

those eligible to be exempted would be exempted. He did not see how we could meet the desire of the member for Kanowna without exempting all half-castes.

Clause put and passed.

Clauses 64, 65, 66—agreed to.

Postponed Clause 25—Penalty for breach of agreement by aboriginal:

THE MINISTER moved—

That in line 11 all the words after "Act" be struck out.

MR. HUDSON: That would leave it optional with the magistrate but it still left the principle of imprisonment for a breach of a civil contract.

THE PREMIER: What did the member suggest?

MR. WALKER: The omission of the the clause.

Amendment passed; the clause as amended agreed to.

Postponed Clause 26 -- Penalty for breach of agreement by employer:

THE MINISTER FOR COMMERCE AND LABOUR moved—

That in line 15 all the words after "Act" be struck out.

Amendment passed; the clause as amended agreed to.

New Clause:

THE MINISTER moved that the following be inserted as Clause 5:—

The Colonial Treasurer shall in every year place at the disposal of the department out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund a sum of £10,000 and such further moneys as may be provided by Parliament to be applied to the purposes of the department. If in any year the whole of the said annual sum is not expended the unexpended balance shall be retained by the department and expended in the performance of the duties thereof in any subsequent year.

MR. HUDSON: Was the £10,000 in addition to the £8,000 appearing on the Estimates?

THE PREMIER: Provision was made for the remainder of the financial year.

MR. HUDSON: With the wide scope of the measure, sufficient money was not provided to carry out the intentions of the Bill.

THE MINISTER: In 1892 a sum of £5,000 odd was spent in this department and the amount had gradually increased until this year £14,000 was spent. In 1903, £11,000 was spent: in 1904,

£12,995. Members would see that the department was well looked after.

Question passed, the clause inserted.

Schedules, Preamble, Title -- agreed to.

Bill reported with amendments.

# ADJOURNMENT.

The House adjourned at 9.45 o'clock, until the next Monday afternoon.

## Legislative Assembly.

Monday, 18th December, 1905.

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THE SPEAKER took the Chair at 2.30 o'clock p.m.

## PRAYERS.

## PAPERS PRESENTED.

By the PREMIER: Copies of Orders in Council, issued under Section 35 of "The Audit Act, 1904."

## QUESTION—FEDERAL INFORMATION.

### PASSENGERS BY GERMAN STEAMER, NATIONALITIES.

THE PREMIER: I desire to state that I have an answer to the question asked by the member for Kanowna (Mr. Walker) on Friday, 1st instant. It is as follows:—In connection with the questions asked by the hon. member for Kanowna on the 1st inst., I have, in

accordance with the promise then made, obtained answers from the Federal Government, which are as under: 1, British, 19; Italian, 29; Russian, 3; Swiss, 2; Scandinavian, 1. 2, Yes. Three (3) pounds and upwards. 3, No test applied. 4, Yes. All, including 14 miners, one each merchant, carpenter, farmer, gardener, gamekeeper, cook, labourer; nine females, and five children under 18 years. 5, Yes. 1 Russian, 4 British, 1 Italian.

#### QUESTION—RAILWAY EXCURSION FARES, GOLDFIELDS AND COAST.

MR. KEENAN asked the Minister for Railways: 1, Is he aware that the fares charged for excursions extending over one month between Fremantle and Albany are one-half the amount charged for the like privileges between Kalgoorlie and Fremantle? 2, Is he aware that the distance is practically the same in both instances? 3, In view of the greater necessity at this time of the year for affording facilities to people residing on the goldfields to visit the sea-side rather than to afford facilities to people already on the sea-coast to visit another part of the sea-coast, is the Minister prepared to recommend the Commissioner of Railways to reduce the fare from Kalgoorlie to Fremantle on three days in each week to the same figure as that charged on every day of the week between Fremantle and Albany under excursion rates?

THE MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS replied: 1, Yes. 2, Yes. 3, The cheap excursions of three months' currency are as follows:—Kalgoorlie to Fremantle, 387 miles, 60s. first, 40s. second; Fremantle to Albany, 352 miles, 57s. 6d. first, 36s. second. Special cheap excursions of six weeks' currency are as follows:—Fremantle to Albany, 352 miles, 30s. first, 20s. second; Kalgoorlie to Albany, 595 miles, 50s. first, 40s. second. No special excursions have been arranged from Kalgoorlie to Fremantle, but the matter will receive immediate consideration. I will advise the hon. member as soon as I can see what arrangements can be made.

#### QUESTION—COLLIE COAL CONTRACTS.

MR. EWING asked the Minister for Railways: 1, Have the contracts for the

supply of native coal to the Government railways for the next three years been decided? 2, If so, what are the details of these contracts?

THE MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS replied: I have not had my replies framed exactly as they were asked, but I think they will give the information. They are as follow:—*Statement re Collie Coal.* Prior to September last coal was being purchased from the four companies mining at Collie at 9s. per ton, the Proprietary Company supplying 50 per cent. of the order, Cardiff 20 per cent., Co-operative 15 per cent., and the Scottish 15 per cent. Tenders were called in September for the whole supply required by the Railway Department, and the tender of the Proprietary was accepted at 8s. 2d. per ton for three years, conditionally upon the company entering into an industrial agreement with the workmen for the term of their contract. The company failed to complete the industrial agreement and the contract lapsed. In dealing with this question the Government first took into consideration, Were they justified in paying a higher price for Collie coal than its equitable value compared with Newcastle coal at 15s. 4d? We considered that if these collieries were closed down, it would result in a serious injury to the State. In the first place, the railways would always have to look over seas for their supplies, and in the event of strikes, war, or other serious eventualities, the whole of the working of our railway system might be imperilled; moreover, we had built many miles of railways to facilitate the trade of these collieries; large sums have been expended in development; and a large number of people were entirely dependent upon the industry. Further, recent trials are proving the value of the Collie coal as a first-class material for the making of producer gas, with the probability of considerably reducing the cost of motive power. Taking these questions into consideration, and fortified by the report of Dr. Jack, we felt justified in doing our utmost to stimulate the industry. The second consideration was, Should the whole of our supplies be taken from one company? To do so meant cheaper costs, but our policy in the past has been to prevent monopolies, and we felt that we were not justified in giving effect to

the policy of my predecessor by giving the whole of the contract to one company. Had we done so the other collieries must be abandoned, as the private trade is not such as would keep any of the collieries working, and at the expiration of the contract we would have been entirely in the hands of one company. We have decided to distribute the required supply among the various companies. The Government have determined to enter into contracts with the four collieries for a supply for three years starting from September 1st, the Railway Department to use 70 per cent. of Collie coal during the period from November 15th to February 15th, and 80 per cent. during the balance of the year, except from Geraldton to Nannine, where Newcastle coal only would be used. The maximum price to be paid for Collie coal to be 8s. 9d. per ton, subject to reductions according to calorific value. We have not yet finally decided upon the equitable value of Collie coal in comparison with Newcastle coal, but when that is determined, a direct payment will be made by the Treasury to the Railway Department, so that members may be able to judge what the assistance to Collie coal is costing the State. The orders to the various collieries will be apportioned as follows:—Collie Proprietary, 45 per cent.; Scottish, Co-operative, and Cardiff, 55 per cent., equally divided. Royalties will be remitted for five years, with a view of assisting the companies to build up a private trade. As this coal is proved to be very useful for stationary engines, it is hoped that far greater use of it will be made by our local industries. The greater proportion of the order is given to the Proprietary at the special request of the Railway Department.

#### NOTICES, WHEN TO BE GIVEN.

MR. DIAMOND gave certain notices, after the business had begun.

MR. SPEAKER had already intimated the necessity of giving notices of questions at the proper time, that being before the business of the day was proceeded with. He said then that he would allow notice to be given on that occasion. He hardly liked to go beyond that. He must insist in the future that unless

notice had been given before the agenda paper was proceeded with, it should not be given at that sitting.

#### STANDING ORDERS SUSPENSION.

THE PREMIER (Hon. C. H. Rason) moved:

That for the remainder of the session the Standing Orders be suspended so far as to enable Bills to be passed through all stages in one day, and Messages from the Legislative Council to be taken into consideration on the day on which they are received; also so far as to admit of the reporting and adopting of the resolutions of the Committees of Supply and of Ways and Means on the same day on which they shall have passed those committees.

This motion was the usual one when the conclusion of the session was apparently in sight. Its sole object was that the business might be expedited. In regard to the probable closing of the session he thought it would be preferable to make the statement he had to make in that respect when he moved the next motion appearing on the Notice Paper.

MR. T. H. BATH (Brown Hill): The Premier had stated this was the usual motion moved at this time of the year in order to expedite business. If one were to adopt the usual course of the Leader of the Opposition, he did not think he need go much farther than the hon. gentleman's utterances when filling that position in opposition to motions of this kind. Without speaking at any great length, he desired to say that he himself had always regarded the suspension of the Standing Orders at the conclusion of the session as a course which we should try to avoid in the future. After all, the Standing Orders were those which after a considerable amount of discussion and thought had been adopted as a guidance and basis for the conduct of this House, and the only provision made for the suspension of the Standing Orders was in the case of urgent necessity. If desired, a course could be adopted to facilitate business during the early part of the year, and the necessity for the annual suspension of the Standing Orders avoided. This suspension, he hoped, would in future be unnecessary.

MR. J. B. HOLMAN (Murchison) protested against suspending the Standing Orders. In several previous sessions this motion was opposed. Were the business on the Notice Paper unim-

portant, had any important business been transacted, or had we been given an opportunity of discussing the Estimates, there would be no objection to the motion. But there were on the Notice Paper about 25 Orders of the Day and several Notices of Motion. Besides, there were important Bills to be dealt with—the Statutes Compilation, Totalisator Duty, Fire Brigades, Racecourse Licensing, and State Trading Accounts Bills. What was to be gained by rushing through the business? During last session the Minister for Mines said he would have liked to bring in a Mines Regulation Bill and legislation to deal with the Deep Levels and other scandals. Those measures were already in print. Had the Minister been such a tiger for work this session as he was last session, much improvement would have been made in mines legislation and companies legislation. When before his electors the Minister was very fond of promising improvements; but now that he had power to effect improvements he did nothing. Ministers, with their majority, would prevent the full discussion of any subject. When this session opened the Premier informed us he was anxious to proceed with work, and asked members to sit an extra day. We sat on the 23rd November for 3 hours 25 minutes; on the 28th, 1 hour 55 minutes; on the 29th, a little over an hour; on the 30th, 7 hours; on the 1st December, 3 hours 10 minutes; 5th, 2 hours; 6th, 6 hours; 8th, 4 hours; 12th, 2 hours 10 minutes; 13th, 7 hours; 14th, about 7 hours. On last Thursday till the following morning we sat for 17 hours. The 13 sitting days this session totalled 68 hours 45 minutes work. We were asked to carry through the whole remaining business in six sitting days this week, thus sitting three extra days. Had business been far advanced and proper progress made, no one would object. But why rush through business? To allow Ministers to get into recess. We were informed that the country required administration. He hoped the administration would not be similar to that evidenced by the Estimates. The back country, which needed assistance, was absolutely starved and robbed to spoonfeed much older centres that should not require spoonfeeding. We were told that the Estimates as brought

in were practically the same as those of the preceding Government. It was a disgrace to any Government to introduce such Estimates. Before proroguing, we should deal with other matters also. Everyone in Perth knew how disgraceful was the quality of the water supplied; and the House should not prorogue till that was remedied, for the water was a menace to the public health. Stored away in the corners of this building he saw 20 stretchers. Did the Premier wish to go into recess in order to turn the Chamber into a doss-house? When the Labour Government were deriving revenue from a cottage near the Houses of Parliament, a great outcry was heard. Did the Premier, before bringing stretchers into the Chamber, receive the permission of the House Committee? When a Government resorted to such measures, the time had arrived for a change. Ministers said they wished Parliament prorogued in order that they might administer the departments. How had the Electoral Act been administered? Some scores if not hundreds of breaches of that Act were committed during the general elections. What about Mines Department administration? During the past few months the administration of the Factories Act had not been such as any Government should be proud of. There must be either retrenchment in the railway service or considerable work charged to loan that had previously been charged to revenue. However, it had been definitely arranged to endeavour to prorogue next Saturday. Though he did not wish to sit through the hot weather, still rather than see the country's business suffer, as he believed it would, he would be inclined to remain here until Easter. He hoped that next session we should be given an opportunity of dealing properly with the business.

Question put and passed; the Standing Orders suspended.

#### ANNUAL ESTIMATES.

TO REINSTATE AFTER COUNT-OUT.

THE PREMIER AND TREASURER (Hon. C. H. Rason) moved:

That the Committee of Supply on the Estimates 1905-6 be resumed at the point where it was interrupted by the count-out of the House on Friday, 15th December.

He said: The unfortunate circumstances leading up to that count-out of the House—indeed the whole of the circumstances connected with the sitting—I for one deeply regret. I do not think there is any cause for satisfaction to either side with respect to that unfortunate meeting. I for one am prepared to admit, and I have no doubt the Opposition will admit also, that neither side possesses a monopoly of all the virtues; and I do not wish to have attributed to me a monopoly of all the vices. I am content to believe that though we may have differences of political opinion, members on that side of the House as well as on this have an honest desire to do their duty to their country. Some of us may have peculiar methods of doing it; still, I believe the desire exists. Since that unfortunate circumstance, I am glad to be able to announce that the Leader of the Opposition and I, in consultation, have concluded that it is possible to get through the business of this session in time to prorogue on Saturday next. In this matter the hon. member (Mr. Bath) has been very fair indeed, and for his fairness I wish to give him due credit. He requests that if we get through the business early, then the House shall meet earlier in the next year than it has met in years past. I am very ready indeed to fall in with that suggestion; and I agree, on behalf of my colleagues and this side of the House, that Parliament shall be called together for the conduct of business not later than the last week in May. If we adopt this course, as we intend, I think it will be easily possible for the Government to come down to the House with most of its proposed legislation ready; there will then be ample time for consideration of all the legislation which the Government may introduce, following up, as soon as possible after the close of the financial year, with the Estimates. Then at least there will be ample time for that discussion which some hon. members hold so dear. Let me plead this in extenuation of the sins of this Government with regard to the work of the present session. We met the House in August. Very soon there was a dissolution. There were general elections; returns not in till the end of October, some of them not in till November. Ever since the beginning of August the

departmental work has been drifting. Of that there can be no doubt. My belief is that the sooner there can be some administrative work, the better it will be for the country. The Leader of the Opposition, in agreeing with me that the work of the session shall be brought to a close as early as I have indicated, is not only acting fairly and generously, but, if he will allow me to say so, is also acting in that manner best calculated to do good to his own party; because I would like to point out that if we are kept working here we have a very good excuse to offer to the public should there not be good administration; but if we are allowed to go back to our offices and we do not give good administration to the country, there is no excuse for us. We do not want any excuse. We merely desire an opportunity. I do not wish to prolong my remarks on this matter. I honestly believe that the decision arrived at with the help of my friend is the best possible for each party in this House; and I am sure it is the best possible in the interests of this country.

MR. T. H. BATH (Brown Hill): Whatever may have been the opinions of members in regard to the proceedings of last week—and I may say that perhaps the opinions of hon. members on this side will differ from the opinions of hon. members opposite—we will all agree that the outcome of the conference between the Premier and myself is one that will be an advantage not only to members of Parliament on either side but also to the country. In the first place, I think that it is an advantage that our parliamentary discussions and business should take place during the cooler months of the year, when the surroundings are such that we are able to give the greatest amount of mental effort to the discussions. Also it will mean that the discussion on the financial proposals will take place at a date when the financial year is young, instead of as now when the greater portion of the year has expired and when a great portion of the expenditure has taken place. I am glad to say that the conference was of a cordial nature. There was a desire on both sides that, while some equitable arrangement should be made, there should be no attempt to burk discussion on any proposals. I may say, on behalf of every

member on the Opposition side of the House, that we are prepared to endure any little discomfort or inconvenience that may be occasioned by our having to sit at perhaps greater length than would otherwise be the case, in order that the proposals may be got through and with reasonable discussion. With regard to the proposal to meet in May next, it will be a great advantage to the State generally. It was a proposal I was glad to put forward, and I am very glad that the Premier saw his way to support it.

Question put and passed.

#### BILLS (5)—THIRD READING.

Land Act Amendment, transmitted to the Legislative Council.

Stamp Act Amendment, transmitted to the Legislative Council.

Public Education Amendment, *passed*.

Electric Lighting Act Amendment, *passed*.

Aborigines, returned to the Legislative Council with amendments.

#### BILL—AGRICULTURAL BANK ACT AMENDMENT.

##### SECOND READING.

Message from the Governor received and read, recommending appropriation for the purposes of the Bill.

THE MINISTER FOR LANDS (Hon. N. J. Moore), in moving the second reading, said: The sole object of this Bill is to increase the capital of the Agricultural Bank. At the present time the authorised capital is £500,000, while loans to the extent of £463,700 have been approved, less cancellations of £24,619, leaving a balance available of £60,919. At present there are applications at the Agricultural Bank totalling in all £25,000, leaving a balance of only £35,919 available for farther applications. The amount applied for during the first five months of the present financial year has been £61,500, and if the present rate of application is maintained, the authorisations will only carry us over a little over three months. Members may have read the report of the manager of the institution, which was laid on the table the other day. It is gratifying to notice the great progress in the bank's operations. The total amount of loans approved to the 30th June last

was £413,525, of which the sum of £297,600 has been paid to borrowers in progress payments, and the sum of £49,792 has been advanced to settlers to aid them in paying off liabilities in the purchase of stock, plant, and fertilisers. Last year was a record for the bank. The applications totalled 971, or an increase of 94 on the previous year's figures. The aggregate amount applied for was £140,275, and the applications approved during the same period represented a sum of £102,875. Despite the very easy terms on which the money has been advanced, the manager was able to show a profit of £2,409 in connection with last year's transactions, and the sum now at the Treasury to meet any possible loss is £5,433 16s. 8d. This is a most gratifying state of affairs, I think. Considering the enormous influence the bank is exercising in connection with land development, the State is very fortunate in having, as the manager of the bank, a gentleman who has such a thorough knowledge of agricultural interests in Western Australia. I feel sure that the manner in which he has conducted the operations of the bank to date is a guarantee that this authorisation we are now asking for will be utilised to the best advantage of the State. I have much pleasure in moving the second reading of the Bill.

Question passed.

Bill read a second time.

##### IN COMMITTEE.

Bill passed through Committee without debate, reported without amendment, and the report adopted.

#### BILL—FERTILISERS AND FEEDING-STUFFS ACT AMENDMENT.

##### SECOND READING.

THE MINISTER FOR LANDS (Hon. N. J. Moore), in moving the second reading, said: This little Bill has had rather a chequered career. Having been introduced by the late Government in the Upper House, when the Hon. J. M. Drew was Minister for Agriculture, when the change of Government came about it was introduced by the Premier in this House and passed its second reading. Now it has again been sent down to us from the other place. It is proposed by this Bill to amend the present Act, which

was passed last year, and which was practically a copy of the Fertilisers Act in force in South Australia. It has since been found in both States that certain amendments have been rendered necessary, and it is with a view of giving effect to the amendments that this measure is introduced. It is purely of a technical nature, and I do not know that it is necessary to go into all the details. I would like to say that the principal reason for introducing the Bill is to clearly define some of the definitions of the original Act 1904. The definition of "citrate soluble phosphate" is altered to "citrate soluble phosphoric acid"; which means phosphoric acid contained in compounds soluble in citrate of ammonia. The definition of "dealer" in the second clause is altered to read "dealer means any person who carries on business as a manufacturer, importer, vendor, or dealer in any fertiliser, or food for cattle, for purposes of trade, and whether such person carries on any other business or trade or not." Then the definition of "fertiliser" has been altered. In the original Act the term "crude material" has been struck out. It was considered that under the term "crude material" guano and bone-dust might be exempted from the operation of the Act; and it was necessary that these should be analysed. Instead of "crude material" we propose to add, "or such other material as the Governor may, by proclamation in the *Government Gazette*, except." The other alteration refers to "water soluble phosphate," which has been altered to "water soluble phosphoric acid," meaning phosphoric acid contained in compounds soluble in water. As hon. members recognise, in plant life there are three essential elements requisite, nitrogen, potash and phosphoric acid; but under the term "phosphate" there is nothing definite in regard to the percentage of phosphoric acid contained in the phosphate—there is nothing to say whether it contains 40 or 60 per cent. of phosphoric acid; and as phosphoric acid is a necessary element required in plant life, by making the alteration it will put the farmer on a much better standing than he is at present, so that when a man gets his analyses he will know exactly what it means. The alteration of the

definition of the word "dealer" has been necessary. The Bill renders it unlawful for a dealer to have in his possession fertilisers over a requisite standard, and relieves the inspector from proving that the fertiliser has been sold. Previously, it had to be proved that a sale had taken place before a conviction could be sustained. The mere fact of the dealer having this adulterated article in his possession is sufficient to procure a conviction. The amendment was necessary in South Australia, and we have adopted it here at the request of the Government Analyst and the Director of Agriculture.

MR. T. H. BATH (Brown Hill): I agree with the Minister for Lands that this is a Bill greatly needed for the plant life in Western Australia. In the past, owing to the lack of definiteness in the definition of various fertilisers, the plant life of Western Australia has been deprived of a large proportion of its due. As Minister for Lands, it was my duty, owing to the presence of the Minister for Agriculture in another place, to introduce this Bill here, and with the assistance of a scientific dictionary I gave some study to the clauses of the measure. Unfortunately owing to having to relinquish my official position, I was not able to carry the Bill through. This amendment has been found necessary as far as the South Australian Act was concerned; therefore I can commend it to the support of members of this House.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

#### IN COMMITTEE.

Bill passed through Committee without debate, reported without amendment, and the report adopted.

#### BILL—PERMANENT RESERVES REDEDICATION (No. 2).

##### SECOND READING.

THE MINISTER FOR LANDS (Hon. N. J. Moore): This measure has been rendered necessary before any land can be diverted from the purposes for which it is set apart under Reserve A. Clause 1 provides:—

All that portion of permanent reserve 3421 (Perth High School), bounded by lines extending respectively 110° 59' 12 chains 55 links and 200° 59' 75 links from a point

situate 200° 59' 75 links from the west corner of Perth Town Lot H30, the opposite boundaries being parallel and equal, is hereby excluded from the said reserve and dedicated to the purpose of widening Wilson Street.

Wilson Street is that street immediately opposite the Council entrance to Parliament House; and the Perth City Council approved of the closure of Ord Street provided the Government introduce a Bill to allow Wilson Street to be made 150 links wide instead of 75 links as at present. If it had been thought advisable to carry Ord street through, it would have needed a cutting of 40 feet. Wilson Street is to be widened to a width of one and a-half chains instead of three-quarters of a chain as at present. The other clause refers to a reserve in North Fremantle known as North Fremantle Town Lot 229, containing 3 roods and 22 perches or thereabouts. It is proposed to give that to the North Fremantle Council. They have no land set apart for municipal purposes, and have applied for this small area, as the only site in the town suitable for the purpose to which it is to be applied; and I feel sure the House will approve of the area being dedicated for municipal purposes in North Fremantle.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

#### IN COMMITTEE.

Bill passed through Committee without debate, reported without amendment, and the report adopted.

#### ANNUAL ESTIMATES, 1905-6.

##### IN COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY.

General discussion resumed, after the all-night sitting and the count-out on the previous Thursday.

MR. ILLINGWORTH in the Chair.

Vote—*His Excellency the Governor*, £1,498:

MR. J. SCADDAN (Ivanhoe): I have said just about all I desire to say on the general discussion; but I reserve to myself the right of discussing the items when we come to them, and I shall take every opportunity of discussing them freely.

MR. N. J. KEENAN (Kalgoorlie): I desire to make some general observations on the Estimates, and I take the oppor-

tunity of stating that as far as I am personally concerned I view the privileges and rights of the Opposition with the greatest possible respect, and the observations which the Leader of the Opposition felt bound to make on members on the Government side of the House not being prepared to acknowledge those rights and privileges I consider in the circumstances are quite undeserved. Up to a certain point I was quite prepared to pass my personal vote in favour of farther time being allowed to consider the Estimates; but in view of the fact of the happy ending that has been arrived at on terms agreeable to themselves, between the Leader of the Opposition and the Leader of the House, I do not think that it is necessary to refer to the matter even shortly. But I would like to say that it became perfectly impossible for any person, however he sympathised with the rights and privileges of the Opposition, to any longer vote with that side of the House when the declared object of the proceedings was not discussion but obstruction. [MR. BOLTON: Not declared.] The declared object was apparent, in that members spoke not so much with a view of criticism as of wasting time. It is perfectly in accord with their frame of mind to accuse me now of wasting time. As regards the Estimates, the most important fact is one which will I hope, before the Estimates are disposed of, be dealt with in a somewhat more concise manner; that is, the meeting of a deficiency next June of £132,000. If I were asked the position, I could not possibly say what means the Premier suggests for meeting this deficit. It is perfectly true it is hinted that there will be better departmental work done than in the past; but assuming that it is so, assuming that the departments are managed in the most exemplary manner, can the Premier give the House any assurance that next June there will not be a serious deficit? If we have to finish the financial year, even in the most favourable circumstances, with a deficit, surely we have come to a critical stage in our financial history when we can calmly accept that position, when we are going, as far as the State is concerned, to expend more money than the State is going to receive, and to do it with our eyes open,



without proposing to ask the country to realise the position, but simply to hope for the best. I should have preferred myself to have heard proposals made either for a drastic reduction of our expenditure, or if that expenditure is absolutely necessary, for some means of raising revenue in order that we may be able to pay the bill. As regards retrenchment of expenditure, an examination of the Estimates does not seem to make one very hopeful; because I perceive that in the Colonial Secretary's office a new staff has been created for audit purposes. When that item comes under discussion I should like to know why it is necessary in the Colonial Secretary's office to have this branch. It must be remembered, in regard to the creation of these offices, that although they are very easily made, although there is no difficulty about adding to the staff, under our Public Service Act it is impossible to get rid of them. Although it is very objectionable that we should vote large sums for buildings or anything of that nature, we have this consolation, that they occur once and only once; whereas these additions of officers become permanent additions. The parties who are taken into the service acquire vested rights, and I should particularly like to know why, in relation to the accountancy work of the Colonial Secretary's office, which hitherto seems to have been done by the accountant from some other office, we are this year asked to create new offices running into an expenditure of £1,530. [THE TREASURER: They are not new appointments.] There is no indication given to show that there is any transfer. Possibly there is, but on the face of the Estimates there is no indication whatever that such is the case. Another question I would direct attention to, in view of our straitened finances, is this: are we justified in keeping the Observatory on the top of the hill going? This is an item which costs £3,613. The work done by that Observatory no doubt could be justified if we were in flourishing circumstances. It is a work which is really mostly of benefit to people living outside of Western Australia, to the Imperial authorities and different places in Europe which receive communications in regard to disturbances that take place here—not in the House but in the atmo-

sphere—and astronomical observations of gentlemen who are described on the Estimates as observers. I notice that the salaries of observers vary from £250 a year to £12. No doubt this may be a luxury we could indulge in with a great deal of self-satisfaction, if our finances were flourishing; but in our present position, when we are absolutely taking every means to scrape pennies together, I altogether object to the expenditure of that sum in a work of that kind. I think it might very well be used for the purpose of a university, or at any rate dedicated to the use of a university when our finances admit of such a project. I notice in the Colonial Secretary's office the vote for the Zoological Gardens in South Perth. I have no objection to a congregation of wild animals, if they are kept secure, but I object to a large sum being voted for this purpose when the pruning knife is applied, and perhaps justly applied under our straitened circumstances, to what are absolutely needs of the country, and particularly I object to providing £500 which we are asked to vote for a new snake-house. In the Estimates is an amount of £28 to be spent on the court-house at Kalgoorlie, to which reference has been made time after time. Surely if snakes are worth £500, more than £28 is due to the public on the goldfields to meet the requirements of justice administered by His Majesty's Judges. [MR. BATH: Some people say they would rather have snakes than law.] I shall ask the Minister why it is necessary, if this zoological garden is the success we hear on all hands, to bolster it up to such an extent as appears in these Estimates; and, furthermore, why has the pruning knife not been used with much greater effect in regard to things of this character? I do not wish to discuss the Estimates at length, because I presume the items will be open to discussion afterwards; but I would like to say that a general scrutiny of the Estimates suggests that there has been an increase here, there, and everywhere, sometimes a small amount, sometimes a larger amount, in the salaries of the higher officers; and if we are going to have a period of rigid economy, it is no good entering upon it without being determined, however objectionable it may be, to keep down the expenses of the

superior staffs in regard to all public servants. If the Treasurer approaches this subject only with a half-hearted resolution to cut down expenditure, it is absolutely certain no result will be achieved. He must be prepared to incur an amount of opprobrium if necessary in bringing about these reductions, and must steel his heart against giving increases here and there to public servants at such a time as the present. I have no farther observation to make except to say that owing to the shortness of the session, and the large amount of time used somewhat unnecessarily, we shall be obliged, I am afraid, to run through these Estimates at such a rapid pace that a number of very objectionable votes will probably be passed. I hope that when members come back from a general criticism of the Estimates they will enable me and others to discuss the items without waste of time.

MR. A. J. WILSON (Forrest): I have no desire to allow the Estimates to go by without making some general comments in regard to the present discussion. First of all I want to say I think the proposed estimates of revenue have been somewhat recklessly compiled; and as an illustration of that statement I desire to direct the attention of the House to the fact that the Colonial Treasurer anticipates receiving from the dividend tax no less a sum than £135,000, or an actual increase on last year's figures of £11,267. He may have most excellent grounds for coming to that conclusion, but I cannot lose sight of the fact that in the year ending 30th June, 1902-3, the receipts from this source were £127,607, whilst in the following year they fell off by £2,500, or down to £125,000, and last year they fell again another £1,300. From these figures, taken in conjunction with certain statements that have been made by mining magnates and authorities recently in regard to our gold-mining prospects, one would be justified in coming to the conclusion that when the Colonial Treasurer expects to receive £11,267 more from dividend duties during the ensuing year, it is scarcely in keeping with what have been the indications in the last two or three years. If we take another matter upon which the Estimates seem to be somewhat recklessly based, the prospect of the decease of a con-

siderable number of people who will leave to their relatives a considerable quantity of money, it is suggested that there will be an increase in the probate duties during the current financial year of no less a sum than £10,000 as compared with last year. Of course I quite recognise there is nothing more certain than death. The only uncertain portion about it is as to how much money the persons will leave. There must be a certain amount of latitude allowed to the hon. member compiling the estimate of what money will be left behind, and what will be the probate. [THE TREASURER: Already we have £9,000 of it.] If the hon. member has really £9,000 of it, the position is somewhat altered. There is another very important matter I may refer to, and which I know the Colonial Treasurer, when Leader of the Opposition, drew very pointed attention to on the occasion of the previous Budget; that being the means by which the contributions of the public to the public revenue were considerably and unduly inflated. I observe there is a Bill before the House to deal with this matter; but if it be right to place, for instance, the Coolgardie Water Supply on a basis which does not show an undue inflation in connection with the financial position, if it be right to do the same in regard to the Fremantle Water Works; and if it be proposed to do the same in relation to the State Battery and Smelting Works, why cannot the Government be ready to do the same in regard to the revenue received from the Lands Department, and also that received from the Railway Department, so that we may have our finances placed upon a basis which will in no way deceive the general public as to the contributions being made to the revenue of the State? There is a common belief that the people are taxed to the extent of £14 or £15 per head per annum. This is a most preposterous delusion, because the amount is approximately less than £5 per head. No one can say that if a person buys a railway ticket for a journey from Perth to Kalgoorlie, and pays for it £2 or £3, he is taxed for the privilege of riding to Kalgoorlie, any more than the Treasurer could say, if he ordered a sucking-pig for his Christmas dinner and paid 17s. 6d. for it he was taxed to the extent of 17s. 6d.

THE TREASURER: He would be taxed to the fullest extent.

MR. A. J. WILSON: I am afraid that the measure of taxation would be the difficulty of digesting his Christmas dinner. However, if it be right to place the finances of the Coolgardie Water Scheme upon a fair trading basis, if it be right to do the same with the Fremantle Harbour Works and with other trading concerns, I certainly think that in all departments a distinction should be made between the revenue that is purely taxation and that which consists of payments made for services rendered. And I hope that during the ensuing recess, and when the Treasurer submits his next Budget Speech, a proposal for placing these funds in a proper light will be submitted, so that the public may know what we have and what we have not to pay in the shape of taxation; and this will lead to a better understanding of our financial position, not only by the people of the State, but by those outside the State who are interested in our finances. This is very material; because the two important elements in a State's financial position are the amount of taxation being paid by the people and the amount of debt owing by the people. If we find that the indebtedness per head is, say, £61 odd, and that the people are paying less than £5 per head in taxes, we shall know very well that we are justified in obviating by farther taxation the necessity for meeting the House with a deficit of £132,000, which deficit, as I have already indicated, may be increased if some of those fortunate gentlemen whom the Treasurer expects to shuffle off this mortal coil before the 30th June fail to do so, and if other sources of revenue—the dividend tax and stamp duties—fail to realise his anticipations. Personally, I seriously object to the light and cavalier manner in which the Treasurer, with his glowing optimism, talks about the small matter of a deficit. I think the first business of the State is to live as far as possible within its means; and if we thoroughly understood our position, if the public thoroughly understood the amount of taxation they are being called upon to pay and could discriminate between legitimate taxation and what is simply a payment for services rendered, then I think there would soon

be a loud public clamour for fresh taxation proposals, which are on this particular occasion conspicuously absent. On one feature of the Estimates I desire to congratulate the Government—the methods they have adopted with regard to the revenue accruing from land sales. Hitherto it has been the practice to amalgamate with ordinary revenue that portion of the revenue which is practically a deferred payment in respect of conditional purchase and similar leases. This it has been the practice to include with revenue, in common with the rents received from grazing leases and leases of a similar nature. I am glad to find that a discrimination has been made this year—and in my opinion a wise discrimination—between what are legitimate land sales and what is legitimate rent on account of lands held under special leases or special licenses. That portion of the land revenue resulting from sales and rents should, I think, be placed in the same position as a trading concern; because if we say that our revenue amounts to 3 or 3½ millions, and the bigger proportion of that—over 2½ millions—is made up of receipts from land sales and land rents, and the profits accruing from State batteries and smelting works and railways and harbour works, then I think we shall be bringing about a state of affairs neither desirable to the House not in the best interests of the country generally. I regret to note the Premier's lack of optimism as to the prospects of agricultural development and agricultural revenue during the present financial year. I am quite satisfied that we have by no means reached the zenith of our agricultural development; and unquestionably, if the Government are prepared to pursue a wise and progressive land-settlement policy, the revenue obtained from this source will exceed the estimate. I do not know that it will be obtained if the Government incur an enormous liability by building spur lines here, there, and everywhere. I think that the spur-line policy, which is largely responsible for the magnificent following enjoyed by the Treasurer, is a policy which will have to be approached with the greatest care and scrutinised most studiously, to prevent our being saddled with an immense loan indebtedness for concerns which may or may not

pay, which will probably never pay no matter how cheaply constructed. I hope we shall have an opportunity of dealing with this matter on the Loan Estimates; and, in due deference to the desire of members to terminate this general discussion, I will reserve any remarks I have to make on that subject, in common with other remarks, for a later stage.

MR. T. H. BATH (Brown Hill): During the course of my previous remarks, I expressed an intention, before the discussion closed, to move an amendment to reduce this vote by £10. My desire was to call attention to what I consider the need for some definite proposals to square up the finances. I believe that this can best be done with advantage to the State while at the same time securing a just incidence of taxation, by taxing the unimproved value of land; and in order to test the feeling of members on that point, I move:

That the item be reduced by £10.

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

Ayes	...	...	...	14
Noes	...	...	...	24
Majority against				10

AYES.  
Mr. Bath  
Mr. Bolton  
Mr. Collier  
Mr. Daglish  
Mr. Holman  
Mr. Horan  
Mr. Hudson  
Mr. Lynch  
Mr. Scaddan  
Mr. Taylor  
Mr. Walker  
Mr. Ware  
Mr. A. J. Wilson  
Mr. Troy (Teller).

NOES.  
Mr. Barnett  
Mr. Brebber  
Mr. Brown  
Mr. Butcher  
Mr. Cowcher  
Mr. Diamond  
Mr. Ewing  
Mr. Hardwick  
Mr. Hayward  
Mr. Hicks  
Mr. Isdell  
Mr. Keenan  
Mr. Layman  
Mr. McLarty  
Mr. Male  
Mr. Monger  
Mr. N. J. Moore  
Mr. S. F. Moore  
Mr. Price  
Mr. Rason  
Mr. Smith  
Mr. Veryard  
Mr. P. Wilson  
Mr. Gordon (Teller).

Amendment thus negatived; the first item of the Estimates "His Excellency the Governor" passed and the vote agreed to.

[Votes and items discussed in detail.]

Vote—*Executive Council*, £110:

Item—Clerk, £75:

MR. DAGLISH moved an amendment:  
That the item be struck out.

The secretary could do the work without the assistance of a clerk; in fact, a clerk was not now employed, the £75 being an additional emolument to the secretary.

THE TREASURER hoped the member for Subiaco was not serious. The clerk had received the same salary when the hon. member was Treasurer. It was no new item, and there was no reason for reducing it. It would be unjust to do so.

MR. DAGLISH admitted the item was the same as provided on last year's Estimates, but last year he had not been aware of the circumstances. As a matter of fact we paid £75 a year when no clerk was employed. We therefore voted money under what might be called false pretences. If the Treasurer thought the money should be paid there was a proper way of paying it. It should be described an honorarium to the officer in addition to his statutory salary. Seeing that the item was not a fair representation of the circumstances, he insisted on the amendment.

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

Ayes	...	...	...	18
Noes	...	...	...	19

Majority against ... 1

AYES.  
Mr. Barnett  
Mr. Bath  
Mr. Bolton  
Mr. Collier  
Mr. Daglish  
Mr. Holman  
Mr. Horan  
Mr. Hudson  
Mr. Keenan  
Mr. Layman  
Mr. McLarty  
Mr. Smith  
Mr. Taylor  
Mr. Troy  
Mr. Walker  
Mr. Ware  
Mr. A. J. Wilson  
Mr. Lynch (Teller).

NOES.  
Mr. Brebber  
Mr. Brown  
Mr. Butcher  
Mr. Cowcher  
Mr. Diamond  
Mr. Ewing  
Mr. Hardwick  
Mr. Hayward  
Mr. Hicks  
Mr. Isdell  
Mr. McLarty  
Mr. Male  
Mr. Monger  
Mr. N. J. Moore  
Mr. S. F. Moore  
Mr. Price  
Mr. Rason  
Mr. Veryard  
Mr. Gordon (Teller).

Amendment thus negatived.

Other items agreed to, and the vote passed.

Vote—*Legislative Council*, £2,105:

MR. HORAN: What were the refreshment room expenses? There was no similar item under the Legislative Assembly vote.

THE TREASURER concluded that this was to cover the Council's proportion

of the joint refreshment room expenses, such as linen, cutlery, etc.

Vote passed.

Vote—*Legislative Assembly*, £5,778:

Item—Sergeant-at-Arms and Clerk of Committees, £165:

THE TREASURER: There was a slight error in this item. The Sergeant-at-Arms had reverted to his duties at the Mines Department, his salary being £330. It was anticipated the amount would be equally divided between Parliament and the Mines Department, hence the item appearing on the Legislative Assembly vote as £165; but £180 had been provided on the Mines Department vote, so this item would need to be correspondingly reduced. He would gladly allow the increase to stand had it been intentional, but it was an error. He moved an amendment—

That the item be reduced by £15.

Amendment passed.

Item—Messengers, £432:

MR. DAGLISH: One messenger was employed at £52 a year, and there were two sessional messengers at 15s. a week. Were these messengers in attendance the whole time the House was sitting, and also during the day? If so, the remuneration seemed very inadequate.

THE TREASURER: The member for Subiaco seemed very anxious to acquire knowledge this session. The same circumstances existed last year. [MR. DAGLISH: *Tu quoque* always.] Not always; but when the occasion presented itself, yes. The remuneration was too small. He would be glad to increase the items, but had been anxious to adhere to existing conditions as far as he could. He would see whether a better condition could not be brought about on the next Estimates. The messengers employed at 15s. a week left the House at 6.30 every evening when the House was sitting.

Item—Grant for Library, £100:

MR. HORAN complained as to the incomplete condition of the Library. There were other items on the Estimates to provide for law libraries, yet the Parliamentary Library was most incomplete in the matter of reference books and law books. A private gentleman's

library would throw the Parliamentary Library in the shade. He hoped the Treasurer would endeavour to keep the Library posted up in the future.

MR. PRICE trusted the Treasurer would see fit, on some future occasion, to increase this vote. The Library was not up to the standard, and the sum at the discretion of the Library Committee seemed too small.

MR. WALKER: The Joint Library Committee could pass accounts for expenditure incurred, but there was little discretion as to the laying out of the vote. Most of the money was absorbed in periodicals, the daily, weekly, and monthly journals; consequently, by way of adding to the Library or completing it, he understood there was not a fraction to enable additions to be made. Some of the expenditure in connection with periodicals might be curtailed. Had contracts been entered into that could not be broken? The committee might practise strict economy, so that some money might be saved to improve the institution.

THE TREASURER: The grant of £100 to the Library was the same amount that had been granted year after year for many years past. Half that amount was spent in magazines and periodicals, and the other half was available. This was a matter in which he personally had no means of interference; it was entirely in the hands of the committee.

Vote, as reduced to £5,758, put and passed.

Vote — *Joint Houses of Parliament*, £5,122:

MR. HORAN: A reduction of £75 was made in the dining-room wages. The stewards in attendance at the establishment were paid practically sweating wages, and were compelled to work very long hours. These men had to work during all-night sittings, sometimes 18 or 20 hours continuously. Although their duties were not severe, they had to be in attendance; and as members were not always in the best mood, these men had to submit to irascible replies by members. Parliament, he considered, should at all times be a model employer, and instead of there being a reduction in the item it should be increased.

THE TREASURER: Although there was a decrease of £75 as compared with

the vote of last year, there was no decrease in the actual expenditure. As £855 only was expended, it was concluded that £875, a larger amount, would be sufficient for this year. There might be a good deal in what the hon. member said, that the wages of the stewards were not so high as some would like them to be.

MR. HORAN: Bring them up to the union wages outside.

THE TREASURER: The stewards received 6s. a day and their food. That was, he believed, the existing rate elsewhere, and higher than the Arbitration Court awarded. The men referred to had to work on some occasions very long hours indeed, and were occasionally subjected to some unpleasantness; but they were not singular in that respect. However much we might wish to pay good wages, we could not pay more than the standard wages for the class of labour.

Vote put and passed.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT AND ADMINISTRATIVE BRANCHES (HON. C. H. RASON, Treasurer).

Vote—*Treasury Generally*, £13,049:

MR. HORAN: Did the Under-Treasurer receive anything from the Imperial Government as paymaster of the Imperial accounts?

THE TREASURER: The Under-Treasurer received an additional £100.

Item—Secretary to Premier, £300:

MR. TROY: There was an increase of £32 in this item. Did the secretary to the Premier hold another position for which he received a salary?

THE TREASURER: The item did not represent any increase. As he explained the other day, the secretary to the Premier's department did spend four hours a week at the Railway Institute teaching a class of railway employees shorthand, and was believed to have given a great amount of satisfaction in that direction. He received no extra remuneration from the Premier's department. It was understood he received some honorarium through the committee of the institute. What the amount was he (the Premier) did not know, but it was very small.

MR. WALKER: What might be, and was, objectionable was that an officer in receipt of a comparatively large salary should enter into competition with a class of teachers who had to get their whole living out of teaching. That was an objection that had been raised on more than one occasion. Men getting good salaries were keeping others out of billets. If the secretary to the Premier carried out the duties he was paid by the Government for, he was fagged at the end of the day sufficiently to take a rest at night. There were teachers of shorthand in Perth who would be pleased to have the position to instruct those learning shorthand at the institute; and one did not know that the secretary to the Premier could teach better than practised and trained teachers. [MEMBER: He might do it cheaper.] By doing the work cheaper he might generally cheapen the pay of teachers of shorthand. It was an injustice to those who had to get their living solely by teaching that an officer in the Premier's department should enter into competition with them; and he could not do the work properly because he was fagged at the end of his day's work. Occasionally the Premier's secretary might be called upon to do work for the Premier when he was engaged teaching shorthand. We were given to understand that this work was done without salary—for just what the committee of the institute liked to give the officer. The principle was very deleterious, and if carried out in its entirety would be very bad. He protested against such being done.

MR. HORAN: When this officer took on the duties of teaching shorthand he was employed in the offices of the Railway Commissioner; therefore he was quite within his rights in doing the work. Subsequently he was transferred to the Premier's office, and having been a great success as a teacher of shorthand, his pupils did not desire to lose his services, and at their request he continued the work.

Item passed.

Inspection of liquor in licensed houses—£550:

Item—Chief Inspector, £300:

MR. A. J. WILSON said he had been frequently asked if there was such an individual as an inspector of liquor in

licensed houses. If so, it would appear that there were both a chief inspector and an assistant inspector for six months in the previous financial year, and he supposed they had both been in the service the whole of the present financial year. He did not know whether there had been any prosecutions but, if all reports were true, if there had not been there ought to have been. He hoped these gentlemen would be a bit more conspicuous than they had been in the past.

**MR. DIAMOND:** Was this chief inspector the gentleman who lent himself to an improper and gross attack on certain liquor imported by certain houses? Cases occurred in which the chief inspector of liquors assisted by the analyst made certain reports which were grossly unfair and improper; and he would like to know if any official notice had been taken of it. In his opinion it was a wilful and deliberate attempt to protect the importations of one set of firms as against those of another set. There were statements published in the newspapers which counterbalanced these, but still the action taken was ill-advised.

**MR. DAGLISH** wished to say a word in defence of the officer referred to. Two officers were provided for on the Estimates. Members would see by looking very carefully at their Estimates that one had been at work for six months, and the other until the 1st July had not started operations. During the time he (Mr. Daglish) was in office, the one officer, the chief inspector, was more than earning his salary by the moneys he was causing to be paid to consolidated revenue in the shape of fines. We had a very large number of licensed houses, and the work was altogether too much for one man, too much, in his opinion, for two men; and it could not be expected that any one individual would be able to entirely revolutionise, in the course of six months, the whole of the liquor trade. He was sorry the member for South Fremantle had reflected on the analysis of certain liquors that was made. All these liquors were selected at one place, and they were all submitted to the same analysis. The analysis was embodied in a report made to him whilst Colonial Treasurer, and he felt it his duty in the

interests of the public to see that the analysis was given to the public. It was suggested afterwards that there should have been a visit made to the various wine and spirit merchants, and that the liquors imported should have been submitted to analysis. He had a visit from a number of these importers, who asked that the various brands of liquors for which they were agents should be analysed as received into the State. But he wished to impress upon the Committee that what we were responsible for as a Parliament was to find out the quality of liquor, not as introduced into this State, but as sold in this State. And if we analysed the liquor as it arrived, it might be an altogether different article from that sold in the drinking establishments. Therefore the position taken by the chief inspector was quite proper. He thought no member would dispute the correctness of the analysis made. If that were admitted, the only point to which objection could be taken was that simultaneously all brands of liquor were not analysed; but that would be such a large undertaking that it would be hard indeed to discover how it could be satisfactorily carried out. To make these different analyses and publish them all at once, would have entailed delay extending over months. He hoped the present Colonial Treasurer would see that farther analyses were made from time to time, and that they would be analyses of liquor as retailed to the public, and not as it arrived in this State. Of course it would be a very fine thing for the importers if we analysed the liquor precisely as it came, and allowed them to select their samples for analysis. It would be impossible to find a more upright, straightforward, and honourable man than the present chief inspector of liquors.

**MR. KEENAN** asked the Treasurer that when carrying out the advice of the member for Subiaco he should take care to place the blame on the right shoulders. It appeared that under the instructions which the member for Subiaco gave to the officers, they took the samples from the shelves of certain public-houses, and then when they found that liquor possessed some deleterious elements, instead of publishing the names of the publicans they reflected upon the importer. He

was surprised that the member for Subiaco should have allowed a reflection to be cast upon men who possibly might have been absolutely innocent. The liquor might have left their possession as pure an article as could be mentioned, and have been subsequently found in the possession of publicans in a very impure state.

MR. DAGLISH: No names were published.

MEMBER: The name of the brand.

THE TREASURER: If the member for Forrest had been in his (the Treasurer's) office, he would have known how very active this chief inspector was. Over 100 analyses of liquor had been made. It was alleged against this officer that he acted in an unfair way in taking samples of spirits in the manner he did and in afterwards publishing the analyses of those samples. That matter was still being inquired into. Although he (the Premier) thought that the procedure laid down by the member for Subiaco in regard to analysing liquor at public-houses was correct, he was hardly prepared to go on all-fours with him in regard to the samples taken at wholesale houses. If we were going to take a sample of a brand of liquor, whisky for instance, surely it would be only fair to get that sample from the stock imported by the agent for that brand rather than to go to a competing agent. He did not say any agent in Fremantle would be guilty of the practice, but if the procedure of going to a competing agent were followed, it would be quite easy for an unscrupulous agent to damage the reputation of a competing whisky; and it would be just as well if he did not have the opportunity. The most effective way of taking analyses was to obtain samples from public-houses where the liquor was actually ready for supplying customers. That would get at the root of the evil, for if it became known that certain houses were supplying spirits of an inferior quality, their reputation would be gone and they would lose their trade.

MR. MONGER was desirous of congratulating the member for Forrest on having brought this particular item under the notice of the Committee. Whilst he had no fault to find with the inspector, one or two points had occurred within the last year or so that were worthy of

some little consideration. An arrest was made in a place called North Fremantle, and some Italians were then manufacturing spirits. They evidently had a market at their disposal for this particular stuff; but whilst a penalty was inflicted upon the man found with a distillery upon his premises, we never heard of any complaint being made against any publican or wine and beer seller for selling this stuff in North Fremantle.

MR. BOLTON: It went to York.

MR. MONGER: The chief inspector and the detective branch were to some extent at fault. Spirits locally distilled in that manner were not drinkable; and more should have been heard of the case. Nine out of every ten hotels in this State sold liquors unfit for consumption. The vote should be increased so that inspectors could bring into court vendors of liquor "faked" with fusel oil and similar adulterants. A publican was fined because he had reduced his spirit from a nominal 16 under proof to 25. But such a man should not be fined, for he was doing his customers a kindness. The man to be punished was he who supplied spirits of wine. The attention of the chief inspector should be called to the large quantity of spirits of wine imported to this State. Some was evidently used in the liquors sold in hotels. If the importer was responsible for this, steps should be taken to bring him to justice.

MR. TAYLOR: The Treasurer should urge the inspector to keep an eye on the hotel shelves. Of what use was it to secure the importation of pure spirits if they were tampered with before reaching the consumer? Some people could tell where a man had been drinking on the previous night by the manner in which he was affected next morning. Men who decided to have a glass of whisky would frequently pass four or five hotels in order to secure a good article elsewhere; hence it was certain that some hotels sold bad liquor. Let analyses be made of the liquors on the hotel shelves.

MR. DIAMOND: The whole of the system of inspection was ridiculous and improper. Inspection should be begun at the wharf, continued in the spirit-merchant's cellar, followed up to the publican's cellar and afterwards to his shelves, so that the guilt of adulteration might



be sheeted home. The recent inspection of liquors was disgraceful. It was generally understood that the inspection was made at the instigation of one wine and spirit merchant who had apparently some friendly influence over the inspector. Some of the most respectable firms in the State were picked out, in order that the liquor for which they were agents might be condemned. No one could gainsay the respectability of the firm of J. & W. Bateman, agents for the "OVG Special Reserve," one of the finest whiskies in the market; but that spirit was condemned. The distillers afterwards cabled out from England analyses which were published here, showing that the analysis of our Government analyst and the inspector's report were entirely wrong.

MR. TAYLOR: Where did the inspector get his samples?

MR. DIAMOND: The condemnation of certain samples was said to have been instigated by the merchant in question. The samples reported on favourably were of spirits for which that merchant was agent. The whole circumstances reeked with suspicion; and the inquiry to be made by the Treasurer should be more stringent than was perhaps intended.

MR. TAYLOR: If the inspector or any other officer had lent himself to any firm or any individual, with a view to crushing another agent, the inspector had no longer the right to be in the public service. Surely the Treasurer would not tolerate such an abuse. If the hon. member (Mr. Diamond) knew of anything wrong about the inspector, let him trot it out here. The member for Subiaco (Mr. Daglish) eulogised the same inspector; yet the member for South Fremantle practically laid a charge against the officer. Was the hon. member briefed by J. & W. Bateman? If not, let him give the Committee particulars of the case.

MR. BARNETT (Albany): Certain brands of whisky, as bottled in the United Kingdom, were very superior. Rightly or wrongly, the proprietors of these whiskies gave certain firms the right to bottle them in Australia. The question was whether the inspector's analysis was of whisky as made by the English distillers or as bottled by the Australian agents. If we could be assured that the analysis was of the

whisky made in England, he would say the analysis was wrong; but if it was of whisky bottled in Australia, we did not know by whom it was bottled or what was its quality. Till we knew the facts, there was no satisfactory answer to the question raised by the member for South Fremantle.

MR. TAYLOR: Were not English manufacturers responsible for the acts of Australian agents to whom they gave the right to bottle here?

MR. BARNETT: Any wine and spirit merchant buying 10 quarter-casks of whisky was supplied by the distiller with labels, capsules, and corks. If the merchant were honest, he would bottle the whisky supplied to him. If dishonest, he might sell it as a superior whisky in bulk, and might bottle and label an inferior whisky.

MR. DIAMOND explained that he was not deputed by any firm to touch upon this matter, nor was he interested in the liquor trade. He was perfectly satisfied to leave the matter for inquiry.

MR. HORAN: Did the Government intend to introduce a Health Bill which would provide for the analysis of food-stuffs?

THE TREASURER: It was intended to introduce a consolidating and amending Health Bill next session which would provide for the analysis of food-stuffs generally, but it would not improve the existing arrangements for the analysis of liquor. A great improvement had been brought about through the efforts of the department; and when it became generally known that people were liable to have samples of liquor taken when they least expected it, we would find the quality of the liquor dispensed very much improved.

Item—Inspection of Liquor in Licensed Houses (contingencies), £150:

MR. A. J. WILSON: What was the reason for this additional expenditure?

THE TREASURER: No provision was made last year for incidentals under this heading, but £125 was spent. This year £150 was provided.

Item—Tender Board (contingencies), £1,000:

MR. HORAN: Seeing that £2,221 had been spent last year, would £1,000 be sufficient this year?

**THE TREASURER:** Last year there was a considerable amount of extraordinary expenditure which he did not think would be incurred this year. He thought the vote sufficient.

Other items agreed to, and the vote passed.

Vote—*Audit*, £8,286—passed.

Vote—*Compassionate Allowances*, £811:

*Annual Allowances*, £433:

Item—Timperley, W. H., late R.M., Bunbury, special allowance £46:

**MR. A. J. WILSON** asked for information.

**THE TREASURER:** A pension was granted to Mr. Timperley as on 35 years' service, under the Constitution Act, but Parliament was asked to vote £48 per annum in order to give Mr. Timperley an equivalent to a pension of 40 years' service. Arrangements had been entered into and approved by the Executive Council, before he (the Treasurer) took office. This item would appear annually under *Compassionate Allowances*.

*Final Allowances*, £378:

Item—Monk, Misses, in recognition of services in connection with the introduction of female immigrants to the State, £25:

**MR. HOLMAN** asked where these ladies were domiciled.

**THE TREASURER:** These ladies were resident in the old country in very reduced circumstances. The Agent General had written and urged that, in view of the good services they had rendered the State in looking after big shipments of immigrants in a way people generally did not do in this respect, a small sum of money would be a very acceptable acknowledgment of their services.

Item—J. E. Pombart, allowance in lieu of three months' leave of absence on retiring from Public Service (expended 1904-5, £45):

**MR. HORAN** asked what the Premier proposed to do in regard to Mr. Pombart.

**THE CHAIRMAN:** There was no vote on the Estimates.

**THE TREASURER** sought permission to make a statement. Difficulties had arisen in connection with Mr. Pombart

soon after his (the Treasurer's) acceptance of office. He had found a recommendation from the Public Service Commissioner that a sum of over £650 should be paid to Mr. Pombart, acting on the resolution of the House carried last session. The Public Service Commissioner was not in a position to judge how the resolution was to be determined, and could only read it literally, that Mr. Pombart was to be reinstated. He (the Treasurer) having been present during the debates on the resolution, and having refreshed his memory by reading the *Hansard* report, believed he was correct in saying that it was never the intention of the House that anything like that sum should be paid to Mr. Pombart. It had been distinctly said by Mr. Moran, the mover of the motion, and others who supported it, that Mr. Pombart should be reinstated in a clerical position under the Government, that he should not lose any of his claim for length of service, and that he should return to the Government employ as if he had never left it. The mover of the motion had gone on to say that he wished it to be distinctly understood that Mr. Pombart had no claim for compensation, and that he could safely leave it to the Government to give to Mr. Pombart some recompense for the suffering he had undergone, and that he should be enabled to recover the household goods he had been forced to part with. The member for Northam had proposed an amendment distinctly expressing the feeling that reinstatement was to carry with it no compensation; but, on the assurance of Mr. Moran that there was no intention to ask for compensation, the amendment had been withdrawn. If it were his (the Treasurer's) money and he could afford it, he would be very glad to give Mr. Pombart a large sum; but, as Treasurer, he had to do his duty and correctly interpret the wish of the House. His interpretation was that Mr. Pombart should be reinstated—this had been open to Mr. Pombart all the time; and that he should not lose any length of service—this also had been open to him; and that he should be able to recover the articles he had to part with while out of the service—this he (the Treasurer) had instructed the Public Service Commissioner to do. It was entirely beyond his power to do anything else, and he had

been prepared to do this from the outset and was prepared to do it to-day. The Public Service Commissioner had informed Mr. Pombart that the latter could be reinstated, and that he was prepared to pay him such a sum of money as would repay the value of whatever property Mr. Pombart had parted with while unfortunately out of the service.

MR. TAYLOR: During the debate last session he said, "Let justice be done, whatever it may cost," and members then interjected, "Would you pay the back money?" and he replied, "If necessary, it should be paid." That showed that the House was particularly anxious in the direction the Premier had indicated. He (Mr. Taylor) had spoken strongly in favour of Mr. Pombart being reinstated at the salary he received when he was dismissed from the service, and he was sorry Pombart had not been fixed up before now. The Government of which he was a member should have dealt with this matter long ago.

MR. HORAN: What the Treasurer had stated was certainly correct; but there was one important feature which had been omitted. When the late member for West Perth (Mr. Moran) brought the motion forward, he could not have specified that Pombart should be paid for the time he was out of the service, because that would have been out of order, for it meant the granting of money. The select committee found that Pombart was wrongly dismissed, and that he should be paid every penny he lost. That was the opinion of the House.

Item—Mrs. Stephens, widow of the late S. Stephens, of the Public Health Department, £50:

MR. HARDWICK: While willing to congratulate the State on the compassionate allowances granted, there was a lady well advanced in years by the name of Mrs. Tracey—

THE CHAIRMAN: There was no mention of Mrs. Tracey on the list.

MR. HARDWICK suggested that the Government should do something in this case, which he believed was a deserving one, and, when the next Estimates were brought down, make some slight provision for this lady, who was an old resident of the State and entitled to some slight compensation.

Other items agreed to, and the vote passed.

Vote—General Stores, £2,081—agreed to.

Vote—Literary and Scientific Grants, etc., £16,425:

Item—Trinity College of Music, local examinations, £50:

MR. HOLMAN: What was this money to be spent for? All knew that the Trinity College had held examinations here for many years. Would some of this expenditure go to the fields?

THE TREASURER: An application for some assistance was made by the local secretary to the Trinity College, London, and it was pointed out that good work was being done, and that centres were being formed at Bunbury, Kalgoorlie, Southern Cross, Northam, Geraldton, Greenough, etc., and it was asked that a small sum, such as £50, might be placed on the Estimates for developing other centres. There were expenses attached to these examinations, and seeing an effort was being made to extend the work in outlying centres, the request for assistance was granted.

MR. HOLMAN supported the item, and was pleased to know that opportunity would be given to people in the back country to go in for the examinations.

Item—Public Library of Western Australia, £4,000:

MR. BATH: While there was no desire to reduce the amount which had been paid in previous years, the amount of the increase provided on the Estimates this year could be spent, in view of the national stringency, to a greater advantage in other educational directions. As far as primary education was concerned, there was every need on the part of the Treasurer for as much money as it was possible to be made available for this purpose. While a great deal could be done to provide educational facilities in outback places, more could be spent to great advantage in increasing the amount available for technical education. The Public Library was a useful institution, but it was only in one centre of Western Australia. There were

other quarters in need of libraries. He moved—

That the item be reduced by £1,000.

MR. HOLMAN supported the reduction. It was desirable to build up a good library in Perth, but out in the back country there were not only no libraries, but no schools. This extra £1,000 could be spent in opening up three new schools in small centres.

MR. WALKER: The whole amount for mechanics' institutes, working men's associations, and reading rooms generally to supply the whole of the State outside Perth on the Estimates was £2,000, while we were asked to vote £4,000 for the public library of Perth. Could there be any stronger testimony to the justification for the charge repeatedly made of centralisation? It had been usually the habit to neglect altogether the centres outside of Perth. Those institutions which received a good start in the early days were spoonfed, and their votes were increased year after year, but the struggling institutions which were of infinitely more value out back were forgotten altogether and absolutely neglected. The institution to which it was proposed to vote £4,000 this year could, if it liked to devote itself to its work, be a source of supply to outside institutes. He had heard repeated complaints of the difficulty of outside institutes in obtaining assistance in the shape of books from the Victoria Public Library. A better system of distribution could be arranged from this centre. He was not discouraging the value of a great institution like the Victoria Public Library, and would vote for the increase if there were a proportionate increase for the mechanics' institutes throughout the State. But there was no proposal to increase the vote by one shilling to outside libraries. The Victoria Public Library was to receive £1,000 extra because it was situated in Perth. At the same time we should have some respect for others. The member for Collie knew how valuable a library was for miners at Collie, but there was not an extra penny for that institution, and the same with every other constituency outside Perth; but for Perth a whole £1,000.

MR. PRICE: It would be the fault of librarians in other parts of the State and

those controlling the libraries if they did not participate in the benefits which this vote would bring. No one was more anxious to lend assistance to public libraries than Mr. Battye, who was willing to send books to the various libraries throughout the State, and this increase of £1,000 would mean that they would, if they were shrewd enough to take advantage of it, have a better supply of books from the Perth public library. This was the only decent library we had in the State. [MR. WALKER: We ought to have more than one.] Under present conditions one really good technical library was as much as we could expect.

MR. BOLTON: This £1,000 would build four or five infant schools, and the money would be better spent in that way. £3,000 was a fair amount to keep up the public library. There was an increase of £1,850 asked for under the subheading of "Education," and that also could be spent far better in providing infant schools urgently needed. Until the country was in a better state we should not increase the vote for the Perth public library.

MR. BREBBER said he lived near the public library and had observed that the library was taken advantage of more by people from the country districts than by people living in Perth. That remark also applied to the museum. When any came down to Perth for holidays or upon business, the very first place they went to, if mining men, was the mining museum, and if they wanted information of another character they went to the public library. The institution belonged to the country. Were we going to destroy the usefulness of an institution which every part of the State recognised the benefit of? There were reference books in that public library which, if sent to some outback places on the goldfields, would not be taken advantage of by the people; the books would be thrown away if they went there. These valuable books were required by the country to be in the central public library. The vote was one in the best direction, and for one of the most useful institutions this State could have.

MR. TROY: This institution could go without the extra £1,000 until the greater wants of the people were satis-

fied. The member for North Perth did not live on the goldfields, otherwise he would not have made the statement he did about the goldfields people refusing to have anything to do with books. The goldfields people were the greatest readers in the State. That system of lending books from the public library in Perth to libraries throughout the State might appear to the hon. member a very good system, and it might be said that people in the goldfields and agricultural districts could avail themselves of the books kept at the public library; but he (Mr. Troy) wished to say that they could not. When secretary of an institution in Cue, he received a circular from the public library containing the conditions under which books could be borrowed; and he did his best to have the system adopted throughout the Murchison by the various workmen's associations and libraries, but found that the conditions were not sufficiently liberal to the people in the back country for them to avail themselves of the system. The conditions were that the books were to be lent for a period of six months, that portion of the cost of transit had to be paid, and payment also had to be made for any loss and breakages of boxes, and if books came back in any sense dilapidated. [MR. GORDON: They were not sent up to play quoits with.] If this £1,000 were distributed amongst the various mechanics' institutes throughout the State, how much better would it be for the people throughout the State. It would not be necessary then to come to Perth for books, and miners would not have to come to Perth to know something about mining.

MR. BUTCHER: In these days when rigid economy was so absolutely necessary we should be very particular to see that there was no reckless expenditure such as this apparently would be. If £3,000 had been sufficient in the past, he could see no reason why it should not be for this season. As a member representing an outside constituency he knew the difficulty there always was in getting grants of money for the necessary upkeep of roads, for additions to schools, and even to the salary of the school teachers; and he was not going to support giving these additional sums when he knew that the money could be so much better spent

in other directions. The increase could be struck out without doing an injustice to the library.

MR. BARNETT would oppose the amendment; but the Treasurer should impress on the heads of departments the need for economy till our financial position was more satisfactory.

THE TREASURER: In spite of the appeal of the member for Mount Magnet (Mr. Troy), the Committee should pass the item. Regarding this item, the ex-Treasurer, Mr. Daglish, had made a minute: "I promised to try to increase." Since 1899 there had been no increase in the grant for the Perth public library; and members must admit that a sum then sufficient was hardly sufficient in 1905, for there must have been some increase in the number of volumes and in the daily attendances. It was idle to describe this as a library for Perth solely. The institution was used by the whole State, the average attendance being between 800 and 900 a day, showing that the library supplied a great public want. It sent out cases of books almost daily to country districts, and if any country libraries had not obtained books the fault was theirs.

MR. HUDSON: In some places the cost of carriage was prohibitive; hence country libraries should be better supported.

THE TREASURER: That was no reason for starving the Perth library. Every capital city in Australia had one library which was considered the public library of the country. The annual cost of these institutions was, in Sydney over £16,000, in Melbourne over £12,000, in Adelaide £5,500; yet we were told that £4,000 was too much for the Perth library. For the increase the librarian urged the following reasons: That during the past three years the library had been worked with such regard for economy as to impair its educational efficiency; that this was particularly noticeable in the scientific and technical branches, two divisions of the greatest value in a State where mining and agriculture were so prominent; that last year the Government could not be approached for an increase, as they were providing £8,000 for building; that there had been no increase in the grant since July, 1899, although the number of books had increased from 33,000 odd to 54,000 odd, and the number of readers from 106,339

to 213,969; that the growth of the institution necessitated increased supervision and a larger staff to cope with routine work; that as the library grew older more expense was entailed in rebinding and replacing worn-out books; that the yearly donations were largely increasing, while many books donated needed rebinding; that the cost of maintenance of the new building was at least half as much again as in the old premises, especially for lighting and cleaning; that the printing of the catalogue greatly restricted the amount available for the purchase of books during the past two years; and that the efficiency of the library had thereby suffered. The increase was specially asked for to obtain a supply of new books. The increase would not have been entertained had the library been of purely local use; but it was a library for the people of Western Australia.

MR. BATH: The amount of the annual vote was fixed in days when surpluses were large, as a result of the gold boom. The statement of the member for Fremantle (Mr. Price) was unfair. The system of lending books to country libraries was tried in New South Wales, but it might as well have been non-existent. Here the system was in vogue, but with restrictions which made it impossible of adoption. The Treasurer said that readers came to the Perth Public Library from the coastal districts and from the goldfields; but such people desiring information from books ought not to have to take a train journey to Perth. The member for North Perth (Mr. Brebber) had said that the books would not be used if sent to the goldfields. Surely that member had never visited the fields, or he would know that goldfields literary institutes, whether the large institute at Kalgoorlie or the smaller institutes elsewhere, were in proportion to population more fully utilised than was the Perth library. As our expenditure through other channels must be reduced, any extra expenditure on libraries should be such as would benefit the whole of the people.

MR. HOLMAN: Would not the Treasurer give details of the expenditure on upkeep? For 1902 the upkeep cost £1,100.

MR. TAYLOR did not take much exception to the increase; but he had

repeatedly applied to other Treasurers for library grants to small country towns in his constituency. For Kookynie, he could not get more than £20 or £25; and on applying subsequently he found that little or no money was available for small towns. The argument that the Perth library induced people to come to Perth to read would not hold water. Proper facilities for reading should be given to outlying districts, whether agricultural, pastoral, or mining. Had the Treasurer made any provision for dealing liberally with small centres? If the Treasurer would give that assurance he (Mr. Taylor) would support the item; but if the great bulk of the money for library purposes was to be spent in Perth, he would oppose the increase.

MR. KEENAN asked whether the increased grant was to be spent in the purchase of books, or whether any portion of it was to be allocated to increased salaries for anyone in connection with the institution.

MR. McLARTY: We could not have the city libraries too large. It was the desire of Mr. Carnegie to devote more assistance towards establishing libraries in cities than in smaller centres. The benefit of having good libraries in cities was shown by the fact that the torpedo would never have been invented had the inventor not had access to a large library.

MR. BATH asked permission to withdraw his amendment, in order to substitute an amendment to reduce the vote by £500.

MR. HOLMAN objected.

THE CHAIRMAN: One member could object to the withdrawal of the amendment.

MR. HOLMAN: Members talked of a travelling library, but the cost was defrayed out of the vote for mechanics' institutes. Last year £250 had been taken from that vote and given to the public library in order to defray the cost of the travelling library. The time had now arrived to reduce the vote for the Perth library and increase the vote for the country institutions. It was to be regretted that the Treasurer could not give any information regarding these matters. The hon. member, when leader of the Opposition and when the last Estimates were before the House, strongly criticised the then Colo-

nial Secretary for not being able to give information.

**THE TREASURER:** No portion of this increase was intended for increased salaries. It was intended for the purpose of additional books, for the improvement of the binding of other books, and for the effecting of a few improvements in the internal fittings of the library. The decrease in this vote would in no way add to the vote for other institutions. Members should not adopt a dog-in-the-manger policy and endeavour to reduce this vote. He trusted the vote would stand because he knew no better work than was being undertaken by the library, which was of immense advantage to the State. He was sure the people of this State appreciated that advantage.

**MR. HORAN:** The Treasurer had established no substantial reason for the increase. The system of the travelling library had been in force in New South Wales for a considerable time, but the books sent out were more ornamental than useful.

**MR. A. J. WILSON:** The report of the Chief Librarian of the public library said: "In conclusion, I wish to bear witness to the satisfactory manner in which the various members of the staff have performed their duties, and this is to be the more commended when we consider that they have worked longer hours for smaller rates of pay than the officers of any other State library in Australia."

**MR. TROY:** This vote did not increase their pay.

**MR. A. J. WILSON:** But it made it possible for a strong recommendation, if the sum were made available, to see that a better condition obtained so far as the attendants of the library were concerned. The increase was not too much for an important national institution, more especially when we remembered that in the principal city of every British country one of the first things for which the State made ample provision was a national public library. The excellent work done by the library committee was sufficient recommendation for the vote. It was questionable whether the country would get as good value for the expenditure of the money if the item were devoted to country libraries, as some members suggested. The literature mostly sought

after in country libraries was of the "Nat. Gould" type.

Amendment put and negatived.

Vote put.

**MR. KEENAN** protested that he had not heard the Chairman put the vote. He had desired to speak to another item of the vote.

**THE CHAIRMAN:** The vote before the Committee had been the whole vote to which the amendment had been made. The amendment had been negatived and then the vote had been put as a whole. Seeing that there was a misunderstanding, he would recall the question.

Item—Law Library £150:

**MR. HORAN:** What was the meaning of this new item? What building was to be supplied with the books?

**THE TREASURER:** There was now, as there always had been, a law library. Hitherto that library had been under the control of the Crown Law Department. It was not entirely satisfactory either to the Crown Law Department or to the Barristers' Board and those having access to the law library; so the conclusion was come to that it would be far better to provide an item on the Estimates of £150 towards a law library, upkeep, maintenance, and librarian, and relieve the Crown Law Department of the responsibility.

**MR. HORAN:** The item £200 under "Crown Law Department" had nothing to do with it?

Item—Perth Museum and Art Gallery, £4,500:

**MR. HUDSON:** There was an additional amount of £700 to be voted here, which in the present impoverished condition of the Treasury, when no farther money could be expended in country districts to improve the means of education for country people, was unsatisfactory. He moved—

That the item be reduced by £700.

**THE TREASURER:** It was to be hoped the Committee would not agree to the reduction, as £5,000 was asked for as being the very least that could be done with, but £4,500 was provided, which represented an increase of £700. The curator had said that £5,000 would only exceed the grant of 1905 by £1,000, and would allow less for the

purchase of new exhibits than the £4,000 did ten years ago, when there was only one gallery to maintain, while now there were five. Then there was only one attendant required six days a week; now four men and three boys were required seven days a week, as the institution was open on Sundays. At present it took £900 per annum for wages. Repairs and other charges had increased in a like proportion, and the cost of electric lighting and sanitary rates were not formerly charged to the museum vote. In the past all specimens were allowed in duty free, but last year £250 had to be paid under the new Customs tariff. The staff was limited to three, but owing to the increase in the work there would have to be an addition. The number of visitors had increased from 12,000 in 1904 to over 60,000 during the past twelve months. A large number visited the institution for business reasons, as the museum was the show room of the natural products of the State. The free popular lectures on science and art just inaugurated were taken great advantage of by the public. Members seemed to think that he (the Treasurer) had some personal advantage to gain. Rather, in one way, he should hail a reduction in the expenditure; but having put the item on the Estimates, and having thought it was amply justified, he sought to have it retained. The museum and art gallery were doing a great educational work just in the same way as the public library did. The curator was endeavouring to do his duty faithfully and well, under very trying circumstances.

MR. HUDSON: No member spoke against the value of the institution, or against the value of the public library, but these items had been increased to an extent of £1,700 when there was a depleted Treasury.

Amendment put and negatived.

Item—Mechanics' institutes, working mens' associations, and societies etc., £2,000:

MR. HORAN: Was the Treasurer prepared to subsidise libraries and working men's halls?

THE TREASURER: This vote was intended for libraries, and he would be prepared to grant any reasonable request

if representations were made; but this vote was not in respect of buildings.

MR. HOLMAN: In view of the fact that the amount granted for country mechanics' institutes was only £1,670 last year, would the Treasurer promise that none of this vote would be paid to the Perth public library?

MR. A. J. WILSON: At Yarloop the other day a very large collection of books valued at £150 was unfortunately destroyed by fire, and the books were not insured. The country libraries had been treated in a most niggardly fashion in the past, and it was to be hoped the Treasurer would see that they received due consideration out of the £2,000. At the timber mills there was no form of amusement or entertainment, and the libraries, if they received consideration from the Government, would be of educational advantage to the people.

Item—Zoological Gardens, special grant for snake-house, £500:

MR. KEENAN: How did the Treasurer justify an increase in the grant to the Zoo of £500, for the usual grant was £3,900? It was not that he objected to this particular form of expenditure, but he thought it was not wise at present. What was the reason that £500 should be granted to this institution, which was in a flourishing way? It received a large measure of public support, for everyone entering the grounds contributed. There were public necessities in the country, not luxuries or pleasures, that were obliged to be neglected at the present time. He moved,

That the item be struck out.

At 6:30, the CHAIRMAN left the Chair.

At 7:30, Chair resumed.

MR. HORAN: Surely we should not be asked to desecrate the beauties of the Zoo by the construction of a house for the caging of snakes. It was a grave blunder on the part of somebody, he did not say the Government, to try and get a vote of £500 for a snake-house, when we had so many pressing necessities on the goldfields. This thing did not add in any way to the interest, education, pleasure, or recreation of the people, either residents or visitors. The item should be struck out. Perhaps it secured



inclusion without the Treasurer's knowledge.

MR. HOLMAN: So far as children were concerned, when we were voting money for the Zoo we must remember that almost any child who went there, except on special occasions, had to pay a certain price; and so had every adult. If those controlling the Zoological Gardens would allow children to go in free, he would support a higher grant; but seeing that every individual who entered the grounds had to pay, he saw no reason why we should increase the vote year after year, as we had been asked to do. On a previous occasion he referred to children going to the Zoo, and a provision was made so that batches of children from certain schools could go in free of charge. If the Zoo existed for educational purposes, we should allow the whole of the children to go in without payment. To take a family of four or five children cost 4s. or 5s., including ferry fares.

MR. WALKER: Whilst we had so many people up country wanting money we should not spend so much on snakes. There were times when we could improve our local institutions and make them more pleasurable in appearance, but this was not an occasion for so doing. If it were the purpose of the Zoo to go in for some scientific experiments in connection with snakes, or the preservation of some valuable collection which needed special preservation, one might understand it; but evidently this was the usual category of finding a new caravan, as it were, for amusement at the Zoo. By this time that institution should be self-supporting. What became of the money taken at the gate week after week and on holidays? To ask members to vote £500 for a snake-house, without a word of explanation, was not fair.

THE TREASURER: It seemed unfortunate that this grant should have been inserted on the Estimates under the heading of "snake-house." Apparently it was altogether too suggestive, and awakened bitter memories in the minds of some members. As a matter of fact it was a reptile house, a house in which it was intended to have a collection of reptiles, not merely for the sake of amusement, and not merely adding to the charms of the Zoological Gardens, but

purely as an educational matter. It might come as a surprise to some members to know that very many people had gone to the Zoo with the express object of seeing whether there was a collection of snakes which would enable them to distinguish between poisonous and non-poisonous snakes of Western Australia. It was intended, if this vote passed, to have a reptile house where the reptilia of Western Australia could be properly exhibited, and where the Director of the Zoological Gardens could give lectures to children from time to time, and to adults if they would care to listen to him, after hearing which and inspecting the different reptiles the children of Western Australia would grow up to know which were poisonous and which were non-poisonous snakes. To newcomers in Western Australia the false impression that there were many snakes in this State gave great uneasiness. The director of the Zoo was an enthusiast, and for him the snake-house would mean extra labour. He had always been most economical and energetic in his attempts to make the Zoo and Acclimatisation Gardens successful. By his methods he had saved the State thousands of pounds, for he had acquired a collection which but for his care and zeal would have been much more costly.

MR. SCADDAN supported the amendment, though better accommodation should be found for the Zoo snakes, now housed behind wire netting. Unless something were done before Christmas, we should probably hear of one or more children being poisoned. The accommodation, however, ought to be provided out of the £3,900 voted for the Zoo, of which the balance-sheet showed a credit of £1,285 14s. 8d. for 1903-4, and for this year £2,234, a saving of nearly £1,000 on the year's work. That should suffice for the snake-house. An up-to-date institution like the Zoo, making a charge of 6d. per head for admission, ought to be more nearly self-supporting. Why lavish expenditure on such institutions, which could best afford to stand still, rather than on industries which needed special support?

MR. GORDON: The director was satisfied that the Zoo had means of acquiring cheaply a collection of snakes which few other States had a chance of obtaining. Much was said of the charge at the gates,

but that was very moderate. If the money thus raised were extravagantly expended, members might have cause for complaint; but visitors to the gardens were highly pleased with so good a show at so small an expense to the State. Two or three years would prove that the proposed expenditure was justified.

MR. ISDELL was sorry, for the snakes' sake, that he could not support the item. We were faced with a big deficit; hence all items not useful and necessary should be struck out. On this principle £2,200 in the vote for literary and scientific grants could be saved till the State was in a better financial position. Why make a home for snakes in a country where people could see them by going into the bush? Let the director turn them out, like goslings, on the sand.

MR. A. J. WILSON supported the item. Anyone who had seen the collection of snakes must be satisfied that a house was needed. Owing to the faulty construction of the python's house, a view of that reptile was seldom obtainable. The snakes were scattered in different parts of the gardens, thus increasing the expense and inconvenience of keeping them. These and many other animals at the Zoo were obtained at considerable expense; hence it was false economy to refuse the Acclimatisation Committee such safeguards as would prevent the possibility of injury to such valuable exhibits. Members seemed to object to this item as a special vote. Probably nothing would have been said of it had it been included in the main item for the Zoo; but because the management were honest enough to make it a special item, members were roused to fury. When a national institution like this was being supported from public funds, it was far from fair that members should complain because the money was not being distributed in their districts. [SEVERAL MEMBERS: Nonsense.] One could not form any other conclusion from the arguments of bon. members. The snake house was necessary for the gardens. [MR. WALKER: No.] It might not be necessary according to the opinion of those who knew nothing about it, but he (Mr. Wilson) had confidence in the gardens committee, comprised of gentlemen who did the work for no gain to themselves, and who were just as desirous

of the well-being and advancement of the State as any member of Parliament. He (Mr. Wilson) paid more regard to their opinions than he did to the opinions of many members of the House who cried out against this item. [MR. WALKER: This was nothing but a smudge to Hackett.] The committee had to do a considerable amount of work out of the annual grant of £3,900. [MR. HOLMAN: There was £1,000 profit last year.] But the gardens were £2,000 in debt. He hoped members would be satisfied with their jokes and that they would now pass the item.

MR. KEENAN disavowed any intention of criticising the conduct of the director or of the committee of the gardens. There was an attempt to drag into the discussion some issue entirely foreign to those who suggested that the item should be struck out. The amendment was not moved because the gardens were not an excellent institution or excellently managed, or because the snake house was not a good thing to carry out, but because it was wise to stop such extra expenditure in the present condition of our finances. No member had shown that the finances were strong enough to stand this exceptional expenditure.

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

Ayes	...	...	...	17
Noes	...	...	...	20

Majority against ... 3

AYES.	NOES.
Mr. Barnett	Mr. Bolton
Mr. Butcher	Mr. Brebber
Mr. Collier	Mr. Diamond
Mr. Cowcher	Mr. Ewing
Mr. Holman	Mr. Gregory
Mr. Horan	Mr. Hardwick
Mr. Hudson	Mr. Hayward
Mr. Isdell	Mr. Hicks
Mr. Keenan	Mr. Holmes
Mr. McLarty	Mr. Layman
Mr. Mitchell	Mr. Male
Mr. Scaddan	Mr. Monger
Mr. Smith	Mr. N. J. Moore
Mr. Taylor	Mr. S. F. Moore
Mr. Walker	Mr. Price
Mr. Ware	Mr. Rason
Mr. Bath (Teller).	Mr. Veryard
	Mr. A. J. Wilson
	Mr. F. Wilson
	Mr. Gordon (Teller).

Amendment thus negatived.

Item—Trades Galas, £150:

MR. HOLMES asked for explanation.

THE TREASURER: This item had been provided in the previous year, but

the sum of £150 voted had not been expended. The Government thought it fair it should be provided again this year.

MR. HORAN: And not expended.

MR. A. J. WILSON: The only Trades Galas were held on the goldfields, and if the money had not been expended previously it was fair that the people should know what steps should be taken to obtain grants.

THE TREASURER: The only Trades Galas were held on the goldfields, and the people there were aware of the provision, but no application had been made for any subsidy. Any application would be considered on its merits, but if no vote were in existence no application could be entertained.

MR. HUDSON: It was a compliment to the self-reliance of the goldfields that they had not asked for the money when they did not want it.

Item—Boulder Social and Athletic Club, £250:

MR. HOLMAN: This was a new departure. Unless satisfactory grounds could be advanced for the retention of the item it should be struck out.

THE TREASURER: The hon. member had frequently informed members that he did not know a great many things that had transpired in the Cabinet of which he was a member. He (the Treasurer) really believed there was a great deal of truth in the statement of the hon. member, because this provision had been made in fulfilment of a promise made to a deputation that waited on the previous Treasurer (Mr. Daglish) on the 31st May last.

MR. HOLMAN: The Treasurer might have added that the matter had not been fixed up when he (Mr. Holman) was in the Cabinet.

THE TREASURER: This sum was to assist in the erection of a gymnasium, with bath-room and dress-room attached, and in the proper equipment of a reading-room at Boulder. There was to be a very influential and most respectable board of management. The object was to provide an institution where boys and young men could get recreation and instruction, and develop their social and physical qualities. It was realised by the previous Treasurer that it was

a most worthy object to encourage. So far as the funds of the State would permit, if applications were made to him he would deal with them. No exceptional treatment had been meted out to the town of Boulder.

MR. HOLMAN: Now that an explanation had been given, he would support the item. If we wished to bring up our youth to take an interest in athletics and keep them away from doing other things, this was a means of doing it. The matter had never come before the Cabinet of which he was a member.

MR. HORAN: This appeared to be a new function of government altogether. In the past the object of government was the preservation of the life and liberty of the people of the State. Now the Government were supposed to provide social recreation and amusement. Would the Government be prepared to receive applications from other parts of the State in this direction?

THE TREASURER: They would be dealt with on their merits.

Other items agreed to, and the vote passed.

Vote—*Lithographic*, £5,195:

MR. KEENAN: What was the distinction between Division 12 Lithographic, and Division 15 Printing?

THE TREASURER: The lithographic department was entirely different from the printing department. The office was in a different building, and under different management.

MR. KEENAN: Doing the same work.

THE TREASURER: No; lithographic work was different from printing work.

Put and passed.

Vote—*London Agency*, £6,425:

MR. HORAN: What was the meaning of the item, "Commissionaire, 30s. a week"?

THE TREASURER: Commissionaires in the old country were generally pensioners, retired army or navy men. This was not a new appointment. This man was employed part of last year, and provision was made this year for a full salary. The officer was door-keeper at the Agent-General's office.

Put and passed.

Vote—Post Office Savings Bank,  
£13,741 :

Item—Computation of interest, etc.,  
£150 :

MR. HORAN asked for information.

THE TREASURER: Prior to the introduction of computing machines in the Savings Bank it was impossible, or next to impossible, to get the balances as frequently as desired. Now computing machines had been introduced which rendered the work of adding up huge columns of figures comparatively easy; but the computing machines entailed an amount of overtime and the expenditure of a small sum of money from time to time in repairs, ribbons, etc. That was what the item indicated. The computing machines saved the salaries of three or four additional clerks.

Item—Manager Boulder Branch, £240 :

MR. A. J. WILSON: The manager of the Boulder branch received a salary of £200 and £40 goldfields allowance. This seemed hardly enough for the manager of an important branch in a gold-mining centre. Perhaps the Government could give some idea of the business transacted. The manager at Fremantle received £200, and whilst the position was an important one, the work done was not as great as that at Boulder, while the manager at Fremantle worked in a more congenial place.

THE TREASURER: This officer was not remunerated in accordance with the work done; but, unfortunately, if one attempted to increase the salary of one officer in a department, it meant increasing the salaries of a great many others. Evidently a salary of £200 was looked upon as the proper salary for the manager of an important branch. Two hundred pounds was paid to the officer at Fremantle, and at Boulder the officer received £200, plus £40 goldfields allowance. He would make a note of what had been said in this direction and see if some improvement could be made.

MR. FOULKES: Only a few months ago Parliament passed an Act giving over the civil service to a Public Service Commissioner, who fixed the salaries to be paid to the various officers. Where did the House stand in dealing with public servants? The Treasurer had

said that he would consider next year whether this official should receive an increase or not; but we had an officer who had sole charge of the civil service, who had jurisdiction over the officers, and who had power to decide whether a civil servant should get an increase in salary or not. The time had arrived when we should realise that Parliament had no power at all over the civil servants in deciding whether increases of salary should be given or not. The Public Service Commissioner had been appointed to classify the service; and it did not lie with any Minister to say whether an increase should be granted. The Government could make recommendations to the Public Service Commissioner, but they had no right to pledge the House to agree to an increase to a civil servant.

MR. LYNCH: This point had been raised by him last session, and he then received at the hands of an older member of Parliament, a severe rebuke. The Public Service Commissioner had been appointed to classify the civil servants of the State on their merits, and it was out of place and served no purpose for the Committee to go through the schedule of salaries in the fashion members were doing. When an officer was appointed to go through the civil service and fix the salaries according to the demands made on officers' exertions, it seemed a stupid act on the part of the Committee to ignore this officer. No matter what the practice might have been in the past, it seemed inexplicable to undertake to review the salaries when a Public Service Commissioner had been given a free hand to fix the salaries of officers employed. It was so much waste of time to review salaries when we gave this man such a free hand.

MR. HORAN: Were the Estimates regarding these salaries amended by the Public Service Commissioner or the Minister himself? It was competent for the House to express the opinions we held upon the recommendations of the Public Service Commissioner, and they could be conveyed to him. The Public Service Commissioner might, under certain circumstances, recommend an increase of £10 or £20, and the Minister controlling the business might think fit to strike the increase off. But perhaps

he would, if the House expressed such a wish, bring the sum back to what the Public Service Commissioner intended it to be.

**THE TREASURER:** The Public Service Commissioner had not completed his classification yet, so to a very large extent many of the items on these Estimates were dependent upon the Minister administering the department. The Public Service Commissioner would, when he had completed his classification, be responsible for any decrease in the salaries of officers; but it did not necessarily follow that because the Commissioner recommended an increase or a decrease the Minister of the department was tied hand and foot to follow that recommendation. The privilege still remained with the Ministerial head to disagree with the recommendation of the Commissioner.

Item—Clerks (Boulder branch), £240 :

**MR. A. J. WILSON** wished to know whether the £40 as district allowance meant £20 to each of the clerks referred to.

**THE TREASURER** regretted he was not able to speak confidently. He thought the goldfields allowance was regulated to a great extent by the salaries drawn. What proportion of this £40 was for the clerk at £130 and what for the clerk at £70 he did not know.

Item—Cleaner, £24 :

**MR. A. J. WILSON** wished to know what class of work this cleaning was; whether it occupied an hour a day, a day, or a week, or what.

**THE TREASURER** thought that the term "cleaner" was self-explanatory.

**MR. A. J. WILSON:** The amount in this instance was £24, whereas the amount put down for cleaning in the Fremantle branch was £36.

**THE TREASURER:** The cleaner in the Boulder branch did other things besides this office cleaning, and this amount was the remuneration for the cleaning.

Item — Defalcations (contingencies), £150 :

**MR. KEENAN** pointed out a discrepancy in regard to the figures given.

**THE TREASURER** explained that in the last column the figures should be £350 instead of £150. No doubt it was a clerical error.

**MR. HORAN** also asked for information.

**THE TREASURER:** This was the first case where an item shown as an estimated expenditure for this year had been less than the actual expenditure for last year. That in itself was some proof of his desire to have Estimates that would be borne out by actual experience. He had good reason to believe that the sum estimated would be sufficient to cover any expenditure under this head.

Other items agreed to, and the vote passed.

Vote—Printing, £37,412 :

Item—Government Printer, £525 :

**MR. KEENAN:** Had any estimate been made of the actual cost of work done at the Government Printing Office, and compared with the cost of similar work in any of the ordinary printing offices?

**THE TREASURER:** From time to time frequent estimates of cost of certain printing work had been obtained from the Government Printing Office and from outside firms, as a test of their idea of what was the proper cost of the work. He was compelled to say that almost invariably the quotation from the Government Printing Office was higher, but he believed the work was of a better class and worth a little more money.

**MR. A. J. WILSON:** This question of the Government Printing Office ought to be taken in hand by the Government. It appeared from what the Treasurer had said that the estimates for work done were considerably higher than would be the case in regard to outside firms. The revenue from work done at the Government Printing Office was estimated at £40,000, but if that value was determined upon the basis of what the Government Printer estimated the work to be worth, then manifestly, according to the Treasurer's own showing, it would be more than a fair sum. He hoped that in the ensuing recess the Treasurer would go thoroughly and exhaustively into this question of the Government Printing Office. There was no reason why the printing of departmental papers in the Government Printing Office should cost more than it would in most of the respectable firms outside. [MR. LYNCH :

If the cost was higher, the work was better.] He thought it questionable whether it was better work. The plant used in the Government Printing Office was altogether obsolete. Either the department should be brought up to a proper practical business basis, or wiped out altogether.

MR. HORAN thought it his duty to emphasise the remarks of the member for Forrest, by making strong complaint that a great amount of public money was being wasted yearly. He believed it had been found difficult to find a Minister who would take on the herculean task of clearing up the Government Printing Office; it was so interwoven with people of social distinction and high position in different parts of this locality. Even the Labour Government did not tackle the case, neither did the Government of which the present Agent General was head and to which the member for Guildford belonged. The department appeared to be purely a spending department. Printing stuff sent all over the country was wasted to a great extent. He wrote to the Government Printer and asked him to do him the favour of not sending him the *Government Gazette*, the *Agricultural Gazette*, and other useless publications. The Government Printer felt somewhat annoyed that he (Mr. Horan) did not appreciate the service he was rendering the people. Not one out of fifty ever read these publications. Much printing was done for the Government departments. It would pay to appoint some of the best experts obtainable in the Eastern States to go through the printing office, to investigate not only the mechanical department, but the volume of printed matter that could profitably be issued. Altogether too much stuff was printed, and too many *Hansards*. Possibly it would be to the advantage of the country to drop *Hansard* altogether. Members never read *Hansard*; and he would be sorry to think that the public wasted their time in reading it. The declared charges for printing various documents were incongruous. He had before him three papers. Of the first, 400 copies printed were marked "cost of printing, £24 5s. 6d.;" of the next, 500 copies cost £37 4s.; of the third, 850 copies cost £33 16s. 2d. In each the number of pages was practically

the same. He understood that such charges were not properly apportioned, but that the whole of each day's expenses was crudely divided, resulting in numerous incongruities. The Press often stated that the printing office was simply, as it were, a sink of iniquity as regards its officials. The Treasurer would do great service if he eradicated a crowd of apparently hopeless incapables now to be found in the office. More than one member had occasion to ask how much the Government Printer would charge for reprinting their speeches delivered in the House. The actual price quoted for reprinting three or four pages of *Hansard* exceeded by 100 per cent. the price charged for that whole number of *Hansard*, consisting of about 60 or 70 pages. One would think that three or four pages should certainly be cheaper to print than 60 or 70. Members desirous of distributing copies of their speeches found it cheaper to buy complete numbers of *Hansard*, rather than get pamphlets reprinted from the type used for that publication. The Government Printing Office called more loudly than any other for reform, which reform should at once be taken in hand.

THE TREASURER had for some time been under the impression that the printing office left scope for reform, and before his attention was called to the matter he had determined at the earliest possible moment to have a thorough inquiry. As to quotations for printing, it was well to be fair to all sides. We must remember that the conditions of work in the Government office were different from those in private offices. A private office that had to deal with the mass of corrections made by the Government Printing Office would no doubt issue quotations probably as high as those of the Government Printer.

MR. HORAN: The corrections were made by the *Hansard* reporters, not by the Government Printer.

THE TREASURER was not speaking of *Hansard*. Work sent to a private printing office was generally revised beforehand. But of all work sent to the Government Printing Office proofs were submitted to the respective departments. Some departments were greater sinners than others; but nearly the whole of the matter in type was then revised out of all

recognition. This practice considerably increased the cost of the Government Printing Office. However, he assured the Committee that the office would be thoroughly investigated.

Item—Extra labour, £11,000:

MR. HORAN: Why this increase of £1,500? This expenditure seemed to be getting beyond bounds.

THE TREASURER: This was a proof, if proof were needed, of his anxiety to provide on the Estimates a sum sufficient to cover actual expenditure. Last year £9,500 was provided, and £13,084 spent. Undoubtedly a careful eye must be kept on the extra labour employed; but if it was employed, the extra money was earned.

Item—New machinery, type, etc., £1,690:

MR. HORAN: The machinery at the printing office was, he believed, altogether obsolete. This might account for the heavy expenditure. It would pay the Government to throw obsolete machinery on the scrap-heap, and get the best machinery at once.

Other items agreed to, and the vote passed.

Vote—Public Service Commissioner, £549:

MR. HOLMAN: When would the Commissioner have the classification of the service completed?

THE TREASURER: A good many departments were already classified; but the Commissioner had not yet stated when the classification would be complete. He was now hard at work, and would complete it as soon as possible.

Put and passed.

Vote—Refunds, £2,000—agreed to.

Vote—Miscellaneous Services, £127,400:

Item—Home for friendless women, Boulder, £100:

MR. HORAN: Why this item, seeing that a similar sum voted last year remained intact?

THE TREASURER: Some charitable people in Boulder, who looked after friendless women, requested some assistance, and £100 was provided last year.

Though the amount had not been expended, he did not like to strike out the item. It was rather gratifying that there had been no need to expend it.

Item—Late Mining Registrar, Mount Morgans (defalcation), £10:

MR. HORAN: Last year £130 was provided. Who was the officer?

THE TREASURER: Cox.

Item—Perth Exhibition of Local Manufactures, Arts, and Products, £3,500:

MR. TROY: What was the intention as to this?

THE TREASURER: During 1906 an exhibition of machinery and mining and other products would be held by the Chamber of Manufactures; and the grant was to enable a suitable building to be erected. This promise was made by the late Government, and he respected it, believing that every Ministry should if possible respect the promises of its predecessors. He believed that the exhibition would encourage local manufactures and give a fillip to the mining industry.

Item—Perth and Glasgow Exhibitions, grant of specimens to Geological Museum, £1,895:

MR. HOLMAN: In former Parliaments these exhibitions were frequently mentioned, and had cost some thousands of pounds. Was this new expenditure?

THE TREASURER: It was in the nature of a bookkeeping entry. The Government had on hand some specimens returned from the Paris and Glasgow Exhibitions, and valued in the books of the Treasury at £1,895. Instead of being sold, the specimens were handed to the Government Geological Museum; hence there must be an item of expenditure to balance the Treasury books. There was no new purchase.

Item—Free passes for members of Parliament over Midland Railway line, £530:

MR. HORAN asked whether we were justified in paying the Midland Railway Company such a huge amount. Few members travelled over the Midland Railway; so some system might be adopted by which the State paid the company for each member travelling over

the railway, instead of paying a lump sum.

**THE TREASURER :** This was an annual item. He had noted when going through the Estimates that it would be advisable to go into the matter and see whether a better arrangement could be made, but it was too late to do so this year.

Item—Construction of dam at Bulong, £100 :

**MR. A. J. WILSON :** A sum of £300 had been spent on this work last year. How was it that another £100 appeared on the Estimates for the work ?

**THE TREASURER :** The sum provided last year was not sufficient for the work.

Item—Subsidy to Municipalities on general rates, £68,000 :

**MR. HORAN :** Seeing that £72,282 was absorbed in this direction last year, did the Treasurer think £68,000 was sufficient this year ?

**THE TREASURER :** Yes. Last year there were one or two rather peculiar transactions. A careful watch would be maintained to see that they were not repeated.

Item—W.A. Court Imperial Institute, £100 :

**MR. HORAN :** What was to be done with this money ?

**THE TREASURER :** Each Australian State contributed so much per annum towards the upkeep of the Australian portion of the Imperial Institute. The sum always appeared on the Estimates, but it did not follow that the amount would be expended. Last year only £64 had been spent. We had a large mineral and timber exhibit at the Institute, and undoubtedly, as an advertisement, it was worth a small expenditure.

**MR. HORAN :** Would it not be better to have the exhibit at the Agent-General's office ?

**THE TREASURER** did not think so. People constantly paid visits to the Imperial Institute, who would not go to the Agent-General's office.

Item—Parks, Recreation Grounds, etc., Grants for maintenance and improvements, £27,000 :

**MR. HOLMAN** asked whether the grants would be allotted on the same

principle as before. Of this item, £3,000 was devoted to King's Park. He did not begrudge the expenditure on King's Park, because it was one of the most beautiful places in Australia ; but when such a large amount was paid in one grant it should appear as a special item.

**THE TREASURER :** Various recreation grounds would be treated fairly. There was considerable force in the argument of the hon. member that such a large sum should be shown separately. It would be advantageous, because the item of £7,000 on the Estimates encouraged applications that would not be made were it known that the sum available was only £4,000.

**MR. HOLMAN :** A grant had been made last year of £100 to the Cue Recreation Reserve. He believed the council had got the money and spent it in building a rotunda in the street. Seeing that the Cue Council were not striking a rate this year, the Treasurer should make inquiries to see if the £100 had been spent on recreation ; and if not, would the Treasurer see that the people who controlled the reserve got the money from the municipality. He (Mr. Holman) was a trustee of the Cue Recreation Reserve, and he did not think that the reserve had received the money.

Item—Purchase of Recreation Ground at Canning, £250 :

**MR. A. J. WILSON :** Were there not any suitable Crown lands in the vicinity to obviate this purchase ?

**MR. GORDON :** The recreation ground was not so much for the people of Canning as for the people of Perth and Fremantle. The roads board had taken steps to purchase 11 acres facing the river ; and seeing there was no other landing place between Perth and Canning Bridge, the purchase was advisable. The land had cost £11 an acre.

**MR. HOLMAN :** Was there no recreation reserve at Canning, because last year £25 had been voted for a recreation reserve ?

**MR. GORDON :** There was no recreation ground at Canning, nor any public land available. The £25 granted last year had been used to clear the ground.

**MR. A. J. WILSON :** Who were the vendors of this land ?



MR. GORDON: The Treasurer would not know, nor did he know. The land was costing £11 an acre. All he knew was that the roads board had asked him to support the vote.

THE TREASURER: The purchase was not one conducted by the Government. Therefore he did not know the vendors, nor did he want to know them. The grant was handed over to the local body.

MR. A. J. WILSON moved an amendment—

That the item be reduced by £50.

Amendment negatived.

Item—Fencing and Improvements to Agricultural Society's Grounds, Busselton, £250:

MR. TROY: Attention had previously been drawn by him to the number of grants for the electorate of the Minister for Works. Improvements had lately been carried out in connection with this show ground. He could not see why more money was needed for the purpose. He moved an amendment—

That the item be reduced by £50.

Amendment negatived.

MR. HOLMAN: Were there three recreation reserves in Busselton? Last year we voted £100 to the recreation reserve, and £25 to the Sunnyside recreation ground, and now we are asked to vote £250 for fencing and improving the show ground.

MR. LAYMAN: Sunnyside was not in the Sussex electorate, but 80 or 100 miles from Busselton, in the Nelson electorate.

MR. HOLMAN: Was this sum for a similar purpose as the grant made last year?

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS: Sunnyside was 80 miles from Busselton; therefore the amount could not be for the same purpose as the vote made last year. As to fencing the agricultural society's ground, that was a promise made by the late Government. It was a very necessary work, which had been carried out and the money paid. In regard to clearing the new cemetery, the old cemetery was in a disgraceful condition, and, when a grave was dug, water came within two feet of the surface. The cemetery had been closed and a new

one purchased; £80 was granted for clearing the new cemetery.

Items—Erection of Public Pound, Jandakot, £10, and erection of Public Pound, Rockingham, £20:

MR. SCADDAN: Was it usual to vote money for the erection of public pounds?

THE TREASURER: The sum of £10 was to be voted for the erection of a public pound at Jandakot, and last year £50 was voted for a public pound at Rockingham. A further £20 was required to complete the work at Rockingham. There was no new departure in connection with these items.

MR. SCADDAN: Was it not the duty of local bodies to erect the pounds, and not the Government to give grants?

THE TREASURER: It was the duty, of local bodies, but invariably they were assisted by the Government.

MR. McLARTY: The £50 was granted in the first place for the erection of a pound at Rockingham, and the sinking of a well, and doing other work. It was a very moderate sum.

Item—Purchase of Site for residence of fisheries inspector, Mandurah, £100:

MR. A. J. WILSON: If this money had been expended, it was an undue amount for the purchase of a site for a residence at such an outlandish place as Mandurah. There was an abundance of land there, and a block could have been purchased for considerably less than £100 to suit the most fastidious inspector. If the money had not been expended, he would feel inclined to move that the amount be reduced.

MR. TAYLOR: Many years ago, a private person gave an allotment of land to the Government at Mandurah when there was a punt running there. This block of land was unsuitable for the erection of a residence for the inspector, and, when Colonial Secretary, he (Mr. Taylor) recommended that a suitable block be purchased. If the money had not been expended, it should have been.

MR. McLARTY: There was only one acre of Government land at Mandurah, and it was unsuitable for the erection of a residence. Land about Mandurah was very dear. Why he did not know. He had paid £140 for an acre of unimproved

land there, close to where the Inspector of Fisheries lived.

Item—Midland Junction Friendly Society's Hall, Purchase of Site, £250:

MR. HORAN asked for information.

THE TREASURER: There was no Government land in the town of Midland Junction. It had been impossible for the Government of the day to give local bodies or charitable institutions at Midland Junction the grants of land usually given when there was land available the property of the State. In other towns, friendly societies had generally received a block of land on which to erect a hall. Had there been Government land at Midland Junction, the friendly societies in that district would have received land from the Government for this purpose. The friendly societies desired to erect a public hall, and he (the Treasurer) recommended to the late Government that financial assistance should be rendered to buy a block of land. The friendly societies would not be able to buy a block of land for the sum on the Estimates; they would have to add to it. That was a severe handicap in itself. He was tired of continually saying that this or that vote was promised by the late Government; but he was glad in this case to say so, because it happened to be in his own district, and he would not like it to be thought for a moment that he had taken advantage of his position to supply assistance to his constituents.

MR. TAYLOR: Would this grant interfere with the friendly societies getting their usual subsidy?

THE TREASURER: Not on the amount collected.

Item—Narrogin Agricultural Hall and Block, Purchase of, £1,000:

MR. BATH asked for explanation.

THE TREASURER: This grant was made to the trustees of the Narrogin Mechanics' Institute, and represented the purchase of a block of land upon which the existing hall stood, and the hall itself, on the condition that the £1,000 placed at their disposal was spent in the erection of a new hall. It was really a business deal. The Government got value almost to the extent of the £1,000 supplied, and the people of Nar-

rogin with the money voted had to build a newer and better institute.

MR. COWCHER: The idea of the committee was that they would sell this property to the Government, who might sell it again, and the committee would erect a building farther back with the money thus obtained.

MR. TAYLOR: Were the Government getting a block of land and a building?

THE TREASURER: Yes.

MR. TAYLOR: Did it bring nearly equal the value of this £1,000?

MR. COWCHER: The Government were getting a building and a block, and he considered they were obtaining good value for their money.

Subdivision—*Royal Commissions of Inquiry*, £265:

Item—Collie Coal Industry, £5:

MR. EWING wished to draw attention to the enormous expenditure in connection with Royal Commissions during recent years, and desired to congratulate the Government upon having only £265 on the Estimates this year for Royal Commissions. If members would total up the column standing under the heading of Royal Commissions they would find that the votes were £4,755, whilst the expenditure was considerably over £8,000. Apparently these Royal Commissions had not been taken advantage of. In regard to the coal industry, the late Government appointed Dr. Jack to investigate it, and obtained from him a most exhaustive, clear, and altogether splendid report. There had never been laid upon the table of the House a report equal to it. That commission cost the country £1,500. Dr. Jack fixed the absolute value of the coal; yet the late Government, having stated to the country that they intended to abide by the decision of Dr. Jack, failed to do so, and allowed the Commissioner of Railways to call for tenders. He hailed with delight the fact that the present Government were going to take the responsibility of their actions and do away with Royal Commissions, which were largely made for members of this House to have seats on. That had been the case in the past, and we wanted that sort of thing done away with. If Royal Commissions were to be appointed in the

future, let them consist of experts outside this House. He would like to express his gratitude to the Government of the day for the way in which they had treated the coal industry. He did not altogether approve of the manner in which they distributed the contract, but that was a subject for the consideration of the Railway Department and the Government. The member for Murchison had stated that the present Government gave 1s. 6d. a ton in advance of the sum mentioned in the tender; but the companies were compelled to tender in this way, because it was a cut-throat tender, which the Commissioner of Railways made it necessary for the owners to carry out in order to prevent the companies being absolutely annihilated, he having stated without any hesitation whatever that the lowest tender was going to be accepted. The present Government had shown from the Estimates that they had no desire to shirk the responsibility of office. [MEMBER: They had only been there a few minutes; let them have a chance.] If he found during the recess that they were appointing Royal Commissions and shirking their responsibility, he would consider whether it was not better to have some other gentlemen on the Treasury benches. If the late Government had taken notice of report to which he had referred, they would have saved hundreds of pounds to the coal industry, and averted a great deal of trouble. [MR. BOLTON: And have removed the hon. member's opposition.] He thought that remark most unfair. It was his duty to look after the interests of his district and especially the Collie coal industry; and he did not see any less parochial spirit in connection with other districts.

MR. BATH: Members expected the member for Collie to advocate the claims of his district, but in speaking of Royal Commissions and the amount placed on the Estimates he should be accurate in his statement. He (Mr. Bath) was not present to defend Royal Commissions nor the appointing of them. He was opposed to the appointing of Royal Commissions because it was infinitely better for the House or for the Ministers to take their responsibility. He wished to point out that although the hon. member gave this Government credit for not placing sums of money on the Esti-

mates for Royal Commissions, in the list we had here there were half-a-dozen that were appointed by the Government of which some hon. gentlemen on that (Government) bench were members. The other Royal Commissions in question were appointed to deal with the immigration of non-British labour, the ventilation and sanitation of mines, the civil service, the forestry, the Perth Ice Company frauds, and Railways and Customs. Some of the items in respect of these commissions, totalled up by the hon. member as amounts spent by the Labour Government, were amounts owing on account of commissions appointed by previous Governments of which the present Ministers were members. The hon. member should have been accurate. He complained that members had not read the reports of commissions. If hon. members read such reports as he read these items, it would be better for them to leave the reports alone. He (Mr. Bath) had read a number of the commissions' reports, and had read the report of the commission on Collie coal; and the allocation of the last contract for the supply of coal to the Railway Department was based on the respective values supplied by that commission. As to the present proposals, it did not appear that the recommendations of Dr. Jack had greatly influenced the proposals submitted tonight by the Minister for Mines.

MR. EWING: Very considerably.

MR. DIAMOND: The condemnation of Royal Commissions by the member for Collie was very ill-considered, and too indiscriminate. The House had not heard the last of the Royal Commission on Ocean Freights; and during the next session he (Mr. Diamond) would move that its report be adopted. The work of that commission, for the appointment of which he was responsible, had already saved, in State freights alone, at least ten times the cost of the commission; and the amount it had saved private traders was much larger. Soon after the appointment of the original select committee on ocean freights, the shipping ring reduced the freights paid by the Government, and these were reduced still farther after the appointment of the Royal Commission. He defied contradiction of this statement. Freights to private shippers were

also reduced; but neither these nor State freights were reduced sufficiently.

MR. HOLMAN: The member for Collie held that the Labour Government shirked its responsibility for settling the Collie coal question. That was untrue. Last June twelve months, the James Government, when the Collie coal contracts expired, called for tenders; and the Collie-Cardiff and Collie Proprietary companies put in a joint tender, at 12s. 9d. per ton for coal of a certain calorific value, and 11s. 6d. per ton for inferior coal. With that question the James Government refused to deal; but the Labour Government, of which he (Mr. Holman) was a member, dealt with the tenders and appointed a commission, which would save the State £10,000 a year. He was not a member of the Government when the tenders were called. The hon. member insinuated that the Daglish Government had not read the commission's report. He (Mr. Holman) had followed the evidence more closely than the hon. member, and told him before the report was published that the outside value of the coal to Western Australia was not more than 9s. per ton; whereas till the commission's report was received, 11s. was paid. The present Government was not fairly treating the industry by paying 1s. 3d. or 1s. 6d. above the contract price without making stipulations as to rates of wages and conditions of work. The hon. member knew that his charges against the Labour Government of attempting to annihilate the industry were baseless, and that by the appointment of the Royal Commission the Labour Ministry settled the question. While he (Mr. Holman) was Minister for Railways and dealt fully with the matter, it was stated that the Commissioner of Railways dominated the Minister.

THE CHAIRMAN: What had this to do with the Estimates?

THE MINISTER FOR MINES: This discussion should be concluded on the Railway Estimates.

MR. HOLMAN: An attack had been made upon him,

MR. EWING: No.

MR. HOLMAN: The hon. member had stated that the Labour Ministers had not read the report of the coal commission, which was so much waste paper.

On the Railway Estimates the matter would be more fully dealt with.

Item—Timber Industry (Board), £250:

MR. A. J. WILSON: Were it not for the payment of fees to this board, probably its report would now be before us. Would the Treasurer see that the report was presented as soon as possible? for it was of considerable importance to one of the most important of our primary industries, not even second to the Collie coal industry, and to the State generally. The board was stated to have held 26 meetings, and to have taken practically no evidence. Had the members done legitimate work, and had it not been for their fees—£3 3s. per sitting to the chairman and £2 2s. a day each to the two other members—the report would now be available.

THE TREASURER would endeavour to see that the report was laid on the table.

MR. SCADDAN: Were the members of the board, or any of them, civil servants? And if so, did they in addition to their fees draw their ordinary salaries? Apparently the board was only a sort of royal commission; and the true cost of the inquiry was not shown on the Estimates.

THE TREASURER: Not one of the three members of the board was in the public service.

Item—Royal Commission on the Ventilation and Sanitation of Mines, £5:

MR. HORAN: The Minister for Mines and other Government members had complained of the alleged heavy expenditure by the Daglish Government on Royal Commissions; but the most expensive and most worthless commission had originated with the James Government. The recommendations of that commission should have been accepted by the Government and embodied in a Mines Regulation Bill, introduced this session. Presumably the report had been pigeon-holed for use in the distant future. In justice to himself and to the member for South Fremantle, he desired to explain that the Government had benefited more than ten times the amount of £692 shown as expended on this commission. Of this £692, the printing of 450 copies of the report had cost £214,

and the balance had been distributed among shorthand writers, witnesses, and members of the commission; but the members of the commission were certainly the smallest participants in anything distributed. If the Treasurer referred to the report of the commission he would see his way clear to make reductions in the expense of the London Agency. Public men generally and commercial men had individually and through their representatives conveyed to the commission their appreciation of the services rendered to the community by the commission.

Subdivision—*Sundry Grants and Services*, £36,676 :

Item—Fire Brigades Board and Fire Brigades, contribution and subsidy, £1,500 :

MR. HOLMAN regretted that legislation had not been brought forward to deal with fire brigades. He hoped it would be done next session. The insurance companies paid very little towards the upkeep of brigades, and their contributions were limited to Perth. The present system was that fire brigades made collections and received from the Government a pound for pound subsidy; but the Treasury would not give subsidies on grants made to brigades by municipal councils, so that last year only 11 brigades had received Government grants. This system should not be pursued this year. Out of the money voted last year, £687 had gone to the Perth brigade, and this year £1,000 would go in the same direction, seeing that the Fremantle brigade had come under the Perth board. Fire brigades were maintained at a high standard of discipline. In the event of any trouble in Western Australia, a large body of firemen would be available to give any assistance required. Brigades had not been sufficiently encouraged in the past. They might be assisted in the case of any brigade wishing to visit other States where competitions were held, because there they would learn what was done in other places, and on their return could school the local brigades.

THE TREASURER: Legislation in regard to fire brigades generally was not satisfactory. He would endeavour to deal with the matter as early as possible

next session. He had already received about 500 suggestions for matters to be dealt with at the earliest possible moment.

MR. TAYLOR: On what basis was it intended to distribute this vote?

THE TREASURER: On subscriptions raised, as in previous years.

MR. TROY: How much of this money went to the Perth brigade?

THE TREASURER: Last year it was £687.

MR. SCADDAN recommended the establishment of a Country Fire Brigades Board, as was the case in Victoria, where the country fire brigades were in a high state of efficiency. In outlying districts in this State the insurance companies would not issue policies; and it was necessary in that case that the Government should give increased assistance to the fire brigades, because where a brigade was not maintained in a state of efficiency, if a working man lost his home through a fire it was an absolute loss to him. The Government should seize the opportunity next session to amend the Fire Brigades Act.

Item—Cost of production of *Government Gazette*, £2,300 :

MR. HORAN: There was nothing to show that the cost of producing the *Government Gazette* would not be £2,675, as was spent last year, or more. Throughout the country he had noticed many copies of the *Government Gazette* lying unopened. He believed money could be saved in cutting off a couple of thousand of the copies of the *Government Gazette*, issued throughout the State. He moved an amendment—

That the item be reduced by £300.

Amendment negatived.

Item — Gwalia Hotel; maintenance, £5,000 :

MR. LAYMAN sought information. He understood that the hotel barely paid working expenses, without allowing anything for interest and sinking fund. After a fair trial, the State hotel had been found wanting. Knowing that certain private individuals had offered several thousand pounds for the ingoing with a high weekly rental, he thought it time we did away with the State hotel.

MR. HORAN referred to the recent appointment by the late Government of

a manager for the hotel. He had it on almost the best of evidence that there were other reasons actuating the appointment than qualifications possessed by the person who secured the appointment.

**THE MINISTER FOR MINES:** The manager was doing very good work.

**MR. HORAN:** Probably; and the previous manager had done very good work. He was now taking a tour round the world.

**MR. TAYLOR:** That was unfair.

**MR. HORAN** knew members of Parliament who, prior to the appointment of this manager, had been offered by persons a thousand pounds to nothing that they (the persons) would not get the appointment. Under these circumstances he would like to be satisfied as to whether the method of conducting the hotel was in the interests of the State itself, and that there were no opportunities of leakage. An examination of the balance-sheet would satisfy anyone that the whole thing was a hoax and a failure.

**MR. DIAMOND:** Two years ago he went into the question of the management of this hotel, and he never came across a more rotten state of affairs in his life. The amount of money set down as being received for liquor was totally inadequate. There was no provision made for rent or interest on the money expended, or for a reduction of the cost of the furniture in wear and tear. The balance-sheet showed a small profit, but without any of these allowances being made. The hotel should have showed a big profit, and should be showing a big profit now. The member for Yilgarn had said something about offers being made for this hotel. Some time ago he was authorised by a man in the trade in Western Australia to make an offer to the Government of £1,000 for the ingoing, and the furniture and stock at a valuation, and £12 rent for this hotel. That showed how rotten was the present state of affairs, and he would be glad to hear of a change. If not, the reign of State hotels in Western Australia should come to an end. The Treasurer expected to receive more revenue this year from this hotel, but from the experience of past years he (Mr. Diamond) had his doubt whether the revenue would be received.

**MR. LYNCH** protested against the remarks of the member for Yilgarn,

especially with regard to the late manager. No aspersion could be cast on the manager, who was an upright citizen. There could be no suspicion attached to the fact that the man went away for a trip. As far as this particular enterprise was concerned, it was one of the cheering hopes of the back country to get into the Gwalia hotel and partake of refreshment. There was nothing in Perth or between Perth and this hotel where refreshments could be served at the price. The hotel was conducted on admirable lines; there was no drinking after 11 o'clock at night, or on Sunday. When the State had a hotel conducted on proper lines it was impossible to expect as much profit as from some shanties. The hotel was serving its purpose so far as the requirements of the residents of the locality were concerned; and it had done away with many of the grog shanties which infested the place. The stimulants provided were of the purest; and that fact should not be lost sight of when considering the extension of the system of State hotels. Members should not only consider the question of £ s. d. The system of State hotels should be extended wherever possible.

**MR. TAYLOR** took a great interest in the establishment of this hotel. The member for Yilgarn should have been more accurate in the statements made about the late manager. The inference was that the manager had secured sufficient funds to take a two years' trip around the globe. The late manager and the present manager were both honourable, straightforward, and upright men, having had long business connection with Western Australia as proprietors of hotels. He protested against the innuendoes thrust at these men. It was unfair for members to compare the State hotel with private hotels. At the State hotel the best brands of liquor were supplied, and people travelling in the interior were surprised at the manner in which they were treated at the Gwalia hotel. This hotel closed at 11 o'clock every Saturday night, and remained closed from Saturday night until Monday morning. If the State hotel were run on similar lines to private hotels, there would be a handsome dividend returned; but the intention of the promoters was to supply the public with the best unadulterated

liquor. The company owning the Gwalia mine advocated a State hotel being erected at Lancefield, where they had another gold mine, as they stated a State hotel was the greatest safeguard in the country. If the Licensing Act was enforced by the Government rigidly, there would be no difficulties about Sunday trading or the other troubles that cropped up in connection with hotels.

Mr. TROY: The system of State hotels should be extended, for he understood the Gwalia hotel gave the fullest satisfaction. The member for Yilgarn and others should visit this hotel and see that it was a success, not only from a business standpoint, but from a moral standpoint. It was the duty of the Government to look after the health of the people, and in places like Gwalia where grog shanties existed before the State hotel was erected, great good had been effected. Previously the health of the people was being undermined in consequence of the bad liquor sold to them. At Lancefield, the people desired a State hotel. Those who knew the workings of the Gwalia hotel were in favour of State hotels being erected.

Mr. LAYMAN cast no reflection whatever on either the late or the present manager of this hotel, but the fact remained that the establishment was not paying as he maintained it should do. [Mr. BOLTON: Neither was the Zoo, nor the Perth Public Library.] The hotel should be made to pay or be let to somebody else.

Mr. WALKER protested against what he considered an erroneous principle, that being a State monopoly of the greatest curse of the twentieth century. The Government might supply good grog, but it was poison, call it what one liked. Whilst we were obliged to recognise the evil, and recognise it as existing through the habits obtaining amongst individuals, the State should not be a party to it. [Mr. TROY: Why not abolish hotels altogether?] That was a reasonable proposition, and if the hon. member would undertake that kind of reform he would be with him; but he protested against this kind of temperance reform. What were we doing, but giving this drink business the seal and stamp of morality and respectability by proprietorship of the Government? [Interjection.]

State lotteries were not to be compared with this. A man might speculate his 3d.—[Mr. BOLTON: And his all!—and his all if one liked, but still have his brains and character. The gambling instinct was common to humanity. Alcohol was a poison. The State knew it, science knew it, and every medical authority told us that as a beverage it was a poison; and for the State to sell poison to its own citizens was a curse. He was in favour of prohibition. Whilst we could not have prohibition let there be regulation of the traffic, but let us not have State authority for indulgence. [THE PREMIER: What did the hon. member wish to do with this vote?] He would like to have it eliminated, and the whole hotel done away with. He would like the Government to resolve henceforth never to undertake a business of this kind. It was a beautiful position for the State to take, that of landlord, that of grog seller.

Item—Incidental Expenses, £10,000 :

Mr. A. J. WILSON asked the Treasurer whether he could not provide a sum to let the Inspector of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals have a free railway pass. That officer had to make trips into the country to see that the objects for which the society existed were carried out.

Item—Steamer contract service between Fremantle and Geraldton, £5,806 :

Mr. BOLTON thought that if members only knew the tub now engaged on this service, they would emphatically protest against the continuation of such an abortion. The contract had not expired, and he supposed it must go its full term; but were the Government not able to make some payment for a decent craft to run between Fremantle and Geraldton? How long had this contract to run, because the complaints about the celebrated *Julia Percy* were very emphatic? The *Julia Percy* could be bought for less than was paid annually to run this service.

THE TREASURER believed that the contract expired next July. At the time the *Julia Percy* came into the service she was looked upon as a good boat; a boat that had been running on other services even more important, if possible, than

that between Fremantle and Geraldton. The contract having been made must be adhered to, but he did not suppose there was any idea of renewing it.

MR. BATH : Whatever might be said with regard to the *Julia Percy* running between Fremantle and Geraldton, it had at least one good effect, that being to reduce the freight—[MR. BOLTON : Hear, hear]—of the associated shipping ring between Fremantle and Geraldton, which used to be 15s., but had been reduced to 7s. 6d. The charge per ton from Geraldton to Carnarvon was, he believed, 30s., which showed the advantage of a boat of this description plying between coastal places.

MR. BUTCHER : Had an arrangement been entered into to run the boat between Fremantle and Sharks Bay, including Geraldton, some good might have been effected in reducing freights as far as Carnarvon. We all knew why the *Julia Percy* was subsidised to run between Fremantle and Geraldton. It was done by a former Government with the object of hampering the Midland Railway Company. He was sorry to find that the present Government had followed that Government in regard to this boat, and could not see their way to make some alteration to extend the service to Sharks Bay. That would have had the effect of doing a considerable amount of good to the industry in Sharks Bay, and have given a service, which they had not at present. He hoped that when this contract expired, the Government would see their way not to abolish the subsidy altogether, but to make some alteration which would enable that boat, or some other, to go to Carnarvon. A larger boat was not wanted. A small boat would meet the requirements of the district, and would do an immense amount of good to the trade between Carnarvon and Fremantle.

Other items agreed to, and the vote passed.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (Hon. C. H. Rason, Minister).

Vote—*Crown Law Offices*, £6,375 :

Item—*Clerks*, £1,605 :

MR. BATH : Why the increase of £210 ?

THE MINISTER FOR JUSTICE : There was an additional clerk.

Other items agreed to, and the vote passed.

Vote—*Land Titles*, £10,509—agreed to.

Vote—*Stipendiary Magistracy*, £28,738 :

MR. A. J. WILSON drew attention to the dearth of magistrates. In Perth honorary justices should be abolished, and sufficient stipendiary magistrates appointed to conduct the whole of the business of the courts. Frequently the clerk of the court had to make a roster of honorary justices before the business could proceed ; yet the number of stipendiaries had been reduced from 18 to 17.

Other items agreed to, and the vote passed.

Vote—*Supreme Court*, £17,540 :

Item—*Night Watchman, Caretaker, and Cleaners*, £500 :

MR. A. J. WILSON : This item had been curtailed by £55. The caretaker of the Supreme Court received some 7s. per day, worked long hours, had great official responsibility, and a large family. His wages were inadequate. The Treasurer should inquire.

Item—*Sheriff*, £550 :

MR. WALKER : This officer, though a capable man, had served his day, however well or badly he had served the State. He was not only Sheriff but Comptroller General of Prisons, receiving for that office an additional £250 a year. He was also Chief Electoral Officer, though as such apparently he did not receive a salary. Altogether, he received £800 a year. On more than one occasion members had experience of his autocratic demeanour as sheriff, and he had been guilty of conduct derogatory to the dignity of a high officer of State. Despite his exceedingly high salary, he never performed the really important duty devolving upon him as sheriff—that of executing criminals condemned to death. This might do credit to his humanity, sensibility, and fine nature ; but if he had that fine nature, he should not retain the position of sheriff. The man who performed the duty should receive the pay ; but it was stated that



the present sheriff had never attended even one execution, though it was as executioners that sheriffs were originally appointed. The duty which chiefly distinguished the man as sheriff was always shirked by him. Would the State tolerate this in any other officer? What particular hold had this gentleman on various Governments and other people in authority, so that he could practically defy the ruling authority, override Cabinets and Executive Councils, and still continue in office? As he shirked his duties as sheriff, and otherwise made his office objectionable and injurious, he (Mr. Walker) moved—

That the item be reduced by £200.

**MR. A. J. WILSON:** While sympathising in some degree with the amendment, he believed that the purpose of the mover would be secured by a smaller reduction. He (Mr. Wilson) was unable to discover that the services performed by this officer were adequate to his remuneration. Some duties for which he was responsible were performed in a fashion far from creditable either to him or to anybody else. To this we were quite justified in drawing attention; and if the officer neglected the duties he was supposed to perform, we had a right to call the attention of the Government to the fact, and a right to see that the Government did its duty. The Government should exercise firmness in seeing that this officer, so highly paid, gave an adequate return for his remuneration.

**MR. HORAN,** while not approving of the extent of the reduction proposed, supported the remarks of the member for Kanowna (Mr. Walker), by way of protest against the actions and the attitude of this officer, whose conduct in various capacities had been the subject of considerable criticism. He (Mr. Horan) had interviewed Premiers and other Ministers, and had always been received with civility; but this officer had neither that knowledge of his duties, nor that degree of civility, which was to be expected of a man in his position. The Premier should place on record, and convey to the sheriff, the opinions expressed in this Committee, so that the officer might show some courtesy to hon. members who had occasion to call on him with reference to duties which the sheriff alone could perform.

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

Ayes	...	...	11
Noes	...	...	25

Majority against ... 14

AYES.	NOES.
Mr. Bolton	Mr. Barnett
Mr. Collier	Mr. Bath
Mr. Holman	Mr. Brebber
Mr. Horan	Mr. Brown
Mr. Hudson	Mr. Butcher
Mr. Scaddan	Mr. Cowcher
Mr. Taylor	Mr. Diamond
Mr. Walker	Mr. Ewing
Mr. Ware	Mr. Gregory
Mr. A. J. Wilson	Mr. Hardwick
Mr. Troy (Teller).	Mr. Hicks
	Mr. Holmes
	Mr. Isdell
	Mr. Keenan
	Mr. Layman
	Mr. Male
	Mr. Mitchell
	Mr. Monger
	Mr. N. J. Moore
	Mr. Price
	Mr. Rason
	Mr. Smith
	Mr. Vervard
	Mr. F. Wilson
	Mr. Gordon (Teller).

Amendment thus negatived.

**MR. H. BROWN** apologised for taking part in the division. It had unfortunately escaped his memory that he had paired with the member for Mount Leonora (Mr. Lynch).

Item—Circuit Courts, Contingencies, £1,000:

**MR. TROY:** The necessity for establishing a Circuit Court on the Murchison Goldfield had been often referred to. He hoped the Premier would establish the court as soon as possible, because great inconvenience and expense were occasioned to litigants who had to travel to Perth from the Murchison to get justice.

**MR. SCADDAN:** On almost every contingency vote we found provision for travelling expenses. There were several departments where officers in receipt of high salaries, who probably went out of Perth once a year, were supplied with all-round railway passes, used for their private interests.

Item—Law Books, £200:

**MR. HORAN** pointed out that there was a similar item under Crown Law Offices.

**THE MINISTER:** One item was to provide books for the use of barristers and Judges, and the other for providing law books for the Crown law officers.

Other items agreed to, and the vote passed.

Vote—*Trade Marks*, £700 :

MR. KEENAN: Now that the Commonwealth had taken over patents and in a large measure trade marks, would it not be advisable to have this department amalgamated with, say, the Registrar General's Department? The amount of work done here in trade marks was very little, and what the registrar did for the £400 was beyond comprehension.

THE MINISTER would see what could be done in the matter.

Vote passed.

This completed the votes for the department.

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

#### ADJOURNMENT.

The House adjourned at ten minutes past 11 o'clock, until the next afternoon.

### Legislative Council,

Tuesday, 19th December, 1905.

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Health Act Amendment (Mr. Brimage), 2R. moved, procedure irregular, order dis- charged	612
Stamp Act Amendment, 2R. moved	613

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

PRAYERS.

#### PAPER PRESENTED.

By the COLONIAL SECRETARY: By-laws of Bayswater Road Board.

#### STANDING ORDERS SUSPENSION.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. W. Kingsmill): Members would no doubt be aware through the Press that an understanding had been come to in another place to terminate the session at the end of this week; and in order to facilitate business, he proposed to ask leave to move for the suspension of Standing Orders. It was usual at this time of the year to do so to enable Bills to pass through their stages in one day, and to enable messages from another place to be considered on the day received. He asked for leave to move the suspension of the Standing Orders.

HON. R. F. SHOLL: Would time be given to consider any important measure that came down to the House?

COLONIAL SECRETARY: Undoubtedly. Question passed, leave given.

On motion by the COLONIAL SECRETARY, resolved—

That in order to expedite business, the Standing Orders relating to the passage of public Bills and the consideration of Messages from the Legislative Assembly be suspended during the remainder of the Session.

#### BILLS (2)—THIRD READING.

Roads and Street Closure, returned to the Legislative Assembly with amendments.

Banking Companies Act Amendment, transmitted to the Legislative Assembly.

#### BILLS (4)—FIRST READING.

Received from the Legislative Assembly, and read a first time—(1) Land Act Amendment. (2) Permanent Reserves Rededication (No. 2) Bill. (3) Stamp Act Amendment. (4) Agricultural Bank Act Amendment.

#### BILL—BILLS OF SALE ACT AMENDMENT.

##### SECOND READING.

HON. M. L. MOSS (Honorary Minister) in moving the second reading said: The explanation of this small Bill will be somewhat technical in character, but I am certain that Dr. Hackett, Mr. S. J. Haynes, and Mr. F. M. Stone will be able to follow what I am driving at. Prior to the coming into operation of the Bills of Sale Act of 1889, which is the Statute now regulating the important legal docu-