

up; but I trust that Mr. Maley will see his way to withdraw the motion, since the matter to which it relates is one which would be more fittingly dealt with by legislation originating in the other Chamber. Hon. members in another place would be inclined, I think, to oppose a measure of the kind foreshadowed by the motion, if sent to them from us. I accordingly suggest that the motion be withdrawn, although I entertain no particular objection to its being proceeded with.

HON. R. S. HAYNES (Central): I see no harm in the motion, since it would be open to the other House to approve or to reject a resolution sent down for its concurrence. I know there exists in the Legislative Assembly a feeling that land legislation should originate here, and social legislation there. If the Minister for Lands does not object to the motion, it may as well be adopted, though not much good can result, seeing how far the session is advanced. At any rate, no expense will be entailed by the adoption of the motion.

HON. G. RANDELL (Metropolitan): Considering the state of public business, and in view of the fact that the Minister for Lands has not found an opportunity of looking into the matter and is therefore not prepared either to combat or to approve the mover's arguments, I think the motion should be postponed or withdrawn. We have a good deal of business on hand, and shall have more shortly, and therefore it would be as well to leave the subject of this motion until next session. A select committee would require a considerable amount of time to look into the question from all points of view so thoroughly as to enable it to frame a report which would be helpful to the House. It is not apparent from the wording of the motion that, if adopted, it is to be sent to the other branch of the Legislature for its concurrence. The object is, apparently, to appoint a select committee from members of this House only. Even if a resolution of the nature proposed were sent to another place for concurrence, it would not be likely, at this stage of the session, to receive any consideration. In the circumstances, Mr. Maley will, perhaps, consent either to the withdrawal of the motion or to the adjournment of the debate for, say, a week.

HON. W. MALEY (in reply as mover): Knowing what a weary time hon. members have had during this session, I had intended to ask leave to withdraw this motion, which cannot, in the present state of public business, receive the attention it deserves. I did not see my way, however, to ask leave to withdraw the motion on my own initiative. I am glad the opinions expressed by hon. members coincide with my own views. I ask leave to withdraw the motion.

Motion by leave withdrawn.

#### ADJOURNMENT.

The House adjourned at 9.25 o'clock, until the next day.

### Legislative Assembly.

Tuesday, 21st January, 1902.

Papers Presented—Question: Pastoral Lands (Kimberley) not Occupied, to Reserve—Question: Sunday Labour on Mines Act, Administration—Question: Resident Medical Officer, Menzies—Question: Solicitors conducting Prosecutions at Boulder—Question: Gwambygne Estate Selection, York—Question: Immigration Restriction Act, Evasion—Motion: Surrender of Gold-mining Leases, East Coolgardie—Roman Catholic Church Lands Act Amendment Bill (Private), third reading—Public Notaries Bill, third reading—Roads and Streets Closure Bill, third reading—Permanent Reserves Act Amendment Bill, third reading—Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Bill, in Committee (resumed), Clause 107 to end, reported—Annual Estimates, in Committee of Supply (resumed), Colonial Secretary's Department, Printing to Observatory votes, progress—Administration (probate) Bill, first reading—Adjournment.

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

#### PRAYERS.

#### PAPERS PRESENTED.

By the MINISTER FOR PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. C. H. Rason): Proposals from Messrs. Couston, Finlayson, and Porritt, for completion of the main pipe line and caulking of joints in connection with the Coolgardie Goldfields Water Supply.

By the COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. F. Illingworth): 1, Return show-

ing accommodation in Boulder Public Schools, ordered on motion by Mr. Hopkins. 2, Papers relating to the appointment of William Hill as assistant of Boulder Mines School, ordered on motion by Mr. Hopkins. 3 and 4, Statistical Register, 1900, Part III., Part VI. 5, Census, 1901, Part I., Population and Habitations.

By THE PREMIER (Hon. G. Leake): 1, Papers *re* Gold-mining Lease No 3285E, ordered on motion by Mr. Johnson. 2, Papers *re* grant of land to Messrs. Clemenger and Co., at Kalgoorlie, ordered on motion by Mr. Reside. 3, Papers *re* removal of J. E. Pombart, assistant Clerk of Courts at Coolgardie, ordered on motion by Mr. Reid.

Ordered to lie on the table.

#### QUESTION — PASTORAL LANDS NOT OCCUPIED (KIMBERLEY), TO RESERVE.

MR. C. HARPER (Beverley): I would like to say a few words in explanation of the question which I desire to put to the Premier. This subject could have been better brought up in the form of a motion, but I wish to economise the time of the House. I would like to explain the reason for asking the question, and I think I can make it fairly clear. There is a considerable area of country, more or less known for a long time, of a rich pastoral character, not occupied; this condition being largely due to the fact that it is surrounded by hilly country, infested by a very hostile tribe of natives, and settlers are much averse to tackling any fresh country of this kind at present. Therefore I thought it will be good policy for this State to adopt a new line, and see if some provision cannot be made by which the danger of attack from the blacks may be obviated. If the State can do this, and reserve that country from lease, possibly some means may be found of making the occupation of that pastoral country more satisfactory than it has been in the past. I beg to ask the question standing in my name:—Whether the Government will take into consideration the advisability of reserving from lease the pastoral country in Kimberley District lately explored by Mr. F. Brockman, until it has been laid off into suitable sized grazing areas, and provision made for native reserves.

THE PREMIER (Hon. G. Leake) replied: It is proposed to throw this land open for pastoral lease selection on the 1st March next, provision being made for necessary reserves.

#### QUESTION—SUNDAY LABOUR ON MINES ACT, ADMINISTRATION.

MR. J. RESIDE asked the Minister for Mines: 1, Whether he is aware that the Sunday Labour on Mines Act is badly administered. 2, That Sunday labour is performed in some of the mines in Hannans District without a written permit from the Inspector of Mines. 3, Whether he will take action to improve the administration of this Act, so as to abolish unnecessary labour on Sundays.

THE MINISTER FOR MINES (Hon. H. Gregory) replied: 1, The Sunday Labour on Mines Act is not administered by the Minister of Mines. 2, No. 3, Inspectors of Mines will be instructed to exercise every care in granting permits for Sunday labour and to give police officers every possible assistance in connection with any proceedings that may be instituted for breaches of the Act.

#### QUESTION — RESIDENT MEDICAL OFFICER, MENZIES.

MR. J. M. HOPKINS asked the Attorney General: 1, Whether Dr. Corlis, of Menzies, whilst acting as Resident Medical Officer, was charged with larceny. 2, At whose instigation the charge was laid. 3, Whether it was sustained. 4, What other charges were brought against Dr. Corlis at the board of inquiry. 5, Whether such charges were sustained. 6, At whose instigation such charges were laid.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. G. Leake) replied: 1, 2, and 3, No such charge was laid. 4, Negligence and want of skill, and also carelessness in the use of drugs. 5, The charges were, in the main, sustained. 6, At the instance of the Government.

#### QUESTION—SOLICITORS CONDUCTING PROSECUTIONS AT BOULDER.

MR. HOPKINS asked the Attorney General: 1, For what reason solicitors are engaged to prosecute in Police Court cases at Kalgoorlie and Boulder. 2, Whether the responsible officers of the

police located at Kalgoorlie and Boulder are incapable of conducting such prosecutions. 3, Whether it is his intention to permit a continuance of present methods whereby heavy costs may be levied against a defendant in addition to the penalties specified by Parliament. 4, Why solicitors are engaged from Kalgoorlie to prosecute in the Boulder Police Court.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. G. Leake) replied: 1, In certain prosecutions against the owners, occupiers, or keepers of betting shops, tote shops, and gaming houses, where important legal points are likely to arise, the police have been at times specially authorised to employ counsel, but not otherwise. In cases of larceny of gold-bearing ore, the Kalgoorlie Chamber of Mines has instructed its solicitor to assist the police to prosecute, and has paid fees in the event of an acquittal. But where a conviction was obtained, the fees formed part of costs against the defendants. *58 Vict., No. 35, Sec. 13, Sub-sec. 2*: The Pharmaceutical Society also has authorised the police to prosecute on its behalf in certain cases, and the employment of counsel is allowed under similar conditions, as to fees, in the event of an acquittal or conviction, as in the case of the Chamber of Mines. 2, The police officers at Kalgoorlie and Boulder are competent to undertake the prosecutions referred to. 3, The employment of counsel will only be authorised where absolutely necessary. 4, The Chamber of Mines and Pharmaceutical Society would, no doubt, in the above circumstances, employ their own solicitor. The police do not appear to prefer solicitors from Kalgoorlie to those resident at Boulder.

#### QUESTION—GWAMBYGINE ESTATE SELECTION, YORK.

MR. McDONALD asked the Premier: When the estate named Gwambygine, at York, purchased by the Government, will be open for selection.

THE PREMIER (Hon. G. Leake) replied: On Monday, 3rd March next.

#### QUESTION—IMMIGRATION RESTRICTION ACT, EVASION.

MR. WALLACE asked the Premier: 1, Whether his attention has been directed to a statement made by Mr. Watson, in

the Federal House of Representatives, on 15th January, 1902, wherein it is said that there are three or four thousand coloured aliens now without engagement in the North-Western portion of this State, who should have been deported to their own country in accordance with the Immigration Restriction Act. 2, Whether he will make investigation of the above statement, and, if correct, deal with the person or persons responsible for the deportation of these aliens to their own country.

THE PREMIER (Hon. G. Leake) replied: Attention now having been drawn to this matter, an investigation will be made and the proper steps taken.

#### MOTION—SURRENDER OF GOLD-MINING LEASES, EAST COOLGARDIE.

MR. R. HASTIE (Kanowna) moved:

That a select committee be appointed to inquire into all conditional surrenders of gold-mining leases on the East Coolgardie goldfield, wherein the fee simple of Crown lands was given in exchange for such surrenders.

This was a proposal to appoint a select committee to inquire into the surrender of gold-mining leases, and it referred to all the ground surrounding Kalgoorlie and Boulder in which blocks of land had been given in exchange for the surrender of gold-mining leases. There had been, for a considerable time, a great deal said about these surrenders, and it was as well for an independent committee to inquire into the circumstances. The consent of the Minister for Mines and of other members of the Government had been obtained.

Question put and passed.

Ballot taken and committee elected, comprising Mr. Butcher, Mr. Hopkins, Mr. Parkiss, Mr. Yelverton, also Mr. Hastie as mover; with power to call for persons and papers, and sit during any adjournment; to report this day fortnight.

MR. BUTCHER: Having to leave Perth in a few days and obtain a fortnight's leave of absence, his attendance was impossible.

THE SPEAKER suggested that notice might be given of a motion for substituting the name of another member, by arrangement. The Parliamentary rule was that every member appointed on a select committee must act.

R.C. CHURCH LANDS ACT AMENDMENT  
BILL (PRIVATE).

Read a third time, on motion by Mr.  
T. F. QUINLAN, and *passed*.

## PUBLIC NOTARIES BILL.

Read a third time, on motion by Mr.  
W. H. JAMES, and transmitted to the  
Legislative Council.

## ROADS AND STREETS CLOSURE BILL.

Read a third time, and *passed*.

PERMANENT RESERVES ACT AMEND-  
MENT BILL.

Read a third time, and *passed*.

INDUSTRIAL CONCILIATION AND  
ARBITRATION BILL.

## IN COMMITTEE.

Resumed from the previous day, as  
amended in Committee *pro forma* (clauses  
re-numbered).

Clause 107 (new)—Provision as to  
Government employees :

Mr. H. Daglish had moved, as an  
amendment, that the words "or of any  
association or society of Government  
servants" be inserted after "person," in  
the third line; to read: "union com-  
posed of workers of the same trade as such  
person [or of any association or society  
of Government servants]," etcetera.

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

Ayes	...	...	22
Noes	...	...	11
Majority for	...	...	11

## AYES.

Mr. Connor  
Mr. Daglish  
Mr. Dinmound  
Mr. Ewing  
Mr. Hastie  
Mr. Hayward  
Mr. Holman  
Mr. Hopkins  
Mr. Jacoby  
Mr. Johnson  
Mr. McDonald  
Mr. Nanson  
Mr. Oats  
Mr. Pigott  
Mr. Purkiss  
Mr. Reid  
Mr. Reside  
Mr. Stone  
Mr. Taylor  
Mr. Throssell  
Mr. Yelverton  
Mr. Wallace (Teller).

## NOES.

Mr. Butcher  
Mr. Gardiner  
Mr. Gregory  
Mr. Hicks  
Mr. Illingworth  
Mr. James  
Mr. Leake  
Mr. McWilliams  
Mr. Rason  
Sir J. G. Lee Steere  
Mr. Sayer (Teller).

Mr. DAGLISH farther moved that in  
line 6, after "union" the words "associa-  
tion or society" be inserted. This was a  
consequential amendment.

Put and passed.

Mr. W. H. JAMES (in charge of the  
Bill) moved that, after the words added in  
the last amendment, the following be  
inserted: "and for the purposes of  
this division of this Act."

Put and passed.

Mr. JAMES: The clause as drawn in  
the Bill was a step far in advance of  
any State in the Commonwealth or any  
country outside, and the alteration now  
made was a still greater step forward.  
There was an element of danger, but  
he hoped sincerely that the experiment  
would prove a success. The clause as  
now amended went farther than any  
piece of legislation of the same nature in  
any part of the world.

Clause as amended agreed to.

Clause 108 (new)—Government Rail-  
ways :

Mr. JAMES: This clause was not  
necessary, now that Clause 107 had been  
amended.

Mr. W. F. SAYER: There was one  
reason why Clause 108 should be passed.  
It was desirable to bring such an asso-  
ciation of railway workers as was already  
registered under the provisions of the  
Bill; otherwise any such association  
would have to go through the formality  
of registering again.

Mr. JAMES: A subsequent clause  
dealt with the preservation of existing  
rights, but perhaps it would be well to  
deal with Clause 108 on the assumption  
that it was not covered by Clause 107.  
This provision had been based on the  
principle that unions should be formed  
which would come as closely as possible  
in contact with those concerned. That  
was the wisest and best way of dealing  
with difficulties that arose. When the  
question first cropped up and was dis-  
cussed on the second reading, there was a  
certain amount of opposition to it, and  
members would remember that when  
the Morgans Ministry went to the  
country, one of the planks of their  
platform was that they were going to  
repeal Clause 107 and (he assumed)  
allow existing conditions to continue.  
It was asked, why make a distinction  
between the persons referred to in

Amendment thus passed, and the  
words inserted.

Clauses 107 and 108 respectively? Among those aimed at by Clause 107 there were no existing unions; whereas regarding 108, the existing Act gave power to register, and there was a body of railway servants registered, and a second body which intended to register if the law would permit. Clause 107 dealt with a field not yet affected by legislation, and 108 with a state of existing facts. The amendment would secure the recognition of the existing Engine-drivers, Firemen, and Cleaners' Association; there was a farther provision that any association or society of Government railway servants might register as an industrial union; and it would be competent for any section of such workers to secede, and to register a new union. He moved that all words after "traffic," in line 2, be struck out, and the following inserted:

(a.) The society of railway servants called "The West Australian Locomotive Engine-drivers, Firemen, and Cleaners' Union of Workers," and now registered as an industrial union under the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act 1900, shall be deemed to be registered under this Act: Provided that the constitution and rules of such society shall, within ninety days after being so required by the Registrar, be amended so far as may be necessary to bring them into compliance with this Act, and in case of default the registration may be cancelled by the Registrar.

(b.) Any association or society of Government railway servants may register under this Act as an industrial union of workers.

Amendment put and passed, and the clause as amended agreed to.

Clause 109 (new)—Unions of railway employees:

Mr. JAMES moved that in line 1, the word "industrial" be inserted after "any," and that Sub-clause 5 be struck out, and the following inserted in lieu: "(5). No such petition shall be filed except pursuant to a resolution of a special meeting of the union called for the purpose, in accordance with its rules, and with respect to such resolution and the procedure thereon sections ninety-six and ninety-seven shall apply." This would put these unions on the same footing as outside industrial bodies.

Amendments put and passed, and the clause as amended agreed to.

Clauses 110 to 118, inclusive—agreed to.

Clause 119—Act not to apply to Crown or Government departments:

Mr. R. HASTIE: What did this mean, now that clauses 107-108 had been passed?

Mr. JAMES: It now meant what it meant before, that except so far as was provided by clauses 107 to 109, the Bill did not apply to the Crown.

Clause put and passed.

Clause 120 (new)—Registration under this Act of trade unions:

Mr. JAMES moved that Sub-clause (1.) be struck out, and the following inserted in lieu:—"(1.) Any trade union may be registered under this Act by the same name, with the insertion of the additional words provided for by section 5 hereof." A definition of "trade union" having been adopted on the previous day, it was desirable to remodel the sub-clause appearing in the Bill, so as to make the language more appropriate.

Mr. JAMES farther moved that Clause 120 stand as Clause 7.

Amendments put and passed, and the clause as amended agreed to.

New Clause—Prohibition of strikes or lock-outs:

Mr. JAMES moved that the following be added as Clause 98:—

Whoever—

- (1.) Takes part in or does or is concerned in doing any matter or thing in the nature of a lock-out or strike; or
  - (2.) Before a reasonable time has elapsed for a reference to the board or Court of the matter in dispute; or During the pendency of any proceedings before the board or Court in relation to an industrial dispute, Suspends or discontinues employment or work in any industry; or
  - (3.) Instigates to or aids in any of the above-mentioned acts,
- shall be guilty of an offence against this Act, and upon conviction be liable to a penalty not exceeding Fifty pounds, to be recovered on the information or complaint of the Registrar, or of an industrial union.

Question put and passed, and the clause added.

New Clause (penalty for striking):

Mr. J. GARDINER moved that the following be added as Clause 108:—

Provided that any union of railway servants, in the event of a dispute with the Commissioner, failing to avail itself of the Arbitration Court to settle such dispute, it shall be unlawful for any railway employee, either directly or indirectly, to do or advise the doing of anything of the nature of a strike or lockout, or of a suspension or discontinuance of employment or work.

- (a.) No person shall urge, assist, or advise, or incite any railway employee affected to do any act, matter, or thing forbidden by the last preceding clause. Any person so doing shall be guilty of an offence against this Act, and shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding £100 or 12 months' imprisonment with hard labour.

The railway strike which recently took place in this State should show the necessity for taking steps to prevent the possibility of another strike occurring in connection with our railways. It was more important to keep our railways open than would be the case in any other country. In Great Britain, any person guilty of engaging in a strike or lockout in regard to water supply or public lighting was liable to imprisonment; and if that was considered a proper penalty to enforce in England, he must affirm that a strike on the railways of this State would do more damage than could result from a strike in connection with either of those necessary services. Trade unions in this State had been endeavouring for a long time to obtain arbitration and conciliation; and in proposing to add this clause to the Bill, he was not taking away any existing rights possessed by railway workers. The present Bill practically offered them—before the State took any steps to prosecute public servants who might strike—a means in this Bill for registering their trade unions, together with a means for submitting their complaints to the Arbitration Court for settlement. He held a higher principle; for, so far as the State was concerned, there should be no palliation of a strike in connection with any service carried on for State purposes. The fact of a body of men having the power and opportunity to strike and paralyse a public service, as in case of the railways, should not give them the right to trade on the helplessness of women and children who were dependent on the services which the State so provided, by trying to enforce an objectionable demand. Without saying whether the recent railway strike was just or not, this Bill was offering to the workers the full power of a Court of Arbitration to decide any trade disputes; and the penalty in this clause for engaging in a strike would affect the workers only if they refused to avail themselves of the privileges offered

under the Bill. This clause also would offer some protection to the people of the country against a body of men striking for the purpose of paralysing a public service; and we should remember that, had it not been for the loyalty of a certain section of men who stood by the public interest in the recent strike, the result to the people would have been disastrous. We had a right to protect the people of the country against what would deprive them of the necessities of life or the necessities of their business, by the stoppage of a public service such as the railways. That strike would have been a great wrong to the people on the goldfields, and if persisted in it would have resulted in hundreds of persons being deprived of the necessities of life, or being very hard pressed to obtain them. We should keep open the trade channels of communication, while doing justice to the workers employed by the State. This Bill gave to the workers every opportunity to avail themselves of the machinery provided for settling industrial disputes. In proposing the new clause, he was aware that he was earning a certain amount of opprobrium in being the first member of Parliament to suggest imprisonment as a penalty for striking in connection with a public service like the railways; but he felt so bitterly towards strikes, that he would never be a party to countenancing them in any way. It was said that because 4,000 railway servants struck, they were therefore to be imprisoned. His reply was that he had never seen a collection of 4,000 fools in his life; and when a man recognised that he was offered a fair and just thing, and he nevertheless struck, then he should have sense enough to recognise that the 12 months' imprisonment provided in this clause was a penalty that should prohibit him from doing a serious wrong. There were thousands of men who would break certain laws, if it were not for fear of the consequences. The reason he had struck out the money penalty of £100, in the clause as drafted, and was now proposing a penalty of 12 months' imprisonment without the alternative, was that frequently men were led into a ruinous strike not of their own free will, but through the plausibility or pig-headedness of their leaders. He wanted the leaders brought

to book; therefore in leaving out the money penalty, he did it because he considered a money penalty would not be a sufficient deterrent; for in the case of a man who was one of a large body to strike, and had a money penalty imposed on him for doing so, the result would be that his comrades would make up the amount of the penalty and the man would go scot-free. He (Mr. Gardiner) had known men who had been in gaol for some three months come out and pose as martyrs; but he rather thought that if a man were imprisoned for twelve months for such an offence as this clause contemplated, he would not be likely to pose as a martyr after being in gaol twelve months. If the Committee chose to forget the feelings that were uppermost in men's minds during the recent strike, including members of the Labour bench, then this House deserved to be visited with another such difficulty. Without taking away one tittle of the justice or right which the workers possessed, we should protect our railways and the people who were dependent on them as being the only channel for getting food supplies in many parts of the State, and especially on the gold-fields. He could quite understand this new clause was a debatable one, and might raise some feeling amongst members of the Committee; but he was moving it for the protection and benefit of the country, while also giving every justice to the men affected.

Mr. A. J. DIAMOND: The hon. member, in his enthusiasm, had lost sight of certain important facts in connection with the recent railway strike. He lost sight of the fact that the railway servants were not registered, having been deliberately shut out by an amending section put in the Act by another branch of the Legislature, by which clerks were prohibited from registering, and consequently other workers who were engaged along with clerks were unable to register unions which included clerks among their members. Had the railway association been registered, there would not have been a strike; and he must say that when the present Bill was passed and came into operation, the railway association would not hesitate to register under it. Why should the hon. member propose to confine the operation of the new clause to one association only? If

it was a good thing to introduce, it should be made to apply to all trade associations and unions. Why hold up a red rag to a bull—why pick out the railway association, as the hon. member was doing? He was unfortunate, also, in his reference to English legislation; for except one or two advanced measures, passed in the last few years, members would be aware that until a comparatively few years ago a man was liable to be tried as a criminal if he refused to work for a certain wage; that an agricultural worker was liable to prosecution if he sought work outside the district in which he usually resided. It was not desirable to select this one association, as the hon. member was doing, and penalise its members because they had struck at a time when they were not registered and were not able to register.

Mr. GARDINER, in explanation, pointed out that so far as the railways were concerned, in other colonies the railway associations were the only associations recognised, while in this State the railway association was specifically exempted from the operation of the Public Service Act. Clause 107 having been amended, it might be necessary to ask for the recommitment of Clause 98 to insert a penalty. The railway grievance was a specific one. Railway men, by the exigencies of their employment, could paralyse the country not in the way that an ordinary strike would do, but could paralyse the country because the people who were dependent on our railways would starve. Recognising this difficulty, the Committee had the right to cope with this phase in the Bill.

Mr. TAYLOR: Pass a special Coercion Act.

Mr. GARDINER: Special nonsense! We wanted special protection. The member for Mt. Margaret was almost the first to stand up in the House and say, when these men were offered conciliation and would not take it, that they would have been shot in his country, Queensland.

Mr. TAYLOR: Who said that?

Mr. GARDINER: The hon. member.

Mr. TAYLOR: It could not be found in *Hansard*.

Mr. GARDINER: There were lots of things that could not be found in *Hansard*.

MR. TAYLOR: The hon. member who proposed to imprison men for striking would say anything.

MR. GARDINER: The member for Claremont (Mr. Sayer) assured him that Clause 98, by the addition of a penalty, would get over the difficulty; therefore he asked leave to withdraw his amendment.

Amendment by leave withdrawn.

Schedule (25 regulations for election of members of a board of conciliation)—agreed to.

Title—agreed to.

Bill reported with amendments.

#### WORKERS' COMPENSATION BILL.

IN COMMITTEE.

Resumed from 9th October.

First Schedule—agreed to.

Second Schedule:

MR. W. H. JAMES (in charge of the Bill) moved that paragraph 11 be struck out.

Put and passed, and the schedule as amended agreed to.

Title—agreed to.

Bill reported with amendments.

#### --ANNUAL ESTIMATES.

IN COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY.

Resumed from 16th January.

COLONIAL SECRETARY'S DEPARTMENT  
(Hon. F. Illingworth).

Printing, £31,552 11s. 4d.:

MR. J. GARDINER: It must be recognised that there was an opening for much saving on this vote, and members of Parliament might set an example themselves; for when one looked at the cost of printing reports which were practically used as so much waste paper, it should make members pause before they asked for select committees. There was a report on the equipment of Railway Workshops at Midland Junction, which cost £55; the annual report of the Registrar of Patents, Designs, and Trade Marks cost £70; and there were any number of reports costing from £5 to £50. There was the printing of the report of a select committee on the best means of improving the Food Supply, costing £100 10s. The report of the select committee on the Coal Mines Regulation Bill cost £68. The approximate

cost of the report on the advisability of renewing the existing leases of Guano Deposits was £36. It must be admitted that members went to excess not in the matter of select committees only, but in the printing of select committees' reports. Surely the object could be obtained in a cheaper manner. In the annual reports of the public departments, lots of useless and unnecessary printing could be saved. There were diagrams and schemes and all kinds of things printed. Each department seemed to vie with the other as to how much printing matter could be got into the report and how prettily the plans could be drawn. That seemed to be the main object of some reports.

MR. F. CONNOR: The hon. member was not saving the printing bill now.

MR. GARDINER: It was to be hoped the member for East Kimberley would remember that he had assisted to make *Hansard* bulky. A great saving could be effected in the *Government Gazette*. Anybody with technical knowledge could see that every advertisement in the *Gazette* was what was known as a displayed advertisement. In the *Gazette* there was no necessity for display; and the amount spent in printing generally, and in advertising, should be cut down by the Colonial Secretary. Let the reform commence with Parliament: appoint fewer select committees, and ask for as little printing as possible.

MR. M. H. JACOBY: The *Government Gazette* should be indexed, to save time in searching for notices. It was doubtful whether the monthly Statistical Reports were necessary. They might be abolished or issued less frequently, and the cost of printing generally should be reduced.

MR. H. DAGLISH agreed with the previous speakers, especially regarding the departmental reports, which were prepared not to give information, but to show the merits of certain prominent officers. Reports from many of the smaller departments could be dispensed with, and those from the larger could be materially curtailed, when possibly they would be read. Nevertheless, during last year great reforms had been effected by the Government Printer, Mr. Watson, who was turning out far more work than had previously been done, and was doing it without increased expense. As the

minimum wage of compositors had been increased to 10s. per day, this increase should be made in the next Estimates, the present Government wage being £2 15s. a week.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: Holidays were paid for.

MR. DAGLISH: In engaging hands, preference appeared to be given to those out of work. That was not wise; for men in employment were generally better than those who were idle. If one of the former were transferred to the Government office, a vacancy was created for an unemployed printer.

MR. W. H. JAMES: Not only from personal experience but from the testimony of outside printers, he could corroborate what had been said as to how, under the care and management of the Government Printer, an increasing volume of work was being done by the same staff which in days gone by did only half the work. If this continued, the Government establishment would be the most efficient printing office in the State. The blame for the excessive cost of printing rested upon the shoulders of hon. members and on the various departments. There was a fearful lot of padding put into departmental reports which, instead of being of assistance, was almost a drawback. Each department should have a concise report summarised in two or three pages. There was also a growing fondness for needless plans, photographs, and sketches. The Mines Department produced illustrations of mullock heaps and poppet-heads, while the Works Department, which first initiated these "pretty pictures," published views of Perth. In addition to the principal report of the Mines Department, there was a long report from each warden. There was needless expense in reporting select committees. Why should the evidence be published save with the consent of the House? When a report was brought up, the House, by resolving that it be printed, committed itself to paying for a great volume of evidence which was not read and was of little value. Surely the function of a select committee was to hear and weigh the evidence, and to report to the House its conclusions. What need was there to report the proceedings of the House itself when in Committee of the whole? In New Zealand scarcely any report was taken of Com-

mittee work, whereas here speeches in Committee were reported at an inordinate length. Although they were now considerably curtailed, *Hansard* might cut them down still farther. If the *Hansard* report of the House in Committee were as short as the newspaper reports, much expense would be saved.

At 6:30, the CHAIRMAN left the Chair.

At 7:30, Chair resumed.

MR. W. J. GEORGE, referring generally to the vote, added his protest to that made by other members with regard to the great cost of printing the various reports presented to Parliament. Without intending to reflect on the department in regard to excessive cost, he did say there was a tremendous lot of printed matter presented to members which very few could read or had time to examine. Not only were numerous reports, some of them voluminous, presented to members during the session, but after the close of the session these reports were again presented to members in a collected form, in huge volumes. All this printed matter was so voluminous that members could not be expected to go through it carefully, except in regard to matters affecting their particular districts. The huge volumes presented to members after the session closed were unnecessary, and the cost of them might be saved. The fact of placing reports and papers on the table should be sufficient to satisfy the requirements of members, and if members knew, when receiving their first copy of each report or printed paper, that this was to be the only copy supplied, the members would be more careful in preserving them, instead of throwing them aside or leaving them about. The cost of printing plans and maps in connection with reports was also excessive. Referring to the printed report presented by the select committee on Railway Workshops, of which he was chairman, he found that the printing of plans alone had cost about £60. Referring also to the report of engineering surveys in connection with Owen's Anchorage, he found that besides the printing of that report, the cost of printing the plans was £7 16s. Such expenditure was not warranted, because the original plan or plans, if placed on the

walls of the Chamber for members to see, would have served all the requirements. In regard to the printing of the Parliamentary Debates in the form of *Hansard* reports, there was not only the weekly issue of the report in pamphlet form, but after the session had closed there was a farther issue of the report in the shape of bound volumes. He considered that the issue of those bound volumes to members of Parliament was an unnecessary expense, and that the weekly printed reports should serve all the requirements of members. As to what had been said about the cost of plans in connection with the Mines Department, he remembered one report issued by a public department containing perhaps a dozen or more maps, the first being a map of Western Australia with one line on it showing a stock route, the next map showing telegraph stations, the third map showing post offices, the next map showing where schools were located, and so on with the numerous other maps and plans. He had not yet seen a plan showing where hotels were situated, though that information might be useful to members when travelling. The cost of printing all these maps and plans was excessive. With regard to the annual Report of the Public Works Department, it appeared to be more verbose than was necessary, and he thought members of Parliament could take their information in a laconic style, without such elaboration. He did approve of the photographs being included in the Works Report, showing the public buildings erected or completed during the year, because members would be interested in seeing how far the votes of money which they had passed were expended economically and effectively on these several buildings. Copies of the annual Report of the Public Works Department were also sent to other States, and these served a useful purpose. Speaking generally, there should be greater economy exercised in regard to printed matter. Referring to the salaries and other items in the Printing vote, he observed that they totalled £31,552, apparently, together with £4,500 for printing paper. But the whole cost was more than these figures showed, for there was nothing shown as to the capital expenditure on buildings and machinery, which together must make a considerable total, perhaps

£25,000 to £30,000. Therefore, in addition to the actual cost of printing shown in this vote, there should be added the amount of interest on the capital expenditure which did not appear in the vote. He hoped to see as great economy exercised in regard to printing for the public departments and Parliament, as was exercised by members in regard to printing for their private requirements.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: In some respects the Government had anticipated the criticisms of hon. members, by endeavouring to curtail the amount of this vote. Members would observe that a considerable reduction had been effected, the amount being over £3,000 less than the total expended last year, while the quantity of work done up to the present had been much greater than during the same portion of last year. Before taking charge of this department as Minister, he had thought a great deal on the same lines as hon. members who had spoken in regard to the necessity for greater economy. Having gone closely into the matter, he found that the work had cost very much less, in the way it was being done at present, than if the Government had to pay for the work being done outside. If the Committee were disposed to do with less printing, the Government could reduce the cost of the department; but so long as the Committee demanded that the reports be printed, and reports were called for from time to time, it was not easy to reduce the printing staff. As to the remarks of the member for Subiaco (Mr. Daglish), one step had been taken this year. A strong complaint was made last year as to the number of men who for years had been on the provisional and temporary list doing the same work as the permanent officers, and this year 30 names had been added to the permanent staff of working men who had proved to be worthy after years of service. Still there was an item of £10,000 for extra labour, and these men might be largely reduced if the Government took up some of the suggestions thrown out to-night. The *Government Gazette* might be reduced one-half, if the form of advertising were altered. A great deal depended on the attitude of hon. members, as to what they desired to have printed. It was easy for a member to move that a report be printed, without taking into consideration

that it meant an expenditure of £50. In order to inform members, the Government were now printing the cost of each report on the front page, and he hoped that if members did not read the reports, they would at least notice the amount of the cost. The Government would feel strengthened in their determination to reduce the cost now they had an expression of opinion from members. In regard to wages, the Government paid rather over the ordinary standard ruling outside, taking into account also the privileges the officers enjoyed in holidays. It was a usual thing for men in private employment to be willing to leave that employment for a similar position in the Government service, which proved that the men in this department did not suffer in regard to wages. A great deal had been said that was worthy of attention; he had made a note of it, and as far as possible the Government would carry out the suggestions of members.

SIR J. G. LEE STEERE: With the remarks of the member for East Perth (Mr. James) and the recommendations made by that member of the manner in which a reduction of the expenditure of the printing department might be made, he was not able to agree in every respect. For instance, the hon. member said that in printing the reports of select committees we might do away with the evidence. What was a select committee appointed for? To collect information for members in considering the action to be taken on the report; and if the evidence were not printed, it would be better not to have the select committees appointed at all. What would the member for East Perth say if a Judge said to a jury, "Gentlemen, you need not sit here listening to the evidence: I will tell you what it amounts to, and you can form your judgment accordingly on that"? This was what the member for East Perth meant by not printing the evidence taken before select committees. Only last night he (Sir James) was reading the evidence of the select committee on the Midland Railway inquiry, and a very interesting document it was. He ventured to say the House would not know what conclusion to come to if members had only the report of the select committee, without that evidence. Therefore he was

unable to join with the member for East Perth in suggesting reductions in that direction. Then as to reporting the proceedings in Committee of the whole House, the hon. member suggested that these should not be so fully reported in *Hansard* as was the case at present. The proceedings in Committee were not so fully reported as the proceedings of the House; but it was not wise to give too much discretion to the reporters, as they might leave out something which it was very necessary should be reported in *Hansard*. He did not know if any economy would be effected in not binding the reports. Of course he knew that economy could be effected, but he did not know whether it would be agreeable to members to do what the member for the Murray (Mr. George) suggested, as to the bound volumes of *Hansard* not being issued to members. A great saving might be effected in the number of men employed. He had information given to him on good authority that the number of men kept in the Printing Office was excessive, and members would recollect that about eight or ten months ago the then Government Printer disposed of the services of a number of men in the Printing Office, because he said he had no work for them. What was the result? There was a fuss made about it, and the member for Northam (Hon. G. Throssell), who was then Premier, directed the Government Printer to take all the men back again, although the Government Printer said he had nothing for the men to do. A reduction in the number of men employed was one way in which we might economise. Some good would then be effected.

MR. J. M. HOPKINS: There was not the slightest doubt the cost of printing reports was excessive. Take the report of the department of Public Works, there were 22 folios of maps attached to it; and if one judged the cost of printing the maps *pro rata* on the basis of printing the plan of the Parliament Houses in the report of the Advisory Committee, then the cost was great. One found the cost of printing 800 copies of the report was £10 and the lithographic plans cost £34 10s. 7d. Therefore, on that ratio the plans attached to the Public Works Report would cost about £1,000. There was one way out of the difficulty. The

Colonial Secretary could offer a bonus of £25 or £50 to the Under Secretaries who could produce a report for the year that would give the information desired tersely and concisely; and when the report was produced, it could be properly bound. The manner in which the books were bound made them useless; therefore, at the end of the session the reports had to be bound in the "Votes and Proceedings." If something of that kind were done, there would be an inducement to the under secretaries to vie with one another in bringing out reports tersely. The printing of the *Government Gazette* could be reduced. There were advertisements from the Mines Department, the Works Department, and various other departments, appearing in the *Gazette* week after week and month after month. It was not everybody who read the *Government Gazette*, and those who took the trouble to open it went through it only once. Advertisements should be inserted in the *Government Gazette* once, and then copied into the newspapers circulating in the locality to which the advertisements referred. The present system of sending out the *Government Gazette* was not satisfactory: it might be decently bound and respectfully cut. As to the report of select committees, the system at present was that the *Hansard* reporters took the evidence in shorthand; they then dictated the notes to typists, who also took it in shorthand; the typists in turn produced the evidence in typewriting. As a select committee usually consisted of five members, the typists could take off five copies as easily as one copy by the use of carbon-papers; and these five copies would be sufficient to meet the case. The five typewritten copies could be bound, instead of sending the evidence to the Government Printer, and they could be the records of the committee. There would be a copy for each member of the committee to consider. When the committee framed their report, they could set out their recommendations, and underneath the recommendations (as was done in the report of the committee which sat inquiring into the Food Supply), questions of fact could be set out. Anyone who read the recommendations and the statements of fact set out underneath in the report of the Food Supply Committee would

notice that there was a pretty concise statement of what the evidence disclosed. That would obviate the necessity for members reading the evidence. It was on his suggestion that this course was followed in regard to the report of the select committee on the Food Supply. The papers laid before Parliament were so poorly bound that at the end of the session they were so much waste paper. If the papers, particularly departmental records, were considerably reduced in bulk, and better attention paid to the way in which they were bound, so that when members received them they could put them in their libraries and take care of them, there would be no necessity for binding the "Votes and Proceedings" at the end of the session.

MR. W. J. GEORGE: In regard to what the Speaker (Sir James G. Lee Steere) had said as to economising in the number of printers employed, that might be done if the Government Printer could get some idea from Parliament what members' views were likely to be as to the printing of reports. But anyone who had to get out a lot of work knew perfectly well that he must keep a number of men to meet any emergency; and the number of skilled men in any trade was not so great that they could be obtained at any moment when wanted. That was probably the reason why more men were kept in the Printing Office than the Government Printer required at certain times. The Government Printer would be blamed if he did not rise to any emergency.

MR. A. J. DIAMOND: With most of the views on economy he agreed. He wished to touch more especially on the reports of the Public Works Department. Since he had been in the House and received the reports, he felt very strongly that the money was wasted. There was a useless number of illustrations in the reports. He trusted members would make it clear to the heads of the department that they did not want large, voluminous, and useless reports; that something condensed would be more useful. He regretted the absence of the member for the Williams (Hon. F. H. Piesse), who showed such anxiety in regard to economy in printing, the other night. That hon. member had been responsible in a large measure for the

bulky reports from the Public Works Department in the past.

**THE PREMIER (Hon. G. Leake)** Economy might certainly be exercised regarding departmental reports, many of which were possibly not read through by every member; and it might be found sufficient if the reports were presented in manuscript to the House, and kept for future reference.

Item—Clerk Assistant, £150 :

**MR. F. WALLACE:** If the Minister had anticipated the desire of the House for economy, why this new appointment?

**THE COLONIAL SECRETARY:** This officer had been previously in the service, but under the heading of "provisional and temporary."

Other items agreed to, and the vote passed.

*Registry, £6,855 :*

**MR. M. H. JACOBY:** Was the Government Statistician the officer now in Hobart? Was he an expert statistician?

**THE COLONIAL SECRETARY:** The proof of the officer's qualifications might be seen in the Western Australian Year Book, one of the best year books published in Australasia.

**MR. JACOBY:** Outside it was stated there were experts in the department who did this work, and that the registrar himself was not an expert. If so, why had this officer been sent to the conference of statisticians in Hobart?

**THE COLONIAL SECRETARY:** The present Government found this officer in the department, and understood he was an expert. Being the head of the department, the Government Statistician was the best man to send. He controlled the department, and the results showed the work was well done.

**MR. F. CONNOR:** Would there be no end to increases of salaries? In this half page, under "Registry" there were seven increases.

**THE COLONIAL SECRETARY:** As already explained, when the first Leake Government took office in June last, the Estimates were in preparation on the principle that there should be no increase of any salary which exceeded £300 a year. It was found necessary to alter the amount to £200, and there had been no

increase in any salaries over £200, except in a few special cases and for good reasons, while there were only £10 increases in the smaller salaries. For recommendations as to increases the Government must depend on the heads of departments, who, he believed, did their work faithfully and well. The maximum salaries carrying increases were limited to £200 a year or less, until the Government had an opportunity of revising the whole service. No doubt some injustices were done, but the Government did their best.

Item—Postage, telephone rent, and telegrams, £500 :

**MR. JACOBY:** Here was £10 a week in postage and telegrams, equal to 1,200 letters a week; and even if half the amount represented wires, the item appeared extravagant.

**THE COLONIAL SECRETARY:** This year's vote was purely speculative. Till recently, all departmental letters and telegrams had been franked, and telephones had been a matter of bookkeeping. Now we had to pay the Federal Government for letters and telegrams; and the use of the telegraph had been as far as possible restricted. But for the next five years, and possibly for ten, this expenditure made no difference, because the money came back to the State from the Post Office vote.

**MR. JACOBY:** The State would still be the loser if the expenditure were not justified.

**THE COLONIAL SECRETARY:** Possibly the estimate for postage, etcetera, would not be reached; but the provision must be made.

**MR. F. CONNOR:** Did the item include weather reports?

**THE COLONIAL SECRETARY:** Yes; if sent through post.

Item—Incidental Expenses, £100 :

**MR. HOPKINS:** Last year the item was £1,074 12s. Why the discrepancy?

**THE COLONIAL SECRETARY:** For years complaints had been made regarding the amounts collected under "incidentals." In preparing these Estimates, he had endeavoured to put the items under proper headings; consequently incidentals, though large in some cases, were small in others.

Other items agreed to, and the vote passed.

*Charities, £23,982 10s. :*

MR. JACOBY: Why increase the staff by six?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: Certain old people depending on the State had been removed to a Government building at Fremantle, where they could be better cared for. The result was satisfactory as regarded increased accommodation and comfort, and complaints had ceased; but there had necessarily been increased cost.

MR. H. DAGLISH, referring to the vote generally, said the scale of rations granted to persons receiving out-door relief appeared to be inadequate. The rations to children under seven years of age comprised eight ounces of bread and one ounce of sugar, without any meal, meat, fruit, or milk. This ration was not sufficient to maintain children in a healthy condition, as probably medical members of this Committee would be able to testify. The rations for adults comprised 16 ounces of bread, eight ounces of meat (alleged to be very inferior), two ounces of sugar, and one and a half ounces of tea; these items costing altogether 3½d. per ration. We should deal liberally with the people who were dependent on the charity of the State, and should refrain from undue economy in this direction by making the scale of diet as liberal as it could reasonably be made, especially for children and elderly people. He hoped the Minister in charge would look into this matter and make the diet more liberal, even if he had to resort to Form J for doing so. Referring to the Women's Home in Perth, he believed there were young children herded with the women, and that the children sometimes heard language which it was undesirable for children to hear. It would be well for children to be separated from the rooms occupied by women. In making these remarks he did not wish to reflect on the Superintendent of Charities.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: No complaints of this kind had reached him, but after the remarks of the hon. member, he would make inquiry and would not hesitate to use Form J if necessary.

DR. O'CONNOR: The scale of diet was certainly insufficient. The children

should have meat at least once a day. Referring to the Old Men's Depôt, he understood the rule was that the inmates must be inside the gates not later than five o'clock in the afternoon. His own opinion was that the old men in this institution should not be herded like a lot of cattle, but should be allowed to remain outside the institution until seven or eight o'clock in the evening during summer.

MR. F. WALLACE, referring to the work done by old men in the Depôt, asked how the money which was earned by them for doing work was awarded, and whether it was sufficient for the old men to supply their extras in the shape of tobacco and other things.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: In most cases those men in the Depôt who were willing to do a little work were enabled thereby to earn sufficient for purchasing tobacco and other privileges. Sometimes they brought home what was not desirable; but that was inevitable.

Vote put and passed.

*Government Gardens and Government House Domain, £1,678 :*

Item—Superintendent, £275 :

MR. R. HASTIE: In addition to the amount of this item, the superintendent received other sums, particularly for attending to the King's Park. According to the Blue Book for 1890, this officer's salary was £250, whereas the amount set down in the present year was £275, showing an apparent increase of £25. In other States, the practice was for a person holding this office to hold it in connection with the office of botanist, or some similar position. We had not any extensive parks or gardens in this State, yet it seemed curious that we should have so many officers occupying so many different offices. If one scientific man were employed, he could direct in a general way all those who were doing work in connection with Government gardens and other public gardens, and would have under him a responsible foreman. In this State we had a botanist in addition to a superintendent of public gardens, with other offices of a like nature, and the tendency was to multiply offices unnecessarily. It had been intimated that the Government would, during recess, try to reduce the number of those offices; and he wished the

Colonial Secretary would take note and see if anything could be done in connection with this department, as the method was unnecessary and unsound. If the Blue Book for 1890 was correct in its statement, the present item showed an increase of £25; and although according to the estimates of expenditure made during last year this officer received £275, yet that was probably a mistake.

**THE COLONIAL SECRETARY:** The hon. member had been very much misinformed. There was no officer in the public service who was more hard-worked than the energetic man who was superintendent of the public gardens and domain. He was working from seven in the morning until eight or nine o'clock in the evening.

**SEVERAL MEMBERS:** It was a shame to work him to that extent.

**MR. JACOBY:** He was interested in his work—that explained it.

**THE COLONIAL SECRETARY:** There was no possibility of doing without the services of this public officer if he worked all those hours. He had to look after the Government Gardens, the Government House Domain, and all public reserves in and about Perth. This officer's salary ought to have been increased this year, but he (the Colonial Secretary) had not been able to do so. Last year this officer received £275, and there was no increase in the present vote for the superintendent's salary nor for any other. The money expended in connection with this department was some of the best-spent money on the Estimates. He had not seen the Blue Book for 1890, and could not say whether the figures quoted by the hon. member were correct, but probably the salary was more now than it was in 1890.

**MR. W. J. GEORGE:** Did the duties of the superintendent comprise manual labour, or was the salary of about £5 per week paid for the supervision of about six men? He believed there were other workmen employed under the direction of this superintendent, in connection with other votes, and he asked if that was so?

**THE COLONIAL SECRETARY:** The superintendent was a landscape gardener, and in that respect was responsible for the laying out of parks and gardens belonging to the State, and was respon-

sible for the Government House Garden and the Public Gardens opposite the Post Office. He had to attend to all the striking of plants, and he sent out some thousands of plants to different parts of the country in the course of a year, besides raising a great quantity for public places in Perth. He had to attend to the men engaged as gardeners in these different public places.

**MR. JACOBY:** The services of the superintendent of gardens would be worth at least, to any private firm in Western Australia, £300 a year; therefore this officer was underpaid. As to the suggestion that the office of botanist and superintendent of gardens be combined, that was impracticable. A botanist classified plants, and might not know anything about gardening.

**MR. R. HASTIE:** This officer was really paid £379 a year, and obviously that was a very fair remuneration: in fact the officer was paid too much. There was no doubt that almost every officer could give an account of what he did which would rather surprise us, and one doubted whether this officer was such a good man as he was represented to be. In South Australia the office of superintendent of gardens was held in conjunction with that of botanist, and the same thing could obtain here.

**MR. DIAMOND:** The member for Kanowna was misinformed. In Adelaide the Government botanical gardens were under the control of the botanist; but the Government parks and enclosures were under the control of the inspector of public buildings, while the ornamental squares in the city were under the control of the corporation.

**THE COLONIAL SECRETARY:** In regard to the question of quarters, this officer had the occupancy of the house in the Government Gardens opposite the Post Office, and the quarters were counted to be worth £54 a year. The value of quarters was fixed at one-sixth of the amount drawn by an officer.

**MR. GEORGE:** Would the Government give the officer more salary if he did not have quarters?

**THE COLONIAL SECRETARY:** Not necessarily. This officer was allowed to occupy the quarters, and the allowance was made out on the basis of one-sixth of the salary. The officer also received £50

from the board of management of the King's Park.

MR. GEORGE: There was rather an important principle at stake. This officer received £379 a year—one would not say whether he was worth it or not—but, seeing that he was allowed quarters, if the quarters were done away with could the officer reasonably expect to be recouped to the amount set down as the value of the quarters?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: Supposing the officer said the house did not suit him, and went out, he would not get any farther allowance. Take another case. The clerk of courts at Geraldton received £300 a year, and the emoluments return showed £72 for quarters; whereas this officer was occupying a building which only cost £250. The allowance for quarters was regulated on the basis of one-sixth of the salary.

MR. GEORGE: Various officers were put down as occupying quarters valued at so much. If the officers were entitled to quarters, and supposing the quarters were done away with, had the officer a right to receive an extra amount?

MR. HOPKINS: It was advisable, the next time the Treasury made out a return that it should be of some service to members. The Emoluments Return misled members. Under the Imperial Act he understood it was usual to reckon one-sixth of the salary for the quarters; but that was no reason why it should be continued now. Take Mr. A. E. Burt, the warden at Mt. Margaret, the quarters of that officer cost £150, yet the quarters were valued at £119 a year.

MR. DAGLISH: One important point was being overlooked in regard to these quarters. Whatever the value of the quarters were, that was added to the remuneration of the officer upon which he would receive his superannuation allowance: the amount would be considered as part of the officer's salary when the pension was under consideration.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: The Emoluments Return distinctly stated that the return was not put forward as an official basis on which the retiring allowances would be calculated under the Superannuation Act.

MR. DAGLISH: If an officer occupied quarters, he was entitled to have the allowance for quarters counted when a

pension was being considered. What the Treasurer pointed out was that the list was not necessarily a correct one. If the Government Gardens and Government House Domain were under the superintendence of the Lands Department, a more advantageous result might be obtained.

DR. O'CONNOR: It would be advisable for the gardens to be placed under the control of the Municipal Council; then one gardener could look after the lot.

Other items agreed to, and the vote passed.

*Public Health, £5,820 6s. 8d.:*

Item—President Central Board of Health, £500:

MR. HOPKINS: Was the president, like the resident magistrates at Geraldton and other places, entitled to the services of an orderly, selected from prisoners in the local gaol?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: The president had no connection with the prison, and had no such orderly. Regarding Geraldton, inquiry would be made.

Item -- Inspector (public buildings), £200:

DR. O'CONNOR: This department seemed to be rapidly increasing. This and the two following items were new appointments. Last year, £7,000 odd had been spent on the bubonic plague, much of which money had been wasted. A temporary plague hospital at Subiaco, which had not been used, cost £500. The department increased beyond all bounds. The inspectors were doing the duties of local board inspectors, whereas they should be inspecting the country timber mills and far-off goldfields, where the local boards could not afford to pay for inspection. He moved that this item be struck out.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: The hon. member himself would cry out if there were no inspector of buildings such as the Perth Town Hall and the Theatre Royal. This vote was £3,000 less than it was last year.

MR. GEORGE: There was now no plague.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: And the vote included £2,000, representing

direct grants made to various towns for health purposes.

MR. GEORGE: But previously under "Miscellaneous."

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: The Public Health Department was hardly a fit subject for economy, and the tendency should be to increase its efficiency. During the last few weeks he had received applications for grants which, if made, would exceed £100,000 per annum; whereas the amount available was only £5,820.

MR. F. McDONALD supported the amendment. This inspector had no work to do in Perth, but visited other municipalities and tried to condemn some of their public buildings, thus making work for himself. If the Government wanted a supervising architect, there were plenty in the Works Department.

MR. HOPKINS: In the past, grandstands and public buildings were not opened to the public till passed by the Works Department, while they were now passed by the Central Board of Health. Why the change? The former system was far better, and should be reverted to. Strike out the item, and let the duties be performed by the Works Department.

MR. HASTIE: Against this particular appointment he would not complain; but there appeared in this vote the salaries of five new officers, and of that fact the Minister should give some explanation.

MR. HOPKINS: The Minister for Mines (Hon. H. Gregory) suggested that to strike out the item would involve the amendment of the Health Act. Not so. The Central Board could appoint the chief architect, or one of his subordinates, as inspector to the Central Board.

DR. O'CONNOR: These Central Board inspectors went to smaller towns, criticised buildings, and were "bowled out." A few weeks ago they found fault at Fremantle, and Dr. Hope proved they were wrong. Besides, under the Public Health Act they had no power to close a hall, unless in conjunction with the local board.

MR. DIAMOND: Regarding Fremantle, apparently there had not been any health inspection by the chief inspector. As to buildings, were the inspector to visit Fremantle, he could be shown much that required attention.

MR. T. F. QUINLAN supported the amendment. The present inspector had

for many years been in the Perth Council, and when appointed by the Central Board, suddenly discovered that the Town Hall, in which he had occupied an office for many years, was unsafe, and condemned it and had it closed for 12 months. [MEMBER: Quite right.] Possibly the entrances and exits of the building were unsafe, but such inspection could be done by the Works Department; and the salary, £200, was not sufficient for an officer who was required to inspect buildings throughout the country.

MR. McDONALD: During the Royal Visit it was not this inspector who passed the grandstands and other structures erected, but Mr. Grainger, the architect of the Works Department. The latter should always do such work.

MR. JACOBY: It was hardly possible that an officer worth only £200 a year should have sufficient capacity for such duties.

MR. DAGLISH: This work could be done without any such new appointments. In Victoria there was no chief architect nor any similar professional man; but when a new hall was built, the board sent a list of its requirements to the local police, with instructions to examine and report. This was done. Not even the services of the Works Department were necessary, nor need officers be sent through the State to do work which required only a little common sense.

MR. HOPKINS: In practice, that theory did not always work. Not long since, on the eastern goldfields, a grandstand was erected from competitive plans; but subsequently additions were required to make it safe. There must be inspection by a capable architect.

HON. F. H. PIESSE: This officer had to inspect buildings from a health point of view, not with a view to structure.

MR. HOPKINS: From a structural point of view also.

HON. F. H. PIESSE: He had to see whether the buildings were supplied with the necessary conveniences and other requirements of the board of health. An inspector was necessary for this purpose, and therefore should be attached to the Health Department. The inspection of public buildings in and around Perth or other populous localities had to be made, as required by the Act recently passed. At one time the supervision of

public buildings was under the control of the Director of Public Works, but now it was under the control of the municipal authorities, in accordance with the recent enactment. The Municipal Council in Perth now had charge of public buildings in the city in regard to public health and safety; and, as mentioned by the member for Toodyay, a portion of the Perth Town Hall had been condemned in consequence of an inspection made in regard to the requirements of public health and safety, but not in regard to construction.

MR. HOPKINS: The hon. member appeared to be wrong in his contention, because Item 5 provided for an additional inspector of public buildings, and this work had to be done from a structural standpoint.

MR. HASTIE: The discussion showed there was a strong desire amongst members to increase this department. Last year the president of the Central Board of Health had five officers under his control, whereas this year he had ten, and five of them were now on the permanent list, and of course would become entitled to a pension if any new arrangement were made.

MR. McDONALD: The inspector of public buildings did not look after them from a sanitary point of view, but with regard to structural requirements. The inspector visited East Fremantle and condemned a public building there because certain bolts or other trivial things were not placed to his satisfaction. That must have been for structural reasons.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: This vote was placed before the Committee in the form he received it, and he had not made the appointments of officers. Whether the officers did their work to the satisfaction of the public in regard to the inspection of public buildings, he was not in a position to say. Probably those persons who were put to some inconvenience through having to carry out the directions given by inspectors of public buildings would consider that the officers did not perform their duty properly. As a business matter, he remembered that some time ago an inspector said that certain houses, which were bringing in good rentals, must be pulled down; and of course the owner did not consider that was a reasonable direction to give. There must be someone to look after places of

public resort in order to see that proper exit was provided and the sanitary arrangements were suitable; also to see there was no over-crowding. These things were deemed to be necessary in the enactment recently passed in regard to the inspection of public buildings, and the officers provided for in this vote had been appointed in consequence of that enactment. It was somewhat stultifying for the House to pass an Act requiring certain things to be done, and when the officers were appointed to do those things and their salaries were provided in the Estimates, the House then to disapprove of the salaries so provided. If members of this Parliament considered that the previous Parliament had passed legislation which ought not to have been passed, the proper course would be to repeal the enactment, and in that way get rid of the officers who were appointed to carry out its provisions. He had given to the Committee all the information he had in connection with this vote.

HON. F. H. PIESSE: The Colonial Secretary had stated frequently that the votes were put before the House as they had come down to him. The members of the present Government took office in May last, and had been in office since then, except an interval of about a month. The Estimates therefore were framed by the present Government, and no doubt the new Ministers had a good deal of work to do in looking up facts connected with the Estimates. Yet it was desirable that the Committee should have all the necessary information placed before it, and the Government should have taken care to bring down that information before asking members to pass the votes. The Government could have obtained the information in each case by applying to the officers who were concerned in preparing the estimates for the several departments; and if this information had been obtained from those officers and laid before the House, members would have been in a better position to deal with the items. In regard to the additional inspector for public buildings or any small matter of that kind, it would be a mistake for the Committee to strike out that item in the absence of information which ought to have been placed before members, unless there were really good grounds for taking that

course. Having drawn attention to various matters, members should leave the responsibility with the Government, who would doubtless make inquiry and be prepared to give more information to the House next year in dealing with the next Estimates.

MR. F. CONNOR: The item under discussion was objectionable because it created a new office. It seemed to be a waste of time to discuss the Estimates unless amendments were to be made in them. Better pass them *en bloc*, because the Colonial Secretary would not agree to any reductions which members desired, unless the Committee as a whole insisted on a reduction. Why waste the time of members by talking about reductions which the Government would not make? The new Ministers had promised to retrench, yet the Colonial Secretary said this vote should rather be increased. When and how were the new Ministers going to make reductions? This was a new item for expending £200 a year in the salary of another inspector of public buildings, in addition to the inspectors previously appointed. One inspector should be sufficient to do the whole lot. Better pass the items as they stood, leaving the responsibility with the Government, and then members could be ready next year to fight the Government by insisting on reductions where they were deemed to be necessary. Large sums were passed on these Estimates, and the tendency was to squabble about small items. When the House was inclined to make any retrenchment, the Government would not retrench. Discussions of this kind were a waste of time.

MR. GEORGE: It was refreshing to hear from the hon. member an echo of remarks he had made himself in previous sessions in regard to the necessity for retrenchment. He would like also to know what was the meaning of a special medical officer at £52 a year.

MR. F. WALLACE: It came nicely from the member for East Kimberley to lecture the Government on the necessity for economy, when the fact was that the hon. member had sat behind the Forrest Government during four years without any attempt at retrenchment being made by that Government.

MR. CONNOR: They never promised it, but the present Ministers had promised to retrench.

MR. F. WALLACE: The member for East Kimberley did not desire to have the item struck out, but wished to be in opposition to other members. The time of the House should not be wasted, but the amendment put.

Amendment put and passed, and the item struck out.

Item—Laboratory Assistant, £100 :

MR. McDONALD: What was the name of this officer, and what were his duties?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: The officer was assistant in the Bacteriological Department; he could not give the name.

MR. HOPKINS: A laboratory had only just been established in this country. There should be such an officer as this.

MR. GEORGE: Who was the chief operator in the laboratory?

MR. HOPKINS: Dr. Black.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: This was an officer who was called in occasionally to assist Dr. Black.

MR. DOHERTY: Did the officer hold any other position in the Government service?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: No.

Item—Special Medical Officer, £52:

MR. HOPKINS: Dr. Black was the City Coroner, also President of the Board of Health. An officer was now appointed to assist Dr. Black, because he had too much to do. This was the evil of giving an officer too many positions.

MR. DOHERTY: A sum of £100 was granted last year to Dr. Black in connection with the bubonic plague.

Item—Fees to Members of Central Board of Health, £250:

MR. W. J. GEORGE: Who were the members of the board, and were the fees paid at per sitting or in what way?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: This item was previously under "Incidental."

MR. GEORGE: Who were the members of the board, and how much did they get per sitting?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: The information was not available just now. He had been in Parliament a great many years, and had never found the Estimates

altered very much. Members had never before asked for so much information as during the present session, but he was pleased they did ask for the information.

MR. GEORGE moved that the item be struck out.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: Members could not be in earnest when they proposed to strike out the fees to the Central Board of Health. These fees had been paid for years. This was not an occasion for joking.

THE PREMIER: If the item were struck out, the Government could dismiss the Central Board.

MR. GEORGE: How many members were there?

DR. O'CONNOR: Five.

MR. GEORGE: Who were they, and how many times a year did they meet? When he was a member of the Perth Council, that body used occasionally to come to loggerheads with the Central Board of Health, and the council never got anything satisfactory out of the board. The local board of health used to do all the work.

MR. McDONALD: The members of the board were A. K. Money, E. C. Money, J. T. Hobbs, and Wright, the architect: it was a nominee institution. If a Central Board of Health was required, the members should be drawn from the municipal councils of Western Australia, who would be willing to give their services free.

MR. DAGLISH: The Committee would make a mistake if they struck out the item. We could not get away from the fact that there was a Central Board of Health—it might be a good one or a bad one. If we did not have this board, it was our business to take some steps to supersede it, but there must be some central board. It would be unwise to strike out the item, unless members were absolutely satisfied there was no necessity for it. Members should be prepared to vote reasonable fees to members of this board, who were entitled to some allowance for loss of their time.

MR. GEORGE: Would it not be better to have permanent officers?

MR. DAGLISH: The present was not the proper time to express an opinion on that point: the present was not the time to discuss the legislation constituting the board. We must recognise the board

was in existence. If the Act was to be altered, it could not be done in Committee on the Estimates.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: Section 6 of the Health Act stated that the president and members of the board should be paid such salaries as Parliament should determine, out of moneys appropriated by Parliament for the expenses of the board, the members of which were to be paid all travelling and other expenses reasonably incurred by them in transacting the business. In pursuance of that Act, arrangements had been made for carrying out the duties of the board, but the Committee now proposed to strike out the fees which an Act of Parliament said should be paid. This item had come up for discussion because the Government had endeavoured to give Parliament more light. The item had previously been hidden under "Incidental." In every case the Government had tried to give Parliament every possible information, and because of that there was this criticism. It was not very encouraging to give the information. More information, both printed and oral, had been given the Committee on the present Estimates than had ever been given before. Members should not stultify themselves by refusing to pay the salaries of members of the board when Parliament had passed an Act saying that the members should be paid.

MR. GEORGE: The Committee were not condemning the Government for giving the information. The Health Act said the salaries should be settled by Parliament, and now members had an opportunity for the first time of settling the salaries. Members were within their rights in asking for an expression of opinion from the Committee it was not wasting time.

THE PREMIER: It was evident the Committee were out for a little bit of fun. He knew the game very well. Pass the item, and full particulars would be given to-morrow. As the Colonial Secretary had pointed out, Ministers had drawn this criticism upon themselves by letting the House see the particulars of which the item "Incidental Expenses" was composed.

MR. F. CONNOR: Last year the vote for "Incidental Expenses" was £500,

and the expenditure £478 16s. 1d. The Colonial Secretary said he had split up the vote; but the three items enumerated amounted to £800. Where was the economy? Was not this throwing dust in the eyes of the Committee; not, perhaps, wilfully? Strike out the item, and thus make the vote £70 or £80 more than it was last year, which would be quite sufficient.

**THE PREMIER:** Then better strike out "Incidental Expenses."

**MR. CONNOR:** There was an increase of £300.

**THE PREMIER:** True; but this was a growing department. The fees to the Central Board and the travelling expenses had previously been classified under "incidentals." The Government did not propose to wipe out incidental expenses, but had detailed the fees and travelling expenses, while retaining the general item.

**MR. CONNOR:** And the three amounted to £800.

**THE PREMIER:** Hon. members did not look at the Excess Bill for last year.

**MR. NANSON:** The difficulty might have been immediately settled if the Minister could have told the Committee how the £250 got on the Estimates; whether the Central Board were paid so much per meeting, how often they met, etc. Was the amount of fees within the discretion of the Government, or had any sum been fixed?

**MR. HOPKINS:** The board seemed a family affair, two of the members bearing the name of Money.

**THE PREMIER:** There was no relationship.

**MR. HOPKINS:** The Central Board should have been composed of the presidents of metropolitan and suburban local boards of health, instead of consisting of four probably inexperienced gentlemen. This showed the necessity for an amended Health Act.

**MR. QUINLAN:** There had always been a board of five paid members. But there were many other boards the members of which were not paid. Five gentlemen could easily be found to give their services free of charge, for the meetings were not frequent. Though there was nothing to be said against the *personnel* of the board, which consisted of well-known though perhaps not specially qualified gentlemen, the item

might well be struck out. There should be one member from each municipal council; or the board should consist of medical men, who would give their services free, as they did to hospitals. The Health Act provided for paying the board such fees as were necessary; but the day had arrived when administrative expenses must be reduced. Taxpayers had suffered enough in the past, and unless expenses were cut down there would be something like a revolution. The item should be struck out on principle.

**THE MINISTER FOR MINES (Hon. H. Gregory):** As the Act provided for certain expenses, it would not be wise to strike out the whole item. Have a good, paid board which would do its work properly. Owing to changes of Government, no Minister had had time to look thoroughly into his department, and the Colonial Secretary's assurance that he would bring down information to-morrow should be sufficient. If the board were obsolete, let it be abolished.

**MR. CONNOR:** There was no necessity for a £300 increase in the vote.

**THE MINISTER FOR MINES:** There was an inspector of dairies who must travel.

**MR. DOHERTY:** As a protest against this board, he would vote to strike out the item. On one occasion the North Fremantle Council had written to the board in reference to a sewerage scheme, enclosing a sketch, with a plan of machinery. The board then consented to give the council every assistance; consequently the council obtained from Sir John Forrest a grant of £500, and carried out the scheme at a cost of £700. But certain people in and around Cottesloe approached the board, which consequently sent a notice to the council to stop the scheme under threat of legal proceedings; so the machinery was to-day lying idle, and the money spent wasted, while the Central Board would not even suggest an alternative scheme. Were these men who should receive fees amounting to £250? For this reason the item should be struck out.

**MR. GEORGE:** The salaries of members of the board appeared from the Estimates to have been paid previously under the heading of "incidental expenses," and if so they were paid illegally, as was evident by reference to Section 6

of the Act under which the board was constituted.

**THE PREMIER :** The Act provided that salaries might be paid, and the salaries appeared in the Estimates.

**MR. GEORGE :** The item in the Estimates was "fees," not "salaries." What was required was that the salaries for these members should be fixed distinctly, so that the Committee might know what they were.

**THE COLONIAL SECRETARY :** Members of the board were paid by fees, according to a number of attendances at meetings. It was not possible to say in advance how many meetings there would be, nor what the attendance at those meetings would be. The amount put down was an estimate, but it need not all be expended.

**MR. DIAMOND :** By the end of January, about £200 would have been spent in connection with this item; therefore the mover should not propose to strike out the item, but rather to reduce the amount.

**MR. DOHERTY :** Strike it out as a protest against the board.

**MR. GEORGE :** Better postpone the item till information was placed before the Committee.

**THE COLONIAL SECRETARY :** If the Committee wanted farther information, he would obtain it, and the item might be postponed till to-morrow. Formerly, when he was Minister in a previous Government, he had all this information at his fingers' ends; but Parliament having chosen to turn out that Government, the information he then had as Minister went at the same time.

Amendment put and passed, and the item (fees) struck out.

Item—Incidental Expenses, £300:

**MR. DOHERTY** asked for information to show how the money was to be spent.

**THE COLONIAL SECRETARY :** This was an item the amount of which could not be fixed in advance. It could only be estimated. There must be an item for incidental expenses.

Item—Stationery, typewriters, etc., £90:

**MR. DOHERTY :** This renewal of typewriters to such an extent could not be necessary year after year.

**THE COLONIAL SECRETARY :** The word "typewriter" did not mean the operator, but the instrument.

**MR. DOHERTY :** But £90 was too much for typewriters and stationery.

**THE PREMIER :** What was the use of humbugging over these items? The amount of the item, as estimated for last year, was £70; but that amount was exceeded by £13. Following on that, the estimate for this year was £90, and that was the way the calculations were made in regard to this and other items. Why waste time in this way? If members did not want to work, let us report progress. Either work or give it up—he did not care which.

**MR. HOPKINS :** Probably the mistake occurred through the heading being taken from the ledger. It was absurd to say "Stationery, typewriters, etc.," as if typewriters were being renewed every year.

**THE COLONIAL SECRETARY :** It was not expected that the Treasurer could look at every heading in the ledger. Having an account open for stationery, typewriters, etc., any item of that nature would come under that heading.

Item—Travelling expenses and transport, £250 (previously classified under "Incidental"):

**MR. F. CONNOR :** The amount of £200 for travelling expense and transport appeared to be excessive, and was more than half of the whole expenditure for last year, covering the fees which were supposed to have been paid to members of the board. What necessity could there be for this amount in addition to the fees paid to members of the board?

**THE COLONIAL SECRETARY :** If the whole of this amount was not required, the whole of it would not be expended.

**MR. CONNOR :** Then, as a protest, he moved that the item be reduced by £100.

**MR. R. D. HUTCHINSON :** In the absence of details in connection with the bubonic plague expenditure, he did not see how the Committee could get at the correct expenditure for the last year. No good could be done by attacking items in this way. Reform or retrenchment should come from the Government, or from some commission specially appointed for the purpose.

MR. DOHERTY : It was the privilege of any member to question the items in the Estimates, and if members were not allowed to discuss items, we had better turn the whole thing into a commission, and let the Government run the country on commission. If there was anything in which money could be spent in a wrong way, it was in the form of incidental and travelling expenses.

MR. GARDINER : The hon. member was simply going over the ground which other members had taken when the discussion of the Estimates began. Previously, items for incidental expenses had been lumped in a big sum, whereas now the estimated expenditure had been apportioned to the several votes, each bearing its share of the expense. Unless it could be shown that this apportionment was not scientifically made, it would be better for members not to cavil at the present arrangement. It was at least better from a business point of view for members to see that each department was debited with a particular portion of incidental and travelling expenses. Detailed information in regard to items of this kind could hardly be expected.

MR. DOHERTY : The estimate averaged £60 for each member of the board for travelling expenses, which was out of all proportion.

MR. NANSON : The discussion was not waste of time, for it had shown that Ministers knew absolutely nothing about the Estimates, when it was their business before they came to the House to inquire into the item and know why they were placed on the Estimates. So far, all the information obtained from the Colonial Secretary was that the head of the department had said the items should be there, and the Minister was satisfied. That might do for an ordinary Government, but when we came to a reforming Government, one that came in pledged to retrenchment and economy, the Committee expected something better. Instead of making retrenchment or reforms, they had gone on in the old way of putting items down, and when members of the Committee asked for explanation we could not get it. Discussion was not waste of time if it had shown that ignorance existed on the Treasury bench, and that Ministers knew absolutely nothing

about the Estimates they had brought down.

THE MINISTER FOR MINES (Hon. H. Gregory) : The officer in charge of the department made an estimate as to the expenditure in connection with these items. There were a large number of travelling inspectors, and it was estimated that the amount of travelling expense would be so much. This was a question of administration, and it was the duty of the Treasurer to see that the amounts were properly expended. If at the end of the year it was found that the vote was exceeded, and that there had been improper expenditure, then the Minister would have to make inquiries. Never before had so much information been supplied to the Committee as during the progress of these Estimates.

HON. F. H. PIESSE : More information had been given in every detail previously.

THE MINISTER FOR MINES : So much information had never before been placed before the Committee. Incidental expenses to the amount of £10,000 had gone through previously without question.

MR. HOPKINS : It was not possible to agree with the member for Geraldton that members had no right to discuss the Estimates.

MR. HUTCHINSON : That was not what he had said.

MR. HOPKINS : Any reform of course must come from a commission or the Government, and unless members took the opportunity of bringing under the notice of the Government that they desired reform, Ministers would not accede to the request. It would not be wise to reduce this item. The Central Board of Health exercised jurisdiction over all local boards, and it was impossible to say what the travelling expenses of that body would be. If there was an outbreak of plague at Wyndham or Derby, it might be necessary for the members of the board to travel to those places. He had known repeated instances in which the Secretary of the Board of Health, as well as the President, had visited the eastern goldfields and had reported on certain districts.

MR. F. CONNOR : Members had not been wasting time. It should not be left to the discretion of Ministers to say what

money should be expended, and he was strongly of opinion that the item should be reduced.

Amendment put and negatived.

Item—Bubonic Plague, £150:

MR. W. M. PURKISS: Last year a sum of £3,934 was expended in connection with the bubonic plague, while on the Estimates for this year £150 was set down. This was a very grave under-estimate. All observations and experience told us that bubonic plague was a recurring disease. He felt satisfied that there would be a recurrence of the plague in the autumn. It had commenced already in Sydney, therefore he desired to draw the attention of the Treasurer to the grave under-estimate, so that the Treasurer could bring down an amount on the Supplementary Estimates. All specialists agreed that the genesis of bubonic plague was the rat, the rat being the great disseminator. A solemn farce was perpetrated in Perth during the two waves of bubonic plague. When the plague was rife, and people were stricken down and the burying grounds were being opened for the reception of the dead, a raid was made on the rats and rewards were offered for rats. Rat-catchers were employed, consequently we found such a vast expenditure was made last year; but immediately the plague disappeared, all the efforts of the health department stopped. It should be the duty of every sensible man to carry on the destruction of rats right through the year, but since the last case of plague occurred the destruction of the rats ended, and there were nine months of the year for the rats to go on breeding and germinating disease. The board seemed to go to work when the steed was out of the stable. He felt satisfied we were going to have another wave of bubonic plague, as it was a recurring disease, and had started about the same time of the year as previously in Sydney.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY hoped the hon. member was not a true prophet. The sum of money was expended last year without any vote at all, and if there was an outbreak of plague this year the Government would have to do the same thing: they would have to spend the necessary money to protect the public health, and the Government would not

hesitate to do it. The hon. member was not quite correct when he said the department were not taking any steps, for the medical department were watching the rats very carefully; they were endeavouring to discover whether the rats which were caught from time to time had the bubonic plague. He thought the money asked for would prove to be sufficient to keep in touch and see if the bubonic plague existed; but if there was a recurrence of the disease, the Government would not hesitate to spend the necessary money.

DR O'CONNOR: The destruction of rats ought to be recommenced. Probably during the next few months there would be another outbreak of plague, there being cases in Sydney.

Item—Sanitation Grants to Local Boards, £2,000:

MR. F. CONNOR, referring to details given, asked how the item for Kalgoorlie and Boulder was to be expended. Was there one board for both?

MR. HOPKINS: Yes; the boards were now combined. Owing to faulty drafting, the existing Health Act took from the old boards power to strike and collect rates, and failed to give such power to the combined board; therefore the assistance here granted was absolutely necessary, some of the councillors being considerable losers through the error.

MR. GEORGE: Of these grants, £1,500 had been allowed to goldfields health boards, and £500 remained unallotted. The latter sum was ridiculously insufficient for the rest of the State.

MR. HOPKINS: It would be found that these were only nominal grants to local health boards at their inception, prior to their striking rates. The circumstances were exceptional.

MR. GEORGE: The same applied to timber districts and other places in the South-West, where there was influx of population.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY agreed that the amount allotted was insufficient. In cases of absolute necessity it might be increased.

Other items agreed to, and the vote (reduced to £5,370 6s. 8d.) passed.

*Educational, £108,615 :*

**MR. DAGLISH :** Was there necessity for the item, "Inspector General of Schools, £650"? In the frequent absences of that officer, the department went on very well. There was likewise a Chief Inspector, who also seemed unnecessary. Did the Inspector General intend to return to this State?

**THE COLONIAL SECRETARY :** A former Government had deemed it necessary to import the last-mentioned officer for this work. Mr. Jackson's qualifications were undoubtedly high, and when in England Sir John Gorst had recommended that he be offered £800 a year for similar work. Mr. Jackson was now absent on six months' leave, to which he was entitled under the Public Service Act; and such leave would have commenced two months after the time he obtained it, had it not been that Mr. Andrews, who had been imported for the Technical School to be opened at Claremont next week, had nothing to do prior to its opening, and this was thought a good opportunity of giving the Chief Inspector his holiday, allowing Mr. Andrews to do his work in the interim. Mr. Jackson was expected to return in a few weeks. Without a qualified head, it was impossible to carry on a big educational system.

**MR. GARDINER :** Several items showed large increases. Was this the result of the natural tendency of an educational department to increase, or were there specific causes for the increase?

**MR. HOPKINS :** This vote particularly lent itself to criticism. None would cavil at the expenditure on schools; but one could not help viewing with consternation the establishment of a training college for teachers. Could teachers have better training than that acquired when graduating as pupil teachers? The training college in Victoria, after running for some time unsuccessfully, had been closed, and the building let for a university high school. Our training college at Claremont involved the expenditure of £4,000 in interest, sinking fund, and salaries; and the money could have been better employed on extra primary school accommodation, technical college, schools of mines, evening schools, or on a technical school. A training

college for a country with a population of 190,000 was absurd. If this was the result of Mr. Jackson's administration, he would rather invite Sir John Gorst to undertake it.

**THE COLONIAL SECRETARY :** The information asked for by the member for Albany (Mr. Gardiner) might be found in Item 33.

**HON. F. H. PIESSE :** The State was to be congratulated on having so capable an administrator of the Education Department as Mr. Cyril Jackson, whose efforts had been a great success. Only recently someone was sent from another State to inquire into the education system of Western Australia, with the result that great praise was accorded to the system as carried out by Mr. Jackson. The salary paid for his services was not too much, and the little recreation he had received lately was due to him. From personal knowledge, one could say he was most economical in regard to expenditure. Great good had resulted from his management, and he deserved every credit.

**MR. JACOBY :** So economically managed was the department, that it was almost starved. With regard to the training college, unless some provision was made for training young men and women as teachers in this State, our young people would be placed at a disadvantage, and we should have to obtain trained teachers from South Australia or some other State.

**MR. HOPKINS :** In South Australia, teachers were trained in State schools and in no other way.

**MR. JACOBY :** The opportunity should be placed within the means of our young people to obtain the necessary training as teachers, without having to import teachers. Referring to the High School, the time had arrived when it should be incorporated in the educational system of the State; for although there had been good reasons for establishing it, and it had done good work in the State, yet the changed conditions required that it should now be managed as a branch of the Education Department. He hoped the Colonial Secretary would bring in a Bill next session for repealing the statute regulating the High School, and placing that institution under the Education Department.

Item—Government Schools, £69,500 :

MR. GARDINER asked for information in regard to the proposed expenditure.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: Many schools were in course of erection and nearly completed, and this item was the estimated additional cost for carrying them on.

Item—Evening Schools, £500 :

MR. DAGLISH hoped the Minister would arrange to open one or two evening schools in the suburbs of Perth. If one class at least were established, it would be of great advantage to the young people in the particular locality.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY said he would have much pleasure in establishing evening schools in populous centres, wherever a sufficient number of pupils could be got to attend—say 20 or more. He would make a note of the suggestion.

Item—Principal of Training College, £450 :

MR. HOPKINS: What were the true functions of a training college for teachers?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: This item was for the salary of Mr. Andrews, the principal of the new college. This was a training college to instruct teachers for our State school system, and would be opened next week.

Item—Board, etc., for Students in Residence, £1,300 :

MR. GARDINER asked for information as to this new item.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: A certain number of pupils in training were expected to be in residence at the college, and this item was the estimated cost of their maintenance. Of course there would be fees received from them, which would go to the credit side.

DR. O'CONNOR: Was it intended that the pupils to be trained in the college should be required to enter into a bond to serve in the public schools of this State after leaving the college?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: Regulations had not yet been framed, but no doubt that point would be provided for.

Item—Manual Training, Cookery, etc., £1,280 :

MR. GARDINER asked for information as to this item.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: It was intended to establish at all the large centres schools which would give manual training, and schools for instruction in cookery. One was at work in Fremantle now. This was the amount estimated for the schools already existing, and it was intended that schools of this kind should be extended.

MR. GARDINER: If manual training and instruction in cookery were estimated to cost this amount, there was no provision in the Estimates for instruction.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY said he hoped to give more details in the next Estimates, but this item was the estimated total cost.

Items—Cadets: Staff £200, Upkeep of Corps £500 :

MR. HOPKINS asked for explanation of these items.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: Arrangements had been made to form two or three cadet corps, and these items were the estimated amounts of expenditure. One corps was connected with the Central School in Perth, another was in Fremantle, and perhaps there would be corps at other centres.

MR. HOPKINS moved that the item, "Staff £200," be struck out. The Commonwealth should provide for the training of cadets.

Amendment put and negatived.

MR. HOPKINS farther moved that the next item, "Upkeep of corps £500," be struck out.

MR. GARDINER said he was rather in favour of the cadet movement. There was some evidence that we might require assistance to protect our own shores. Therefore, outside the fact that this movement had a controlling and good influence on the rising generation, and to some extent obviated the expense of forming militia, as in the old country, he supported the item.

MR. HOPKINS: Although he had as much sympathy with the cadet movement as the hon. member, yet this was a Commonwealth matter, and the State should not interfere with it.

**THE PREMIER:** This would provide physical training.

**MR. DAGLISH:** Physical training was already provided for under the item for manual training, which gave the physical strength that would be necessary if a demand were ever made for the defence of this country against invasion. Youths, so trained, would be physically able to bear fatigue, and have plenty of courage. He objected to the gold-laced military element, and was inclined to restrain that instead of cultivating it amongst children.

**DR. McWILLIAMS:** Gold braid had been entirely done away with in the British service, and we should follow here in a short time. Youths should certainly be trained to the use of arms. They could be taught with their wooden guns, and there would be a certain *esprit de corps* amongst them which would follow them through life. Boys should be encouraged in every possible way in this direction.

**MR. GARDINER:** Children could be taught certain common movements, and they would retain in after life the knowledge gained. If in a hurry we were bound to defend our own shores in after years, this training could be turned to good account. There were plenty of men physically fit to defend our country; but we should be prepared to teach the youth company movements and so forth.

Amendment put and negatived.

Other items agreed to, and the vote passed.

*Observatory, £3,542 4s. :*

**MR. J. M. HOPKINS:** If a public officer in a country district was receiving a decent salary, there was no reason why someone else should be paid £12 a year to send in the record of the rainfall.

**THE COLONIAL SECRETARY:** That might be true in respect of some officers, but there were some special appointments, and the returns would not be obtained unless they were paid for. There was a clerical error in the item, "Junior Astrographic Observer, £220," which should be £200. He moved that the item be reduced by £20.

Amendment put and passed.

*Item—First Assistant, £260 :*

**MR. QUINLAN:** This officer was inadequately paid, and was deserving of

consideration: he was highly qualified. The officer referred to was Mr. Joscelyn, who had been overlooked in the past.

**THE COLONIAL SECRETARY:** The officer was under-paid, and on the next Estimates some provision would be made for him.

**MR. GARDINER:** Last year a promise of an increase was made to this officer.

**THE COLONIAL SECRETARY:** This officer, like some others, had suffered from the rule that no increases were to be made in salaries over £200. This officer was very much under-paid, and unless some farther provision were made for him we should lose his services, which would be a loss to the State. He would make a note of the discussion, and see what could be done.

**MR. DAGLISH:** The Observatory went on well enough when the Government Astronomer was absent: why should there be a Government Astronomer and a first assistant? This State had to draw the line in regard to a lot of luxuries indulged in.

**THE COLONIAL SECRETARY:** It was more than probable the department would be taken over by the Federal Government.

*Item—Weather Clerk, £50 :*

**MR. HASTIE:** Was this a capable officer? If so, he ought to get more than £50. If that amount was all we could afford to pay, no wonder there had been such a long spell of dry weather.

**MR. NANSON:** Was this £50 in addition to some other emolument received by this officer, or did he only receive £50?

**THE COLONIAL SECRETARY:** He was a youth, and was not employed for the whole of the year.

*Item—Observer, Albany, £12 :*

**MR. HOPKINS** moved that the item be struck out. There were resident magistrates and other Government officials throughout the country who could do the work of reading the rain gauge, so that there was no necessity to pay £12 a year to numbers of persons throughout the State.

Amendment put and negatived.

Item—Government Astronomer, special allowance, £100 :

MR. F. WALLACE: Was this for the Government Astronomer alone, and if so, was it an addition to his salary?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: This amount was practically an entertaining allowance. A number of people went to the Observatory, and the Astronomer was only too glad to entertain them, but he found that his salary was not sufficient to stand the expense.

MR. JACOBY moved that the item be struck out. It was not necessary, when people visited a public institution, that the Government should give them whisky.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: The officer's salary would have to be increased, then.

MR. JACOBY: There was no need to entertain visitors. People went to the Observatory for instruction.

MR. GARDINER: Was not this an advance in salary, to be given to the Government Astronomer under the heading of an allowance? If it was so, let the Committee know?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: That it was an increase of salary he had not stated. He had said the officer's salary was insufficient for the position, one of the reasons being that there were numerous visitors to entertain.

MR. JACOBY: Why? They were not entertained at the South Australian Observatory.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: Apart from that, the Astronomer ought to have £700 a year, and if the Government intended to retain his services he must have more than £700.

MR. TAYLOR: Give him an adequate salary and no allowance.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: The reason for the allowance was that the Government had bound themselves not to increase salaries which exceeded £200; hence the increase was put in the form of an allowance.

MR. NANSON: Gentlemen who took such positions were glad to get them at the salary first offered, but subsequently agitated for large increases. The Government Astronomer had applied for a large increase, and this allowance of £100 consequently appeared on the Estimates. The officer had not only a salary of £500, but an exceptionally good house. Visitors

to the Observatory were not necessarily asked to the house, and there was no obligation to entertain them. Let the item be struck out.

THE PREMIER: No doubt the Astronomer had an excellent house, and it would be better for him if he had it not. With a salary of £500 a year, how was a man with a family to keep up such a house?

MR. TAYLOR: Let him regulate his house to suit his salary, as had to be done by others.

THE PREMIER: That was very well; but this officer's position made it incumbent on him to show civility to his numerous visitors. Last Sunday he (the Premier) visited the Observatory, and the Astronomer mentioned the large number of visitors, particularly since the great telescope was erected. It was not so much the people in Perth but strangers from the country and visitors to the State who went to the Observatory; and no doubt the Astronomer extended to them his hospitality. The Government would oppose the amendment.

MR. NANSON: If necessary, the amendment would be pressed to a division. When the officer took the position, he knew the salary and the conditions. If we lost him we could find in the old country many scientists willing to fill the vacancy. There were no complaints against the present occupant; but for this State the salary was fair. He (Mr. Nanson) had taken persons to visit the Observatory, and could testify that he had not found liquid refreshments necessary.

THE PREMIER: None had said they were necessary.

MR. NANSON: If this allowance were required, it was equally needful to the curator of the Museum. Strike out the item, if only to express disapproval of officers taking positions and then demanding higher salaries.

MR. TAYLOR supported the amendment. The Premier had advanced no argument for the item, save that the officer lived in a big mansion and must be civil to numerous visitors. Civility cost nothing; but there was a general understanding in Perth that this was a place where one was well received and well looked after. The Government had promised not to increase salaries over

£200; yet here was an advance of £100 on a salary of £500.

**THE PREMIER:** The promise had been qualified by the statement that there might be increases in exceptional circumstances.

**MR. TAYLOR:** It was regrettable that such exceptional circumstances were always found for the men who received decent salaries. Salaries of £200 and thereabout were not increased. If the salary were to be raised, let it be raised straightforwardly.

**MR. W. J. BUTCHER** supported the striking out of the item, as a matter of principle as much as anything else. In this Parliament the Minister told us he was not going to raise any salaries that were over £200 a year. One objected to this salary being increased, more especially as there were Government officials who had been living in the tropics of Western Australia for the last twenty years, and had had no change or increase of salaries.

**MR. YELVERTON:** The amendment met with his favour. He thought with the Premier it would be better to wipe off this item "Observatory" altogether. He looked upon it in the light of a luxury to a very great extent, and could not see that the advantages we derived were commensurate with the expense.

**HON. F. H. PLESSE:** The Observatory was a most useful institution, and of great benefit to the State. It had tabulated and prepared for the people of this State a great deal of information which had been of great advantage to Western Australia, and the institution should not be abolished. A great deal of the expense was entailed before the Observatory was established, but these items had now been placed under the Government Astronomer. They had been in existence for years and they were most useful. The salary of the officer was inadequate to the position. It was unfortunate that in this instance the officer had such a large residence, for it meant a great deal to keep it up. At the same time the proposal to grant this special allowance was a wrong way to increase salary.

**THE PREMIER:** The reason the item was put in the form of a special allowance was that special attention might be drawn to it. Had it been inserted as additional salary and been passed, it would have gone through infinitely more easily next

year, and would not then have appeared as though it were a permanent increase. This was what it stated to be, a special allowance. If the Committee desired to strike it out, let them do so.

Amendment put and passed, and the vote (as reduced) agreed to.

Members suggested that progress be reported.

**THE PREMIER:** Half the evening had been wasted. Why not go on? There were only two other votes in this branch of the Estimates.

**MR. NANSON:** There might be a long debate on one of them.

**MR. H. DAGLISH:** Those who sat till this hour were not responsible for the failure to do work during the earlier stage of the sitting, and it was not right that members should sit here until 12 o'clock because other members chose to come along and interrupt the proceedings now and then.

On motion by **MR. NANSON**, progress reported and leave given to sit again.

#### ADMINISTRATION (PROBATE) AMENDMENT BILL.

Received from the Legislative Council, and on motion by the **PREMIER** read a first time.

#### ADJOURNMENT.

The House adjourned at 19 minutes past 11 o'clock, until the next day.