years, and was unknown to his sister, as she was quite a young child when he was convicted; and here was this young woman coming out from England at her own instance, and providing funds to take him away, without any other desire than that of caring for him in his old age. There was a chance, it seemed to the Government, of reform for this old man, and they felt

they were taking a great responsibility in acting upon the recommendations of the Judge; but in the end they decided to recommend to His Excellency the Governor to remit the remaining portion of the sentence, and, as a result, John Gittings left the colony for London in the Orient Company's steamship "Ophir" on the 28th July. The unexpired portion of his sentence was that which remained of the sentence of ten years passed on the 11th of April, 1893.

SURVEY OF TOWNSITE AT BAMBOO CREEK.

MR. KEEP, in accordance with notice, asked the Commissioner of Crown Lands, whether the Government proposed to survey a townsite at Bamboo Creek?

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. W. E. Marmion) replied that he had wired to the Warden of the Pilbarra goldfield as to the desirability of laying out a small townsite at Bamboo Creek, and that he had no doubt his reply would advise such laying out, and instructions would, in such case, be issued at once for the performance of the work.

(1.) ERECTION OF CONDON-MARBLE BAR TELEGRAPH LINE. (2.) DECKING OF NEW COSSACK WHARF.

MR. KEEP, in accordance with notice, asked the Director of Public Works,—

1. Whether the contract for the erection of the Condon and Marble Bar telegraph line had been completed? If so, when would the line be available for use of the public?

2. Whether it was the intention of the Government to deck over the whole or any part of the head of the new wharf at Cossack?

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. H. W. Venn) replied as follows:—

1. The erection of the line is completed, but the final inspection has not yet been made, nor is the line taken over from the contractor. The public has already used the line through the courtesy of the contractor's agent, Mr. McKenzie. The line will be opened as soon as an operator can be placed in charge.

2. Yes. It is the intention of the Government to deck over such part of the new wharf as is considered necessary to facilitate traffic.

- (1.) ERECTION OF TELEGRAPH FROM MARBLE BAR TO BAMBOO CREEK.
- (2.) APPOINTMENT OF MEDICAL OFFICER FOR PILBARRA GOLDFIELD.

MR. KEEP, in accordance with notice, asked the Premier,—

1. Whether it was the intention of the Government to extend the telegraph line from Marble Bar to Bamboo Creek; if so, when?

2. Whether the Government proposed to appoint a Resident Medical Officer for the Pilbarra goldfield, to reside at Marble Bar?

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) replied as follows:—

1. The Government intend to extend the telegraph line from Marble Bar to Bamboo Creek as soon as the material which has been ordered arrives.

2. I shall be glad to confer with the hon. member on this subject.

CONSTRUCTION OF SUBIACO ROAD.

MR. WOOD, in accordance with notice, asked the Director of Public Works, when it was intended that the work of construction of Hay Street, from the corner of Colin Street to Subiaco, would be commenced; and whether it was intended to carry out the work by contract or day labour?

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. H. W. Venn) replied that the work would be commenced at once, by day labour.

MR. R. F. SHOLL: Day labour? My word! it will cost you something then, when you get some of these loafers about.

SHELTER AND LEVEL RAILWAY CROSSING AT SUBIACO.

MR. WOOD, in accordance with notice, asked the Commissioner of Railways, when it was proposed to erect a shelter or covering at the new station, Subiaco, and to provide a level crossing and approaches to the platform?

THE COMMISSIONER OF RAILWAYS (Hon. H. W. Venn) replied that it was intended to shift the present North Fremantle shelter shed to Subiaco when a new station was built at North Fremantle. A level crossing and approach to platform would be provided at an early date.

APPROACHES TO WEST PERTH RAILWAY STATION.

MR. WOOD, in accordance with notice, asked the Colonial Treasurer whether a sum would be provided on the Estimates for 1894-5, in order to improve the approaches to the West Perth Railway Station from Marquis Street?

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) replied that the Government had no funds legally available for improving streets in municipalities, and it would not be possible at present to assist the municipalities of the colony, except by the amount voted by Parliament as subsidies.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO MR. DARLOT.

MR. HARPER, on behalf of Mr. Simpson, in accordance with notice, moved that leave of absence for fourteen days be granted to the hon. member for the Murchison.

Question put and passed.

PURCHASE OF DIAMOND DRILL BY THE GOVERNMENT.

MR. CONNOR, in accordance with notice, moved, "That, in the best interests of the colony generally, and the mining community in particular, it is necessary that the Government immediately procure diamond drills, to prove whether an artesian water supply is procurable or not on the principal goldfields." The hon. member said: In moving this resolution I may say that the idea was suggested to me by a gentleman who has had a large experience in water boring and water conservation in another colony. I refer to Sir Joseph Abbott, the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales, who has furnished me with some very valuable information in connection with boring in that colony, in a district where the rainfall is very similar to the rainfall on our Coolgardie goldfields. He strongly advised us in this colony to go in for boring, being satisfied as to the ultimate success of our efforts, and that if we spent £10,000 in it the money would be well spent, judging by the results obtained elsewhere. In bringing forward this motion it is not my intention to clash in any way with the policy of the Government, for I admit that in most things I agree with their policy, and this

motion is not intended to cast any reflection upon them. But I think, with regard to this particular business of procuring water, that their policy has not been a success, and their want of success is, to my mind, to be attributed to their sins of omission as well as sins of commission. I believe, if they had taken the steps which I now urge upon them, that the result would have been much more satisfactory. It is unnecessary for me to point out the all-absorbing necessity of obtaining water, if it is practicable at all, on our arid goldfields, and I am convinced that, if we are to succeed in this matter, we must have resort to diamond drill boring. The Government have tried all sorts of other experiments; they have constructed dams, and made tanks, and they even tried the divining rod and other tiddliwinking means of drawing water from the bowels of the earth; but, as I have said, the result has not been a great success. I submit on excellent authority that the most likely way of solving this all-important question of whether we are to have water or not on our goldfields is to procure a diamond drill, and bore for it. If the water is not there, of course all the greater is the country's misfortune, but, for my own part, I believe it is there; and many practical men, who have spent years in trying to solve the difficulties of this water question in the other colonies, say there is no doubt that if we get diamond drills to work we must get water. We know that the Government propose to construct a railway to Coolgardie, and another to the Murchison goldfields, but I ask what will be the good of a railway to Coolgardie unless we also succeed in discovering an adequate and certain supply of water there? In a report laid on the table of the Legislative Assembly in New South Wales, I find it stated that "five inches of rain absorbed in a catchment area of 2,125 square miles would supply 423 wells flowing continuously at the rate of 1,000,000 gallons daily." Our rainfall at Coolgardie averages a great deal more than 5 inches; and I cannot believe, myself, that we shall not succeed in discovering water there, if we go the right way to work. I am aware that, according to the opinion of the Government Geologist and other experts employed by the Government from time to time, we cannot get water

there; but if, as it has been stated, a rainfall of not more than 5 inches is capable of yielding sufficient to supply over four hundred wells flowing continuously at the rate of a million gallons a day, why should we not succeed here? Where can the water go to? We have no surface watercourses to carry the rain-water away; and most members will agree with me that it is foolish to suppose that it all disappears by evaporation. I say it must sink into the ground; it has been doing so for ages, and it must be there somewhere. A short time ago a gentleman who has had a great deal of experience in connection with this water supply question elsewhere told me he was prepared, if the Government would give him certain water rights, to sink until he got water at Coolgardie. If he did not succeed he would charge nothing, and if he did succeed he only asked that he should have certain water rights. I believe this gentleman is still in a position to carry out his offer; at any rate, he was at the time he spoke to me about it. I might remind the House and the Government that if they procure these diamond drills, they can be used for other purposes than boring for water on our goldfields. Even if we did not succeed in discovering an artesian water supply, these drills could be utilised in testing for minerals in various parts of the colony. They could be used, for instance, on the Collie coalfield, and *should* be used before we undertake to build a railway to that locality. They could also be utilised in our far Northern territory, not only in boring for water, but also in testing for mineral deposits. As a matter of fact, we almost know that there are coal deposits and other valuable deposits in that region, and these drills would set the matter at rest. I refer particularly to petroleum deposits, or springs, which we have reason to believe exist there. If you look at some of the geological maps of the world—maps that were made before any coal was ever discovered in this colony—you will find places marked showing a certain stratum and line of cleavage where alone petroleum is obtained, and you will see these marks shown in the same line of cleavage on that part of the map representing our Kimberley district. Therefore, apart from the importance of the

water question, when we also have a chance of getting coal and petroleum in our Northern territory, and that the only thing required to solve the question is to obtain these drills, I think it becomes the duty of the Government to try them. First of all they should be tried for water at Coolgardie and on our principal gold-fields, and afterwards they should be tried in other districts for the general benefit of the colony. As I have already said, I know we have been told by geologists and scientists that there is no underground water to be found at Coolgardie, but we also know that geologists have stated that gold and granite would not assimilate. We have proved this to be a fallacy, and we may also prove that their theory about the water supply is likewise a fallacy. This should be a further encouragement for our Government, and induce them to accept my motion. I think I have now stated all that is necessary on this subject, and I will not detain the House, because other members who probably know more about it than I do, theoretically, will wish to speak to the motion. Before I sit down I may say that while I was on a visit to the other colonies some time ago, the whole cry there was, when I spoke on the subject,—“Why doesn't your Government get a diamond drill? Our geologists also told us there was no artesian water to be found, yet we have now flowing rivers where there was formerly an arid waste, as the result of artesian boring.” That was what I was told wherever the question was mooted. Why should not the same result be obtained here? Even if the experiment proved a failure, so far as a water supply is concerned—though I cannot see why it should be so—I submit that the experiment and the expense would be quite justifiable in other directions, and it would be a capital advertisement for the colony, as showing that the Government were in earnest in trying to do their level best for the mining population of the colony. Sir, I have much pleasure in proposing the motion standing in my name.

MR. MORAN: I do not know that I wish to second the motion as it stands, but—

MR. SPEAKER: If the hon. member is not going to second the motion, he had better let someone else do so.

MR. ILLINGWORTH: I have great pleasure in rising to second the motion that has been so ably placed before us. Indeed, it is one of the motions which I had myself intended to bring before the House if the hon. member had not done so. I am, however, very pleased that he has brought it before the House at this early stage. That this country, with its present prospects, should be in possession of at least one diamond drill is a proposition which I think no member of this House will be prepared to dispute. There are so many uses for a drill, there are so many things which can be tested with these diamond drills, that the colony is necessarily far behind the times in not already possessing one; and I hope the Government will receive this motion with the fullest sympathy, and do all they possibly can to give effect to it. The water supply on our goldfields, as has been suggested, can be thoroughly tested by the proper application of these drills, and the solution of that difficulty alone is a question of vital importance. But these drills can be utilised for other purposes than boring for water, and I cannot help thinking that the purchase of them would be one of the best investments which the Government could make.

MR. MORAN: Mr. Speaker—Whilst agreeing with the general idea which is contemplated by this motion, I do not think it would be wise at the present moment to pass it, for this reason: I do not wish to say anything with regard to the Northern part of the colony, but, so far as Coolgardie is concerned, it would be impossible to work a diamond drill on that goldfield. It would be just as well that members should know what they are talking about in a matter of this sort. Before running the colony to a large expenditure it is advisable that we should obtain the opinion of the very best authorities as to the working of these drills, and their adaptability for the work to which it is proposed to put them. I am afraid there is a false impression abroad as to the value of these diamond drills in boring for water. I remember a little incident that occurred at Coolgardie during my election campaign. There was considerable anxiety on the field with regard to the water difficulty; in fact it was becoming a moot question whether the population would not have to quit. A

hastily convened little meeting was got up by a sort of side wind, and it was decided to send an urgent wire to the Government next morning to this effect: "Please forward immediately a diamond drill to Coolgardie." I do not know whether that telegram is on record, but I know it was sent. Next morning I went round to the organiser of the meeting and others who had been concerned in getting it up, and I asked them if they knew what a diamond drill was, and it turned out they had never seen one, nor had the slightest idea what the cost would be, or how it would work. Most members know, or should know, when they introduce a motion of this kind, that it takes hundreds, and perhaps thousands, of gallons of water a day to work a diamond drill; and I ask, where are you going to get such a supply, and keep it up for months, to work a diamond drill at Coolgardie? What I would suggest is that this question should be referred to a select committee, and that this committee should report, say, this day month, and that meanwhile the committee should obtain the opinions of our best known authorities—and there are engineers here now who have been boring ever since boring was first started in Queensland. I remember, when the idea was first started in that colony, how it was pooh-poohed by the older generation of colonists. I believe that at the present time there is a new drill being brought before the world, which is an improvement upon the diamond drill; and there is a gentleman in Perth now, who is able to supply the fullest particulars with regard to this new invention. It does not absorb nearly as much water, nor involve so much labour as the diamond drill. I hope to be in a position, within a week or so, to place full information with regard to it before the Government; and, until then, I think it is rather premature for this House to pass this resolution. Moreover, I am an advocate for such work as this being undertaken by private enterprise, and I am prepared to submit proposals to the Government, from our very best men, for doing this boring on the principle of "no water no pay." There are dozens of small companies, or syndicates, on our goldfields who are ready to make proposals to the Government, and have done so, for boring

for water, if the Government will only give them water rights. This question of water supply is one of the most important questions which the Government of this colony have to solve, not only for the sake of our goldfields, but also for other purposes. I think one of the great problems of the future, and one which perhaps is more worthy of attention than any other scheme at the present time, is the opening up of a stock route from the North right down to Coolgardie, by way of Mt. Margaret and Lake Carey, where good grazing country may be found. Along parts of this route the rainfall is tropical, and we would be more likely to get a water supply there, by boring, than we are in localities where the rainfall is made up of drizzling rains. I do not believe, myself, that true artesian water will be found at Coolgardie itself, to bubble up to the surface in a copious supply, like other parts; but I believe there will be sub-artesian water found there. But, in localities where they have heavy tropical rains, I believe that artesian water will be found in abundance.

After a pause in the debate,

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. H. W. Venn) said: I have been waiting, hoping that some other member would take this matter up.

MR. JAMES: We all believe in it.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. H. W. Venn): "Silence gives consent," I suppose. I would suggest to the mover of the motion that, having now called the attention of the Government to the desirability of giving attention to the subject which the hon. member has in view, he should now withdraw it, and rest satisfied that the Government will take all necessary and proper action in regard to this question of a water supply for our goldfields. The hon. member has spoken about the uses to which the diamond drill can be put; but I feel satisfied in my own mind that the hon. member has not made himself perfectly cognisant with the history of the diamond drill and artesian boring in Australia, or else he would not have spoken so confidently about its success in boring for water. As a matter of fact, nearly the whole of the artesian water found in Australia has been found with drills other than the diamond drill. Where artesian water has been discovered

it has been discovered in strata where the diamond drill could not be successfully utilised. The Government have made every inquiry into the subject, and the most successful boring implement used for that purpose in New South Wales and Queensland has been an implement known as the American pole drill, which is on a similar principle in every way to the Kauffman borer, and is capable of penetrating through very hard rock, and dealing with that kind of country where artesian water is generally found. The diamond drill is more of an implement for testing the existence of mineral deposits, such as coal. It is invaluable for geological purposes, but not adapted for artesian water boring. That being so, I think the hon. member must have lost sight of the fact that the Government, acting on the advice of the most eminent engineers in Victoria, procured a drill, some time ago, that was reported at the time to be one of the most complete machines in Australia—the Kauffman borer, which is at Southern Cross at the present moment, and which we propose to remove to Coolgardie. Members may, perhaps, recollect that some years ago I spoke at some length in this House on the question of boring for water in the Yilgarn district? I then deprecated the proposal that the Government should undertake boring for artesian water there before they attempted first, by other means, to conserve such water as was obtainable from other sources. The House did not agree with my view at the time; and I had to trouble the House with some drawings showing the formation of the country at Southern Cross, and with the Government Geologist's opinion as to the utter improbability of any artesian supply being discovered in that part. It is a noteworthy fact that all the geologists spoken to on the subject have over and over again told us that there is no possible prospect of finding artesian water anywhere in the Southern Cross district. They did not tell us not to try boring; on the contrary, these scientific gentlemen were rather anxious that we should go on boring—not, however, in the expectation of finding water, but for the purpose of establishing our faith in our Government Geologist and in their own scientific predictions, because they were quite satisfied that no other

practical result would follow. That being so, I submit that in the face of this consensus of scientific opinion, the Government would require to have a great deal of confidence in their own opinion, and very little faith in the opinion of their own Geologist, if they acted in direct opposition to the views of these scientific men. Outside that question, members must know that the Government have already expended a large sum of money in boring for water at Southern Cross, but that work has now ceased, and I may inform the House that instructions have already been issued for the removal of the Kauffman borer—which is eminently suited for testing for artesian water where it is likely to be found—to Coolgardie, where the Government intend to bore for water to a greater depth than we have ever done hitherto. We have had the assurance of engineers that for the particular kind of country where boring for an artesian supply is likely to be attended with success, we could not have a better machine than this Kauffman borer. At any rate, the Government have given instructions for the removal of the borer to Coolgardie, and we have done so practically on the advice of Mr. Jobson, who, as members are aware, has had a great deal of experience in connection with this water question. Although Mr. Jobson does not give us very much hope of finding artesian water, he thinks it possible (and Mr. Göczel also thinks it possible) we may find deep fresh water,—not water that will rise spontaneously to the surface, but a supply that can be pumped; and it is with this object in view that the Government have given orders for the removal to Coolgardie of this expensive implement, for it is an expensive implement. It has already cost us £10,000 in boring at Southern Cross, and without success. The hon. member will see that the Government have an immediate intention of making a further test for artesian water, or at any rate underground water, at Coolgardie, with a machine that is admirably adapted for the purpose. That being so, I do not think there is any urgent necessity for the Government to further increase their expenditure by purchasing a diamond drill, which would not be as suitable for boring for artesian water, however useful it may be for geological

purposes. I do not say that the Government would altogether disapprove of the idea of purchasing a diamond drill for that purpose, though I would myself recommend that the Government should treat for this work being done by private enterprise. I may say that the Government have had this in mind; and, when the Loan Bill is brought in, members will see that the subject has not escaped our attention. As I have said, I do not think it would be a wise thing for the Government themselves, at the present moment, in view of what they are doing, and intend doing, with the view of providing a water supply for our goldfields, to invest in one of these diamond drills; the smallest of them costs about £1,800, and they run up to from £3,000 to £5,000, without taking into consideration the cost of transport; so that they are a very expensive luxury to have anything to do with. Having brought the matter before the House, and having heard what the intentions of the Government are, I think the hon. member might withdraw his motion. I feel sure the House is satisfied that the Government will take all necessary action for the procuration of artesian water and testing for minerals when the time arrives.

MR. MONGER: I feel more than ever in favour of the motion after hearing the very wise argument of the Commissioner of Railways, who has been good enough to tell us that this diamond drill is a most expensive luxury to have anything to do with, costing as it does from £3,000 to £5,000. But, a little before that, he told us that the Kauffman borer had cost the Government upwards of £10,000; therefore, taking the hon. gentleman's own figures, I contend it would be far more economical, and more in the interest of the community generally, to have one of these diamond drills, which can go to a depth of several thousand feet, and which will cost one-half the amount of money that the little toy we now have in the colony has cost us, although it has only gone to a depth of a few hundred feet. We have had that Kauffman borer in the colony ever since the earliest days of Southern Cross, and I believe it has now got out about half-way between Southern Cross and Coolgardie, and some day or other we may expect it to reach Coolgardie. If we wish to

push these goldfields ahead—and we are not dealing with Coolgardie alone, for this resolution deals with our goldfields generally—we must not leave a stone unturned to provide them with a permanent supply of water. I have no desire or intention to recapitulate the arguments which the mover of the resolution made use of, nor to say anything that will detract from the confidence which the House and the country has in the hon. gentleman who holds such a high position as that of Commissioner of Railways and Director of Public Works; but, if this motion goes to a division, I shall support it on the grounds that it is not intended to benefit Coolgardie alone, but other fields as well, and I consider there are other goldfields in the colony that are likely to be found to give a far greater return by the introduction of the diamond drill than Coolgardie is likely to do.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest): Everyone seems to desire that we should get a diamond drill, and then everything would be satisfactory on our goldfields. That seems to be the idea. I have no doubt that diamond drills are excellent tools, but the fact remains that they are not usually used for boring for water. I am aware that that statement may be questioned, and, if it can, of course I shall be glad to have the information. But I know this, I took some interest in the matter when in the other colonies some time ago, and I consulted the Diamond Drill Superintendents both at Sydney and Melbourne on the subject; and the information I got was that the diamond drill had not been used for boring for water in any of the other colonies, and that the tool used was the Canadian pole drill, which is similar to the Kauffman. The reasons, I understand, for not using the diamond drill are: the cost of the diamonds, the great care necessary in using the drill, and its unsuitability for going through any strata where there is grit. It is an excellent borer, I believe, in hard and solid strata; but when it comes to grit it is very difficult indeed to handle. I was informed by the Superintendent in Melbourne that it took 1,500 gallons of fresh water a day for working one of these drills, so that it means a great expense in localities where there is no fresh water

to be had unless you conserve it or condense it. Altogether, there seem to be a great many objections to it. At the same time I am sure that in this colony we shall never be satisfied, or satisfy the public, until we get one of these diamond drills to work. There seems to be an impression abroad that you have only to go far enough down to be certain of obtaining fresh water that will rise to the surface, though geologists say you would have to go miles for it. I do not believe, myself, that either at Southern Cross or Coolgardie you will ever get artesian water—that is, water that will flow to the top as it does in the neighbourhood of the Victoria and the Darling rivers. For that reason I do not think there is any great hurry for the Government to go to any large expense for these drills. The resolution put forward by the hon. member is a general one, extending from one end of the colony to the other, and it would cost a great many thousands of pounds, I suppose, to carry it out. As I have said, I do not believe you would ever find artesian water on our Eastern goldfields, and we have already constructed a great many dams for conserving rain-water there. On the Murchison, although they have not a very large supply of water in some parts, still I believe they can get a good supply by going a little way down; and they do not want a diamond drill there. As my friend the Director of Public Works has told you, we propose to send the Kauffman borer to Coolgardie, because there is a chance of its doing good work there. Both Mr. Jobson and Mr. Wadell, who have had large experience in boring, think that this borer will be able to go through the rock at Coolgardie a depth of 2,000ft. or 3,000ft. The reason it was not so successful as we desired at Southern Cross was that the rock there is harder than at Coolgardie, and the bits belonging to the borer were not very good. Just as the work stopped, owing to insufficient water, the bits had worn out; but Mr. Wadell thinks that with a little alteration in the machine he will be able to sink a good depth at Coolgardie. Having this machine here, and in good order, why not try it, if it can be got down a depth of 2,000ft. or 3,000ft., instead of incurring the great expense of getting a diamond drill? The only superiority of the

diamond drill is that it will go through very hard ground.

MR. ILLINGWORTH: And test the ground at the same time.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest): I don't think that is any argument; I do not think we need test the ground, or go to the expense of a diamond drill to test the ground.

MR. CONNOR: We want to test the ground for petroleum.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest): No one is a greater advocate for boring than I have been, but I hesitate to go against the opinion of geologists who have studied the question, and all of whom say we shall never find artesian water at Coolgardie. Only the other day, Mr. Reginald Murray, the Government Geologist of Victoria, who visited that district, expressed the same opinion—not to me, but I believe to others—that there was no chance whatever of finding artesian water on that field. If members, however, are bent upon spending a large amount of money in connection with these drills, in the face of the Government and of the Government Geologist, the responsibility will rest with them. I am not prepared, myself, to recommend that we should at the present moment go to this large expenditure, when we have this Kauffman borer that will go down 3,000ft., and is now on its way to the goldfields. Why not give it a fair trial before we embark in this large expenditure for a diamond drill? It would cost £30 or £40 a day for water to keep it going at Coolgardie, which of itself is a considerable item. Still, I am positive, whatever we say, the public will never be satisfied until we put one of these drills down. But there is no need to hurry until we see the result of the Kauffman borer, and I think the House may leave the matter in the hands of the Government for a little while longer, to see what we can do.

MR. RANDELL: I am quite sure that all members are desirous of doing all they can for our goldfields, but I think the resolution moved by the hon. member for East Kimberley will take us too far altogether. We do not know how many drills we require, nor where they may be required, and we may put the country to an expense of which we have no conception at the present moment. I am

not quite sure that the Government have done all they might have done to procure water on our goldfields in the past; I am inclined to think, from the evidence before us, they have not; but, whether that is correct or not, I do not think that at the present moment we should put the Government of the colony to any such expenditure as this motion may involve us in. I believe they are now using their best endeavours to obtain and conserve water, and, after the explanation which has been given by the Director of Public Works and the Premier, I think we should be satisfied to leave the matter in their hands, to do the best they can with the means at their disposal, and under the best advice. From what we read and hear, it appears to me that the evidence for and against the suitability and success of diamond drills is about evenly balanced; and, before we commit ourselves to any large expenditure in boring we should certainly have some consideration for the expressed opinion of experts in this matter. Apparently the balance of scientific opinion is that we have no great reservoirs of water in the interior of this country likely to give us an artesian supply. I have arrived at that conclusion myself without any special knowledge of the question, but after reading what I have on the subject, and on the experiments made in other places, and particularly in Paris. I think the formation of the country here is discouraging to the idea that we have an underground supply of water that will come to the surface. I think that by means of tanks and dams, and also by using the borer already in the hands of the Government, with discretion and judgment under the direction of men qualified to use it, the Government are doing all that can be reasonably expected of them in the direction of obtaining a water supply. I hope they will continue their efforts with the borer which they have available, and which we are told is a good one, and cost a large sum of money, and that it will be given a fair trial before we commit the country to the expenditure of purchasing half-a-dozen diamond drills, with the attendant expense of keeping them going. I understand they cannot be used without a very large supply of fresh water, which seems to indicate that they would be perfectly

useless at Coolgardie, where there is not a sufficient supply of water for the ordinary use of the people there. I shall certainly support the Government in this matter, that we should leave the matter in their hands at present, to do the best they can to provide a more abundant water supply, and I only hope that the mover of the motion will be willing to withdraw it, in consideration of the promise of the Government to do all in their power in the way of providing water for the goldfields of the colony?

MR. CONNOR: It seems to me that the only argument used by those who have spoken against my motion is, that because a few scientific experts say that there is no artesian water at Coolgardie we do not require a diamond drill in this colony at all. If members will only read the motion they will see that it covers a wider area than Coolgardie. The Director of Public Works has told us that we already have a machine superior to the diamond drill. But I should like to hear what the results have been from this machine in the past, notwithstanding an expenditure of £10,000 in connection with it. It has not found any water, nor gone down deeper than 300ft. We want a borer that will go down 3,000ft.; and, with all due deference to the opinions of experts, I submit that the only drill capable of doing that on our goldfields is the diamond drill. As I have already said, this drill is useful for other purposes than boring for water. Looking, however, at the fact that the Ministry are opposed to the motion, and other members who have spoken, including the leader of the Opposition, I suppose it is no use pressing it, and that I shall have to withdraw it. But I believe I had ample ground for bringing the motion forward, and I believe the time will come when my foresight in this matter will be appreciated at a higher rate than it seems to be at present. Sir, I beg to withdraw the motion.

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

CORRESPONDENCE RE PRIVATE OFFERS FOR CONSTRUCTING GOLDFIELDS RAILWAYS.

MR. LEAKE, in accordance with notice, moved, "That in the opinion of this House it is desirable that all papers and correspondence relating to the various

offers which have lately been made to construct railways to the goldfields, be laid upon the table, particularly Mr. Lush's offer to construct a line to the Murchison goldfields, and Mr. Sylvester Browne and Mr. Tweedie's offer, or the offer of other persons, to construct a line to Coolgardie." The hon. member said there was no necessity for him to dwell upon the motion, as the Premier had already expressed his willingness to lay the papers on the table. This was not the time to enlarge upon the advantages of the subject matter of the resolution, and, until all the correspondence was on the table, he did not intend to say any more, beyond moving the motion in his name.

Motion put and passed.

PAPERS RE APPOINTMENT OF MR. EDWARDS AS VETERINARY SURGEON.

MR. COOKWORTHY, in accordance with notice, moved, "That there be laid on the table any papers that may be connected with the appointment of Mr. Edwards as Veterinary Surgeon, showing the date and duration of his appointment, the remuneration which he receives, and the instructions issued to him as to the duties which he is to perform; and also any reports received from him in connection with such instructions." The hon. member said he had been asked by several of the settlers in his district to bring this matter forward, as they were very anxious to know what was being done by this Veterinary Surgeon in the matter of investigating the disease called rickets, its prevention and cure. So far as he was aware, no reports had yet been made public from this gentleman, and no one seemed to know what the results of his inquiries had been. Certainly those who were most interested in the question had heard nothing about the matter, and he thought it was very desirable they should know what instructions had been issued to this gentleman as to the duties he was to perform, and whether he was carrying out those instructions.

MR. R. F. SHOLL said he had much pleasure in supporting the motion. This gentleman was one of the highly paid officials whom the Government had lately procured, but, unlike some of the excellent appointments made, he was afraid this could not be classed in that category.

This gentleman, he believed, had been in the service of the Government nearly twelve months, and he had not yet seen any report from him. So far as he could learn, this veterinary surgeon, who was supposed to be investigating a cattle disease known as rickets, spent his time in the town, and expected people to bring their diseased cattle into town, from long distances, for him to examine them. One gentleman residing on the Blackwood told him (Mr. Sholl) that he got some cattle in for examination, and yarded them for this gentleman to come and inspect them, but, after waiting in vain, he turned them out again, and was told by this gentleman to bring his cattle into town. He did not think that was right from a public officer to whom the colony was paying £600 a year, and who ought to travel about the country investigating this disease. He thought the Government, when they engaged public officers, and paid them high salaries, should see that they performed their duties. He did not believe, from what he heard, that this gentleman was doing his duty. Possibly, as the result of this motion, the Southern people would be able to get the benefit of his investigations by the publication of his reports (if he had made any) in the public press.

MR. A. FORREST thought he was, perhaps, as good an expert on rickets as this gentleman who was receiving £600 a year. The cause of it was the poverty of the soil. If those whose cattle were affected were to get the Government to introduce some of the rich grasses from the district he had the honour to represent, Kimberley, there would be no necessity to provide for the services of a veterinary surgeon, and pay him this high salary. It was well known that where the grass and the feed were good there was no such thing as rickets; and, in his opinion, we would never put a stop to the disease in the Southern districts, because the grass in some parts of those districts was not sustaining enough to keep stock in good condition. He thought it was monstrous that a young fellow, who, because he came over here with good credentials, should be pitchforked into a good billet with £600 a year, and all his expenses. [THE PREMIER: He pays his own expenses.] It was said this gentleman spent the greater portion

of his time in town, which was absurd. Nobody seemed to know what he was doing, for no reports from him had been seen by the public. He would support the motion, so that they might see what he had done for his £600 a year. He did not believe that if this gentleman were to continue his investigations for the next five years he would be able to do away with the wobbles, unless some arrangement were made for transporting the Southern cattle to the Kimberley district, or somewhere where there was plenty of good grass and good feed.

MR. CLARKSON did not think that we required a veterinary surgeon to tell us what caused the rickets in cattle. It was well known to all who considered the subject that the disease was caused by cattle eating the palm.

THE COMMISSIONER OF RAILWAYS (Hon. H. W. Venn) said that, as chairman of the Rickets Commission appointed some years ago, he should like to say a few words. Unlike the hon. member for West Kimberley, he did not profess to know much about the disease, although the report made by the Commission he had referred to had been spoken very highly of by eminent veterinary surgeons in the other colonies, and that the evidence collected had thrown such a light on the subject that it was now ripe for scientific investigation. The hon. member for West Kimberley, who said he knew all about the rickets, told them that the cause of it was the poverty of the soil, that it was never known to affect cattle in districts where there was plenty of grass, and that it was confined to the Southern portions of the colony. That was not correct. The disease had occurred in all parts of the colony, from the Arrowsmith right down to below Cape Leeuwin. They all knew there were no palms at the Arrowsmith; yet, another hon. member said the disease was caused by cattle eating the palm. As a matter of fact, it had been shown over and over again that cattle got it where there are no palms within miles. The whole thing was shrouded in mystery. The action taken by the Government in appointing a veterinary surgeon to investigate the disease was taken upon the strong recommendations made to them by a number of settlers at the South; and the Govern-

ment appointed a gentleman of whose ability they had no cause to doubt. His (Mr. Venn's) own opinion—and he had expressed it elsewhere, and it had been endorsed by veterinary surgeons in Victoria and New South Wales—was that to find out the actual cause of the disease would take many years of patient and scientific investigation, and that we could not expect any man, however well qualified, to put his finger upon it immediately. We must not be too impatient, and expect too much from this gentleman. The disease appeared to be spreading throughout the colony, and it was most important that the cause of it should be discovered, and if possible, an antidote. Personally, he did not know what Mr. Edwards's instructions were, as the matter did not concern his department; but if it was a fact, as had been stated, that he required people to bring their cattle to him, into town, it was entirely a mistake, for it was his duty to make his investigations on the spot where the affected cattle were running, and he should be on the spot as soon as practicable after the first symptom of the disease made its appearance. The hon. member for West Kimberley oracularly informed them that all that was required to prevent cattle from getting the rickets was plenty of grass. Probably the hon. member was not aware that they had the rickets in Queensland, one of the richest grass countries in the world; and that the disease was now forming the subject of a scientific investigation in that colony.

MR. RANDELL said he knew nothing about rickets himself, and he was fain to accept the advice given by the Director of Public Works, who had considerable knowledge of the subject. He had read, with a great deal of interest, the report of the Agricultural Commission of which the hon. gentleman was chairman, and no doubt, with his experience, he must be regarded as some authority on the subject. It appeared that the origin of the disease had not yet been ascertained, but a veterinary surgeon had been appointed to investigate the question,—a gentleman, he presumed, of scientific attainments and of considerable experience. At any rate, the Government were satisfied as to his professional knowledge and skill, and he

thought members ought not to reflect upon this gentleman's capabilities until at any rate they had his report before them, giving the result of his inquiries.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) said of course these papers would be laid on the table. He did not know how many reports had been received from Mr. Edwards; he had seen one himself, and no doubt there were others. What he wished to refer to was the observations made by some hon. members with regard to the appointment. He thought it had been made before last session; at any rate it was made at the urgent request of the people of the Southern districts, who brought a great deal of pressure to bear upon the Government in the matter. The Government, he might say, did not require much pressure, because they were aware of the great ravages which this disease was making amongst cattle in those districts. It was pointed out to the Government that there was a veterinary surgeon from Victoria at that time in the colony who was eminently qualified to examine into the disease, and it was suggested that the Government should engage his services. He entered into communication with the Government of Victoria as to this gentleman's qualification, and he found that he was a duly qualified veterinary surgeon, who had obtained his diplomas, and that he had received a proper training in his profession. An agreement was thereupon made with him for one year, at £600 a year, he to pay his own expenses, except in cases where he had to travel to some far distant places. After all, he did not think that £600 was an enormous sum to pay a professional man for one year, to come to the colony and stay here. This gentleman, he believed, had a practice in Melbourne, and had to make arrangements with regard to it. At any rate the Government thought that £600 was not out of the way, and they engaged him for one year at that salary; and he had no reason to doubt his ability to carry out what he had undertaken. He thought if, instead of £600, they spent £6,000 in finding out the cause of this disease and how to prevent it, they would be doing right in the interests of the colony. Hundreds and thousands of cattle along the sea-coast country between here and the Vasse, and

along the Warren country, had been affected by this disease. He did not know the cause of it, but he was sure it was not the poverty of the soil. He believed it was something which the cattle eat, and very likely it was the palm. At any rate that seemed to be the conclusion which this gentleman had arrived at in the report he (the Premier) had seen, so far as his investigations had then gone. He only hoped that the final result of his investigations would be that not only would we find out the cause of this terrible scourge, but also an antidote for it. If we did, all he could say was that the money spent would be very beneficially spent in the interests of the country.

MR. R. F. SHOLL: You will have to change your man.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest): I don't know why. You cannot say anything against him.

Motion put and passed.

BANKERS' BOOK EVIDENCE BILL.

Read a third time, and transmitted to the Legislative Council.

ADJOURNMENT.

The House adjourned at eight minutes past 6 o'clock, p.m.

Legislative Council,

Thursday, 9th August, 1894.

Reservation of Lands for Homestead Leases—Coolgardie Water Supply—Mullewa Railway: Working of—Defence Forces Bill: committee—Bankers' Books Evidence Bill: first reading—Adjournment.

THE PRESIDENT (Hon. Sir G. Shenton) took the chair at 4'30 o'clock p.m.

PRAYERS.

RESERVATION OF LANDS FOR HOMESTEAD LEASES.

THE HON. H. MCKERNAN asked the Colonial Secretary, (1) If the Government