

ADJOURNMENT—STATE OF BUSINESS.

The PREMIER: I move—

That the House at its rising adjourn until 10.30 a.m.

Mr. JOHNSON: I would like the Premier to give us a little further information as to what it is proposed to bring on at 10.30 a.m.; whether we will have a chance of considering the public servants' petition, and when we will prorogue?

The PREMIER: It is necessary to meet at 10.30 in order to be sitting at the same time as the Legislative Council, so that Messages may pass between the two Houses.

Mr. Bath: What Messages are there to come?

The PREMIER: One or two of those amendments we have considered to-night. I think that is about all. Then there are the Estimates and the Loan Estimates.

Mr. Johnson: What about the Employment Brokers' Bill?

The PREMIER: I am prepared to take that measure, and also the report of the select committee on Mrs. Cohney's case, and the public servants' petition. I may say it is proposed to prorogue at 3 o'clock.

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 5.33 a.m. (Tuesday).

Legislative Council,

Tuesday 21st December, 1909.

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The PRESIDENT took the Chair at 10.30 a.m., and read prayers.

PAPER PRESENTED.

By the Colonial Secretary: Report of the board of management of Perth public hospital for the year ended 30th June, 1909.

BILL—LOAN, £1,342,000.

All Stages.

Received from the Legislative Assembly and read a first time.

Second Reading.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. J. D. Connolly) in moving the second reading said: This is simply a Bill authorising the Government to borrow an amount of £1,342,000; it merely gives power to the Government to borrow to that extent on opportunity offering to raise loans. It does not in any way authorise the expenditure of the money. The expenditure will have to be authorised in the Loan Estimates later on. The bulk of the expenditure is for railway purposes, and all the expenditure on new railways has to be again authorised by Bills covering each particular railway. So, in assenting to this Bill, we are only giving the Government a general authority to raise this money. The schedule attached to the Bill gives information to Parliament showing approximately how it is proposed at present to expend the money. Of course it does not follow that the money will be spent exactly as the schedule sets out. However, the expenditure will be dealt with later on in the Loan Estimates, which

will show exactly how it is spent, and then again next session the further expenditure will be set forth in further Loan Estimates showing the exact sum to be spent on each particular work. Many of the railways in the schedule are already authorised and in course of construction. This authorisation will finish their construction, and of course Bills will have to be brought down authorising each particular new railway mentioned. These railway Bills have to receive assent twice, once when the Railway Bill is submitted, and before that, when the Loan Estimates are presented to the House. With regard to the other items in the schedule, no Bill is required for ordinary works, but they have to be authorised by the passing of the Loan Estimates each year, when each item is detailed there and full information is given. With regard to the rest of the Bill, there are the usual clauses providing for sinking fund, payment of interest, re-appropriation, etcetera. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

Hon. J. W. LANGSFORD (Metropolitan-Suburban): I should like to hear from the Colonial Secretary what effect on Government stocks the reduction of the sinking fund from one to one-half per cent. has had? We used to pride ourselves on the fact that we were able to borrow on better terms with our one per cent. sinking fund than if we had none at all. This will not be the first Loan Bill in which this reduction has occurred, and I would like to know if any appreciable effect has resulted on our stocks.

Hon. T. F. O. BRIMAGE (North-East): In the first item of the schedule I notice that we are dealing with £110,000 for the purpose of administration. I think the Colonial Secretary might give some idea of what that is for. It would have been better if the item had been left out. To have to borrow money to carry on is a pitiable state of affairs, and shows the necessity for greater economy.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (in reply): In answer to the query by Mr. Langsford, I do not think that the re-

duction in the sinking fund has had any appreciable effect on our stocks. The last loan was raised at as good a price as any other.

Hon. J. W. HACKETT: Did it ever make much difference?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: I doubt whether the people took the matter into consideration. Our security is good enough, though we must admit the sinking fund is a good business arrangement. We all agree that our security is sufficient, more particularly when the bulk of the works constructed out of loan moneys consist of railways, and these are as good when the loan matures as when the Bill was passed.

Hon. J. W. HACKETT: How long will it take to repay the loan with this half per cent. sinking fund?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: Forty-eight years. Mr. Brimage is under a misapprehension with regard to this amount of £100,000; we are not raising £100,000 for the purpose of supplementing our income or to pay salaries. That amount is required in connection with the administration of the railways, which we are constructing, and out of that wages will be paid.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee.

Clauses 1 to 3—agreed to.

Clause 4—Contribution to the Sinking Fund:

Hon. C. A. PIESSE: With regard to the sinking fund, he had said a good deal about it in the past, and he desired to congratulate the Government on having come to their senses at last. That the people should have been compelled to carry this sinking fund was nothing short of monstrous. He trusted the Government would see their way clear, in connection with the taking over of the State debts by the Commonwealth, to make provision so that the State should not pay more than half per cent.

Hon. J. W. HACKETT: Do any of the recent loans bear this half per cent. sinking fund.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: Without turning up the last Loan Act he could

not inform the hon. member definitely, but speaking from memory he thought the last Loan Bill provided for the reduced sinking fund.

Hon. M. L. MOSS had always been a great advocate of the sinking fund, and he was quite satisfied that it had had a great effect on the prices we had got for our bonds in London. There were nearly two millions of money of this sinking fund, and it must add vastly to our security. There was a matter which struck him as being important, and one which it was expected the Government should take into consideration. The time was not far distant when the Commonwealth would take over the whole of the State debts.

Hon. J. W. HACKETT: A referendum has not yet been taken.

Hon. M. L. MOSS: But it was within reasonable distance of being consummated. When the debts were taken over it would be a handicap to Western Australia to have to contribute 3 per cent. in connection with the goldfields water scheme, one per cent. on some loans and half per cent. in connection with the present sinking fund. In the other States of Australia there were no contributions to sinking fund. This was a serious matter as far as Western Australia was concerned. If the Commonwealth took over these debts additional burden would fall upon the State. The Colonial Secretary should bear these facts in mind with a view of discussing them with the Government. Next session the matter should be taken into consideration so that Western Australia could be put on precisely the same footing as the other States when the debts were taken over. It would be too late to do this when the debts had been taken over. Once these debts became Commonwealth debts the necessity, he thought, would still exist to the same extent for keeping the sinking fund going, because we would still be concerned in the future as to the raising of loans; and we should see, at any rate, that while we were ready to shoulder a responsibility and contribute equally as much as the other States of Australia, it would be a serious thing, particularly now that the matter had been pointed out, if we were

to hand over these debts and add to our obligations.

Hon. J. F. CULLEN: Mr. Moss did not assume that in the consolidation of the debts there would be any lumping as would prevent this State getting full advantage of its sinking fund.

Hon. M. L. Moss: That is not my point.

Hon. J. F. CULLEN: There was nothing more illusive than the idea of a sinking fund for a big State at the beginning of its borrowing. If we had come to the point of slacking off, then the sinking fund would be a reasonable and logical proposition. But a sinking fund for a State which had to go on borrowing would not have the slightest effect on the standing of our loans with the people who supplied them. He hoped that the representatives of this State, who had done so well at recent conferences on Commonwealth questions, would have this matter pressed upon them.

Hon. C. A. PIESSE: The total of our sinking fund was two millions and to ask our people to carry this burden, to pay for works which were of greater value to-day, was out of all reason. This two millions of accumulated funds could be put to a very much better use within the State, and he would challenge any member to say that it would not be advisable to spend that sum here.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: The point raised by Mr. Moss had received very serious consideration at the different Conferences held in regard to the Commonwealth taking over State debts. If the debts were taken over there would have to be consideration given for the Sinking Fund of Western Australia, either by writing off the loans to the extent that the Sinking Fund amounted to, or in some way or other, the Commonwealth taking the burden rather than Western Australia continuing to pay the Sinking Fund and no other State paying it. The matter had not been lost sight of and as far as this State was concerned no further Conference would lose sight of the question.

Hon. G. RANDELL took a somewhat important part in providing the Sinking Fund against borrowing, and he had

never regretted it and never would ; if there had been more provided it would have been all the better. If we did not have that Sinking Fund we could not have borrowed so much, by the amount of the sinking fund. The man who borrowed money and did not make provision for repayment was a rogue or a fool, and he did not see that there was the slightest difference between the State and the average man. The idea was sound and good ; the only regret he had was that the debts were not being reduced at a faster rate than at present. There was danger lying ahead of us in the future, notwithstanding the way people spoke of the potentialities of the State, unless we kept a conservative policy in regard to borrowing. The added indebtedness by the present Government was considerable, and from the utterances made in another place this money had been very largely—as it was in the beginning—wasted, utterly thrown away, and was not reproductive in the slightest degree. That was always the tendency in regard to borrowing policies. It was a question whether the country would not have been developed just as much if we had gone slower than in the past.

Hon. E. M. CLARKE : The idea of a sinking fund was sound business. People entertained the idea that we should stop some of the Sinking Fund on the money already borrowed, but that was not business that an honest man would do. He affirmed the principle, and if a case were required to prove that this was sound business we had only to look at the Coolgardie Water Scheme, and it was a matter to be regretted that the Sinking Fund was not of a greater amount than to-day. As to the question of what we were to do when the Commonwealth took over our debts, it had exercised his mind to know how we were going to balance it. Were the Commonwealth to take the liabilities less the amount of the Sinking Fund, or were they to take the whole lot. When we heard of the Federal Parliament talking about "our this" and "our that" one asked what befonged to the States. The Commonwealth were com-

mandeering everything ; where were we to be landed ? Up to the time the Commonwealth took over our liabilities we should have a sinking fund. He was prepared to reduce it a little, but it was sound business to have a sinking fund ; and as he had said, if a case were wanted to prove the necessity for a sinking fund, the Coolgardie Water Scheme had shown the necessity for it. It would have been a good thing if we had taken twice the amount of sinking fund for that scheme. As for saying the Sinking Fund retarded the progress of the State, he did not believe it. Neither he nor any person in Western Australia could say that the Sinking Fund had interfered with the rate at which we could borrow ; it might or might not influence the money market.

Hon. C. A. PIESSE had never advocated doing away entirely with the Sinking Fund. There was justification for a sinking fund in connection with the Coolgardie Water Scheme because it was short-lived. One of the wisest expenditures in this State was that on the Great Southern Railway, and the State were paying a sinking fund of $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on that, which was scandalous. We were raising £1,525,000 for interest and sinking fund, and a quarter of that amount was for sinking fund. It was too much for a small population to pay.

Clause put and passed.

Clauses 5, 6, 7—agreed to.

Schedules, Title—agreed to.

Bill reported without amendment, and the report adopted.

Third Reading.

Read a third time, and *passed*.

BILL—PERMANENT RESERVES REDEDICATION (No. 2).

Assembly's reasons.

The Legislative Council having made two amendments to which the Assembly disagreed, the reasons for such disagreement were now considered.

In Committee.

No. 1—Clause 3, strike out :

The COLONIAL SECRETARY : The question of the national park reserve had been fully discussed in the Council on the previous day. He had then explained the reason why the clause should be passed, but additional ones were now contained in the Message from the Legislative Assembly. It was pointed out that since the national park was reserved a very large area had been permanently reserved in the district forming the Mundaring catchment area, and several thousand acres west of that place. It was also argued that there was so much land reserved in the district that the local residents were hampered in their desire to secure a certain amount of ratable property so as to ensure their obtaining the water supply. He moved—

That the amendment be not insisted upon.

Hon. J. W. HACKETT : It had been raised as an argument in favour of allowing the rededication of 410 acres of the national park that the land desired to be made available for cultivation was very fertile. That was the very reason why the Government should not be allowed to rededicate that land. There was not much fertile land in the national park, and as that park was to be used chiefly for ornamental purposes it was necessary that all the fertile land should be retained. One need hardly dwell on the argument as to the ratable land in the district. What was meant by saying "Since the area referred to was reserved for a national park a very large area has been permanently reserved in the district." ?

The Colonial Secretary : That was the catchment area in connection with the goldfields water supply.

Hon. J. W. HACKETT : Just so, and the Minister would have power to abolish that reserve or any other reserve made in the same way whenever he thought fit.

The Colonial Secretary : We are not likely to abolish the catchment area.

Hon. J. W. HACKETT : It was not what the Government were likely to do ; it was what they might do. He was determined to do all he could to see that the people's park up there was not lost.

The reserve was peculiarly well situated for a national park. Members should take care not to put it in the hands of Ministers to abolish a national park whenever they thought fit. This could be done if the Assembly's action were endorsed.

Hon. M. L. MOSS : The importance of keeping these open places for the public could not be too strongly urged. There should be no encroachment committed in connection with any of the parks. When the question was before the other place there was but a very narrow margin in favour of the attitude ultimately decided to be adopted. Nothing had been given in the reasons sent from another place that would induce him to alter his opinion with regard to the matter.

Question put and negatived ; the Council's amendment insisted upon.

No. 2 (consequential) also insisted on.

Resolutions reported, the report adopted, and a Message accordingly returned to the Legislative Assembly.

BILL—INTERPRETATION ACT AMENDMENT.

Assembly's reasons.

The Legislative Assembly having disagreed to one amendment made by the Council, the reasons for the same were now considered.

In Committee.

No. 2—Insert new clause, Section 11 of the principal Act is hereby amended by striking out "both" in the 12th line and substituting in lieu thereof the word "either" :

The COLONIAL SECRETARY : In connection with all Bills passed by Parliament a good deal was left to regulations. This was absolutely necessary for one could not put within the four corners of a measure everything that needed attention in connection with the Bill. Under the Interpretation Act as it stood the regulations had to be laid on the Table for fourteen days and then they had the force of law, just as if they belonged to the Act. The proposed new clause provided that the regulations

would take the force of law unless they had been disagreed to by both houses of Parliament. Mr. Moss's amendment had provided that in the event of one House disagreeing with the regulation the regulation would be of no force. It was undesirable that regulations should be disallowed except by agreement of both Houses. It was for the Committee to say whether we should continue the present system or insist upon the amendment. The main amendment, for the purpose of which the Bill had been brought in, was of considerable importance and meant a large saving to the Taxation Department. As hon. members knew, that amendment had been agreed to. He was not going to say that if Mr. Moss's amendment were insisted upon the Bill would be lost. He moved—

That the amendment be not insisted upon.

Hon. M. L. MOSS: Once more the Minister had declared that a Bill brought in for a specific purpose should not have other clauses added to it. However, it was clear that it was competent for members to move any relevant amendment they might see fit. This was an excellent opportunity for the Legislative Council if they desired to get a check upon the power to make regulations; because the Government knew that the main amendment would save some hundreds a year, and, consequently, the Government would not be too strenuous in opposition to an amendment directed against the power to make regulations. A great deal of the legislation of the country was delegated to the Government by regulation. Before legislation could go on the statute book it had to be agreed to by both Houses of Parliament, and the dissent of one House was sufficient to prevent a Bill becoming law. But the dissent of one House was not sufficient to prevent a regulation under an Act having full force. The Federal Constitution provided that if one House of Parliament objected to a regulation it ceased to be law. It might prove to be a matter of very great importance, and it was to be hoped that the Committee would insist upon the amendment.

Hon. G. RANDELL: There were serious arguments which might be urged against the amendment moved by Mr. Moss, and, possibly, there was a great deal to be said on both sides of the question. He was not enamoured of Federal legislation, so the fact that it was part of the Federal machinery would not with him be a sufficient reason for agreeing to the proposed alteration. A regulation very distasteful to the Council might be passed, while, on the other hand, a regulation very distasteful to the Assembly might be passed, and it might be highly desirable that both Houses of Parliament should dissent from a regulation before it was thrown out. No great foresight was needed to realise that certain regulations might be approved by this Chamber and objected to by another. An amendment of the kind required very careful consideration. He would be unable to vote with Mr. Moss in this case.

Hon. J. W. LANGSFORD: The Committee ought to be very careful in giving to the Government such great powers of regulation under Bills passed from time to time. It was generally found that the Bill had three or four pages devoted to what could be done by regulation, and a final drag-net clause stating that if there was anything else the Government desired to do they could do it. Seeing that two Houses were required to make an Act, two Houses should be required to make a regulation under the Bill.

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

Ayes	10
Noes	5

Majority for 5

AYES.

Hon. T. F. Brimage	Hon. W. Oats
Hon. J. D. Connolly	Hon. B. C. O'Brien
Hon. J. W. Hackett	Hon. C. A. Plesse
Hon. J. W. Langsford	Hon. G. Randell
Hon. E. McLarty	Hon. A. G. Jenkins
	(Teller).

NOES

Hon. J. F. Cullen	Hon. R. W. Pennefather
Hon. S. J. Haynes	Hon. C. Sommers
Hon. M. L. Moss	(Teller).

Question thus passed ; the amendment not insisted upon.

Resolution reported, the report adopted, and a Message accordingly returned to the Legislative Assembly.

BILL—APPROPRIATION.

All Stages.

Received from the Legislative Assembly and read a first time.

Second Reading.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. J. D. Connolly) in moving the second reading said : I need hardly remind hon. members that this Bill includes the Loan Estimates for the current year, and also the Revenue Estimates. It is the appropriation from loan funds and the appropriation from revenue funds covering supplies for the financial year 1909-10. As members are aware it is not customary in this House to make a second financial statement such as has already been made by the Treasurer in another place. Since I have been a member of the House, the Leader of the House has only formally introduced the Appropriation Bill, and any information desired by members is given in Committee. One could not make a second reading speech on this Bill without making a second financial statement, but I will give hon. members any information they may desire in Committee. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

Hon. W. KINGSMILL (Metropolitan-Suburban): As I shall not have the opportunity of asking questions in Committee as other members will have, I would like to ask a question now. I would like to ask the Minister for some explanation as to the new procedure in this Bill, and furthermore I do not know that it is really a right method that is adopted. I take it that this measure is also to serve the purpose of an Excess Bill.

The Colonial Secretary: Yes; it is all included.

Hon. W. KINGSMILL: In ordinary cases an Excess Bill should be brought

down every year, but it is usually five years. It is now included in this Appropriation Bill; but why this excellent principle should be put in the form of a correction of errors I fail to see. The most glaring example is on page 13. Apparently when considering some previous document we have to read, "One officer-in-charge at £140 to 18-8-08, at £150 to 30-6-09," in lieu of, "One officer-in-charge at £140." Detail is a very good thing, but this is almost carrying it too far. Would it not be possible to save time and printing to say, "Excess of certain officers for the year ending 30th June," and give a lump sum? It seems to me peculiar in the first place to make these amounts appear as corrections of mistakes in previous Estimates, and secondly to print them at full length and in detail. I should like some explanation of how this system has been arrived at. It may be a far better system, but I would like to know why it has been adopted, and what merits recommend the system?

Hon. T. F. O. BRIMAGE (North-East): There is one item in the Estimates I intend to bring before the House, and that is the Inspection of Machinery Department.

The PRESIDENT: It would be better to bring it forward in Committee.

Hon. T. F. O. BRIMAGE: I understood I could speak generally on the second reading.

The PRESIDENT: Yes, you can speak generally.

Hon. T. F. O. BRIMAGE: I think we will have very little chance of dealing with the Estimates. It is now ten minutes before noon, and we are supposed to prorogue early in the afternoon; but I think something should be done whereby the House could have greater opportunity of dealing with the Estimates than we have now. It is all very well to bring them down as they are and give just a casual glance at them. Many representing outside constituencies are questioned about these Estimates by their constituents, and it is very hard to tell one's constituents that one has very little voice in regard to these Estimates. I think that we should have greater

opportunity. At any rate the matter I intend to deal with in Committee is one in which the departments are at variance. Certain alterations are recommended by the Public Service Commissioner, but this Bill comes before us running practically counter to the recommendations of the Public Service Commissioner. It is not for me at this juncture to discuss whether the Public Service Commissioner's services have been of any very great advantage to the State; but I think, having him, we should obey and carry out his instructions, or else we should repeal the Act and carry on as we carried on before. In Committee I intend to move to delete the item "Chief Inspector of Machinery and Chairman of Board of Examiners." It is only right to inform hon. members that in his report for 1908-9 the Public Service Commissioner gives a table of various expenses in connection with the inspection of mines, boilers, and machinery in the other States. Both New South Wales and Victoria carry on the same industries as we do here—coal mining, gold mining, and factories, and other works—but we find the expenses there are very much lower than they are in Western Australia, and we want to know the reason for it. We also find that in those States the inspection of boilers and of mines is under the one head. In fact this is the only State where they are two departments; but, as may be seen on reference to the various reports issued by the State Mining Engineer in which there are comments upon the condition of some of the mining machinery, the two departments would work admirably here under the State Mining Engineer. There is no doubt mining inspectors as a rule have a very high knowledge of mining machinery and when a mining inspector goes on a mine to examine it he could take the responsibility of saying whether the engines are in good running order or not. We have instances on record where the mining inspector has made recommendations to the machinery inspector that several alterations should be made, and they have been rendered null. I know the opinion is very largely held throughout the mining community, and

also amongst members in another place—in fact I think it is one of the greatest regrets to-day that there was not a decision on the point by taking a vote on this particular item, so as to voice the opinion as to whether there should be this amalgamation or not. It is with the hope of giving members in another place the chance of voting on this particular suggestion that I intend to make that I am moving. I have very little more to say beyond the fact that I think a great saving could be made if these two departments were amalgamated. I know the matter has been favourably considered by the Minister for Mines; it is one of those suggestions he has favourably considered. He has not quite decided it. As he has said in one of his reports, he has had various opinions given him by various officers, but he is not quite decided as to what he will do. I certainly think that an opinion from the Legislature on this point would considerably assist the Minister for Mines, because it is one of those things on which he wants an opinion. I shall support the second reading, and when the item comes before the Chamber I shall ask leave to make a suggestion.

Hon. J. F. CULLEN (South-East): It is not one of the functions of this House to criticise the details of an Appropriation Bill, but there are a few general principles on which I would like to say a word or two. I shall not delay the House more than a few minutes. I am very glad to see the Government have been able to do a certain amount of long-delayed justice to the civil servants, but I think, in some respects, these acts of justice might have been done in a better way. I do not think that any Government can be too careful or fine in distinguishing between executive and judiciary functions. An act of justice may be done in such a way as will make difficulty for heads of departments. Where Ministers have laid an embargo on heads of departments against increments and then, in response to political pressure, have granted such increments, it must have a demoralising effect on the whole of the civil service. The special point I want to emphasise to-day is this: I look

upon the public service as somewhat akin to the military and navy. I hold that any talk of pressure, or any threat or industrial trouble in connection with the public service, is almost as serious as talking of mutiny in the army and navy. The public service has justice guaranteed to it by its position. The whole country is at its back. I want to impress upon Ministers the great danger of so delaying justice that pressure of a political kind may be brought to bear upon the Ministry, and if yielded to may demoralise. The simple rule about the public service is this: get and keep the best men available in every grade; work them hard and pay them well. I hold that the civil service should command the highest remuneration, and that, as a matter of sound administrative justice should never be delayed to the public service. It is demoralising if political pressure has to secure justice which has been long delayed. This is an important principle that the Minister will do well to take to heart. I ask the Minister to look carefully into the question of the Agricultural Bank. By hard struggling a little item of adjustment was carried through Parliament for the co-trustees of the managing trustee—a slight increase of their very small remuneration. But what about the manager? I hold that next to the Premiership, and, perhaps, the Commissionership of Railways, the heaviest post in this State is that of the manager of the Agricultural Bank. We have a capable man who gave up political ambitions under pressure to go into this post; he has done the work of two or three ordinary men and we are paying him about a chief clerk's salary. I notice there is a small increase, that is to say, certain fees that he was entitled to, have been given to him in the form of an increase. I hope the Minister will impress upon his colleagues that this officer is entirely underpaid. The management of an ordinary bank is child's play compared with the management of the Agricultural Bank, for not only does the manager handle millions of money but he handles people, and he nurses them almost like a father in the interests of the country as a whole. I

was under the impression that it was £1,000 a year that this officer was being paid. This salary would be low enough in all conscience for the work he has to do. We have this able man giving the prime of his life to the work of this department, and receiving, as I said before a chief clerk's salary.

Hon. M. L. MOSS (West): There is one item in the Appropriation Bill that I desire to refer to, and I may as well refer to it now as at a later stage. It is on page 8, and I shall allude to the item, "Clerk, Embossing Branch," in order to make my point. I understand in connection with the collection of revenue under the stamp Act, that in addition to the adhesive stamps there are a large number of embossing machines in the Treasury, and as such a large amount of revenue comes from the imposition of stamp duties I think it would be assuring to the country to know that we are getting all the revenue that we are entitled to receive from these machines. I have a grave doubt about it, and I have intimated my doubt to the Treasurer from time to time. It appears that the machines for embossing are not self-registering, and, as far as I can see, there is little or no check whatever upon those persons who use the machines. I do not know the persons who are working the machines, and I cast no aspersion on the integrity and honesty of these people.

Hon. B. C. O'Brien: Do they come under the observation of the Auditor General?

Hon. M. L. MOSS: Not what I am explaining. Promissory notes, bills of exchange, and other legal documents may be stamped with the stamp of the denomination required either by adhesive or embossed stamp. At Somerset House the embossing machines are all self-registering, and the total is ascertained at the end of the day or the week, and it is learned there whether the equivalent amount of money is paid into the consolidated revenue in accordance with the check which is registered by the instrument. In our Treasury there is no registration at all. As registering machines are pretty cheap, I think it is a

penny wise and pound foolish policy to have these stamps put upon documents and no record kept at all. The last thing I want to say is that this is being done, but it quite likely that a plain piece of foolscap paper may be stamped, and it would be possible to put that paper into use afterwards, and in that way the State would lose revenue. I make these observations with a view, not of informing the Government about it because they know perfectly well all about it. I told the Treasurer how widely open the door was if persons were fraudulently inclined. Later on a scandal may arise in connection with the administration of the Stamp Act, but it will be possible to say that the matter was referred to prominently in Parliament and the risk pointed out that the country was running of not getting the revenue it was justly entitled to.

Hon. R. W. PENNEFATHER (North): I agree with the observations made by Mr. Brimage with regard to these Estimates. Time after time exception has been taken in this Chamber to the fact that the Estimates are thrown on the table at the last hour and we are supposed to consent to them at once. It is not fair to this Chamber because this Parliament has been in session five or six months. Surely the Government should make an effort to secure the consideration of the Estimates by this House in reasonable and decent time. To submit Estimates at this time is a farce. It we are to have the responsibility of giving our assent to such a measure we should have it submitted in time to give it some amount of consideration. There is much, indeed, that hon. members might criticise, and the criticism might be of some good to the Government. I concur with what Mr. Moss has said regarding the stamps, and in addition I would point out to the Minister that it was only as late as yesterday that I received a complaint from Broome that their supply of stamps had been so limited that they had been compelled, when requiring to use a stamp, say, of a value of £10, to almost obliterate the surface of the document with a great number of stamps of smaller value

in order to make up the required total. That is the kind of thing which should not be tolerated. There is another matter I desire to refer to. There is no doubt that a great feeling of dissatisfaction exists in the civil service in consequence of a number of the officers not having received their increments, and their salaries remaining practically as they were when they first entered the service. I have in my mind the position of the Registrar of Public Companies. The officer who filled this position is about to leave the public service, after some eight or nine years, during the whole of which time he received the same salary. The duties have been considerably increased and the revenue of this department has increased in consequence of the advance of the population, but the officer's salary has never been augmented. Another instance I would refer to is that of the caretaker of the Supreme Court buildings. He, too, has occupied his present position for eight or nine years, and he is receiving exactly the same salary, 8s. a day. True he has quarters, but they are not very desirable. I desire to repeat that it is manifestly unfair that this Chamber should be asked to consider these Estimates at this late hour and I hope the Minister will make a recommendation to the Government to this effect. Yet another matter I would refer to is the question of the publication of the *Year Book*. We are aware that there is a *Year Book* published by the Commonwealth and that it is a very valuable production, but it will be false economy to stop the publication of the State production, which has always been an admirably got-up work, and has always reflected great credit on Mr. Fraser and his officers.

Hon. C. A. PLESSE (South-East): I, too, desire to express my regret at the action of the Government in bringing these Estimates down at such a late hour. The matter I would like to refer to is that of the hospital vote, and I would speak on behalf of those who have taken up new country, and who, as it is, are compelled to carry heavy burdens. The Government have

stated that there have been serious losses with regard to these hospitals, and yet in handing them over to the local bodies they expect these communities to make the hospitals pay and with smaller grants than the hospitals have enjoyed in the past. I trust next year this vote will be looked into, and that the Government will see their way to treat it in a liberal manner. There is one matter that my colleague has referred to and that I spoke of earlier in the session. That is the salary given to the manager of the Agricultural Bank. I think he is underpaid. To my idea he should receive £100 a month for the position which he fills. I trust some means will be taken to give Mr. Paterson pay in keeping with the position which he holds and the responsibilities which he carries.

Hon. C. SOMMERS (Metropolitan): I feel considerable alarm about the two clerks in charge of embossing duty stamps. They have untold wealth at hand and there is no check. I hope the leader of the House will speak to the Treasurer and see if something cannot be done in this matter. They have a machine and can emboss the stamps just as they like. In order to save time in Committee I will ask the leader of the House now to give some explanation of the item. Members of Parliament representing electorates beyond the limits of State's railway system, grant towards travelling expenses.

The Colonial Secretary: That is for steamer fares to the North-West.

Hon. C. SOMMERS: Members living beyond the railway system. As to the late hour at which the Estimates have been brought down I wish to enter my protest as usual. As to the payment of the officers referred to by other members, I think, with Mr. Cullen, that we should endeavour to keep our best men and pay them well. In private employment some of our officers would be paid three times as much as they receive from the Government, and I do not know how some of the officers keep up their positions on the salary that is paid to them. The time has arrived when our officers should

receive better payment. Time after time a promise has been made that these officers should be remunerated in keeping with their positions. Year after year the promise is repeated, yet these officers are growing older year by year and their chances of proper remuneration are diminishing. I hope that the reproach that lies against us that these officers are working for less than they are worth should be removed.

Hon. R. LAURIE (West): With regard to the medical vote a deputation waited on the Colonial Secretary as to infectious cases. It appears that some promise was made that after the first September all fever cases would be paid for; that is to say that the local authorities would not have to pay for them. It seems that there has been some misunderstanding about it, and that typhoid fever cases, which are not looked on in the same way as diphtheria cases, and so on, should be paid for. The municipal councils in the Fremantle district have been told that in regard to typhoid fever cases from the first September the hospitals will have to do as they think fit. The management of the Perth and Fremantle hospitals are now under the control of the boards, and the Minister will not interfere in regard to the charge for these cases. I would like the Minister to tell us if in the country, that is, apart from Perth and Fremantle, whether the local authorities will be charged for typhoid fever cases. From what I have heard the boards have not sufficient funds to carry on their hospitals and they charge the local authorities. There were 226 cases of typhoid in the Perth hospital this year, and it will mean a large expense to the local authorities. I hope when the Minister is replying he will tell us if he has made an agreement with the boards. The hospitals in Perth and Fremantle, I think, should allow typhoid patients to come in without charging the local authority, but I understand the country hospitals will charge the local authorities for such patients.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (in reply): I just wish to say in reply, first of all to Mr. Kingsmill, that

I omitted to state in introducing this Bill that there is a departure made from what has been the practice previously. The Bill not only includes the loan expenditure in addition to the revenue expenditure, but in past years it has also been necessary to bring down an Excess Bill for expenditure which has been incurred over and above the Estimates. This was a separate measure, but this year the Excess Bill and the Treasurer's advance are included in the one Bill now before us. It is the same procedure that is followed in New South Wales and in some of the other States. It is thought better to have the expenditure in one Bill rather than have two separate Bills. As to the details on page 13, it is not a usual complaint that the Government give too much detail, and that, I think, is what the hon. member has complained of. The details showing how the excess has been arrived at need not have been given. Instead of giving a lump sum, each officer's amount is shown separately. It is only a matter of giving full information in the printed Estimates rather than that the Minister should give the information when asked for. As to the Estimates coming down so late, certainly it is late, for it is the last day of the session; at the same time the Appropriation Bill has not come down earlier in any other year.

Hon. R. W. Pennefather: That is no excuse.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: I am not saying it as an excuse. Personally, I would like to see the Appropriation Bill come down much earlier, but we cannot do impossibilities, for this is the last Bill which another place deals with.

Hon. J. W. Hackett: We had the Estimates down two or three days before the close of the session on a previous occasion.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: When we had them down two or three days earlier they were not discussed. That goes to show that there is ample time, judging by former years, to discuss this Bill. As far as the Revenue Estimates are concerned, I took the opportunity of having copies circulated amongst members about a month ago. It is not like a new

Bill, for members have had the items before them a long time, and can make up their minds quickly. We have had a discussion this morning, which proves what I say is correct.

Hon. R. W. Pennefather: If we had more time for considering the Estimates there would be less discussion.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: As to what has been said by Mr. Piesse in regard to hospitals, his remarks were not justified. This particular vote comes under my administration, and I may say that the hospitals are liberally treated. In the past when the country was in a more unsettled condition, hospitals had to be provided for the people, but people look upon hospitals as if they had a right to go there at all times. It is not the duty of the State to find hospital accommodation for every man in the State: certainly it is the duty of the State to provide hospital accommodation for everyone who needs it, that has been the policy of the country. The habit of giving medical officers in outlying districts is carried out more extensively in this State than in any other. The hospital vote amounts to between £50,000 and £60,000, that is apart from the repairs to buildings. This is a great deal more than the amount provided by the State of Queensland this year, notwithstanding that that State has double the population that we have. It is a fair comparison to take the State of Queensland, which has outlying districts and has an increasing population like we have, and we do quite as much as Queensland does with double the population. There has been no undue curtailment of the hospital expenditure. As to the remarks in regard to infectious cases, as members know, provision was made for infectious diseases under the Health Act, and it is the duty of local authorities to provide for all indigent infectious cases. Previous to a year or two ago the local authorities accepted this responsibility. Perth did, until they found that the general hospitals were taking these infectious cases. When I brought the matter under notice the hospital authorities said it was not their duty to take infectious cases, and both Perth and Fremantle hos-

pitals asked that they should be paid for these cases. A case came before the court and it was decided that the board should be paid for infectious cases. A deputation waited on me after this and asked that these cases should be paid for. This, I refused to do as the court had ruled that this was a right charge. If the Perth and Fremantle hospitals had cases of typhoid I would disallow the charge for them, and only allow those for diphtheria and other infectious cases. From the 1st September the Perth and Fremantle hospitals are put on a different basis. Perth receives £15,000 and Fremantle £4,000, that is to cover all indigent cases and the boards are not to look to the Government for anything further. The communication was received from one board complaining of the charge for these cases. The department pointed out that the control of the two hospitals—Perth and Fremantle—was under the boards and I declined to interfere. It is the duty of the local boards to find accommodation for indigent infectious cases. If they can make arrangements with the Perth hospital well and good. What the boards class as infectious cases are purely within their own discretion. I do not know that they intend to charge for typhoid cases. I would remind members that any person who can pay is asked to. In cases of indigent patients the local boards pay one-half and the Government one-half. The responsibility is placed on the local boards who look after infectious cases and the result of that will assuredly be that those cases will diminish considerably in number.

Hon. M. L. Moss: What is done if an infectious case comes from another district?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: That is provided for in the Health Bill which unfortunately has not passed this session. If it is clearly shown that the case does come from outside a district that board will not have to pay. This question has not been raised by any except the metropolitan board. The goldfields hospitals do not even ask for one-half of the cost of indigent cases, but take care of those cases without troubling

the Government. The local board in the metropolitan area can do the same or can make arrangements with the hospital. The point mentioned by Mr. Moss is very serious. I do not think that the condition of affairs can be exactly as he states. If so it wants altering and I will immediately bring the matter under the notice of the Treasurer so that he may see that supervision is exercised in connection with the embossing of stamps. I can hardly think there is not a better check on the stamps than the hon. member states.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee.

Clauses 1 to 3—agreed to.

Schedule (A)—agreed to.

Schedule (B):

Hon. T. F. O. BRIMAGE moved an amendment—

That the item "Minister for Mines, £163,059" be decreased by £450.

The reason for the amendment was that there could be cut out from the Estimates the provision for the salary of the Chief Inspector of Machinery. The position was altogether unnecessary. In Victoria there was one inspector of mines and machinery and the officer received a salary of £500 a year. There were a great many more boilers in Victoria than here, while the mining industry employed a great number of men. The total cost of the inspection of mines and machinery in Victoria was £3,614; in New South Wales £5,400, and in Western Australia £7,055. There were too many small departments in the State, and here was a chance to amalgamate two of them.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: The Committee would not be justified in making an alteration which would be a very unusual one on the meagre reasons given by the hon. member. The only reason adduced was that the chief inspector of machinery received more pay than he should. The Public Service Commissioner had classified that officer at £450, but upon an appeal the board had decided to raise the classification.

Hon. T. F. O. BRIMAGE: It seemed evident that any suggestion of members with regard to the items was looked upon by the Leader of the House as *infra dig* on the part of the member suggesting it. He would therefore ask leave to withdraw the amendment.

Amendment by leave withdrawn.

Schedules C to H—agreed to.

Preamble, Title—agreed to.

Bill reported without amendment; and the report adopted.

Read a third time and *passed*.

BILL—EMPLOYMENT BROKERS' REGULATION.

Assembly's Amendment.

An amendment made by the Assembly now considered.

In Committee.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY moved—

That the amendment be agreed to.

Clause 27 inserted by the Assembly re-enacted the section in the existing Act. For obvious reasons it had not been inserted in this Chamber. It should now be agreed to by this Chamber.

Question passed, the Assembly's amendment agreed to.

Resolution reported; the report adopted, and a Message accordingly returned to the Legislative Assembly.

VALEDICTORY—HON. G. RANDELL.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. J. D. Connolly): I think that our labours are about ended for the present session, as the Order of the Day remaining on the Notice Paper will not be proceeded with. It is anticipated that Parliament will be prorogued at 3 o'clock this afternoon. I have been asked to move a motion. Hon. G. Randell is retiring from this House, and the other evening we had a meeting of members requesting the hon. member to be good enough to reconsider his decision and to continue to be a member of the House. Although that request was unanimous, the hon. gentleman could not see his way clear to accede to it. It was then fully stated by all hon. members,

including myself, how very much we appreciated the services rendered to the State by the hon. member, and I now rise for the purpose of placing on the official records of the House the appreciation of the House of the services rendered to the country by Mr. Randell. I need not say anything further as we have all given expression to our feelings towards the hon. gentleman. It is for the purpose of putting it on the records that I now move:—

That in view of the approaching retirement of the Hon. G. Randell this House desires to place on record its appreciation of the long and distinguished services rendered by him to the State, both as member of the Legislative Council and as a member of the Legislative Assembly.

This motion, I think, is rather unique, but it is a unique occasion. We have a gentleman who has devoted practically a lifetime to this House or to the other, and I think it is a fitting finale that the House should carry a motion of this kind.

Hon. J. W. HACKETT (South-West): It gives me great pleasure to second the motion of the Colonial Secretary. Mr. Randell has been a friend of every member of the House since first the House was created, and I think I rank among those who have enjoyed that friendship for a very long time. Mr. Randell sets an example to all of us, not merely by his devotion to public work, but by the close attention paid to that work, and by his unflinching courtesy and by the high purposes he has consistently endeavoured to act up to. He is now leaving us, leaving an honoured public life to enjoy, I trust, the fruits of the peace and happiness of an equally honoured private life—and for many years to come I hope. I would like to suggest that there be added to the motion a reference to Mr. Randell's Parliamentary career before this Legislative Council was formed. The words might be added—

As well as in the Legislative Council that existed prior to 1890.

For three Parliaments Mr. Randell served his country under the old Constitution, and it seems to me fitting that a reference

should be made to it in the motion before the House.

The Colonial Secretary: I will gladly add those words to the motion.

Motion accordingly amended.

Hon. M. L. MOSS (West): As an old political colleague of the Hon. George Randell I desire to support the motion. Indeed, I think whoever may fill the hon. member's seat in the future there will be a great blank in the House. Not only has the hon. member been punctual and regular in his attendance at all times, but the amount of attention for years and years past he has given to the details of the various measures submitted for our consideration is remarkable. Hon. members know only too well the great services the hon. member has rendered to the State. I sat with him in 1895 and 1896 in the Legislative Assembly, and I have sat with him for a number of years in this House, and Mr. Randell may well be held up as a pattern to hon. members, and particularly those who may follow him in the representation of the Metropolitan Province. High devotion to duty, possessed of high ideals—I think these are words that, to a great extent, indicate exactly the class of person the Hon. George Randell has proved himself in his public career. Two unique occasions have arisen. The other evening a unanimous wish was expressed by the House that the Hon. George Randell should become a candidate again, but the hon. member says his great age demands that he should retire from the position and allow a younger man to fill it; and now while the hon. member is still sitting in the House, a motion is proposed thanking him for his great public services. It is the least that can be done, but it is a great thing for a man sitting in the Chamber to hear the heartiest expressions of goodwill from the members with whom he has worked for so long.

Hon. S. J. HAYNES (South-East): I have great pleasure in heartily supporting the motion, and I join with previous speakers in the encomiums that have been uttered with respect to our old friend. I had the pleasure of speaking the other night so I shall not speak again, but undoubtedly Mr. Randell is the one grand-

old-man of the House, and he retires from public life laden with honours and with the well merited thanks of those whose opinions are worthy of respect.

Hon. B. C. O'BRIEN (Central): As one of the youngest members of the House and one of its latest additions, I desire to add a few words to those already uttered with regard to the merits of our worthy friend the Hon. George Randell. I think it is a very fitting tribute indeed to an honourable old veteran like the Hon. George Randell who has done yeoman service to the State and is a worthy old citizen, and one who has always worked so consistently and hard in the interests of the State in this Chamber in its Houses of Legislature. I desire with these few words heartily to endorse the remarks of previous speakers.

Hon. C. A. PIESSE (South-East): As one of the oldest members of the Chamber I cannot let the opportunity pass without saying a few words in connection with the motion. I am one of those who formed the first elective Legislative Council. There are only four of those now sitting in the House, and I remember the time Mr. Randell came in. He took charge of the Chamber, I believe, as Colonial Secretary. They were busy times, and I had the opportunity of judging the wisdom of the hon. gentleman and his hard work in connection with conducting matters brought before us in those days. He never seemed to be tired; he always gave us the fullest information on all matters in which we desired information; and altogether we had a very good time at the hands of the hon. gentleman. Old memories come over one, but it is not necessary for me to say much more except to express my regret on my absence the other evening when hon. members made the requisition they did to Mr. Randell. Although I was not there I heard of Mr. Randell's reply, and I characterise it as one of wisdom and in keeping with the actions of the hon. gentleman in his past years. He is not the father of the House in the sense of being the longest member of the House, yet I must say he is indeed the father of the House, and like a father to his children he will be sadly missed from the Chamber.

Hon. C. SOMMERS (Metropolitan): I heartily support the motion, and I regret I was not here the other evening. But the hon. member knows my feelings in that respect. I regret he cannot see his way to contest the seat again, because I feel satisfied he would honour us in doing so, and there would not be the slightest doubt about his return, in fact, he would probably be unopposed. I look upon Mr. Randell as the father of the House. When I came into the House in 1900 he was the Leader of the House, and I was particularly impressed as a young member with the fatherly interest he took in young members, with the great courtesy he extended, and with the manner in which he tried to make members understand the details and procedure of the House. Mention has been made of Mr. Randell's private life. That in conjunction with his private life is an example we ought all to follow as far as possible. When he leaves this Chamber he will leave a very great blank in it, one that would be very difficult to fill. I regret he is leaving us, but I feel the compliment we are paying him is well deserved and one a public man would be proud of at any time.

Hon. R. LAURIE (West): I cannot allow the occasion to pass without saying a word in support of the motion. I am sure all of us who have been here a number of years, and those who have been here only a short time, recognise that Mr. Randell has been an example to many of us; not only that, but I feel he has been of the greatest assistance to members of the House, and also to the gentlemen who have from time to time occupied the position of Leader of the House. His criticism has never been captious, and if once he decided on any course of action he adhered to it most strongly. He has been an example to us, and we all regret that we will not have him with us next session. I am extremely sorry he could not see his way clear to stand again. I am satisfied the people of the Metropolitan Province would have returned him, almost without opposition, I believe. It would have been due to him and due to the people for the great services he has rendered

the country. I endorse all that has been said by previous speakers, and support most heartily the motion before the House.

Hon. T. F. O. BRIMAGE (North-East): I would like to repeat what I said the other night, that the hon. member has made many friends on the goldfields. People on the goldfields have the greatest respect for him, and I trust he will live long and enjoy the balance of his life. I indeed think his chair will be very hard to fill.

Hon. W. KINGSMILL (Metropolitan-Suburban): On my own behalf and speaking for both of my colleagues of the Metropolitan-Suburban Province, who have asked me to apologise for their absence, I would like to add our tribute of regret on the fact that the Hon. George Randell is leaving us; and speaking on my own behalf, as one who has known the hon. gentleman when I occupied the position of Leader of the House and as a private member, and also as Chairman of Committees, I can only say that I have a great deal to thank the hon. gentleman for. I beg to endorse all the kind hopes for the honourable gentleman's future that members have indulged in, and I can only add to their expressions my opinion that it will be very hard indeed to fill the hon. member's place either in the affections of the people of the State or in the estimation of his colleagues, or in both the affection and estimation of hon. members of the House.

Hon. R. W. PENNEFATHER (North): I regret our friend has expressed his determination not to resume his seat next session. I spoke the other evening in the hope that he might do so, but I understand that it is necessary for the honourable gentleman to retire. I am sure it must be exceedingly gratifying to him to find that he is held in such estimation not only by members of the Chamber but by the large bulk of the community in the State, whose opinions, I am sure, are in the same direction. I recollect well the time, some seven years ago, when Mr. Randell was a colleague of mine in the Ministry and led this House. During that time I came to ac-

quire an intimate knowledge of his qualities, characteristics, and qualifications. The more I learned of him the better I liked him. I am sure ever since then a real friendship has existed between us. I deeply regret that he has made up his mind finally to leave us. I am sure he will carry into his retirement the good wishes and the kind hopes of all the friends he is leaving here behind him.

The PRESIDENT (Hon. H. Briggs): I am unwilling to weaken this recognition of the Hon. George Randell's public services by any words of mine, and I endorse cordially every tribute of respect and every good wish that has been expressed this morning.

Question put and passed.

Hon. G. RANDELL (Metropolitan): Mr. President, and hon. members. I am afraid I scarcely know how to reply to the kind words that have been spoken with regard to my services, to my public career, and, indeed, also to my private career. I am glad to know that I possess the good will of my fellow citizens, especially those who have been associated with me in the Legislature of the State. I regret as well as you do that I cannot see my way to attempt to re-enter the Legislative Council at the next elections. I believe in the eternal fitness of things, and that in accord with that doctrine it is scarcely for a man 80 years of age, however clear he may be in his intellect, to continue to represent such a constituency as I represent. Therefore I think it is only right and proper, and I believe all hon. members agree with me there, and that it is best for me, to ask members to be kind enough to excuse me from attempting again to contest an election. I am sure you all feel that I have done what is right. Although I may, perhaps, have continued for a year or so to help a little in dealing with the questions that might come before the House, I could not expect, however, at my time of life to treat those questions with that energy and keen interest which is necessary to be exhibited by one who occupies the position I have done, and, in fact, by every member of this House. It was with considerable trepidation that I accepted the offer of Sir John Forrest in 1898 to be-

come a member of his Ministry, and I am afraid I still feel some of the effects of the strain put upon me, even so many years ago. Of course I should feel more and more, holding the ideals which members have been pleased to speak of, and having a deep sense of the duties I owe to my constituents and the country, the strain of the work, and I quite realise that it would be too much of a strain to attempt to continue in public life as a member of this Chamber. Seeing the progress that is being made in the State, and the importance of the fresh questions that are continually arising, I believe it is absolutely necessary that one of younger age, with greater physical vigour and readiness, one who can see that all points or questions that arise should be properly dealt with, should take my place. I can only hope that the Metropolitan Province will secure a new member who will do his duty faithfully and well to his constituents and to the country. It is a great regret to me to drop out of harness, but I do not know of any methods by which I can renew my youth, and I do not suppose members know of any. Therefore, I must submit to the inevitable. I shall, if spared, follow with great interest, as I said the other night, the work of this Chamber, and I trust the Legislative Council will always be composed of men who have the interests of the whole country, not of a portion of it, at heart, and that, so far as they may be able, they will express their opinions and vote on questions which shall be for the public good. I only hope that the House may continue to be a very influential branch of the Legislature, as it has been in the past. I fully realise the importance of this House, and I sincerely hope the Legislative Council will maintain its reputation, which is a good one. Notwithstanding that there have been disillusionments and disappointments, as there are in every public career, this has been a good and useful part of the Legislature, and I feel sure it will continue to be so. I thank you. I thank you for conferring on me the highest honour possible, even for this Legislative Council to confer, by placing it on record in the records of the House:

your appreciation of my humble efforts to serve the community, and your confidence in the integrity of my motives in my public career.

(Sitting suspended from 1.22 to 2.30 p.m.)

COMPLIMENTARY REMARKS. CLOSE OF SESSION.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. J. D. Connolly): We have finished our labours for this session. There is no further business to put before the House and it only remains for me to ask members to accord a vote of thanks to Mr. President not only for the able way in which he has presided over the deliberations of the House, but also for the very great kindness he has shown us during the past session and the session before. I also desire to include the Chairman of Committees (Mr. Kingsmill), and I would ask Mr. President to convey to the officers of the House our hearty appreciation and thanks for their efforts during the past session. Speaking personally, I have to thank Mr. President sincerely for his kindness to me during the past five or six years, and since I have been the leader of this House, and also to Mr. Kingsmill, the Chairman of Committees. With regard to Mr. Kingsmill, I think I echo the sentiments of the House when I say he has filled the position of Chairman not only with credit to himself, but also with credit to the House. I am sorry, and so I am sure is every member, that we are to lose his services. It is his intention, I understand, to stand as a candidate for the Perth seat in the House of Representatives. While I very much regret that we shall lose his services, particularly his services as Chairman of Committees, still, it seems to me we must express our appreciation of the effort he is making by standing for the Federal Parliament to get proper representation for this State. We must all recognise that it is a big sacrifice for any man to enter the Federal Parliament, more particularly from Western Australia, which is so far removed from the seat of Government. I trust success may attend his

efforts. We are now on the eve of our biennial elections, and I am sorry to learn that several old members who retire this time have decided not to offer themselves for re-election. We have already referred to Mr. Randell, and I wish now to refer to Mr. Haynes, who has been a member of this House for very many years. His absence from the Legislative Council will be a distinct loss. There are only at present four members remaining of the original Council under Responsible Government. Mr. Haynes is one of that number, but now that he is going it will be reduced to three. It is much to be regretted that he will not stand again, but I suppose the inroads on his time have been too great. On behalf of members, and on my own account, I wish to thank Mr. President for his kindness during the past session, and I trust that he will be with us for very many years. On behalf of the House I wish him a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Hon. M. L. MOSS (West): There is little left to add to supplement the remarks of the leader of the House. We are all thankful that this day has arrived and that the labours of the session are concluded. As far as Mr. Randell is concerned we have already expressed ourselves in terms of great commendation of his work for the State. As to Mr. Haynes, I am sorry that he has also determined not to seek re-election for he has proved himself on all occasions an exceedingly useful member of the House. To you, Sir, I am sure the House is very much indebted for the way in which you have presided over the deliberations of the Chamber. With regard to the Chairman of Committees I am sure he will permit me to say how admirably I think he has filled that position. I have sat under many chairmen, and by no one of them have the duties been performed so well as by Mr. Kingsmill. No matter how intricate the clause we always knew what we were voting on. Mr. Kingsmill has a happy knack of putting clearly before the Committee the matters for their consideration. I hope that from the coming contest in which he will be a candidate he will emerge with flying colours. He will

make an admirable representative of Western Australia in the Federal Parliament and his long experience will prove of great benefit wherever he may go. To the officers of the House I also desire to accord my thanks for the very excellent services they have performed, and for the assistance they have been at all times ready to render me.

Hon. G. RANDELL (Metropolitan) : I may be permitted to endorse all that has fallen in regard to yourself, the Chairman of Committees and our friend Mr. Haynes. I am very sorry that he has decided to retire from Parliamentary duties, but I suppose like myself he is getting on in years, and feels the strain. At any rate he has much more to put up with than have I, for that long journey from Albany and the continued absence from business and from home would be a strain upon any man. I only hope that you, sir, will continue to preside over the deliberations of this Chamber with the same judgment, consideration, and almost tenderness, I may say, for the whims and fancies of hon. members that you have ever displayed. I am quite sure the patience of the President and of the Chairman of Committees must sometimes be tried very much. However, that is one of the privileges of hon. members and I am glad that they assert those privileges. In regard to Mr. Kingsmill, from his first entrance into Parliament I was struck with his capacity for grasping the points in a Bill, and with how ably and clearly he was able to put them before hon. members. I join with the Colonial Secretary in the regret that Mr. Kingsmill has decided to—I almost said extinguish himself in another place—I only hope he may be successful in his election, and may be successful in his election, and I am sure he will be able to do good service for the State and for the Commonwealth at large if he is elected to the position. I regret, however, that he should be retiring from this Chamber, and the hon. member knows how hard I tried to persuade him not to do it. However, he will not follow my advice so I cannot help it.

Hon. C. A. PIESSE (South-East) : Permit me, Sir, to endorse what has fallen

from hon. members in respect to yourself, the Chairman of Committees and the officers of the House. Mr. Kingsmill is undoubtedly a tiptop Chairman of Committees. He can keep a good check on debate and yet he encourages all useful debate. He has a happy manner of bringing us up when we get away, and yet he never attempts to restrict legitimate speech. I trust he will be successful in his efforts to enter the Federal Parliament. As for my colleague Mr. Haynes, sixteen years ago he and I with others contested the seats for our province. There were three members wanted, and Mr. Haynes came second on the list while I came third. For sixteen years he and I have made that long journey over the Great Southern, and indeed it is a trial, as Mr. Randell says. I feel the strain myself, so what must it be to Mr. Haynes who has to travel 150 miles further than I do! During the first six years of his occupancy of the seat Mr. Haynes worked here for no pay at all, and attended most regularly to his duties in this Council. I think this should be remembered, and in fact I conceive it my duty to refer to it; because, as Mr. Randell can tell, we had during that period to consider some of the heaviest and most intricate Bills ever before the House. I wish to say that I regret sincerely that Mr. Haynes has decided to take this step. On the other hand, looking at it from his point of view I think he is adopting a wise course. Once more I wish to say that I endorse all that has fallen from previous speakers, and I thank you, Sir, for the kindness and courtesy you have extended to me. There will now be only three of us who have come through from the first, namely, Dr. Hackett, Mr. McLarty and myself. When Mr. Haynes has gone we will be the only three out of the twenty members originally elected to this House.

Hon. S. J. HAYNES (South-East) : I desire to join with the previous speakers in extending my congratulations to your good self, and also to the Chairman of Committees, and I desire to say that in common with others I appreciate the manner in which you and the Chairman of Committees have fulfilled the duties of

your high offices. I understand Mr. Kingsmill is seeking election to the Commonwealth Parliament, and I join in the hope that his wish may be gratified, and that he will go the Commonwealth Parliament to represent us more fittingly than we are there represented at the present time. As regards myself, I thank you. I feel most acutely the generous remarks that have fallen from the leader of the House, from Mr. Piesse, and from my old friend Mr. Randell. I am sure I appreciate those remarks most keenly. I have served here for sixteen years and, as Mr. Piesse has pointed out, only four of us belonging to the original House are left. I have met with every courtesy from my fellow members and I desire to thank them most sincerely for it. And I have also had able assistance at all times from the officers of the House and to them also I desire to convey my personal thanks. In leaving the House, I may say I do so with the friendship and kindness increased which I felt towards my fellow members on first coming into the House. In forming friendships with them I have been more than repaid for the small sacrifices I have made in attending to my duties in the House. I thank you sincerely, and I hope my province will go on prosperously, and that the State generally will grow in solidity and wealth, and will speedily attain among the States of the Commonwealth that high position which, I am sure, she is destined to occupy. I thank you most sincerely. My words will not express the feelings of my heart but I am sure you will take the will for the deed. I wish my fellow members every prosperity and every happiness, and I am glad to say that I leave them on the best possible terms of friendship. I trust that this House will long hold the position it occupies to-day in our Constitution.

The PRESIDENT (Hon. H. Briggs): I thank the Colonial Secretary and other members for the kind words they have spoken in respect to the discharge of my duties, and also all the members of the House for their unvarying courtesy and support. On

behalf of the officials I return thanks for your kind appreciation of their services. I shall leave the Chairman of Committees to reply for himself. And now I wish you all the compliments of the season.

Hon. W. KINGSMILL (Metropolitan-Suburban): I must thank hon. members from the bottom of my heart for the very much too kind remarks they have made concerning me. And allow me to say that whatever little merit may attach to my occupancy of the position of Chairman of Committees must be shared in very great degree indeed by the members themselves. Because, I must say they have made it exceptionally easy for me by their acquiescence, which, very often if not definitely expressed, has nevertheless served to smooth my path. I also thank hon. members very heartily for the good wishes expressed concerning my future; and allow me to say that if I am successful in the forthcoming contest I feel sure the knowledge of Parliamentary procedure which I have acquired during my thirteen years of Parliamentary experience in Western Australia will stand my State in good stead as well as myself. I beg to thank hon. members for the kind remarks they have made and to thank the officers of the House for the manner in which they have carried out their duties.

Hon. J. W. HACKETT (South-West): Fortunately the proposition I have to make needs no words of mine to recommend it. It is to convey the good wishes of the House to Mr. Connolly and to express their sense of the uniform and considerate way in which he has met hon. members. Out of all my experience Mr. Connolly, I think, has been inferior to no Minister in the abundance of information he has given us, that point about which we are all so particular. Time is passing and I will delay members no longer, but will ask the House to accord their thanks to the Colonial Secretary for the manner in which he has met the wishes of Parliament.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. J. D. Connolly): I am afraid time will not permit me to say what I would like

and I must confine my remarks to a very few words. I heartily thank you, Mr. President, and members for the kind wishes expressed towards me. I remember the first session when I was leader of the House, and I am afraid I was rather new then and at times somewhat irritable. I have sought, however, to get over that since, and I trust that I have given members the information I should in the proper spirit. I need not remind members that the position of a Minister is not altogether a bed of roses at times, and perhaps one is rather too inclined to look upon members as if they are all arrayed against him. Of course that is not the case. Doubtless the position members occupy towards a Minister depends largely upon the way a Minister puts his case before the House. I thank members for their kind remarks.

His Excellency the Governor entered the Chamber at 3 o'clock and commanded the attendance of members of the Legislative Assembly who accordingly arrived with their Speaker.

ASSENT TO BILLS.

Mr. SPEAKER presented the annual Appropriation Bill, to which His Excellency assented.

His Excellency also gave assent to the following Bills of the session, in addition to Bills assented to previously:—

An Act to confirm a further provisional order to amend and vary a certain provisional order authorising the construction of tramways in the municipality of North Perth.

An Act to amend an Ordinance to consolidate and amend the laws relating to the registration of deeds, wills, judgments, and conveyances affecting real property.

An Act to amend the Legal Practitioners Act, 1893.

An Act to authorise the construction of a railway from Boyup to Kojonup.

An Act to further amend the Land Act, 1898.

An Act to impose a Land and Income Tax.

An Act to authorise the construction of a railway from Goomalling to Wongan Hills.

An Act to authorise the construction of a railway from Dowerin to Merredin.

An Act to constitute the metropolitan water, sewerage, and drainage area; to establish the method of control, and for other purposes incidental thereto.

An Act to validate the general rates made by the road board of the road district of Cottesloe Beach, formerly Buckland Hill.

An Act to make better provision for the purchase of lands suitable for immediate settlement, and for facilitating settlement on the land.

An Act to confirm a provisional order authorising the construction of certain tramways in the municipal district of Leonora and in the North Coolgardie road district, and to repeal the Leonora Tramway Act, 1902.

An Act to amend the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act, 1902.

An Act to amend the Settled Lands Act, 1892.

An Act to further amend the Transfer of Land Act, 1893.

An Act to further amend the Agricultural Bank Act, 1906.

An Act to make further provision for the protection of life and property from fire.

An Act to further amend the Roads Act, 1902.

An Act to authorise the raising of a sum of one million three hundred and forty-two thousand pounds by loan for the construction of certain public works, and for other purposes.

An Act to amend the Interpretation Act, 1898.

An Act for the regulation of employment brokers.

An Act relating to certain permanent reserves.

The following Bill was reserved:—

An Act to amend the law by making provision for the legitimation of children born before marriage by the subsequent marriage of their parents.

PROROGATION SPEECH.

HIS EXCELLENCY in closing the Session of Parliament was pleased to speak as follows:—

Mr. President and Honourable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council—

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly—

I am pleased to be able to release you for the time being from your onerous Legislative duties, and in so doing I trust that your labours will conduce to the general welfare of the people of this State.

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly—

In the name of His Majesty I thank you for the liberality with which you have made provision for the Public Services of the year. The financial proposals, as contained in the Loan Bill, providing for the construction of Railways and other important Public Works, should materially further assist the policy of the development of the natural resources of the State, which is now in full operation.

Mr. President and Honourable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council—

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly—

Among the important measures passed this Session are the Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Act—the approaching completion of considerable portion of the works with which this measure deals will beneficially affect the health and comfort of residents in the Metropolitan Area; the Abattoirs Act, which will ensure a more effective inspection and control of the meat supply of the community; the District Fire Brigades Act, which secures a more efficient control and a more equitable apportionment of the cost of upkeep of the Fire Brigades of the State; the Agricultural Bank Act Amendment Act, which materially increases the scope of a measure which has already been of incalculable benefit to the farming community; the Public Education Endowment Act, which sets apart Crown Lands as a perpetual endowment for the furtherance of public education; the Amending Land Act; and the con-

solidation of the Agricultural Lands Purchase Act, which will make available additional capital for the acquisition of estates in proximity to existing railways suitable for closer settlement; while a number of other measures of minor importance secured approval.

The authorisation of the Boyup to Kojannup, the Goomalling to Wongan, and the Dowerin to Merredin railways, a total length of 181 miles, will open to agriculture some of the most fertile lands of the State, and be of inestimable value to those of our settlers located within their influence.

It is to be regretted that the urgency of other public business led to the abandonment for this session of the Licensing Bill, the Health Bill, and the Commonwealth Enabling Bill.

Although the Constitution Act Amendment Bill passed the Legislative Assembly, and secured a majority vote in the Legislative Council, the failure to obtain the necessary statutory majority in the latter Chamber prevented this desirable enactment from becoming law.

In full recognition of the zeal with which you have been animated in carrying out your public duties, I now declare this Second Session of the Seventh Parliament of Western Australia prorogued until the 30th day of June, one thousand nine hundred and ten.

The Session then closed.