

# Legislative Assembly.

Thursday, 22nd November, 1894.

Subiaco Road : Method of Construction—Appointment, Leave of Absence, Travelling Expenses, &c., of His Excellency the Governor—Coolgardie Residence Area Question—Suspension of Standing Orders re Public Bills for remainder of session—Expenditure of £50,000 upon extension of Goldfields Water Supply : Message from the Governor—Absence of His Excellency the Governor from the colony during session of Parliament—Setting aside lands as an endowment for Experimental Farms—Revoking of Civil Service Commission : Message—Perth Waterworks Purchase Bill : third reading—Imported Labour Registry Act Amendment Bill : third reading—Insect Pests Bill : Message from the Legislative Council : consideration of—Consideration of His Excellency's Message recommending an Expenditure of £50,000 upon extension of Goldfields Water Supply—Loan Estimates : Further Message from Legislative Council—Pharmacy and Poisons Bill : Message from Legislative Council—Adjournment.

THE SPEAKER took the chair at 7:30 p.m.

PRAYERS.

## SUBIACO CEMETERY ROAD—METHOD OF CONSTRUCTION.

MR. WOOD, with leave, without notice, asked whether the attention of the Government had been called to a paragraph which appeared in the *West Australian* that morning, with regard to the formation of the new road from Hay Street West to Subiaco, condemning the method of construction adopted?

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) said that, in the absence of the Director of Public Works, he might say that his attention had not been called to the matter, except that he had read the paragraph in question, and had seen the road himself; and he must say that in his judgment what was stated in the paragraph was exactly correct. He would bring the matter under the notice of the Director of Public Works.

## APPOINTMENT, LEAVE OF ABSENCE, TRAVELLING EXPENSES, &c., OF HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR.

MR. R. F. SHOLL, in accordance with notice, asked the Premier—

1. The date of the appointment of His Excellency Sir W. C. F. Robinson as Governor of the colony.

2. The term of such appointment.

3. Whether the Governor drew his salary when absent from the colony in connection with his private business.

4. The number of days the Governor had been absent from the colony since his appointment as Governor.

5. What travelling expenses the Governor was entitled to draw in addition to his salary.

6. Whether the provisions of Clauses X. and XI. of the Royal Instructions to the Governor had been, in each instance, strictly complied with.

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

1. His Excellency's commission is dated 26th August, 1890. His Excellency left England for this colony on September 12th, 1890, and arrived in Perth on 20th October, 1890.

2. The appointment is held during Her Majesty's pleasure.

3. Absences under Clause XIV. of the Letters Patent, and Clauses X. and XI. of the Royal Instructions, are not deemed departures from the colony, and in such cases the Governor appoints a deputy. During such absences the Governor draws full salary.

4. 293 days on leave with half-pay viz., from 20th September, 1891, to 8th July, 1892. During this time His Excellency was on a visit to England. His Excellency was absent temporarily for 31 days in 1890, for 30 days, from 23rd June to 22nd July, 1894, and from 27th October, 1894, up to this date, 26 days. His Excellency expects to be in Albany on the 24th inst.

5. While travelling in the colony His Excellency is recouped the actual expenses incurred.

6. Yes.

## COOLGARDIE RESIDENCE AREA QUESTION.

MR. MORAN, in accordance with notice, asked the Premier whether the Government were considering the residence area question in Coolgardie, with a view to devising some scheme for its settlement.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) on behalf of Mr. Marmion, replied that under the existing law town lands were only disposed of by auction, the upset price being fixed by the Government, and the Government had no power, under the land laws, to dispose of them in any other manner.

**SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS  
RE PUBLIC BILLS.**

**THE PREMIER** (Hon. Sir J. Forrest), in accordance with notice, moved that, in order to expedite business, the Standing Orders relating to the passing of public bills be suspended during the remainder of the session.

Question put and passed.

**PROPOSED EXPENDITURE OF £50,000  
ON GOLDFIELDS WATER SUPPLY.**

**MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR.**

The following Message was presented to Mr. Speaker by Sir John Forrest:—

"In accordance with the requirements of Section 67 of the Constitution Act, the Governor recommends to the Legislative Assembly the consideration and adoption of the following resolution:— 'That it is advisable that the Government be authorised to expend the sum of £50,000 for the purpose of increasing and extending the water supply on the goldfields, to be advanced to such extent as may be required during the current financial year from any funds in the hands of the Government, but to be ultimately recouped from funds to be hereafter provided by Parliament for such purpose.'

"Government House, Perth, 22nd November, 1894."

Ordered—That the foregoing Message be taken into consideration after the consideration of the Orders of the Day.

**ABSENCE OF HIS EXCELLENCY THE  
GOVERNOR FROM COLONY DURING  
SESSION OF PARLIAMENT.**

**MR. R. F. SHOLL**, in accordance with notice, moved, "That in the opinion of this House it is undesirable, in the best interest of the Public Service, that the Governor should be absent from the colony while Parliament is sitting." The hon. member said: In moving this motion I am in a manner prompted to do so by the expressions of opinion I have heard, not only in Parliament but outside Parliament, with reference to the absence from the colony of the Governor at the present time. When His Excellency left the colony a few weeks ago there was a possibility of friction arising between the two Houses, and that friction has existed up to the present time. I say that when the Governor left the colony there was every

indication of friction arising—I think I may safely say that it already existed—between the two branches of the Legislature; and it seems to me it is very desirable that the Governor should not leave the colony while Parliament is sitting. The Governor is costing this colony something over £6,000 a year, and I think the least we might expect of him is that he would remain in the colony at any rate while Parliament is in session. I do not know what position the Government would be in, if something happened necessitating the Ministry to resign. Supposing, for instance, the Upper House had thrown out the Loan Bill; the Premier might deem it advisable to go to the country, and there might be a dissolution. What position would the Ministry be in, with the Governor absent from the colony? We are now living under constitutional Government, and there may be friction—there is friction—between the two Houses of Parliament; and, no doubt, if the Governor, who is a good constitutional Governor, had been here, as he ought to be here, a great deal of the delay and difficulty in settling these differences between the two Houses might have been avoided or smoothed over. Apart from that, there is a great deal of feeling throughout Australia, I think, in favour of doing away with the necessity of having these ornamental Imperial representatives. [**THE PREMIER:** No, no.] I think that feeling is growing, throughout these colonies. We know that in South Australia there has been an agitation in favour of appointing the Chief Justice to act as Governor of the colony. It may be put forward on the score of economy; no doubt they feel that they are paying too much for the honour of being governed by a representative of the Imperial Government. I do not think these Imperial representatives, under the present form of Government, take as much interest in the welfare of the country, or in the country itself, or its people, as they did when they were the real rulers of the colony, as they used to be under a different constitution. I notice from the reply given to my question this evening that the present Governor, during his four years term of office, has been absent from the colony 293 days on half pay, and, in addition to that, he was absent temporarily once for 31 days, once

for 30 days, and once for 26 days, on full pay. Therefore, during the four years that Governor Robinson has been administering the affairs of the colony he has been away from the colony 380 days. I do not wonder that, when a Governor thinks so little of the colony he governs that he can afford to be absent all this time, receiving half pay or full pay, and doing no work for it—I say I do not wonder that the feeling is gaining ground in the colony—you hear it expressed everywhere—that we may as well do away altogether with these expensive Imperial representatives. The same feeling is gaining ground throughout all these colonies. I have brought this motion forward, not with the view of pressing it to a division, but in order to obtain some expression of opinion on the subject. The hon. member for Beverley, when he asked the Premier the other day whether the absence of the Governor delayed the settlement of the constitutional differences between the two Houses, was answered “No.”

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest): Not “no.”

MR. R. F. SHOLL: It was to that effect. You said the Government were not aware that it did. The question to my mind is such an important one that I thought I would bring it forward in the shape of a motion, so that members might have an opportunity of discussing it. When it is discussed, I propose to withdraw it, and not press it in any way to a division. It does appear to me inexpedient (to say the least of it) that the Governor should be absent when Parliament is sitting, for we never know what may crop up between the two Houses. I think it should be some reason of very grave importance indeed that would justify the absence of the Governor from the country during the session of Parliament. I hope other members will speak out on this question, and express an opinion as to whether it is advisable it should occur in the future. If we pay an Imperial officer for his services, I think it is only right he should endeavour to do what little is expected of him. Under the present form of Government he has not very much to do, and he draws a very good salary. With these few words I beg to move the motion standing in my name.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest): The motion made by the hon. member is one that is moderately worded, and I do not suppose there is anyone in this House or outside of it who is likely to take any exception to the motion itself. No doubt it is very desirable that the Governor should remain in the colony while Parliament is sitting, and I feel sure that no one would more willingly admit it than the present occupant of the office. I know that His Excellency was very loth to leave; he hesitated a good while before he went on his present visit to Melbourne, and it was not expected when he went that the session would last so long as it has done. He was particularly desirous of being in Melbourne at this time. As we all know, the Governors of the various colonies generally make a point of meeting once a year in Melbourne, about the 4th of November.

MR. ILLINGWORTH: By a strange coincidence, the Melbourne Cup is run for about that date.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest): His Excellency had not been there for the last two or three years, and on this occasion he was desirous of being present at this meeting of Governors. I think that one of the main reasons which decided him in going on his visit on this occasion was the fact that the present Chief Justice, who has been acting as His Excellency's deputy, and who holds the dormant commission, had administered the Governorship of the colony on several occasions, for considerable periods; therefore His Excellency, I have no doubt—in fact, he informed me so in writing—felt less hesitation in absenting himself, because, as I have said, the Chief Justice had already had some experience in administering the Government. There was also an understanding between His Excellency and the Government, that in the event of any friction occurring—when he left the colony I told him I could not vouch that no friction would occur between the two Houses, but that so far as I could then judge I did not think any friction would occur—but, in the event of the Government desiring that there should be an Administrator appointed, there was an understanding that the Chief Justice should at once be sworn in as the Administrator of the Government. In that case, of course, he would be acting

entirely on his own responsibility; while, as the Governor's Deputy, he has not that responsibility which he would have if he were Administrator, though the powers are exactly the same. The whole of the powers vested in the Governor are vested in the Chief Justice as His Excellency's Deputy, but, if any serious difficulty arose, and it was desired by the Government that there should be an Administrator appointed, it was arranged that the Government should at once swear in the Chief Justice in that capacity. There was also another fact considered—the fact that we would be in telegraphic communication with the Governor; and the Chief Justice, if necessary, would be able to confer with His Excellency at any moment. There was also this further fact, that the Governor, if necessary, could return to the colony in very few days. It only took about three and a-half days to come from Adelaide to Perth.

MR. R. F. SHOLL: If he happened to catch the steamer.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest): All these circumstances weighed with the Governor, and induced him to carry out his much desired wish and intention to visit Melbourne at the present time. At the same time, I do not think any member will take exception to the motion of the hon. member for the Gascoyne. I am, personally, certainly in accord with it. But there are exceptions to every rule, and I feel sure that everyone in this House would desire, as far as the the public interests allowed, to meet the Governor's convenience as far as possible. That is the view I take of the position of a Governor, under constitutional Government, in his relation to Ministers, and in his relation to Parliament. While we expect him to carry out his duties in a proper and constitutional way, at the same time we are desirous of meeting any personal views he may have, as far as it is possible for us to do so. I am glad to hear that the hon. member does not propose to press this motion to a division, as I do not think any good would result from that course. I do not know that it is necessary for me to say any more at this stage.

MR. HARPER: As I asked a question on this matter the other night, I should like to say a few words on the subject.

The Premier, the other evening, in answer to my question, said the Government were not aware that the presence of the Governor would in any way have hastened the settlement of the difficulties between the two Houses. The obvious deduction which people would be inclined to draw from that statement was, that if we can settle our constitutional difficulties amongst ourselves, it becomes really a question whether we are not paying rather high for the merely ornamental office of Governor of the colony. If a Governor thinks he can, at an important time like the present, absent himself from the colony without the colony in any way suffering through his absence, obviously the reflection must occur to him that his services are not of very much value to the country during critical times. I suppose I may fairly say that since His Excellency's absence from the colony we have had a most critical time of it—the most critical time, so far as Parliament is concerned, that has ever existed in the colony; and the fact of the Governor absenting himself at such a time does not look as if he was very deeply anxious about the circumstances of the colony, or the condition which the country might be brought into during his absence. It was quite possible that a deadlock might have occurred, and, as the hon. member for the Gascoyne has said, it might have resulted in a dissolution. I cannot help thinking, myself, looking at the great experience which His Excellency has had in constitutional matters, that his presence certainly would have been very desirable, and possibly very useful in such circumstances. I hope that, in the future, the Governor, whoever he may be, will see his way to remain in the colony during the session of Parliament.

MR. R. F. SHOLL: As I stated before, I did not bring forward this motion with the view of pressing it to a division, but to elicit an expression of opinion, and I was very pleased indeed to hear the views expressed by the Premier, and that the Government are in accord with the motion. Although the Premier has made an excuse for the absence of the Governor in this instance, I cannot admit that it is a very sound one. He told us that the Governor could have returned to the colony from Adelaide in three and

a-half days. That depends upon circumstances. The Governor was not in Adelaide, but in Melbourne, and the average time it would take to come from Melbourne would be about ten days; it would depend entirely when the steamer was leaving. No doubt many of us in this House would have liked to have got away on some pleasant trip before now—I know I would. But I think if I were drawing a large salary, and it was expected by my employer that I should remain in the colony for the time being, I should feel it my duty to remain at my post, and pocket my own feelings in the matter. As for going to Melbourne, it is not so long since His Excellency was there before; I know he visited the other colonies when he was first sworn in. No doubt the Melbourne Cup is a great attraction, and he may also like to see some particular opera. Soon after his trip to the colonies, he went to England, and he was away 293 days on that trip. Then he went to Melbourne a little while ago, with another Government official who has a very good voice, to assist in a little operetta; and now he has gone over again to see the Melbourne Cup or something else. It is all very well in a way, but I think the colony should be considered before private matters. After the expression of opinion we have had, from the leader of the Government amongst others, that the Governor should remain in the colony at any rate during the session of Parliament, I beg leave to withdraw my motion.

**THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest):** Before the question is put, I should like to mention one point that I missed when speaking to the motion: the present Governor, wherever he goes, always says a good word for the colony. We know that at all public gatherings His Excellency is always listened to with attention, and he always manages to say something encouraging about this colony. He never does the colony any harm, but on the contrary always has a good word to say for it, wherever he is. I omitted to mention that just now. I must give His Excellency credit for always endeavouring to do a good turn for Western Australia, whenever the opportunity offers.

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

#### SETTING ASIDE AREAS FOR EXPERIMENTAL FARMS.

**MR. TRAYLEN** (on behalf of Mr. THROSELLE) moved, in accordance with notice, "That, in the opinion of this House, it is desirable that the Government should set aside areas of land in various districts of the colony, as an endowment for experimental farms, and that the Bureau of Agriculture should be empowered to select the areas, and that such areas should be vested in the Bureau to hold and improve, with the object of establishing experimental farms in the various districts from time to time as funds permit." He said: I suppose the underlying principle of this resolution is that we can hardly expect the farmers, in this or any other part of the world, to know, without continuous experiments, the best methods of treating their soil, the best crops to grow, and the best things to do under a variety of circumstances. This knowledge can only be acquired by reading what has been done in other parts of the world, and through the assistance of experimental farms of the kind indicated in this resolution. I suppose I am safe in saying that we have scarcely any persons in this colony engaged in the pursuit of farming who are sufficiently wealthy to conduct very many experiments on their own account. I am aware that, to the credit of a considerable number of our colonists, it is to be said that there are experiments being conducted year by year; but to be of public advantage these experiments perhaps need to be on a larger and more systematic scale, and the results communicated to farmers generally. It is hardly to be expected, if some agriculturist expends his money and devotes his time to making practical experiments, that he will tell the whole world the result of his labours. It seems to me only fair that if he discovers anything good he should profit by it. But if this resolution is carried, it will indicate that in our opinion it is better for the State to find the funds necessary for these experiments, and that the whole of our farmers or our orchardists, or those who in any way derive their livelihood from the soil, should know the results of those experiments, and be able to benefit thereby. That seems to me the only principle I need refer to in

asking the House to agree to this resolution. As there is already an Agricultural Bureau formed, which is carrying on most useful work—indeed, I can scarcely command sufficiently strong language to emphasise my high sense of the usefulness of the work which that Board is carrying on; as this Board is already in existence and is a recognised entity, it seems just as well that it should be the body authorised and entrusted with the control of this movement, to expend any funds provided for the purpose, and to hold in their own name any properties set apart for this object.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) : I am afraid this is rather a big order at this period of the session. I notice that the hon. member who put forward the motion (Mr. Throssell) does not seem to be here to explain it, or to defend it. It seems to me, as the hon. member himself is a member of the Bureau, he might have got that body to work in the direction he indicates here. But, before we could carry out this scheme, I am afraid we would want a bigger Bill than the Agricultural Bank Bill. We would also want a considerable amount of money. As to setting aside a few areas of land in various districts of the colony, as an endowment for experimental farms, that is a very easy matter. The Agricultural Bureau at the present moment have one such area near Katanning; I think they have another near Moorumbine; and, no doubt, if they desire other areas, in suitable places, the Government will be glad to assist them, by setting areas aside for this purpose. So that all the hon. member asks to be done is already being done by the Bureau, or can be done, so far as setting aside areas for experimental purposes is concerned. With regard to the question of endowment, I do not quite follow him, and he is not here to explain. I do not know whether he requires a considerable amount of land set apart in the name of the Bureau, which they could sell or dispose of, in order to get money from that source, to improve certain spots for establishing experimental farms. If that is his object, I think it would be better for us to vote the money, rather than set up another Land Department, under the management of the Agricultural Bureau. If he desires to have the land vested in the Bureau, there is no

power to do so, as the Board is not a corporation. I really do not know what the hon. member wants. The motion is good enough in its way, and I believe it is exactly what the Bureau is now doing or intends doing—that is, to have experimental farms in various parts of the colony. This House has more than once pledged itself (if I may use the word) to support institutions of that sort, in order that we may be able to see what different localities are capable of, or suited for, in the way of the cultivation of grasses, or fruits, or vegetables. Therefore I do not think it is necessary at the present moment to pass this resolution. As the hon. member who brought it forward is not here to explain his scheme, I hope the hon. member who is acting for him will not press it, but allow it to be withdrawn. I sympathise with the hon. member in his desire to assist the agricultural industries of the colony, but as the matter is already in the hands of the Bureau, I do not see any necessity for us to adopt another resolution on the top of it. I do not suppose it would do any good if we passed the resolution. It would simply be forwarded by the Government to the Bureau, and the Bureau would say that they already have under their consideration the very objects embraced in the resolution.

MR. HARPER : I may be allowed to explain a little. With regard to the resolution, I do not know that I exactly understand what the hon. member means; but I think this question originated with the late Conference of Agricultural Delegates, and it was put in the hands of the hon. member for Northam to bring before the House. The main object of it, I think, is to get an expression of opinion from the House and the Government with regard to the policy of setting aside areas of land for this purpose. I do not suppose the question of funds is one that the House could consider now; but, up to the present, I think the Bureau has had no authority from the Government, or any indication from the Government that they would be prepared to assist the Bureau in this matter. Some abstract resolution was passed, I believe, some years ago, in favour of establishing experimental farms, and that was all. What is desired is that some land should be set apart, not necessarily to be dealt

with at once, but reserved from public sale, for the purposes mentioned in this resolution. I am pleased to hear from the Government that they are prepared to do so, and to co-operate with the Bureau in this direction. No doubt that will meet the object of the mover of the resolution, that these lands should be set aside now, as there may be some difficulty in acquiring them by-and-bye, when they may be required.

**MR. ILLINGWORTH:** I do not know what the hon. member who brought forward this motion may mean, but I do know what he says; and what he says is that he wants an endowment of land, and that he wants that endowment vested in the Bureau. That means that certain properties are to be vested in this Bureau, and the title to the land vested in them. If that land, as we may suppose it will, increases in value, a large amount of valuable property, capable of yielding a considerable income, would eventually be vested in a body that is to a large extent independent of Parliament, or at any rate that would be independent of Parliament so far as the revenue from that property was concerned. That would hardly meet my view at any rate; I do not know how far it would meet the views of members generally. If there are to be experimental farms established, they ought to be distinctly under the control of the Government and the Parliament of the day. However we may undervalue or think lightly of a tract of country or selections of land at the present day, in years to come these endowments might become so valuable that this Bureau would become absolutely independent of Parliament, relying entirely upon its own resources, and doing exactly what it pleased; and what it pleased to do might not be what the country wanted.

**AN HON. MEMBER:** Stop its supplies.

**MR. ILLINGWORTH:** How could you stop its supplies, if these lands were vested in the Bureau? We all know what an endowment means, and we should be very careful what we are about in this matter. If the Government and this House should decide in their wisdom to establish experimental farms, under the direction of the Government, or subject to the control of the Government and of Parliament, I should be disposed to give my support to that idea, but

certainly not to endow a separate organisation, and certainly not to vest any lands of the Crown in an institution of this kind. As the motion at present stands, I must vote against it.

**MR. A. FORREST:** I hope the Government are not going to set apart reserves all over the colony, and place them in the hands of this Bureau. There are plenty of public reserves already, more than ever will be used. These reserves of land help to keep the colony back. I know a case that occurred near Newcastle, when that townsite was laid out. What has been the result? The land is in the same state now as it was fifty years ago, when it was first set apart. The Government are now going to throw it open for selection; but there it has been, close to the town, for the last half century, just in the same state as when the townsite was originally laid out. You'll see the same thing all over the colony. These reserves in the vicinity of townsites simply keep people further back who want to settle and make use of the land. In addition to these reserves we have large commonages. There is one in the Toodyay district of 30,000 acres. There are so many stipulations before a man can select, that it is not worth the trouble. I hope, if the Government are going to reserve any more lands, they will only do so where something will be done at once to utilise those lands, and not reserve them for experimental farms, which may not be wanted for the next fifty years. If the Bureau is prepared to give an undertaking that any land set apart for this purpose shall be made use of at once, the Government would be quite right in setting it apart; but they should be careful not to set apart areas of land which are not likely to be utilised for the next twenty or thirty years. No doubt the Agricultural Bureau is doing good work, and we are very well satisfied with the gentlemen who represent this department, but we have already provided them with £2,600 for this year. It's a big jump from £200 to £2,600, in a year or two.

**THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest):** They want more than that.

**MR. A. FORREST:** They will next want £4,000, and they will want more every year. We must not give them too much scope, or we may get into trouble. I am

sure the thanks of the country are due to these gentlemen who give up their time to the country for nothing, and they deserve great credit. But we must be careful, or we shall find this department becoming bigger and bigger every year, and a heavier drain upon the public revenue. I said so when it was first established, and my words are coming true. As to setting aside more reserves, we know that our friend the Commissioner of Crown Lands (who, I am sorry, is not here) is dead on reserving land. You have only got to apply for a piece of land, and the Commissioner will want to reserve it at once. He always thinks there must be something extra good about that land, and next week you see it gazetted and reserved.

MR. LEAKE: As the Premier remarked when he spoke on this subject, it is a very large order to bring before the House so late in the session. In that expression of opinion I entirely agree, and I do trust that the hon. member who brought it forward will not persist in forcing it to a division. No one who has considered the matter at all can deny that the considerations involved in this resolution are enormous, and, as we have had agricultural matters discussed more than once during this session, it is a pity that this element was not considered before. There is one thing I would ask members to do, and that is to watch very carefully the scope of this institution of many aliases,—

MR. MORAN: *Ali-asses!*

MR. LEAKE: I was not referring to the hon. member. I was referring to that institution of many aliases, sometimes called the Agricultural "Burroo," otherwise "Burroh," and otherwise "Bew-roo." If we go on giving this body extended powers, we shall find ourselves landed in a difficulty. We must not forget this fact: that on the committee of this institution of many aliases there are no less than five or six members of this Assembly. That represents a considerable weight of voting power. Is there ever going to be an end to the agricultural projects brought before this House? This session have we not had an Agricultural Bank Bill; have we not had the Homesteads Act trotted out again and again; have we not had the agricultural railway to Bridgetown; have

we not had cold storage and a public market for agricultural produce? Now, in addition to all these projects, here we are asked to affirm a resolution which will add another agricultural item to the political programme. Do not let us be led into such a thing as this, at almost the last moment of the session. It is astonishing that the hon. member for Northam is not here to support this resolution. We know it is one of his little fads. We know the hon. member was only just throwing out this resolution as a feeler, to see whether or not there was any chance of smuggling it through the House just at the last moment. I shall set my face against anything of that kind. I ask the House not to pass a resolution of this importance without the fullest possible inquiry, and without having some information as to where these reserves are to be selected, and what is proposed to be done, and the amount of money required, and all the rest of it. There is another argument, and it seems to me a fatal one, against it: if the resolution passes, and these reserves are set apart, it will entail a great deal of unnecessarily hard work upon that already overworked official, the Commissioner of Crown Lands, during the recess; and I do not think we ought to add to his burdens unnecessarily. I shall therefore vote against the resolution if it is pressed to a division. I hope the hon. member will withdraw it.

MR. TRAYLEN: I think the main object of my friend, the hon. member for Northam, at the present moment is that there shall be suitable areas set aside, rather than that any money should be expended upon them at present. However, I have no wish to press the resolution, and, after what has fallen from the Premier, I ask leave to withdraw it.

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

#### REVOKING OF CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION.

##### MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR.

The following Message was received and read by Mr. Speaker:

"The Governor, by his Deputy, has the honour to acknowledge the receipt of "Address No. 1, conveying a Resolution "adopted by the Legislative Assembly on "19th November, relating to the revoca-

"tion of the Commission appointed to inquire into the working of the Civil Service of this colony, as soon as the inquiry into the Works and Railways Department is completed. The request contained in the Resolution shall receive careful consideration.

"Government House, Perth, 22nd November, 1894."

#### PERTH WATERWORKS PURCHASE BILL.

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

#### IMPORTED LABOUR REGISTRY ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

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

#### INSECT PESTS BILL.

##### LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL'S AMENDMENT.

The House went into committee for the consideration of the following amendment, which the Legislative Council insisted on, in the Insect Pests Bill:—Clause 3, line five: between "may" and "without" insert the words "on producing his appointment in writing."

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt) said the reason why the Assembly did not agree to this amendment when it was first submitted to them was because the words proposed to be introduced did not fit in, and the House was of opinion that it was objectionable; so they sent it back, thinking the Council would alter it. But the other House did not seem to have dealt with it in any way, but sent it back again, with a Message saying they insisted upon it. As the other House would not go to the trouble of putting their own amendment in form, he proposed, in order to give it some effect, to amend it by inserting, after the word "writing," the words "if requested so to do, and,"—which he thought would meet the wishes of both Houses, so far as it was competent for them to do so at this stage, in the absence of any power to amend the clause otherwise. He moved that the amendment of the Council be agreed to, with the addition of the words he had just read.

Amendment upon amendment agreed to.

Ordered—That a Message be transmitted to the Legislative Council, in-

forming them that the Assembly had agreed to the amendment made by them in the Insect Pests Bill, with a further amendment; in which further amendment the Assembly desired the concurrence of the Legislative Council.

#### PROPOSED EXPENDITURE OF £50,000 UPON EXTENSION OF GOLDFIELDS WATER SUPPLY.

The House went into committee for the consideration of His Excellency's Message, recommending that provision be made for the expenditure of a further sum of money in providing water supply on the goldfields (*vide p. 1529 ante*).

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest): Sir—I rise to move, in accordance with His Excellency's Message, "That it is advisable that the Government be authorised to expend the sum of £50,000 for the purpose of increasing and extending the water supply on the goldfields, to be advanced to such extent as may be required during the current financial year from any funds in the hands of the Government, but to be ultimately recouped from funds to be hereafter provided by Parliament for such purpose." I regret very much having to submit this resolution for the consideration of the House, and its approval I hope. I at once say that some apology is due to the House for our having to bring down a Message of this sort within a day or two of the close of the session. Members are aware that on the Loan Bill of 1891 we voted £70,000 for the development of the goldfields, and that in the Loan Bill of 1893 the sum of £40,000 was voted for the same purpose. If members will look at the public accounts furnished up to the 30th September last, they will find that the whole of the £70,000 provided for in the Loan Act of 1891 had been expended, and that the £40,000 included in the Loan Act of 1893 had been practically expended too. Therefore all we had available for this purpose was the £70,000 voted on the Loan Bill passed this session. I regret to say that owing to various causes, which I can only mention, and which I do not altogether mean to justify, the Government were not until about a month ago, or a little less, put in possession of the fact that there had been so large an expenditure of

money on the Yilgarn goldfields—a good deal more than we were aware of, owing to the system pursued—and that nearly the whole of this £70,000 provided in the Loan Bill of this session had either been expended or was allocated for works in progress. In fact, the accounts, as made up a few days ago, show that after we pay for all the works already completed and those now in progress—although there is a considerable sum yet in the hands of the Treasury—there will only be a sum of £4,000 or £5,000 left out of that £70,000. The reason why the Government have not been in possession of the exact state of affairs is owing to the system that has been pursued. Members will recollect that last year there was a tremendous difficulty in connection with keeping the road open between Southern Cross and Coolgardie. We had an officer up there, an excellent man, who was given almost *carte blanche*, and told that he must keep that road open at whatever it cost. He did so—but I may inform members, at an immense cost. The work in connection with it, not including the tanks, cost something like £18,000. As to the tanks, we were under the impression that they cost a good deal less than it is now proved they actually did cost. The work itself in connection with these tanks, we are informed, would be from £1,350 to £1,500; but, when the Engineer-in-Chief came to inquire into the matter, it was found there were all sorts of other charges which were not included, such as carting, forage, and other incidental expenses; and I may say at once that these tanks cost double what we thought they would cost in the first instance. I remember, when I went along the road myself, I was quite pleased, and somewhat surprised, at the low cost (as I thought) of these tanks, but it appears that was only the cost of the labour of doing the work, and did not include the cost of carting and forage, which as members know is very high in that part; and when we came to reckon up the whole cost, it was found that these tanks, instead of costing £1,500 for the larger ones, had cost £3,000, and some of them £4,000; so that, from one reason or the other, we find that all this money has been expended. But I will say this, and I say it with some knowledge of what has been done, I really believe, notwithstanding

the large expenditure we have had to incur, that we have had very good value for our money. We have got splendid tanks there, and wells and bores all over the district; so that I do not anticipate that during the next twelve months we shall have to incur anything like the expenditure on these goldfields that we have had to incur during the past twelve months, because we've got all these fine tanks all ready, and, if we are only favoured with rain to fill them—and I do not see why we may not reasonably expect rain—we shall not require to incur such a large expenditure again as we did in the past. Of course I am quite willing to admit, if we are to carry on the same system all over our goldfields, that even this amount I am now asking for will not be sufficient. For some time I hesitated—in fact I refused—to ask this House for more money for this purpose. I may tell members it has taken me three weeks to get myself into the pitch I am now in with regard to this matter, because I was taken so much by surprise, and never expected that so much money had been expended on these Yilgarn goldfields in connection with the water supply. But such is the case, and I was driven to one of two courses—either to advance the money out of current revenue (which would be illegal) and ask the House to confirm it afterwards, or to come down as I have done to-night, and tell exactly how matters stand, and ask members to sanction this £50,000 for the water supply during the current year. That was the most straightforward course for the Government to pursue.

MR. R. F. SHOLL: Will it be repaid out of loan?

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest): Out of any money in our hands. We have a large amount of loan money in our hands, that has not been used for works, and we can treat this as an advance from current revenue, and recoup it out of any funds that Parliament decides upon next year. If we have continued good fortune, it may be done out of surplus revenue. While I freely admit it has come as rather a shock to me to find that we have expended so much and incurred liabilities to such a large extent in connection with these works, still I fully believe we have got full value for

our money; and what has occurred now cannot occur again. Members will, I am sure, readily admit that in a district like Coolgardie, so far from head quarters, without regular mail communication, and with the exceptional circumstances under which these works had to be carried out, large powers had to be given to the officer in charge—larger than will have to be given again. In this case he was simply told to keep the road open, and to build these tanks, and do whatever was necessary. He sent down accounts for payment, regularly, but did not, at the same time, send down the authorities; so that we could not tell whether the amount paid was money that had been authorised or not, until the settlement took place, when we found that a large amount of the votes for certain works had been exceeded to a considerable extent. There is no cause to be alarmed, for, as I have said, we have had good value for our money, and we must not forget that these works were carried out under exceptional circumstances. All we can do now is to authorise the Government, during the recess, and before we meet again, to overdraw—for that is what it means—the votes in connection with this water supply to the extent of £50,000, leaving it to the Government, when this House meets again, to suggest some means of repaying these advances to the extent of the money we have had to spend. I suppose we shall have to spend most of it. I hope we may not want so much as £50,000, though I am afraid we will. If the House requires any more information than I am able to give to-night, I will have no objection to this debate being adjourned, when I can place on the table a return of the expenditure on every single item. I am sorry I have not got it to-night, owing to the absence of the Director of Public Works from Perth. The position is this: we have got to the end of our tether, and it is necessary, if we are to keep this goldfields water supply going—and we must do that at all hazards—to provide us with more money. As I have said before, the expenditure in the future cannot possibly be so large as it has been in the past, because the tanks have been constructed, and provision thus made to conserve the water, whenever the rain comes to fill them.

MR. A. FORREST: I move that the debate be adjourned. It is a very serious matter for expenditure of this kind to be going on without Ministers knowing it. Members outside knew there was a large expenditure going on in connection with these works, but we had no idea that it was going on to the extent it has been going on, without the knowledge of the Ministry. As I stated the other night, this colony will have to be handed over before long to the man who is at the head of this Public Works Department. Here we find £50,000 required in one lump sum, after this House voting £70,000 the other day for the same purpose, which we thought would have carried us over another year. I move that progress be reported, so that we may have all the papers before us.

Motion to report progress agreed to.

Ordered—That the committee sit again to consider the question at the next sitting of the House.

#### MESSAGE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

##### CONCURRENCE IN LOAN ESTIMATES.

The following Message was received from the Legislative Council:—

“*Mr. Speaker,*

“The Legislative Council acquaints “the Legislative Assembly that, having “considered the Legislative Assembly’s “Message No. 43, it will offer no further opposition to Item 3, Railway “from Donnybrook towards Bridgetown, “£21,950, in the Loan Estimates for the “current year, and now sanctions the “whole of these Estimates.

“In taking this course, however, the “Council desires it to be distinctly understood that it in no way surrenders any “powers, rights, or privileges to which it “is legitimately entitled.

“GEO. SHENTON,

President.

“Legislative Council Chamber, Perth,  
“20th November, 1894.”

#### PHARMACY AND POISONS BILL.

##### MESSAGE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

The following Message was received from the Legislative Council:—

“*Mr. Speaker,*

“The Legislative Council acquaints the “Legislative Assembly that it has agreed

"to a Bill intituled 'An Act to establish a Pharmaceutical Society of Western Australia; to repeal 'The Poisons Sale Act of 1879,' and to enact other provisions in lieu thereof,' subject to the amendments contained in the Schedule annexed; in which amendments the Legislative Council desires the concurrence of the Legislative Assembly.

"GEO. SHENTON,  
President.

"Legislative Council Chamber, Perth,  
"22nd November, 1894."

*Schedule of Amendments made by the  
Legislative Council in "The Pharmacy and Poisons Bill."*

No. 1.—On page 4, Clause 13.—Add the following, to stand as Sub-clause (2):—  
The Council may, in its own name, by its Registrar or any person thereunto authorised in writing, under the hand of the President, commence, carry on, prosecute, and defend any action, complaint, information, or proceeding whatsoever, both civil and criminal. Every court of law shall take judicial notice of the signature of the President to any such authorisation.

No. 2.—On page 10, Clause 37.—Strike out the whole.

No. 3.—On page 10, Clause 39, Sub-clause (b).—Strike out the whole, and insert the following in lieu thereof:—"A person or company registered under 'The Companies Act, 1893,' carrying on the business of a chemist and druggist or of a pharmaceutical chemist by an agent, manager, or servant who is a pharmaceutical chemist."

No. 4.—On page 10, Clause 39, Sub-clause (c), line 1.—Strike out all the words after "practitioner."

No. 5.—On page 16, Schedule 9.—Strike out the whole.

22-11-94. C. LEE STEERE,  
Clerk of the Council.

Ordered—That the consideration in Committee of the foregoing Message be made an Order of the Day for the next sitting of the House.

#### ADJOURNMENT.

The House adjourned at 9 o'clock, p.m., until Friday, 23rd November, at 7-30 p.m.

## Legislative Council,

Friday, 23rd November, 1894.

Medical Bill: third reading—Closure of Streets in Bunbury Bill: third reading—Insect Pests Bill: Legislative Council's amendment—Perth Waterworks Purchase Bill: rejected—Imported Labour Registry Act Amendment Bill: rejected—Adjournment.

THE PRESIDENT (Hon. Sir G. Shenton) took the chair at 7-30 o'clock p.m.

#### PRAYERS.

#### MEDICAL BILL.

##### THIRD READING.

This Bill was read a third time, and passed.

#### CLOSURE OF STREETS IN BUNBURY BILL.

##### THIRD READING.

This Bill was read a third time, and passed.

#### INSECT PESTS BILL.

##### LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL'S AMENDMENT. IN COMMITTEE.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. S. H. Parker): It will be observed that the Legislative Assembly has accepted the amendment proposed by the Hon. Mr. Hardey, by which an inspector must, if required, produce his authority. The Assembly, however, has added the words "when requested to do so." I do not think there is any objection to this. I move that the Assembly's amendment on the Council's amendment be agreed to.

Question put and passed.

#### PERTH WATERWORKS PURCHASE BILL.

##### SECOND READING.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. S. H. Parker): I do not know whether any hon. member has been asked to take charge of this Bill, which was introduced in another place by a private member. I do not wish to take upon myself any duties in connection with it if any hon. member has been asked to take charge of it. No one has ever mentioned the subject to me, but I do not desire to see the Bill lapse. As hon. members are aware, there is a company which contracts