

was sure, be always prepared to grant a certificate when called upon to do so.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) said his attention had been called lately to the fearful rate of infant mortality in some of the other colonies, and notably in the city of Melbourne, and there had been much newspaper correspondence on the subject, public feeling being alive to the necessity of legislation on the subject. This bill—it was no use mincing matters—would only affect those unnatural parents who culpably neglected their infants; it was not likely at all to trouble honest parents. There was a class—he need hardly refer to them—to whom their infants were a burden rather than otherwise, and he thought the House would be doing its duty in throwing what protection it could over the lives of illegitimate as well as legitimate children. The bill might require amending in committee, but the intention was a good one; and he hoped no objection would be offered to the second reading.

MR. BURT wished only to say that a bill having for its object the reduction of the rate of infant mortality would have his support; but, so far as the machinery for effecting that object went, it would require very different machinery from this to effect anything at all like that object. So far as he could see, it provided no machinery at all; there was no provision at all made for anyone giving notice of the death of an infant, so that an inquest, if necessary, might be held, and, so far as this bill went, nobody need know that an infant had died. Deaths, he believed, were never recorded here in the usual way until the burial took place, and the undertaker reported it. To have an inquest then would necessitate the body being exhumed, which would not be very pleasant, in every case where no medical certificate had been obtained. Possibly the bill might be improved in committee, but at present it appeared to him a useless bill, however good its object and intention.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read second time.

QUARANTINE BILL, 1888.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. C. N. Warton), in moving the second

reading of a bill to amend the law respecting quarantine, said the bill, in all its essential provisions, was the same bill as that which was brought forward last year, with one exception, as regards the fees payable under it, and who had to pay them. It was proposed to make the remuneration to be paid a medical officer for his services in charge of quarantined persons two guineas per diem, and to make the owner of the ship liable.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

The House adjourned at a quarter to ten o'clock, p.m.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Friday, 26th October, 1888.

“Surgical Instruments” vote and a Volunteer Encampment lunch—Reduction of Export Duty on Pearl Shells—Scab Act, 1885, Amendment Bill: first reading—Petitions—Water Boring Machinery for Goldfields—Cable Message to Secretary of State re Loan of £200,000—Merchandise Marks Bill: re-committed—Bank Holidays Act Amendment Bill: in committee—Poor Houses Discipline Bill: in committee—Adjournment.

THE SPEAKER took the Chair at seven o'clock, p.m.

PRAYERS.

“SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS” VOTE AND A VOLUNTEER LUNCHEON.

MR. SHOLL: Sir,—With leave, without notice, I desire to ask the Colonial Secretary whether his attention has been drawn to a letter which appeared in the *West Australian* yesterday, over the signature “Richard S. Haynes,” in which the writer states that on the occasion of a Volunteer encampment at Bullen’s, last year, a dinner was given to His Excellency the Governor, and that a voucher for the payment of the expenses so incurred was given, but, as no money was

available out of the Volunteer vote, the amount was paid out of the vote for "Surgical Instruments." I don't for a moment ask this question thinking that such was the case—there must be some mistake, for I cannot very well see how that could be done unless there was collusion between the Governor, or the Colonial Secretary, the Auditor General, the head of the Volunteer department, and all who are responsible for the carrying out of the votes of this House. Yet, I think it is a pity that an assertion of this kind, where the name of the writer is given publicly, should go uncontradicted; and, for that reason, I ask the question. If the Colonial Secretary would rather that I should give notice, I will of course do so.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser): As a rule, sir, it is very desirable that hon. members should give notice when they propose to ask a question, but as the answer to this one really involves no consideration or thought, I am prepared to say at once that there is no foundation—in fact, there cannot be—to the statement referred to. The hon. member knows very well that under the working of the present form of Government and the Audit Act, it is impossible, impracticable. I may draw his attention to a question that the hon. member himself asked in this House, on the 29th March last, relative to this Volunteer encampment, when he asked for particulars of the sum of £161 unexpended out of the Volunteer vote for Easter Encampment as shown in Suspense Account, and for particulars of the sum of £156 expended out of the vote provided for the same purpose on the Estimates for 1887. I gave the hon. member these particulars, showing the circumstances under which this charge was made in connection with the entertainment or banquet referred to. The person who wrote the letter to the newspaper has been misinformed, and the whole statement is entirely without foundation; there is not a scintilla of truth in it.

REDUCTION OF EXPORT DUTY ON PEARL SHELLS.

MR. BURT (for Mr. Richardson) asked the Colonial Secretary whether the Gov-

ernment had any intention of reducing the export duty on pearl shells for the ensuing year?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) said the Government had no intention, at present, of proposing any reduction of the existing duty on pearl shells.

SCAB ACT, 1885, AMENDMENT BILL.

Read a first time.

PETITION (No. 2): PRIVATE BILL.

MR. PARKER presented a petition from the Chairman of the Standing Committee of the Synod of the Church of England, praying for leave to introduce a private bill.

Petition received, and laid on the table.

PETITION (No. 3): GOLDFIELDS REGULATION.

MR. MARMION presented a petition from a number of prospectors on the Eastern districts goldfields, praying for an amendment of the additional regulation of 1st October, 1888.

The petition was received and read, and ordered to be printed.

WATER BORING MACHINERY FOR THE GOLDFIELDS.

MR. KEANE: Sir, in speaking to the motion standing in my name—"That an humble address be presented to His Excellency the Governor, praying that he will be pleased to place on the Estimates for 1889 a sufficient sum of money to provide a thoroughly efficient water boring machine for the purpose of boring for fresh water in such parts of the colony as may be deemed advisable"—I hope the Government will not think that I brought it forward in any spirit of antagonism. Far from it. I am perfectly aware of the financial troubles they are already in, and I only wish they could see some means to get out of them. At the same time, I trust that the Government, and also the members of this House, will look at this matter from a practical and common sense point of view. As we are all aware, a goldfield upwards of 100 miles square has been declared—whether the area or the form in which it has been declared is right or

not, I am not going to say anything about it at the present time—but one thing is patent to all of us, that goldfields have been discovered, I may say, throughout the whole length of that area. We have Golden Valley on the north, Southern Cross 37 miles to the south, and now we have Mr. Parker's new find some 35 miles to the southward of that. Of course I take it for granted that when the Government declared this goldfield they were satisfied it was a payable goldfield, or else they would not have proclaimed it. Now, sir, within thirty days of the present time, or less, it will be absolutely necessary—unless that petition which has been presented by the hon. member for Fremantle should be assented to by the Governor—it will be necessary for the present holders of prospecting rights to work their claims under the present goldfield regulations; and what does that mean, if it is to do the colony any good? It simply means that the present population on these goldfields must be increased tenfold, and I would ask the Government, if so, is it possible, under what has already been done by them in the way of water conservation, or under whatever arrangements they are at present making for the future—I ask is it possible that these regulations can be carried out? I would ask the House to reflect for a moment whether it can be done—I am perfectly certain myself it is impossible. In order to strengthen the arguments I wish to bring forward in connection with this motion of mine, I would ask hon. members to listen to me for a few moments while I tell them what the Government have already done in this matter. A few months ago a deputation waited upon the Governor with respect to this question of a water supply, and it resulted in a committee being appointed, and they had a paltry sum of £500 placed at their disposal. They had also a wretched old boring machine given to them, with a thoroughly practical engineer and fitter to work this machine. This committee consisted of Mr. Colreavy, Mr. Lukin, and Mr. Adams; and I must say myself, from what I saw on the occasion of my recent visit to the goldfields, that I think these gentlemen deserve the gratitude of the miners for the way they have carried out their duties. At the same time I must

say I do not know why these gentlemen should have been called upon to do work that ought to be done by the Public Works Department. Since then, I am advised, the Government have done away with the services of this water committee, and transferred their duty to the newly appointed Warden. We all know this Warden is a most estimable gentleman, but what knowledge he has of dam-sinking or well-sinking, or water conservation, I for one don't know. Three months ago, I think, the Government sent the General Manager of Railways and Maintenance Engineer to visit these goldfields. This gentleman reported generally upon matters on the field, and the result—and of the representations of another deputation—was that the Government agreed to spend another small amount of money (£1,000), and we have just had it voted on the Supplementary Estimates. With regard to the boring machine, I understand it was worked to a depth of 70ft., when Mr. Raeside, who is in charge, informed the committee that it was thoroughly useless to attempt going any further, as the machine was no good for that class of ground. The consequence was that the boring was abandoned, and this gentleman, a thoroughly practical engineer and fitter, was put in charge of a party of pick and shovel men, sinking for wells and dams. Subsequently he was brought back to Perth, for the purpose of fitting up a Tiffin boring machine which the Government had got at Fremantle. I am advised that this machine was in a fit condition, on his arrival, to be sent to the goldfields, and I should like to know how long it took to put that machine in order,—doubtless the Director of Public Works will be able to inform us; also where it is now, and when it is likely to arrive on the goldfields. Two things I am satisfied about: one is that machines of that sort ought always to be kept in order, ready for any time they may be required—I may be wrong in my statement that it was out of order; and, in the next place, I am perfectly satisfied that this very machine will give very little satisfaction when it comes to be worked, and that it is a machine that requires to be very close to a workshop, for repairs. Now, I would ask hon. members if they will consider what is to

become of the miners at Golden Valley and at Parker's find while this machine is being worked at Southern Cross. Also, what is to become of the people at Southern Cross while the machine is putting down the bore there,—for I am satisfied it will take two or three months to put the bore down, if they have to go a depth of 400ft. or 500ft. This statement is pretty well borne out by the proposal laid on the table of this House the other evening, emanating from some gentlemen who offer to bore for artesian water in this colony. I ask hon. members what the result will be? The result will be, in my opinion, that the people will have to clear out of these goldfields, and the declaration of the place as a goldfield will be a farce. I am afraid it will be said that the Government are not capable of coping with such a matter as this, and that poor Western Australia will again, as she has before, become the laughing-stock of the adjoining colonies. Now, sir, for my part—and I think every member will agree with me—I am of opinion that it is the duty of this House to do the best it can for these goldfields, because there can be no question about it—these goldfields of ours have been shown and proved, by practical men, to be, this time, real goldfields, and no mistake about it. We have something this time that is really worth looking at, and worth spending money upon; and I think it is highly advisable that this House should show outside capitalists and others that we ourselves are satisfied of this, and that we are prepared to show our belief in these goldfields by spending some money upon them. It is no use our thinking to get other people to come here to spend money in this way unless we show that we are spending money ourselves, and have faith in these goldfields of ours. This we cannot do better than by spending it in finding a sufficient water supply. In South Australia, when they discovered the Teetulpa goldfields, the same difficulty arose there as with us with regard to water; and what did the South Australian Government do? They actually carried the water by railway for miles and miles, and, not content with that, they afterwards conveyed it from the railway terminus to the fields. Again, we find the South Australian Government

has spent within the last few years upwards of a quarter of a million of money in water boring and water conservation in various parts of that colony; and the Queensland Government, within the last month or two, let a contract of £50,000 for water-boring. I know some hon. members will say that was done for the purpose of improving the pastoral lands, and that we are not in a position to spend money in that way here. Doubtlessly, we are not. At the same time, I am perfectly satisfied that if we spend some money in drawing people to our goldfields, we shall not be long before we shall be able to find money for improving our pastoral lands. Therefore I would ask members to give this matter their careful consideration, and see whether it is not possible to devise some means by which the money can be found, without having to wait until the motion which the hon. member for the Vasse is about to move this evening has been carried—as I am sure it will be; for it will be some length of time before we get that loan money, after it is carried, and, meantime, we want some means to carry out this most important work. If it were to be decided upon by this House to go in and raise £50,000 for the purpose of obtaining a supply of water for these goldfields, the country, I am sure, would back the House in that, whether the money be got by means of Treasury bonds or any other means. I would, therefore, ask the House to entertain this motion, which I think would do more to develop our goldfields and advance the colony than anything just at the present time.

MR. SHENTON: Sir, in considering this motion I think all hon. members must acknowledge that it deals with an important question and one that should be taken in hand at once by this Council. As to whether it was a wise course on the part of the Government to declare Yilgarn and the adjoining district a goldfield, that is a matter of opinion. I think, myself, they should have deferred the matter until at least they had ensured a proper water supply for those parties who may be going out to test these fields, more especially as they knew the summer months were coming on. However, the Government have declared this goldfield, and it is the duty of the members of this House to come forward to press upon the

Government the necessity of doing something in the way of arriving at a supply of water. The hon. member who has just spoken has referred to the first borer sent to the field as not being suitable for the work, and of the consequent delay and expenditure in sending the Tiffin borer up there. From what information has come to hand, I am afraid that even this Tiffin borer will not be a success, and, if so, it will cause more delay, again. I understand from very reliable authority that the course adopted by the Governments of the other colonies in boring for water is, not to undertake this work themselves, but to enter into a contract with some company or companies that are prepared to undertake this kind of work. There was a gentleman here a few days ago who represented one of the largest of these companies, the "Federal," which at the present time have contracts for a very large amount of this kind of work with the Governments of the other colonies; and I believe, from what I was informed, they were prepared to enter into a contract with this Government. The advantages of this contract system is that you know exactly what the cost of boring will be, as these companies agree to bore at so much per foot, until they come to water, whereas if we were to undertake the work ourselves, we have no one here who thoroughly understands the work, and there is no knowing what it would cost us, and the Tiffin borer, I hear on very good authority, is not suitable for the Yilgarn country. Such being the case I intend, with the consent of the hon. member for Geraldton, to add a few words to his motion, putting it in the alternative, by inserting the words "or to contract with some company or companies to bore for fresh water at a fixed rate per foot." That will leave two courses open to the Government to adopt, either to bore for water themselves or enter into a contract with some of these boring companies. I feel sure myself that the latter course would be the far more economical one for the Government to adopt. As to the question of how the money is to be raised if we find that the Secretary of State will not consent to the proposed extra loan, I think we may fairly ask him to allow us to issue Treasury bills for an amount that would be sufficient to provide either for the cost of a borer or to pay the amount

that would be required by contractors. One thing is very certain—unless the Government do something at once to provide a supply of fresh water for the Yilgarn goldfields, these fields will collapse; and the injury that will be done to Western Australia by such a misfortune as the collapse of these goldfields would be such that it would take at least a century to recover from it.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser): I only rise, sir, to say that there can be no objection to the request of the hon. member, as contained in this address, if the practical difficulty as to providing the necessary funds can be overcome. This, to my mind, is somewhat doubtful. The hon. member for Toodyay has made an appeal to the House, and other hon. members have done it, pointing out the requirements of the goldfields in the way of a water supply, and the Government is asked to provide this water supply. I have on many previous occasions in this House dwelt upon the somewhat peculiar training which the people of this colony have had, in the custom which has prevailed of looking to the Government for everything. Whether in matters of national concern, or of social concern, or of individual concern, the practice of the past has been to fly either to the Legislature or to the Government to extricate them out of any difficulty; and I am afraid that the present motion is to some extent the outcome of this peculiar training. This House must know that the Government has only at its disposal such funds as are placed there for particular purposes, and that the Audit Act is very stringent with regard to the appropriation of those funds. With regard to this question of finding a water supply for our goldfields, that is a matter which, in the first instance, —so far as finding the water necessary for the sustenance of life upon the goldfields is concerned—is certainly the duty of the State; that is to say, it is the duty of the State to endeavor, so far as practicable, not to lead men to the goldfields where there may not be enough water to sustain life among the working population in the field. But, beyond that, I question very much, in a colony conditioned as this is, how far the duty of the State goes, or whether it should go beyond it at all—whether it does not

then become a matter of private enterprise. It may be said that the success or non-success of the companies or syndicates who are engaged in testing these fields depends upon the water supply—no doubt of it; but, in my humble opinion, beyond providing water for the sustenance of life, the duty of discovering the necessary supply for mining operations is a matter for private enterprise rather than for the State. The Government has done all that laid in its power in this matter. It has already contributed towards this object, and this House has just confirmed another vote of £1,000, for the prosecution of this search for water, and its conservation. Hon. members are well aware that the Government have not a full chest to go to, and they should hesitate before they come forward with propositions leading to serious charges upon the resources of the colony, already strained to their utmost, and ask the Government to provide funds for finding water for the benefit of private individuals, firms, or companies in their efforts to develop certain mines or reefs which they have secured possession of. I would ask hon. members to bear in mind what I have stated, for, although there can be no objection to the motion of the hon. member in the abstract, I am doubtful myself that the funds can be found just now to give it practical effect.

MR. SCOTT: After the statement that has just been made by the Colonial Secretary, sir, one would be almost led to believe that the discovery and development of goldfields in our midst is simply a matter of private concern, in no way affecting the Government of the country. For years past the feeling has been expressed in this House that the discovery of a payable goldfield was about the only thing that was likely to make this colony go ahead, and to give an impetus to every other industry; and the question arises, having discovered these goldfields, are we to allow them to collapse, for the simple want of a little State aid? The success of these goldfields does not mean the success of those who take up reefs and work them, and spend their money and their time in developing them; it means also the vast development of every industry in the colony. I maintain that the Government were not justified in proclaiming these goldfields, and in going

to the expense which they have already incurred, and in providing machinery for the control of these fields, unless they knew that a permanent supply of water would be available, not only for drinking purposes but for other purposes as well. If I understand the hon. member for Geraldton rightly, what he asks is that the Government will be pleased to place a sufficient sum on the Estimates to provide a thoroughly efficient machine for the purpose of boring for fresh water in such parts of the colony as may be deemed advisable. That seems to me to be a sufficiently broad proposition. It is not limited to the discovery of water at Yilgarn. This boring machine would be available for any other goldfields in any other part of the colony; and, for my part, I think it is a thoroughly national undertaking, and a most desirable one, and not only desirable but absolutely necessary; and I cannot help thinking that the proposal deserves the most careful consideration of the Government as to how it should be done. I may here say that when the hon. member for Plantagenet the other evening brought forward his motion asking the Government to increase the vote for roads, I did not oppose it out of any feeling of jealousy, but simply out of consideration for this motion of the hon. member for Geraldton, as I regard this question of the development of our goldfields by every means in our power the most important question that can come before us at the present juncture. Therefore, sir, I have no hesitation in supporting this resolution, and I have much pleasure in moving the addition of the words suggested by the hon. member for Toodyay, for I think myself it would be better and less expensive to have this work carried out by contract by some of these companies who have had practical experience in boring and who possess the requisite machinery.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright): I have but very few words to say on this subject, but I should like to answer one or two of the statements that have been made by the hon. member for Geraldton, all of which, the hon. member tells us, he has had "from the very best authority." The hon. member began by saying that the Government had given what he calls

a paltry £500 for the purpose of obtaining water on these goldfields—I think he afterwards amended it by saying that they had given a further sum of £1,000. The real facts are: the Government, in the first instance, gave £250 for the purpose of boring for water; afterwards to this was added another £500; and, finally, a further sum of £1,000 was voted; and, when a Warden was recently appointed and an account was taken of how much had been expended and how much there remained it was found that very nearly the whole of this £1,000 remained unexpended. More than that, it has been stated I believe by all who have come from the fields, and by the committee entrusted with the expenditure of the money, and to whom I wish all possible honor to be given for the way they did their work, that there was quite sufficient water for certainly four times the present population on the goldfield at Yilgarn. After Yilgarn there was another find, and after that again another find—surely it is not intended that the Government should run after all these “fresh fields and pastures new” with Tiffin borers. [Mr. SKOLL: Certainly.] Then perhaps the hon. member will say how much capital he is prepared to place at the disposal of the Government, so that they may be always on the alert for a new goldfield. The honorable member for Geraldton went on to say that the duties of the water committee, who had performed their work so well, had been handed over to the Warden. Surely that was the proper and business-like thing to do, when the Government had a representative on the field. At the same time I may state that the water committee were good enough, on the application of myself and others, to continue to act exactly in the same way as they had done previously, the only difference being that the Warden became the paymaster, as he ought to be, the money having been given by the Government out of public funds. The hon. member also stated that the engineer, Mr. Raeside, having informed the committee, after putting down the borer 70ft., that it was no good, the committee put him to construct dams, tanks, and other things. The hon. member has been misinformed on that subject; because at the time Raeside was knocked off it was

generally considered that it would be better to endeavor to preserve the rain water than to continue sinking with the machine, and I believe Mr. Raeside himself would be one of the first to have agreed to it. The boring machine was going on perfectly well, as I am informed by Raeside himself; but it was considered it would be infinitely better to go in for conserving water of which they knew there was a certainty of a supply, than to go on sinking and boring for a problematic supply, which they might not succeed in striking. I quite agree myself that it was a wise course that was adopted by the committee, for undoubtedly these dams and soak-holes will be of great service at Yilgarn. At Southern Cross and at Parker's find, unfortunately, there is no water, and I am afraid it will take some time before there will be an artificial supply. For myself, I would prefer to see dams and tanks made, where we shall be certain to collect the water, than to depend upon the boring machine, however good the chance might be of finding fresh water. The hon. member went on to say that the Tiffin borer was unfit to go to work. That is not the case. The Tiffin boring machine was perfectly in order; all it wanted was to be put together and erected. He asks where it is now, and when it is likely to reach the field? It is now at York, and has been for four days, and it starts for the field to-morrow. I believe that machine, however much the hon. member may object to it, is a fit and proper machine, capable of boring to a depth of 500 feet; and I hope that long before that they may strike good drinking water. The hon. member says that South Australia spent £250,000 in water conservation; I only wish this colony was in a position to do it.

Mr. PARKER: I only wish to say a few words, with reference to the remarks of the Colonial Secretary as to what the duty of the State is with regard to providing a water supply. I think we all admit that these goldfields are just now the one bright cloud upon the immediate horizon, and that it is to these gold discoveries that we look forward to shortly remove all our difficulties, financial and otherwise. I think I heard an hon. member say they are the silver lining to the cloud: I think they are more than

that. The Government have already declared these goldfields; and a goldfield that is one hundred miles square ought to be a real good thing. We have been somewhat depressed, I think, during the last two or three years, and the sooner the better we are able to bring these goldfields into operation, and have these auriferous reefs worked, and the precious metal brought in, and exported in large quantities. Then there will be no room for doubt as to the future prosperity of the colony. With this large goldfield quite close to us—and I am only speaking now of one—a goldfield that will, immediately it is developed, do more to add to our prosperity than anything that has been discovered or anything that has been done during the last half a century in Western Australia,—is it not our bounden duty, our bounden duty to ourselves, our bounden duty to the miners on this field, and our bounden duty to the country at large, to do our very utmost to develop it at as early an opportunity as possible. The hon. gentleman says that private enterprise ought to find the water. [The COLONIAL SECRETARY: For working the claims]. We all know that private enterprise, although it may do a great deal, very seldom goes in for providing a water supply for the benefit of the public at large, either on a goldfield or anywhere else. Communities, I think, usually look to the Government for that. Moreover, we have to look at our peculiar condition in this colony; we have no large capitalists here with money to spend in seeking for water for the development of these goldfields, and for working these claims. I think, considering we are a small community with limited resources at our command, we have done a great deal already towards developing these fields. I may safely say that many thousands of pounds have been spent, by the various parties working there and those who have subscribed to keep them at work; and I think this is about as much as can be expected from a community that is neither numerous nor rich. In fact, we are a poor community; and, probably, if we wait until the private enterprise of the public here finds this water that is necessary to work these goldfields and to develop our mines, we may have to wait a considerable time.

Such being our peculiar position, I think we, the Legislative Council, and the Government also, ought to do all we can to assist these miners in developing our auriferous resources, and in promoting the welfare of the colony at large. It may be said we can obtain this capital from the neighboring colonies. I believe myself that as soon as we have some real solid results to show from these fields the probability is that a considerable quantity of capital will be introduced here from the neighboring colonies for the purpose of working these mines. But we must first make a start ourselves. We must satisfy these people that we have payable goldfields, and that we have every faith in them. We must not be content with the Government simply proclaiming them; we must show that we have every confidence in them, and that they are really worth investing money in them. When we can satisfy outside capitalists of this, we may fairly expect there will be no lack of capital flowing in to our goldfields from the other colonies. But, it appears, nothing can be done without an adequate supply of water, and I think it is the duty of the Government to provide this water, without which we may as well be without our goldfields. It must be remembered that this land where the goldfield has been found is not the property of private individuals, it is the property of the State; and the Government, in finding water to develop these fields, is simply finding water to enhance the value of its own property, the public estate. Looking at it in that light, I think it is our duty to do our utmost to develop these fields at the earliest possible opportunity, and by every means within our power. It may be possible, perhaps, to obtain the necessary funds out of a loan, if we have permission to raise one. Without that loan, I presume we shall have to fall back upon Treasury bills. But, in the meantime, I presume until the funds from either of these sources are available, it will be necessary to provide the money out of general revenue; and that, I imagine, is the object of the hon. member's motion, though it is rather vague in its terms, as to the particular object in view. I should prefer, after the discussion that has taken place, a simple motion asking the Government

to place a sum on the Estimates specifically for providing a water supply for these goldfields. Were the Government to place say £10,000 on the Estimates for this purpose, I presume that would meet what the hon. member requires.

Mr. BURT: I do not wish to detain the House with any remarks of mine, but I should like hon. members to bear in mind, before we forget it, that we have two declared goldfields at present; but all the observations I have heard to-night have been directed to the claims of only one of these, Yilgarn. We know there is another at Pilbarra, in the northern part of the colony, and I believe you can pick up more gold there in a week than you can knock out of the quartz at Yilgarn in a considerable time; and they have got no water at Pilbarra, I believe. I only ask the Government to bear in mind that—although perhaps more hon. members are interested in Yilgarn—there are two declared goldfields, one in one district and the other in another; and that in any expenditure of public funds for finding water, each district should share, I think, as much as the other; certainly it ought not to be confined to Yilgarn. I am quite aware that this motion does not ask solely for funds to provide water for Yilgarn; it is a general resolution, which I thoroughly go with, but I noticed that the remarks of hon. members who have spoken on the subject have been directed to Yilgarn alone, and tend to ignore the Northern goldfield, which, so far as I know, is a very rich one indeed, and where they suffer from the want of water, as well as at Yilgarn. [Mr. FORREST: No, no.] I say, Yes, yes. They have one pool, I believe; but we are told it is going dry—I am only speaking from the reports in the newspapers, and we are told there that very shortly that pool will be dry, and then they will be without water at all on the field. If that is so, certainly it is equally necessary the Government should spend some of this money in that district as they should at Yilgarn. I know the only possible objection the Government can offer to such a resolution is the question of obtaining funds; but, if the subsequent resolution appearing on the paper in the name of the hon. member for Sussex be pushed—and if it is I think it will meet with success—we may

be able to find funds for the Government, to be spent in the direction desired.

Mr. MARMION: We know that in submitting this resolution the hon. member for Geraldton disclaimed any intention of putting it forward in an aggressive spirit, and we must bear in mind that so far as the Governor and the Government of the colony are concerned, His Excellency has done all he possibly could in inducing the Secretary of State for the colonies to let us borrow money for this purpose, and other necessary purposes. His Excellency had the foresight to see that out of the proposed loan a large portion of it would be required for the purpose of developing our goldfields—not necessarily one goldfield, but our goldfields generally. Now, unfortunately, we are in the position of having been told by the Secretary of State that we cannot be allowed to raise this money, though we are still hopeful that the result of certain action we are about to take this evening may be that we shall be able to tide over that difficulty. But whether that be the case or not, it seems to me actually necessary that some decisive action should be taken in this matter of water conservation; I have on former occasions spoken at great length on the subject, showing the responsibility of the Government in the matter as I think, and more particularly in dealing with the Yilgarn goldfield, and the absolute necessity of providing that field with a supply of water. It is all very well for the hon. gentleman at the head of the Government to say that this is not a national undertaking, or a work which the Government should not undertake. I take it to be the duty of the Government at any rate to settle the question of whether a water supply exists at a certain depth; once that is done, and it is shown the water is there, then it will be for capitalists and private enterprise to come in and put down their own borers. But until the question of water or no water is settled—and that clearly is a question for the Government to decide—you cannot expect private enterprise to expend capital in searching for what they don't know is there. There is a doubt existing in the minds of the public, and a very grave doubt, as to the question of at what depth a supply of water can be obtained, and, until this doubt is re-

moved, it can hardly be expected that a number of struggling people will join together to do something which will not suit the whole of them, or which may only suit a few of them. They cannot be expected to bore in every locality that would suit each and all of them. It is not to be expected that any single individual or company, however promising the prospect may be, will spend a large sum of money in sinking possibly a depth of 1,000ft. or 1,200ft. unless it is first shown to them that by doing so they are sure to obtain what they want. I take it there is no public work that could be taken at the present time that can be looked upon more as a national concern than this. The hon. gentleman who represents the Government says he thinks it the duty of the State to provide water only for the daily sustenance of those on the goldfields: I take it to be the duty of the State to assist in all undertakings that will contribute to the development of the resources of the State. It seems to be the case in the other colonies that the Governments there realise their duty in this matter.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser): Only where it is shown that it would be profitable to do so.

MR. MARMION: The hon. gentleman says, only when it is profitable. Our Government must think these goldfields profitable goldfields, or else they would not have declared them. They were not asked to do so by the Legislature, nor by the public—and I am sure they were not asked by those who had spent and were spending their money there. But, having done so, having proclaimed to the world that we have a goldfield there, they are responsible to the world, and it is their duty to show whether water exists there or not, in sufficient quantity not only to sustain life but also to carry on mining operations. Were there a rush to these fields during the next three months, the Government might find themselves in a very awkward and unpleasant position. In the other colonies the State expends large sums in the discovery and conservation of water, employing companies to do the work by contract; they do this for what object? Not merely for the development of a goldfield, which, as a rule, acts as a magic wand in transforming a country and in

developing its resources, but in what may be looked upon as a matter of a minor character and of comparatively little importance. In all probability the cheaper method for us to adopt would be to have this work done by contract, as suggested by the hon. member for Toodyay; but the question for us to consider at the present time is which would be the more expeditious way to go to work to attain the object in view. The matter of pounds, shillings, and pence should not enter so much into our calculation, as the question of having the work done with expedition. It may be said—it has been said—that our finances are in a bad condition, and that we are not in a position to spend sums of money upon speculative ideas. I say we should look upon this as anything but a speculative idea, but as an investment of money that is bound to prove of the greatest advantage to the country, and that will bring about the greatest possible change in our prospects within a very short period. The Director of Public Works alluded to the sums of money already granted by the Government towards the development of these fields, £1,750—and I am glad to hear the hon. gentleman say that nearly the whole of the last £1,000 still remains intact; but, with reference to what has been done at Yilgarn I must confess myself very much disappointed, so far. We purchased some boring machines a long time ago, but very little or no advantage has been derived from them so far. A borer was sent after some delay to Yilgarn, but we were afterwards informed it was utterly useless for the purpose, and the work was stopped, and it leaked out that that machine was utterly unsuitable for the purpose.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright): Where did that information leak out from?

MR. MARMION: From the public papers, and from parties on the field who are fairly good authorities on the subject. It is a very curious fact at all events that when it had bored down a depth of 70ft.—although it had the necessary tubing to go down 500ft. (so we were told in this House)—the work was abandoned. The hon. gentleman has certainly explained this by saying that the men were taken away to do other work. But why could not other men have been

employed for that? Why should not the skilled labor be still employed with the boring machine, if it was any good, and equal to the work? And, if it was equal to the work, why was it necessary to come down here and take up another boring machine? I should like the hon. gentleman to explain that. [The DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS: With the greatest pleasure in the world.] I shall be very glad to listen to him. As has been stated by the hon. member for Geraldton, what is to be done at Golden Valley and at Parker's find while they are boring at Yilgarn? Time is the great object in this matter, and the expenditure of a little money is to my mind a matter of very little importance. Those who have been spending their money in testing these fields have not been moved by the same paltry considerations as the Government in this matter. Were the expenditure sanctioned by the Government to be compared with the amount of money and speculation shown by private individuals in developing these fields it would look very small indeed. The Director of Public Works also referred to the advisability of constructing dams and reservoirs rather than depending on what he was pleased to term the uncertainty of boring. I would remind the hon. gentleman that the climate or rainfall of the locality in which these goldfields are situated is very little known, and the rainfall appears to be very uncertain; and although last year we had a bountiful supply we are not to take that as an average season, and depend upon the same supply in the future. I think it would be unwise to depend entirely upon these dams and reservoirs, and trust to Providence whether they may fill or not. Let us not be idle ourselves; let us search for water below the surface as well as from above, and see whether we cannot have an endless supply. Let us do all we can to attract people to these fields to develop their hidden resources. Let us show to the world that we are equal to the occasion, and that our Government are not afraid to spend a few hundreds, or a few thousands if necessary, in assisting to bring about that which we are so anxious to witness, the permanent prosperity of the colony. No one thing will tend so much to our speedy prosperity as the development of these goldfields; I say this most earnestly, because I feel this is

one of the subjects upon which the Government cannot feel too strongly that an effort ought to be made by them. In the event of the resolution of the hon. member for Sussex, with reference to the proposed loan, not having the result we all hope it will, the Government should turn their serious attention at once to the question of where this money is to come from, and not wait another year, when those who may have been induced to come here in the expectation of finding a working goldfield have turned back in disappointment, and we shall have another blot on the fair fame of the colony, from which it will take us many years to recover. The revenue which the Government would derive from the working of these goldfields themselves would recoup them a larger sum than they expended, whereas, on the other hand, in the event of this work not being undertaken, the whole thing collapses. It therefore seems to me an absolute necessity for them to take it in hand, and I trust, after what has been said by hon. members to-night, those on the Government bench will inform His Excellency of the feelings entertained on this important matter by the representatives of the people, and that no effort will be spared on our part to assist the Governor in arriving at the best way of providing ways and means to carry out this most desirable object.

MR. MORRISON: I think with the hon. member for Fremantle that we cannot do too much to help to develop not only our Eastern goldfields but all our goldfields. Last year at this time Yilgarn was not known, and it had not brought a penny to the revenue: but now, through the energy and enterprise of some of our colonists the place is being developed; and, as these people have to pay for their rights, the Government have discovered a fresh source of revenue, which they never had before. I will not go so far as to say it is the duty of the Government to find water for working these fields, but these people require water for their daily sustenance, and it ought to be provided for them, unless the fields are to be deserted. Of course it will entail a great deal of expense to find this water; and I cannot agree that, in view of our having to face a deficit at the end of the year, the Government have been illiberal in the matter, so far. £1,750 is a good deal of

money in our present position; but it is not enough, and, if the thing is going to be done, we must be prepared to spend considerably more than that. The question comes, where is the money to come from? It seems to me there is a very easy and legitimate way for procuring all we want for this purpose. I don't believe myself in having to wait until we are able to float a loan, and I don't believe in issuing Treasury bills for this purpose. These goldfields have been declared, and to my mind the best step the Government can now adopt is to declare a townsite there. I would not put up the whole of this land for sale at once—though I believe if we did, we could sell the whole of it within two months of the townsite being surveyed, and probably before water had been found in sufficient quantity to provide for a rush. I think we might offer it in alternate blocks for the present. If the Commissioner of Crown Lands were to lay out a square mile of townsite at Yilgarn there is nothing to prevent him—if he does not put too high a price upon it—to scoop into the revenue a matter of from £6,000 to £25,000 from that one square mile of townsite. If you divide this area into half-acre blocks, and put them up at £5, it would bring in £6,400; if the upset price were £10, that would give him £12,800; and if he fixed the upset price at £10 per half-acre block—which I consider would be a very high price at first start—it would yield a revenue of £25,600. It may be said that in trying to get money for water sinking on this principle, it would be unjust to the general public; and I think myself that to sell the whole townsite in that way, for the purposes of speculation only, would be a wrong thing to do. What I would do—and, as a purchaser, I would not object to it—would be to set apart every alternate block, and put up the land for sale in alternate blocks, at first, at a minimum price of say £5. After water has been found, and there is a permanent supply, put up the remaining blocks, which, of course, would then fetch a higher price. I am quite certain the public would willingly risk their money in the purchase of these £5 blocks, and I am quite certain that the unsold blocks, after you find water, would bring in £20, or very likely as much as £50, apiece. I think this would be quite a legitimate

way of raising money to sink for water on these Eastern goldfields. These goldfields, if they are going to be real goldfields, must have townsites declared there, and the earlier they are declared, where necessary, the sooner will the money come in, and the sooner the place will be settled.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. J. Forrest): The proposition of the hon. member, Mr. Morrison, as to declaring a townsite has not been lost sight of by the Government; in fact, several months ago, a surveyor was sent to Yilgarn for the purpose of selecting a townsite, but it has not occurred to the Government that it would be right to offer town lots for sale until they have made up their minds as to the best position for a townsite, and also secured a permanent water supply. Probably the consciences of some hon. members are not so easily touched as that of the Government; at any rate, in my position, I am not going to mislead the public of this colony or any other colony by selling them land where there is no water to be had; and, so far as I am concerned, I shall never recommend that a townsite be offered for sale in this or any other part of the colony until I am sure there is water to be had there. The Government, sir, have not failed in their duty in this matter, I contend; the Government have done all they could with the means at their disposal, during the last six months, and they are prepared to do more now—there is no opposition on this bench to this proposal of the hon. member for Geraldton—but funds must be provided. If hon. members will provide the necessary funds, I believe the Government will be found willing, and indeed most anxious, to spend it. The Government have already voted and spent money in endeavoring to procure a water supply; and, more than that, they have been successful. There is plenty of water now at Golden Valley in places where there was none a short time ago. A great deal has been said about what the Government have done and what they have not done, but I believe I may safely say that the money spent by the Government has been more economically spent, and better expended, than any money that has been spent by private individuals. I believe, myself,

that the greatest waste and incompetence have been shown by private individuals in the expenditure of their funds on these fields, but I believe you cannot say that about the expenditure of the Government. More than that, did not the Government propose a loan, out of which £50,000 was to be appropriated for the development of our goldfields? Does that show that the Government think very little about the development of these fields, or that they are not anxious to see them opened up? Some hon. members have also remarked about the action of the Government in declaring these goldfields. I have not myself had the pleasure of visiting Yilgarn yet, but I have conversed with almost every person who has been there to view the locality, and they all complained that the country had been pegged out by people who were not using it, and that the exception rather than the rule was to find anyone at work on their holdings. I have done my best to deal very liberally indeed with these people, and so has the Acting Warden, and given as much exemption as I could; but I felt that I was probably retarding the development of these fields. It is very hard to draw a line between those who are really doing *bona fide* work and those who are doing nothing in the way of working their claims, when you are a couple of hundred miles away. There is always some plausible excuse or other. I am very glad myself that the fields have now been declared, so that these excuses will have to be sifted and inquired into on the spot. Possibly, injustice may be done to a few by having the field declared, but I think it may be avoided by reasonable care on the part of the miners themselves, by applying early to the Warden and showing they are prepared to comply with the labor conditions so far as they possibly can; I believe myself they will get very liberal treatment from the Warden, and I believe it will be quite possible for those who really value their holdings to retain them. On the other hand, it will certainly tend to open up the country to the general public, and persons will not be able to hold these protection areas without doing some work on them. It is just the same principle as we have decided upon in regard to our Land Regulations, namely, that those only

who are prepared to make use of the land shall have any control over it. I should be sorry if any hon. member should think that the Government are not anxious to promote the development of these goldfields. I am sure we have done all we could in the past, with the small means at our disposal; and, as I have already said, the mere fact that we proposed to raise a loan and to devote £50,000 out of it for this very purpose, shows, I think, that the Government are quite alive to the importance of the matter. The hon. and learned member for the North—no doubt feeling he could not sit still and not say anything in favor of his own district—has advocated that some of the money should be spent on the goldfields there also; and, no doubt, if this money is raised, the North will get its fair share. But I cannot admit for a moment that the difficulties as to a water supply at Pilbarra are in any way similar to those on the fields eastward of York. Pilbarra is on a well-watered river—the Hume river is one of the best watered rivers in Western Australia; and, although the pools may be a few miles apart, at the same time, when you come to a pool, there is no lack of water. So far as I know anything of this Northern district, I should say the route to the Pilbarra goldfields may be fairly termed—speaking from an Australian point of view—well watered and well grassed; and, if water is not procurable on the very spot, I am quite certain there is a plentiful and a permanent supply to be obtained at a very short distance from it.

MR. KEANE said the Director of Public Works had doubted the correctness of his information as to the boring machine that had been at work at Yilgarn; he might inform the hon. gentleman that he got it from the chairman of the water committee himself. As to the supply of water now on the fields, it might be sufficient for the present population, for a few months—say three months, not longer. The Colonial Secretary told them that in his opinion it was the duty of the State only to expend money when it would be for the benefit of the State. He (Mr. Keane) thought all hon. members would agree with him that when the Government declared these goldfields they must have been satisfied that it would be

for the benefit of the State to do so. He was afraid that the members of the Government seemed to think he and others were twitting them with not having done more than they had done, in finding money for the further development of the goldfields. Nothing of the sort. His object simply was to induce that House to give the Government all the assistance it could, and find them the means for carrying on this work. He thought the Government deserved all credit for what they had done; they all knew they could not do more under present circumstances. If people had no money they could not spend it. But he thought, under existing circumstances, it was the duty of the House to do something in the way of putting the necessary means in the hands of the Government.

The motion, as amended, was then put and passed.

CABLE MESSAGE TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE, *re* LOAN OF £200,000.

MR. PARKER: Sir—I imagine that the resolution of which I have given notice will meet with the general approbation of members; and I do so from the fact that this House, a few days ago, adopted unanimously an Address-in-Reply to the Governor's Speech in which they use these words: "We consider that Your Excellency adopted a wise course in requesting the authority of the Secretary of State for an additional loan, and regret the course which Lord Knutsford has felt constrained to take." It will be in the recollection of hon. members that His Excellency the Governor, on the 23rd July last, wrote a despatch to the Secretary of State, in which he endeavored to obtain Lord Knutsford's assent to our raising a loan. In that despatch His Excellency says: "It is the near and very promising future connected with the substantial discoveries of gold recently made in different districts of the colony, added to the necessity of repaying to general revenue the capital expenditure which threatens to cause a deficit, and to the further necessity of incurring some additional capital expenditure in completing the construction and equipment of our existing railways, which has led me to feel warranted in asking Your Lordship for authority to introduce

during the next session of the Legislature, opening on the 10th of October, a Loan Bill for the moderate amount of £200,000, of which sum £56,617 should be repaid to general revenue to defray advances on capital account, £50,000 allotted to the completion and equipment of existing railways, and £50,000 devoted to the development of goldfields. The allotment of the remainder of this small loan might be a subject for future consideration." That proposal, as hon. members are aware, did not meet with the assent of the Secretary of State, who telegraphed the following reply: "I am averse to loan, responsibility of which should be left to future Responsible Government. But, under all the circumstances of the case, would consent to raising £50,000 sterling by Treasury bills, duration to be determined by requirements of market. Draft of Act will be sent by mail." No doubt it is very wise of the Secretary of State, in the present state of affairs, considering that we are in a transition state (as I may call it) from Representative to Responsible Government, to try and throw all the responsibility of any further loans by this colony upon ministers responsible to the people; and, if it were not that it would be such a very wise and proper course to pursue, to obtain this money at the present juncture, and do so much to develop the resources of the colony, I should not urge at the present time that we should obtain any further loan, but follow the advice of the Secretary of State for the Colonies. But Responsible Government may not be an accomplished fact, may not come absolutely into force—ministers responsible to the people may not be in a position to take this matter in hand—for probably two years. When I say two years, of course we can understand that although Responsible Government may come into operation previously to that time, yet no ministry taking office would be immediately in a position to raise a loan; they would, firstly, have to have a Loan Bill properly passed, and then they would have to raise the money in the mother country, which would all take time. In the meantime we are languishing for the want of these funds, we know how necessary it is that we should have this loan money, we know we cannot even properly develop our goldfields without the expenditure of

considerable sums of money, even in providing water supply, as has been forcibly shown in the debate this evening. This proposal of raising money by means of Treasury bills is not one, I think, that will meet the circumstances of our position. I do not exactly understand Lord Knutsford's proposal as to these bills. He says in his telegram: "Draft of Act will be sent by mail;" therefore I presume we should have to raise this money on Treasury bills in England; so that it would take some time to raise even this small sum, and £50,000 would not be at all sufficient for our requirements. Nor do I think it would look well for the colony to raise money by means of Treasury bills. I agree with those hon. members who spoke on the subject during the debate on the Address-in-Reply, that it looks almost paltry for us to go into the money market for such a small sum. This £200,000 is urgently required, and it will do a great deal to develop the resources of the country; on the other hand I think it would greatly retard our progress if we wait until a Responsible Government ministry are able to bring this matter before the Legislature, and float the loan in the mother country. I have therefore thought it proper to bring this resolution before the House; and I cannot but think that if the resolution goes home with the weight of the unanimous vote of this House, and supported by the Government of the colony, it will probably tend to alter the views entertained by the Secretary of State in regard to this question, and I hope it will lead to a beneficial result. It is as follows: "That an humble address be presented to His Excellency the Governor, praying that he will be pleased to communicate the effect of the following Resolution to the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for the Colonies, and trusting that it will receive His Excellency's support:—That the Legislative Council has learnt with great regret and disappointment that the Secretary of State has not approved the proposal for a supplementary loan, made by His Excellency the Governor in his despatch of the 23rd July last; that the present position of the Colony, still somewhat depressed, but full of bright promise, demands the immediate expenditure of public money upon the development of its goldfields

and other urgent requisites; and the Council would confidently appeal to Lord Knutsford's sense of justice not to impede the early progress and retard the prosperity of Western Australia, by insisting upon his objection to sanction the loan proposed."

SIR T. COCKBURN-CAMPBELL: I have much pleasure, sir, in seconding the proposal of the hon. member, and for more reasons than one—not only for the reason which he has given, that it is essential for the material prosperity and necessities of the colony, but also for political reasons, with regard to which I propose to say one or two words. It is unnecessary to point out the extreme desirability of obtaining the use of this money at the present time, so far as the welfare of the colony is concerned. What we have heard in the course of the discussion that has just come to a conclusion is quite sufficient, and I need say no more as to the great desirability, as soon as possible, of our being able to develop our goldfields, on which our prospects now so largely depend. Not only do these goldfields want developing, but there are also those works mentioned in the schedule annexed to the Governor's despatch, and others which I need not mention now, with regard to all of which works it is most urgent we should get them forward as soon as we possibly can, besides, as I have said, the development of the goldfields on which the promise of our immediate future depends. If we have to wait until Responsible Government comes in, I fear it will be some time before we are able to raise this money, and some time before the cloud of depression which rests on the colony is gone. I sincerely hope that the advent of Responsible Government, in its working form, will be at a much earlier date than the hon. member for the Vasse puts it. I was going to say myself that I thought, probably, it would be impossible to have Responsible Government in working order before the end of next year. I think there is a chance—I hope there is a chance of that at any rate, if all the circumstances are favorable—favorable in a sense; if, for instance, if we were to give up all we are asked to give up, and the country were to back us in giving way upon everything to the Secretary of State, and if the bill were passed in a

convenient time, and reached home in a convenient time, and passed through all its Parliamentary stages early in the year—if all these concatenation of circumstances are favorable, then it is just possible, I think, that Responsible Government might be introduced towards the end of next year, and a Ministry formed which would undertake the raising of a loan. But I am afraid, with the hon. member for Perth, it is not at all certain that all these stages will be passed with that celerity we would wish. In any case, if we only had to wait that time it would be pitiful that the progress of the colony were to be retarded so long. Therefore, I think, it is our bounden duty to do our utmost to induce the Secretary of State to withdraw his opposition to this loan. But there is another reason why I think it is highly desirable at the present time that these loan funds should be obtained,—the political reason to which I have alluded before. I greatly fear that a good many members—I don't know that it is the case in the country so much—but I fear that a good many members, in their anxiety to obtain this loan money,—obtain it for very right and proper purposes and in the best interests of the country—are inclined to be in too great a haste to deal with the Constitution Bill, and to hesitate to give it that consideration which I think, in the interests of our future, it deserves. I hope it may not be considered improperly divulging a private conversation, if I say that I heard a member of this House, not long ago, saying that we thought very much as we felt; that is to say, influences which are brought to bear with great personal force upon our minds are apt to a great extent to mould our judgment, and aid us in forming our convictions. I am afraid there is a great deal in what that hon. member said; and I have greatly feared for some time that members, some members, will allow themselves to be led astray as regards the constitutional question by their extreme anxiety, in the interests of the colony no doubt, to obtain this money, and will be too much inclined to give way, even upon matters of principle, on this Constitution Bill. My great anxiety, and one of the reasons why I think we should try and get this loan as early as possible is, that, in considering the question of the

constitution, we may be able to do so without having any red herring drawn across our path. I have taken a great interest for years past studying the course of political events in the other colonies, with a view to a regard for our interests in settling this question, and I feel that the gravest responsibility rests upon those who take part in framing the lines of our future constitution. It seems to me extremely desirable that members should undertake this task without having anything to distract them. With regard to Lord Knutsford's action, it appears to me we have been treated extremely badly by him. Both with regard to our future constitution (which I need not go into now) and also with regard to this loan, I think he has treated us with scant courtesy, having most decidedly, in his first and earlier reply to the Governor's telegram, given His Excellency to understand, and, through His Excellency, this House to understand, he was not going to raise any objection; for I maintain that the plain meaning of the words in which he referred to this loan was such as to lead us to suppose he would not raise any objection: I think, however, he has acted in this way—it is not a very original remark to make, but it seems to me, sir, very much as if Lord Knutsford had done so in order to keep a whip hand over us, and to force us into acquiescence, to do whatever he wishes us to do in regard to this Constitution question. However, inasmuch as no doubt he is not a monster but simply a diplomatist, I think if this House unanimously takes this step which the hon. member for the Vasse now proposes, it is quite possible that his lordship may be brought to acquiesce in our views. The words of the resolution are strong; they speak indirectly of our sense of injustice of the way he has treated us in the matter of this loan, and in retarding the progress of the colony; but I think, sir, that strong words are necessary on this occasion; at the same time I think they are sufficiently temperate, in the circumstances, by the way we express our confidence in his acceding to our request. I have heard it suggested that instead of asking for the whole of this loan, we should simply request to be permitted to raise a considerable amount on Treasury bills; but I want this House to have a

little pluck and spirit, and to demand from the Secretary of State what we feel to be our right and due, in the interest of the colony. As I have said before, I feel a fair amount of confidence that if the House gives this resolution the weight of unanimity, very possibly the Secretary of State will, in a large part if not in full, grant what we ask in this petition.

MR. A. FORREST: I shall support the hon. member for Sussex with great pleasure, though I do not believe with him in many of his remarks. I differ from him altogether in his opposition to issuing Treasury bills; they are known to Governments and financial people all over the world, as a proper course to raise money, either at long dates or short dates. All business people do the same thing. In this colony it is a common thing for business men to raise money their own bills, when they know there is money to come in, later on. It is a plan also with banks and other financial institutions to discount these bills, with the greatest faith, for men in whom they have confidence. Therefore, I say the Government have a perfect right to do what business people do, and issue their own Treasury bills, not only for £50,000 but £100,000 if required; and it would be almost better, to my mind, if they did so just now, than raising a small loan. The issue of Treasury bills could be wiped off at any time; and it is not necessary, so far as I know, that these bills should go Home at all; the money could be raised in the colony without the slightest difficulty. I have been told by some of the Banks there would be no difficulty at all for the Government to issue £100,000, and get the money to-morrow, if required. I am sure it must have astonished us to hear the hon. member say it will be two years before we have Responsible Government—[MR. PARKER: Before we are in a position to raise a loan.]—I was in hopes that by the early part of next year the whole of this question would have been settled, and that directly afterwards the Ministry of the day would be in a position to come down to this House for the first time with a Loan Bill for carrying out those public works which are so urgently required. Although I did not take any part in the debate upon the motion of the hon. member for Geraldton, this evening, I

quite agree with him that the Government should do all in their power to settle the question of a water supply on our goldfields. The Colonial Secretary rather thought it a matter for private enterprise: I disagree with him altogether. I think it is the duty of the Government, and the duty of this House to raise the money for doing so. I should like, if the hon. member for Sussex will allow me, to make a slight alteration in the wording of this address, so that it may be cabled home at once. This is a matter of urgent necessity, and, as this House will only sit a few weeks longer, we may not have any answer from the Secretary of State before we prorogue, unless the message is sent to him by cable, and he should be asked to wire back while the House is sitting. I therefore move that the words "by cablegram" be added, after the word "communicate."

MR. SCOTT: I second that amendment, for I most cordially agree with the hon. member, and also with this address. I do not think the blame in this matter can fairly be put upon the Secretary of State. If we turn to the despatches and speeches of the Governor, we cannot but be impressed with the fairness of putting the blame on the right shoulders in this matter. His Excellency in his opening speech to this House last year, said: "Despatches on the subject of a further "Public Works Loan will also be presented to you. In reply to my observations respecting the possibility of our finances at the close of this year justifying a loan of £500,000, the Secretary of State is of opinion that, having regard "to the constitutional change now under "consideration, and to the uncertain "prospects of the colonial revenue"—it will be seen that His Excellency had drawn the Secretary of State's attention to these matters—"it would be undesirable for the colony at this moment to "borrow that amount, and Sir Henry "Holland does not therefore feel able to "give at present even a qualified approval "of the introduction of a new loan." It will be gathered from that, that it was His Excellency's own remarks that made the Secretary of State come to that conclusion. The Governor had suggested the inadvisability of raising a loan in the present financial position of the colony, and the discussion of any fresh loan bill

should be deferred until after the general election; and I think it is only fair to the Secretary of State that the blame should be laid on the right shoulders. I mention this simply for this reason—that I hope His Excellency will now do all in his power to support this address, and urge upon the Secretary of State the necessity of our raising this money as speedily as possible. I do not bring it up on any personal grounds. It was, no doubt, His Excellency's honest opinion at the time that it would be wiser to defer raising a loan, but circumstances have changed since then, and there were no goldfields at that time requiring the expenditure of public funds. Therefore, I hope His Excellency will strongly urge this address upon the attention of the Secretary of State, as representing His Excellency's own opinion as well as the opinion of the country at large. It is admitted on all hands that the question of developing these goldfields is a question demanding immediate attention, and there is every reason now why this loan should be granted without delay.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser): I had not intended, sir, in the few remarks I have to make, to go outside the motion before the House, but, inasmuch as the hon. member for Perth has made some allusion to matters antecedent, I think I ought to say one or two words in reply. The hon. member has alluded to the fact that His Excellency some time ago recommended another course, counselling delay in the raising of a loan, pending certain developments; but, as the hon. member has rightly observed, circumstances have considerably changed since then. Moreover, the loan that was in the thoughts of the Government at that time was one of much larger dimensions than the one more recently advocated. This is what I may term a merely supplementary loan, to meet the altered circumstances and the immediate exigencies of the case; and I think we are agreed on that. His Excellency, as hon. members are aware, was the first to withdraw from his former position when the necessities of the situation changed. With regard to the resolution before the House I notice an expression, "trusting it will receive His Excellency's support." Sir, it is His Excellency's duty to transmit

to the Secretary of State any request formally made to him by this House; but the Governor cannot be expected to actively "support" a proposal which is antagonistic, in some respects, to a decision already given, and that quite recently, by the Secretary of State, in regard to this very matter. At the same time there is no desire on the part of this bench to offer any opposition to the proposal, if it is the wish of the independent members, whether elected or on the other bench, that the Secretary of State should be again addressed on the subject, and it will not be my duty to force the matter to a division, if the resolution appears to meet with the general approval of the House. But there is one portion of it which I think is somewhat uncalled for, and I hope the hon. member will not dissent to its removal, and I may say in this I have the cordial support of my hon. and learned friend on the right. I refer to the words in which the House appeals to Lord Knutsford's "sense of justice," which I think the hon. member, upon reflection, will agree would be better left out. The resolution, I am sure, will be more acceptable—if acceptable at all—if these words are omitted. It is not necessary, I think, to refer here to a "sense of justice" on the part of the Right Hon. the Secretary of State, because we are perfectly sure that that nobleman will view every proposal that is made by this House with every justice.

MR. PARKER said he had no objection to the omission of the words, if it was the particular desire of the Government, although he felt at the same time they were words of some significance and importance, for, in this case, the House and the country *did* appeal to the Secretary of State's sense of justice, and they asked him to look at it in that light—whether his own sense of justice would not lead him to allow us to raise this money, as proposed. As to the hon. member for Kimberley's suggestion that the resolution should be cabled to the Secretary of State at once, that was what he had himself intended—that the "effect" of the resolution should be transmitted, by cable.

MR. MARMION said he had already spoken at such length on this subject—the necessity of a loan for the development of our goldfields and other works—

that he need not say anything now, beyond stating that the resolution had his most cordial support, and he was sure there was not a member in the House who would not do the same. He also believed they would have the support of the Governor, so far as possible, in attaining the object they had in view.

MR. HENSMAN: I fully agree with what has been thrown out by one or more members that it is somewhat humiliating to be placed in the position of being obliged to ask for leave to borrow money. When the Legislature of the colony, representing the people of the colony, think that the money is required, and we cannot get it without appeals and humble addresses of this kind, it reminds us very forcibly of the position we are in, when we cannot borrow money to do what we think is absolutely required. However, we are in that position. I am sorry to say I am not fully in accord with hon. members who have spoken to-night that loans are always desirable, but I can quite see that loans of money made with discretion, and where the money is spent with discretion on solid—and especially upon paying—works, are very necessary and desirable in a community which cannot keep themselves going and provide the means for their necessities without such assistance. But, looking at the way our last loan of half a million was expended—which is the only experience I have had of public loans since I have been in this colony—it does not encourage me very much in the belief that loans, unless well carried out, are desirable. So far as that loan was concerned it appears to me, although it may have stimulated industry and been of some benefit at the time being, there is very little left in the future which is suggestive of that large expenditure. An argument has been used to-night which certainly seems to show that there is a necessity for money at the present time in the colony for expenditure upon its goldfields. The Government should know—and they do not deny, for they have declared them as goldfields—that if these fields turn out, as we hope they may, of vast advantage to the colony, water must be found, and other things, before our expectations can possibly be realised. And after all, it is spending money upon lands which are the property

of the colony at present; it is not spending money on private lands to assist private speculators. At the same time, I should have been very glad to have seen this loan kept back until Responsible Government came, so that it might be raised, with the consent of the people and the Legislature, under a responsible Ministry. I agree with the hon. member for Plantagenet, it would be deplorable to think that we are so hungry for money (so to speak), or to use the words of a female in one of Shakespeare's plays, that we will do anything for gold—even sacrifice important constitutional principles, and accept almost any form of Government that should be offered to us, for the sake of getting this loan. I am therefore in a difficult position with regard to this motion: I am not prepared to divide the House or to offer any active opposition to this desire of the House to address the Secretary of State; at the same time, I doubt very much the great value of a loan at the present time unless we can ensure its being well spent, and that we shall have some stronger hold over its expenditure. With regard to the words "sense of justice," certainly I think they should be struck out, for this reason: as has been pointed out, I do not think the Secretary of State is particularly to blame in this matter; all he can do is to act upon the information he receives. Whether the Governor has, or has not, found himself under a different state of things, he certainly has changed his line with regard to this loan question, from time to time, and communicated his views to the Secretary of State; and it is hardly fair to blame the Secretary of State for acting upon the advice given to him by the Governor. But, as it appears to be the wish of hon. members that the Secretary of State should be addressed now by this House on the subject, I am not prepared to oppose it; though, if I thought there was any chance of raising money in any other way, by Treasury bills or otherwise, for the purpose of our goldfields, I should certainly support such a proposition, and let the question of a loan stand over until the money could be raised and expended by a Ministry responsible to the people. There is another reason—not perhaps of the first importance, but still worthy of consideration—that in raising

these loans now we have to pay very dearly; the last half-a-million loan, I think, cost us as much as £25,000 to raise. I know the cost of raising loans under this form of Government is very much higher than under a form of Government where the colony borrows direct.

MR. KEANE: I shall certainly support the motion of the hon. member for Sussex. At the same time I think that what we have just heard from the hon. member for Greenough is perfectly right, that it would be better, under the circumstances we are in, knowing very well that the Secretary of State is dead against us in this matter of a loan, if we were in a position to go into the money market on our own account. I think it shows great weakness on our part to have to knuckle down like this, and ask for permission to have a loan; and, if there was any other way of raising the money, I should be prepared to support it. But, like the hon. member for Greenough, I am not prepared to oppose the motion, and I only hope this urgent appeal may have the desired effect, for it seems to me absolutely necessary that we should get this money, without delay, in the present state of our goldfields. If there should be any opposition to this address, I hope the Government will be prepared to issue Treasury bills for £50,000 or £100,000. It is the duty of the Government to see the position we are in, and not let us waste our time in idly discussing the question. I think the Colonial Secretary might inform the House what steps the Government are prepared to take in the event of this address not having the desired effect.

MR. BURT: I am inclined to think this motion will have the desired effect. I cannot agree with the hon. member for Geraldton when he says the Secretary of State is dead against this loan. I cannot agree with him for this reason: His Excellency the Governor recommended a certain line of policy to the Secretary of State, some twelve or eighteen months ago, under somewhat different circumstances to those now existing, and, coming from the Governor of the colony, the Secretary of State very naturally took it into consideration, and thought it would not be advisable, under the circumstances, to allow us to raise a loan of £200,000, and suggested an alternative—which was

a mere shift, to meet the temporary deficiency in the revenue—namely, the issue of Treasury bills. But the case is very much altered indeed since then, and when the Secretary of State finds that this Council, which represents the people, are of the same mind as His Excellency when he wrote his subsequent despatch, he will then look at the proposal in a very different light, and be very slow indeed, I think, to refuse a request made with anything like unanimity by the members of this House. I do not think we should imagine for a moment that the Secretary of State would sanction this large sum being raised by means of Treasury bills; his proposal as to Treasury bills was simply to the extent of £50,000, in order to balance the revenue and expenditure. It would be a different policy altogether to allow us to issue bills to the extent of £100,000 or £200,000, in order to obtain money for the purpose we seek to effect.

The amendment submitted by Mr. A. Forrest was put and passed.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. C. N. Warton) moved that the words "sense of justice" be struck out of the resolution. He agreed with the hon. and learned member for the North that the Secretary of State would not be inclined to refuse a request so strongly supported; and he thought if anything would be likely to make him do so, it would be such an expression as this, which was tantamount to saying to the Secretary of State, "If you don't let us have what we ask we think you have no sense of justice." He thought our best way would be not to say anything to the Secretary of State of an unpleasant character, especially when we were seeking his assent to a proposal like this.

The amendment was agreed to, and the words struck out.

Resolution, as amended, put and passed.

MERCHANDISE MARKS BILL.

On the order of the day for the third reading of this bill,

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. C. N. Warton) moved that the order be discharged and the bill recommitted.

Agreed to.

IN COMMITTEE.

Clause 2, sub-section (6).—"Any person charged with an offence under this

"section before a Court of summary jurisdiction shall, on appearing before the Court, and before the charge is gone into, be informed of his right to be tried on indictment, and if he requires, be so tried accordingly."

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. C. N. Warton) moved to strike out the word "section" in the first line, and insert the word "Act." He did so in view of another amendment which he proposed to introduce, in deference to what was said by the hon. and learned member for Sussex, when in committee on the bill, as to there being no summary jurisdiction specifically provided for in the bill, the hon. member thinking there ought to be some provision made in the bill for giving justices power to hear cases under it. He proposed to insert as a new section the following words: "Any person charged with an offence against this Act may be tried by and before any two justices of the peace, and shall be so tried, unless he require to be tried by indictment."

MR. HENSMAN understood the bill was an exact transcript of the Imperial Act; if so, it would appear that the Imperial Act was defective.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. C. N. Warton) said he did not think so himself, but his hon. and learned friend the member for Sussex thought it would be better to make this provision, and, in deference to the hon. member, he had done so. There could be no harm in it.

MR. BURT said a man, under this amended clause, might elect to be tried summarily instead of by indictment; and he should imagine he would prefer to be tried summarily, seeing that if tried upon an indictment he would be liable to two years, while if dealt with summarily the maximum punishment would be a few months. The original clause did not provide that: it only said that if a person was charged summarily he was to be informed that if he liked he could be tried on indictment, which was a very different thing.

MR. HENSMAN: The Act appears to me utterly inapplicable to this colony.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. C. N. Warton): It appears so to me, too.

MR. PARKER said the reason he had suggested that some specific provision should be made in the bill for giving justices jurisdiction under it was this:

although the bill talked about summary conviction for this and that offence, no jurisdiction was given to justices in the bill. There might be some general law in England which gave justices this jurisdiction, but there was no such jurisdiction under the general law here, and there was no special jurisdiction provided in the bill. He agreed, however, with the hon. and learned member for the North that the new clause which the Attorney General proposed to introduce was open to objection, as it left it to the person accused to demand being tried summarily, although proceedings might have been taken to have him tried on indictment. He thought it would be better to stop at the words "justices of the peace" in the proposed new section.

MR. BURT thought there was no necessity for this new section at all, as all that was proposed to be done, as regards the right of summary jurisdiction, was already provided for by the statute 14 Vic., No. 5.

MR. HENSMAN was of the same opinion.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. C. N. Warton): I think so, too, and, by leave of the House, I withdraw the amendment.

Leave given, and amendment withdrawn.

Bill reported.

BANK HOLIDAYS ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

This bill passed through committee *sub silentio*.

POOR HOUSES DISCIPLINE BILL.

IN COMMITTEE:

Clause 1.—"That notwithstanding the third section of 'The Poor Houses Discipline Act, 1882,' it shall be lawful for any Justice of the Peace to order an inmate of a Poor House, who shall be convicted before him of a breach of any rule or regulation made under the said Act, to be imprisoned with or without hard labor for any term not exceeding one month, and to be also kept upon a diet of bread and water for any part of the said term not exceeding seven days."

MR. HENSMAN did not know whether this bill had been brought in to amend

the former Act because of any particular one case. The hon. and learned Attorney General shook his head. Then it was brought in, so far as he knew, without any particular reason at all. He did not hear any statement made, good, bad, or indifferent, on the motion for the second reading of the bill, and therefore he was unable to guess why it had been brought in. It appeared that by the Act of 1882 the Governor in Council was empowered to make rules and regulations for the purpose of maintaining proper discipline in these poor houses, and that any inmate convicted of a breach of those regulations could be ordered to be kept in solitary confinement and be put upon a diet of bread and water for a period not exceeding three days. Now it was proposed to give the justices power to send these poor people to prison, with or without hard labor, for any term not exceeding a month, and also to be kept on bread and water for any term not exceeding seven days. Unless some good reason were shown why this penalty should be increased in this way he should be against it. If these people broke the ordinary law of the land, by committing an assault, or getting drunk and disorderly, they could be dealt with like any other person.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. C. N. Warton) said the hon. member had asked him whether the bill had been brought in in consequence of any one particular case, and, because he shook his head, the hon. member at once, very characteristically he must say, jumped at the conclusion that it was brought in for no reason at all. The fact was there had been several cases of gross insubordination and misconduct on the part of the inmates of the poor houses brought under the notice of the Government by Mr. Dale, the Superintendent, and it was the opinion of the Superintendent, a very zealous and efficient officer, that it was necessary to provide more severe punishment in the case of these refractory inmates than the present Act permitted.

MR. BURT said he should support the bill. He thought some of them knew a great deal more about the matter than the hon. member for Greenough did, and the necessity for sterner punishment in the case of some of these old *dépôt* men, who came into the town and got gloriously drunk every chance they got, and

became a nuisance to everybody. He thought the bill was necessary in the interests of the other inmates, the well-conducted and decent people, to whom these refractory and drunken old sinners were a nuisance.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) said it was mainly in the interest of the inmates themselves that the bill had been brought in, more especially with regard to the Mt. Eliza institution. There had been considerable difficulty in dealing with some of these men. There were only two courses open—either deal with them under the existing Act (which experience had shown was not severe enough) or expel them. If they adopted the latter course, what would be the result? They would simply be sent to gaol, and be in and out of it all their lives.

MR. HORGAN said they would go to gaol under this section too. This would not improve their position. He thought, if there were any incorrigible inmates, it would be better they should be expelled the institution; they would then fall into the hands of the police as vagrants or vagabonds.

MR. SCOTT said he had himself noticed these men drunk in the streets, and, while in that condition, not only were they a nuisance but positively dangerous. Not long ago, one of them stabbed a person in the street; and it was high time there should be some more effectual way of dealing with them than the present regulations seemed to allow.

MR. HENSMAN blamed those in authority for letting these men out, to become a nuisance to themselves and other people. If they were in the habit of getting drunk, they had no business to be allowed to come into town at all.

The clause was then put and passed.

Clause 2—Short title:

Agreed to.

Bill reported.

The House adjourned at half-past ten o'clock, p.m.