

BANK HOLIDAYS FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL.

Received from the Legislative Assembly, and, on motion by the COLONIAL SECRETARY, read a first time.

WATER STREET (NORTH FREMANTLE) CLOSURE BILL.

Received from the Legislative Assembly, and, on motion by the COLONIAL SECRETARY, read a first time.

ADJOURNMENT.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY, in moving the adjournment of the House, said he understood several members were desirous of now leaving, but he hoped they would endeavour to make a House to-morrow at half-past four o'clock.

HON. J. W. HACKETT: Had the Colonial Secretary any idea when the prorogation would take place?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: Not the slightest.

The House adjourned at 9-50 o'clock until the next day.

Legislative Assembly,

Monday, 3rd December, 1900.

Petition: Empire Patriotic League—Question: Loan Flotation, particulars—Mundaring Dam, alleged Defective Cement—Bank Holidays Further Amendment Bill, all stages—Public Service Bill, Administrator's Suggestion of Amendment—Water Street (North Fremantle) Closure Bill, all stages—Military Contingents, W.A., thanks to soldiers, sympathy to sufferers, National Anthem sung—Industrial Conciliation Bill, Council's Amendments—Remedies of Creditors Amendment Bill, Council's Amendments—Goldfields Act Amendment Bill, Council's Amendment—Perth Public Hospital, Select Committee's Report, adoption moved—Adjournment.

THE SPEAKER took the Chair at 7-30 o'clock, p.m.

PRAYERS.

PETITION—EMPIRE PATRIOTIC LEAGUE.

MR. WILSON presented a petition, bearing six signatures of members of the Empire Patriotic League (W.A.), praying that the question of sending a military contingent of volunteers to take part in the inauguration of the Australian Commonwealth, the recognition of the service of Mr. F. Lyon Weiss in writing a patriotic poem, and other matters mentioned, be considered by the Legislative Assembly.

Petition received and read.

QUESTION—LOAN FLOTATION, PARTICULARS.

MR. ILLINGWORTH, without notice and by leave, asked the Premier: Can the right hon. gentleman now give the House accurate information concerning the flotation of the loan of £880,000; and inform the House as to who was responsible for the misleading information given to the House by the Premier on Thursday last?

THE PREMIER replied: The hon. member should give notice of a question of that character, and especially if he is going to insult me by saying I gave misleading information to the House. When the hon. member asks a question, he need not state that incorrect information has been given by me. No incorrect information was given by me. I gave the information after due deliberation, and with some knowledge of the facts.

MR. ILLINGWORTH: You said the whole of the loan was floated.

THE PREMIER: The loan was by subscription; therefore the tenders were all at par, and no premium was possible. As far as has been ascertained, the applications amounted to about £1,400,000, though the exact amount and the details have not yet been received. Considering that £3,000,000 of Imperial 3 per cent. Exchequer bills realised only £98, as stated in this morning's cablegrams, the price obtained for the Western Australian loan is, I think, fairly satisfactory. I had been informed for some time that the large amount required by the Imperial Government would adversely affect the price of colonial stocks. The credit of the colony in London is good, and there is every reason why it should be good, seeing that we

have no deficit and all our industries are flourishing, I have often informed the House that the price at which money can be borrowed is largely influenced by the state of the money market, as well as the character of the security offered. Though I have not yet received the details of the expenses of this loan, I have no doubt they will be near about the same as on previous occasions.

MR. ILLINGWORTH: Then the newspaper reports are incorrect?

THE PREMIER: I do not think so. The loan was underwritten, and underwriters always tender for the full amount; and if there was £880,000 tendered by the underwriters, and £400,000 or £500,000 subscribed, I say that £1,400,000 is about what was tendered.

MR. ILLINGWORTH: The gross subscription is only £446,000. As regards the balance, the underwriters took it up. How can it be said, by any stretch of language, that such a flotation has been successful?

THE PREMIER: I do not think the hon. member knows what is a subscription loan.

MR. ILLINGWORTH: I perfectly understand it.

THE PREMIER: Well, if you do, I am surprised.

QUESTION—MUNDARING DAM, ALLEGED DEFECTIVE CONCRETE.

MR. A. FORREST, without notice, asked the Director of Public Works whether his attention had been drawn to an article in the *Sunday Times* of yesterday's date, with reference to the Mundaring Dam. The article was headed: "The Coming Destruction—Coolgardie Water Scheme—Some Serious Statements—The City in Danger—Alleged use of Rotten Cement—A Dangerous Dam." The article proceeded to say that Perth and South Perth might be swept away at any moment, after the dam had been completed. Would the Minister inform the House to-morrow, after making inquiry, whether these allegations were correct?

THE PREMIER: It was not likely they were.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS: In reply, he had only to say that his attention had not been drawn to

the article. In fact, he never read Sunday papers.

BANK HOLIDAYS FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL.

Introduced by the PREMIER, and read a first time.

SECOND READING—AMENDMENT.

THE PREMIER (Right Hon. Sir J. Forrest), in moving the second reading, said: The object of this Bill, which has only one short clause, is to repeal Section 5 of the Bank Holidays Amendment Act passed last year, by which all the holidays that occur during the year, on days other than Mondays, are to be observed on the Monday next following. At the time that Act was passed we all thought, and I amongst the number, that it would be a very good arrangement, because it would permit those who had the holiday to have half a day on Saturday, the whole of Sunday, and the whole of Monday—in fact, would give two and a half days on nearly every occasion when a holiday occurred. But it has been found in practice that, owing to the change of the port of call for the mail steamers from Albany to Fremantle, it is most inconvenient to have Monday as a public holiday—about as inconvenient as it possibly could be, not only to everyone receiving letters by the Eastern mails, but also to all the tradespeople, shopkeepers and storekeepers, who have their businesses shut up and are unable to secure the patronage of the large number of travellers who visit the city or the port on that day. I think there is a general feeling throughout the mercantile community both of Perth and Fremantle that, seeing Monday is the mail day when the royal mail steamers from the Eastern colonies reach Fremantle and leave again, it is about the worst day for a holiday. That being so, I think we had better revert, at any rate for the present, to the system previously in force; that is, to have the holiday on that day of the week on which it naturally occurs. I can see no reason at all why we should continue the present practice. I may say I have no personal interest in this matter, but I have already noticed that the existing system is very inconvenient. When the holiday comes in the middle of the week and is held on the next Monday,

people are obliged to work on the Monday who would rather have the holiday. All the men engaged in coaling the steamers, all the tradespeople providing the ships' supplies, all those who cater for the travellers, have to work particularly long hours when they would like to enjoy themselves with their fellow citizens. I introduce this Bill at this late period of the session because I think the Act has proved very inconvenient. The Bill repeals only one section of the existing Act, and will merely cause the holidays to be held on the days on which they actually occur. I think I am acting in accordance with the wishes of hon. members, as I believe I am in accord with those of the mercantile community both of Perth and Fremantle. I beg to move the second reading.

MR. JAMES (East Perth): Last year, when the Bank Holidays Amendment Act was passed, its object was to enable those who availed themselves of a bank holiday to have the full benefit of it, providing that, if they were to have one holiday in a week, that holiday should fall on the day which best suited those who were to enjoy it. And it must be obvious that if a holiday is to be observed on any day of the week, the best possible day is Monday, for then holiday-makers can get the benefit of Sunday and the Monday, and have two days instead of one. This Bill, as drafted at present, deals with bank holidays and bank holidays only.

THE PREMIER: And also with all the public holidays mentioned in the Civil Service Bill.

MR. JAMES: We are now dealing with the Bank Holidays Act. It is quite competent for those who carry on business outside of banking to keep open their shops any day they please, so far as this Bank Holidays Act is concerned. The Bill does not regulate any holidays whatever other than those of the banks.

MR. A. FORREST: How are you to get your money on Monday?

MR. JAMES: I understand the only objection raised to this Bill is that certain difficulties have been experienced at Fremantle; and I have not heard of any objection brought forward by the banks.

THE PREMIER: They all complained to me.

MR. JAMES: I think the observations of the Premier were directed to complaints made by persons engaged in the coaling and victualling of ships.

THE PREMIER: I said "the mercantile community."

MR. JAMES: I think the Bill has nothing whatever to do with such shipping; and even if it had, why should an Act like this, which applies to every district and town in the colony, be entirely modified because it does not happen to suit the convenience of Fremantle?

MR. HIGHAM: It is not Fremantle alone which is in question.

THE PREMIER: But Perth also.

MR. JAMES: We know it is Fremantle. We know the agitation sprang up in Fremantle, where there was a recent meeting; and no doubt, as a result of that meeting, we have this Bill brought forward at the last possible moment in this session, for the purpose of being hurried through. I think it is most unjust and improper that legislation of this nature should be introduced at the last moment. Here is an Act which was passed last session after a certain amount of discussion, and which follows the example and precedent of South Australia.

THE PREMIER: It was a private member's Bill, after all, and was hurried through very rapidly.

MR. JAMES: Whether it was a private member's Bill or not, it passed this House, and was founded on South Australian legislation.

THE PREMIER: The mail steamers do not call at Port Adelaide on Monday.

MR. JAMES: Perhaps not; and perhaps they do not call anywhere but at Fremantle on Monday; but the only objection to the present Act is founded on the experience of Fremantle, and perhaps of Perth. And there are other towns in this colony besides Fremantle and Perth; and therefore as to those towns, the experience of South Australia is applicable. Why should we pass an important piece of legislation like this without taking into consideration for one moment the interests of those who are just as much concerned in these bank holidays as are the mercantile community; that is, those employed, for whose benefit this Act was passed? It was distinctly understood when the Bill

of last session was passing through the House, that it was not brought forward entirely in the interests of the mercantile community so far as they were employers, but to give more convenient holidays to those who were to enjoy the holidays—the persons who were employed, and not the employers merely; and the only reasons now adduced for amending that legislation are not reasons suggested in the interest of those employed, but in the interests of the employers.

THE PREMIER: And of the public servants, too.

MR. JAMES: They are not affected by the Bank Holidays Act.

THE PREMIER: The holidays are scheduled in the Public Service Bill.

MR. JAMES: That should be attended to by amending that Bill. If it is faulty, amend it; but we now propose to amend the Bank Holidays Act, giving it a far wider operation than we should do if we simply amended the Public Service Bill. I object to pass this legislation almost entirely in the interests of Fremantle.

THE PREMIER: And of Perth.

MR. JAMES: I think Fremantle is mainly responsible for this Bill. No one ever asked for it outside of Fremantle, and nothing has been heard of the agitation except in Fremantle.

THE PREMIER: That is not so.

MR. JAMES: I read the papers through, and read the reports of the recent meeting. Whatever concession Fremantle clamours for it generally gets, whether the granting of it suits the country or not. We must bear in mind this is not a question solely for the employers who have their mails to send away, or who want to coal and victual ships, but also for those who are employed, and for whose benefit the original Act was introduced; and I say the employees' interests are being entirely overlooked. Last year, we passed a certain piece of legislation for the benefit of the employees, so that they should have a half-holiday on Saturday and a holiday on Sunday and on Monday; and now, in the interests of the employers, we are departing from that principle. In South Australia they have their Act, which has not been repealed; and apparently we are about to repeal our Act in the interests, not of the whole community, but of the employers in Perth and Fremantle, disregarding the interests of the employed

in those places, and in the other parts of the country.

MR. HIGHAM (Fremantle): I must protest against the introduction of the Bill at this stage of the session, when it cannot receive due attention. The existing Act, although a private Bill, received last session very much more mature consideration than many Bills passed in this House. It was considered by many Chambers of Commerce, was based on the experience of South Australia, and was deemed a measure advisable to introduce. Notwithstanding the small inconveniences that may have been experienced through mail steamers from the other colonies reaching Fremantle on Monday. I still think these holidays should be held on Mondays for the convenience of the tradespeople and the greater enjoyment of the employees in the various trading establishments. The member for East Perth cannot have studied the subject when he says this Bill has been introduced for the benefit of Fremantle people, or certain traders in Fremantle and Perth. No such thing. I do not know what instigation prompted the introduction of the Bill, but certainly it has not been introduced by the trading community of Fremantle.

MR. JAMES: Was there not a meeting in Fremantle the other day concerning this matter?

MR. HIGHAM: There was a meeting in Fremantle for the purpose of trying to assimilate the commercial holidays and the bank holidays; and had it not been for traders in Perth, as represented through the Chamber of Commerce, going back on the joint course to which they had previously agreed, the Commercial and Business Holidays Bill would have been pressed on this House, instead of being withdrawn. The bulk of the trading community of Fremantle and their employees desire not only that bank holidays should be held on Mondays, but that the Bank Holidays Act should be assimilated with the Early Closing Act, so as to make certain shops and trading concerns assimilate their holidays, and be compelled to close on the same day as the public offices close. It is absurd for the member for East Perth to say the agitation for this Bill emanates from Fremantle. We in Fremantle are prepared to put up with the small inconveniences that may

follow through the mail steamers from the Eastern colonies calling there on Mondays, on the very few occasions when a bank holiday will fall on Monday, those occasions not being many.

THE PREMIER: A dozen in the year, perhaps.

MR. HIGHAM: In the schedule of the Bank Holidays Act there are only five or six.

THE PREMIER: There are six, besides other holidays which may be proclaimed by the Governor.

MR. HIGHAM: This Bill may well stand over till next session. There has been a little division of opinion between the trading community of Fremantle and the trading community of Perth in regard to Monday being observed as a holiday, some of them holding the opinion that Monday is not a suitable day for the peremptory closing of trading concerns; and it is intended that before next session an effort shall be made to come to some agreement on the question. Taking our experience of Monday as a bank holiday, together with the experience of South Australia, we may conclude that the present Bank Holidays Act has not worked badly. I beg to move as an amendment,

That the Bill be read a second time this day six months.

MR. WILSON (Canning): I may say at once that I do not know what the hon. member (Mr. Higham) refers to in saying the Perth Chamber of Commerce has practically gone back on the arrangement previously made.

MR. HIGHAM: They did.

MR. WILSON: This question of Monday being made a commercial holiday has never been officially before the Perth Chamber of Commerce, though the parliamentary committee of that body have considered it. As the matter stands, I do not know that the Chamber of Commerce as a body will object to this Bill, because the Chamber has not expressed an opinion on it. I believe the hon. member did consult the Chamber with reference to the Commercial and Business Holidays Bill, and the result was that the Bill has been withdrawn from this House. As far as I am aware, Monday as a commercial and bank holiday suits the bulk of the shop assistants and others, because they have the Sunday and Monday

together. The next session will be time enough for the Chamber of Commerce to consider the question. Personally, I am in favour of the Monday holiday, and I do not think the fact of the mails leaving on a Monday need interfere with that day as a holiday, because the sending away of mails affects only the principals, as a rule.

THE PREMIER: It will affect the Post Office, because the sending away of mails is a big day.

MR. WILSON: That does not mean the whole of the Post Office, but only a certain number of men. There will be only five or six of these holidays falling on Monday in the course of a year, and this question may well stand over till next session. In the meantime, the persons interested can come to some arrangement.

MR. A. FORREST (West Kimberley): I am sorry I cannot agree with those members who have spoken. When these holidays fall on a Monday, it is a great inconvenience to the trading people both of Fremantle and the city of Perth. When the Bank Holidays Act was passed last session, we had no idea that the mail steamers would be calling at Fremantle on Mondays. People who want to leave the country have to get their tickets on Saturday to be ready for Monday, and those who receive cheques in payment may not always feel sure about them, and it puts a responsibility on them in receiving cheques and holding them over, because the banks are closed on Monday, and the steamers must get away. Take a case such as occurred to myself. A cable may come from London, saying a certain sum of money has to be sent out by the outgoing mail; and if the bank be closed on Monday when the mail boat has to leave, a draft cannot be passed through, and the matter will have to wait another week—what for? Just to enable a few people to get a holiday. When the banks are closed on holidays, it is a great inconvenience to the trading people at any time. I do hope the House will allow this Bill to go on, so that the trading public may be allowed to do their business in the ordinary way, without the whole machinery of trade and commerce being at a standstill.

THE PREMIER (in reply): I am greatly surprised at the reception of this

Bill by some members, particularly the member for the Canning and the member for Fremantle, professing to speak for the commercial community. In introducing this Bill, I thought I was doing that which they would have supported to the utmost. Just consider the question as it presents itself to a go-ahead people. Here we have ships coming in every Monday, in some part of the year, laden with people, and these people in many cases will want to do some business in this colony—may want to get their letters of credit cashed—and instead of finding the usual conveniences they find the whole place shut up, and there is no means of getting a circular note or a small draft cashed in this colony.

MR. WILSON: They do not want them cashed when going homeward.

THE PREMIER: They may do so. On a holiday also the trains between Perth and Fremantle are crowded to the utmost; and the people coming in by mail steamer will not have the ordinary conveniences of going on the railway. Then there are our own people to consider. We want to get drafts and post-office orders on London, and we are not to have them on a Monday, but must get them on a Saturday in readiness for the mail steamer on Monday.

MR. WILSON: You could get post-office orders on Monday.

THE PREMIER: You cannot get them, unless you have the post-office people working when other people are playing. Then we have the mails coming and going on that day, and with the arrival and dispatch of mail steamers the whole of the post-office staff will be more employed on that day than probably any other day in the week. For these reasons I commend this Bill to hon. members. I do not know what we would think if we went to another country as travellers, and found all the places of business shut up; that we were unable to do any business we desired to do, and unable to purchase anything in the shops. All this must be adverse to the interests of the trading community; and altogether it is undesirable to find that, while people are enjoying themselves, the facilities for travellers and traders doing the business they desire to do are impeded. I do not want to press this Bill on the House; and if the trading community do not

want to have Monday as a day on which business can be done with the mail steamers and the passengers coming or going, it will not inconvenience me one iota. Still, in introducing this Bill, I thought I was only doing my duty to the mercantile community of Perth and Fremantle; and I think also it is hard on the post-office officials, that they should have to work on Monday while other persons are making holiday. I feel sure those members who have spoken in opposition to the Bill are not voicing the wishes of the mercantile community of Perth and Fremantle, because I have heard it all round, since the mail steamers began calling at Fremantle, that it is found to be very inconvenient to have Monday as a bank and business holiday.

MR. HALL (Perth): If a vote be taken on the Bill I intend to vote for the second reading, because I have heard considerable complaints amongst shopkeepers in Perth in reference to the closing of business places on Mondays. They tell me they are put to considerable inconvenience, and the employees do not get the benefit it is supposed they will get by having Monday a public holiday. It is commonly supposed that by having Monday as a public holiday in lieu of any other day, the employees can get away on Saturday and remain away till Tuesday morning; but, on the contrary, if anyone goes down town on Monday on a public holiday, he will find nearly all the shops open, and the so-called holiday is neither one thing nor the other. The banks are closed, no commercial business can be done, and tradespeople suffer without the employees getting an adequate benefit by it; therefore, as I have heard considerable complaint from the shopkeepers of Perth, and as I believe the employees do not get the benefit from this holiday, but that only a portion of the civil service and perhaps the bank clerks get the benefit, I intend to vote for this Bill.

MR. SOLOMON (South Fremantle): Reference has been made to the business people in Fremantle being in favour of this Bill; but I must say this is the first I have heard with regard to Fremantle wanting this change to be made. As one of the representatives of Fremantle, I have not been approached with regard to it, and I believe my colleagues also have not been approached; therefore I do not

feel in a position to support the Bill. The Premier has laid stress on the fact of the mail steamers coming in and going out on the Monday. The steamers from London come in usually on Wednesday, and the German mail boats come in on some other day. It will be better to let the Bill wait till next session, when some understanding may be come to.

MR. ILLINGWORTH (Central Murchison): When the House passed the Bill last year for making Monday a public holiday in lieu of other days, I opposed that provision in the Bill, and I am not in favour of it now. Still it would be a mistake for us at this hour of the session to alter legislation of this character, until we have had an opportunity of consulting those who are most concerned. The Bill for holding holidays on Mondays was passed in the interests not of employers but of employees; and, as far as I know, no employees have been consulted on this Bill for changing the day on which public holidays are to be held. This Bill deals only with bank holidays, and we shall have to deal with the Civil Service Bill in a future session; we shall also have to deal with the Commercial and Business Holidays Bill in a future session. Therefore, as we cannot discuss this measure now with satisfaction, the Government would be wise in withdrawing it, and leaving the whole question to be considered by the next Parliament. It is remarkable that this Parliament, in its last stage, seems to have set itself to do everything the colony requires to be done, so that the next Parliament may have nothing to do, although the next Parliament is expected to be more representative of the colony than the present Parliament. Some members here seem to desire that the present Parliament should deal with every measure that can be thought of, and that nothing shall be left for the next Parliament to do. What is all this for? I believe it is all a popular cry, in view of the coming elections. The whole of the legislation of this session has been slummed, and many of the Bills we have passed will be found to be unworkable or will require early amendment. I object to another Bill going on the statute book for this purpose, and I shall vote against the second reading.

MR. LOCKE (Sussex): I hope this Bill will pass as it stands. We have got

along all right during the last half century without any legislation in regard to public holidays; and ever since the Bill of last session has come into operation, there has been continual trouble. Fremantle has been in an uproar, and I know that business people in the rest of the colony are very much opposed to it. As far as my experience goes, they would all prefer to take the holidays when they come, instead of having them some days after the proper date on which each holiday should fall.

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

Ayes ...	...	...	15
Noes ...	...	...	10

Majority for .. 5

AYES.	NOES.
Sir John Forrest	Mr. George
Mr. A. Forrest	Mr. Higham
Mr. D. Forrest	Mr. Holmes
Mr. Hall	Mr. Illingworth
Mr. Harper	Mr. James
Mr. Hubble	Mr. Solomon
Mr. Lefroy	Mr. Vosper
Mr. Locke	Mr. Wallace
Mr. Moorhead	Mr. Wilson
Mr. Moran	Mr. Gregory (Teller).
Mr. Piesse	
Mr. Quinlan	
Mr. Throssell	
Mr. Wood	
Mr. Reason (Teller).	

Amendment (six months) thus negatived, and the second reading passed.

Bill read a second time.

IN COMMITTEE, ETC.

Clause 1:

MR. GEORGE: It was true, as stated by the leader of the Opposition (Mr. Illingworth), that much of the legislation during this session was of so hasty a character that it would need to be amended in the future. The working of the Bank Holidays Act was irksome to traders, and to persons carrying on industries, as well as being irksome to the banks; therefore we should not have any more of this hasty-pudding legislation by passing the present Bill. He did not think any members of the House during this session had done their duty in such a way as to entitle them to payment.

MR. JAMES: The Bill had not been introduced at the request of the mercantile community.

THE PREMIER: The member for West Kimberley (Mr. A. Forrest), who was a mercantile man, said it had.

MR. JAMES: The members representing Fremantle said the Bill was not demanded by the Fremantle Chamber of Commerce; the member for the Canning (Mr. Wilson) said it was not demanded by the Chamber of Commerce in Perth; therefore it was not required in the interests of the metropolitan district.

THE PREMIER: The hon. member was the only representative of Perth not voting for the Bill.

MR. JAMES said he represented the best part of Perth. Unfortunately, the Bill was introduced because it was thought a few travellers by the mail steamers might be inconvenienced by the Act of last year. Apparently, during the past six months all the resources of the colony were being used to assist the P. and O. and Orient Steamship Companies.

THE PREMIER: All?

MR. JAMES: Instead of remembering that those shipping companies secured a valuable trade and a good return by calling at Fremantle, we seemed horribly afraid of hurting their feelings. No such legislation had been passed in favour of the North German Lloyd's Company.

MR. A. FORREST: A foreign company.

MR. JAMES: But they benefited the commerce of the country; yet during all the banqueting at Fremantle, not one word was said in praise of this pioneer line which had opened up Fremantle as a mail steamer port of call.

Clause put and passed.

Title—agreed to.

Bill reported without amendment, and the report adopted.

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

PUBLIC SERVICE BILL.

ADMINISTRATOR'S SUGGESTION OF AMENDMENTS.

Message from the Administrator received and read, recommending two amendments to be made in the Public Service Bill.

IN COMMITTEE.

Suggested amendment—To strike out the following words at the end of Clause 30:—"Whenever any of the holidays mentioned in Sub-section (b) fall upon a day other than a Monday, the following

Monday shall be a holiday instead of such day":

THE PREMIER: By Clause 30 of the Public Service Bill, which now awaited the royal assent, it was provided that the following days should be public service holidays: New Year's Day, Good Friday, Easter Eve, Easter Monday, Christmas Day and the 26th December; also that the birthday of the Sovereign, Coronation Day, Prince of Wales's birthday, anniversary of the foundation of the colony, anniversary of settlement of Australia, Proclamation Day, and all days which the Governor might appoint, should be public holidays throughout the service; but in regard to the birthday of the Sovereign, Coronation Day, and also all the other days that the Governor might appoint, it was provided that if any of these holidays fell on a day other than a Monday, the following Monday should be a holiday instead of such day. The Bill, in fact, followed the provisions of the Bank Holidays Act of 1899. As a Bill had been passed to-night amending that Act, and providing that holidays should be held upon the days on which they actually fell, the provision in the Public Service Bill would no longer be applicable. It would be most inconvenient for public offices to be closed when the banks were open, and he, therefore, moved that the Administrator's suggested amendment be agreed to.

Question put and passed.

Suggested amendment—To strike out Sub-clause v. of Clause 41, and insert in lieu thereof the following:—"For the classification of the Public Service":

THE PREMIER: In Clause 41 of the Public Service Bill passed this session, power was given to make Public Service Regulations for prescribing examinations to be passed by persons desiring to enter the service, for the definition of duties, the observance of proper discipline and hours of attendance, prescribing travelling allowances, and for giving effect to any provisions of the Bill for determining the scale upon which officers should assure their lives. The Upper House had struck out the clause referring to insurance, but these words in Clause 41 were allowed to remain, and were of course ineffective; and, as the Bill was being amended in another respect, this was a suitable time for making the

alteration. The other powers to make regulations did not seem quite wide enough to allow of the necessary regulations for classifying the service, and there was a very distinct opinion in the House that a board should be appointed to consider the matter of classification; therefore, instead of striking out Sub-clause v. altogether, he moved that the words "for the classification of the public service" be inserted in lieu of the words of the sub-clause, so as to give power for the Government of the day to make regulations for classification.

Question put and passed.

Resolutions reported, the report adopted, and a Message transmitted to the Legislative Council requesting concurrence.

WATER STREET (NORTH FREMANTLE) CLOSURE BILL.

ALL STAGES.

Introduced by the PREMIER, and read a first time.

SECOND READING.

THE PREMIER (Right Hon. Sir J. Forrest): I beg to move that this Bill be read a second time, and must apologise for doing so. The desirableness of closing this street in North Fremantle was brought under my notice on last Saturday afternoon or this morning. Water Street runs through Crown land, and interferes with the Harbour Works on the north side of the river. The land on both sides of the street belongs to the Crown; there is no objection on the part of anyone to the closure; I have an intimation from the town clerk, North Fremantle, that his council have agreed to the closing of Water Street; and hon. members caring to look at the plan will see that it is inconvenient to have a road through lands which have been set apart for the railway on the north shore at Fremantle.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

IN COMMITTEE, ETC.

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

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

MOTION—MILITARY CONTINGENTS, W.A.

THANKS TO SOLDIERS—SYMPATHY TO SUFFERERS.

MR. WILSON (Canning) moved:

That the best thanks of this Parliament be and are hereby accorded to the officers and members of the W.A. Contingents, who so patriotically volunteered to serve the Empire in the South African war, and whose services and valour have been so highly appreciated and commented upon by the Commander-in-Chief and his Generals. Also, that the heartfelt sympathy of Parliament be extended to those who have suffered wounds or ill-health in carrying out their duty to the British flag; and to the relatives of those whose lives have been lost in fighting for the cause of the Empire.

Hon. members would notice that the motion carried out a portion of the prayer of the petition presented by the Empire Patriotic League. It was difficult to command language sufficiently eloquent to do justice to the subject, and he approached its consideration with mingled feelings of pleasure, pride, and sorrow. We should give thanks and credit were these were due; and certainly, when we found that the Commander-in-Chief and his Generals—not only those conducting the war in South Africa, but the home authorities—had fully recognised the splendid aid given by the colonial troops in this arduous campaign, the least the Legislative Assembly of Western Australia could do was to pass our vote of thanks also. Hon. members must of necessity be proud of the work which our citizen soldiers had done for the Empire. A page of history had been written, and on that page would stand out in strongly-marked characters the story of the Colonial Contingents, and especially of the Western Australian Contingents, in the carrying out of the war. Again, it was regrettable to have to propose this motion, on account of those who had lost their dear ones by untimely death. All present must feel the deepest sympathy with the wounded and the maimed—some of them maimed for life. With these mixed feelings he proposed the motion for the favourable acceptance of the House; but, above all, with a feeling of sincere pride at the action of our Western Australian soldiers; and when he referred to Slingersfontein, where unfortunately Sergeant Hensman was mortally wounded—(MR. MORAN:

And Conway was killed)—and where another soldier, Krygger, gained distinction, the reference must strike a chord of sympathy and pride in all the hearts of everyone in Western Australia. Then there was the unfortunate engagement of Rhenoster Spruit, where the gallant Major Moor fell, and where Sergeant Lessey lost a leg and was otherwise wounded. There were the engagements of Diamond Hill and Bronker Spruit, which Surgeon McWilliams had mentioned in his interview with the Press when he landed at Albany. Briefly, the First Contingent, in the short period of ten months, had fought in over 200 engagements; and hon. members would at once perceive what arduous and dangerous work they had performed in upholding the honour and integrity of the Empire. In mentioning these few engagements, he did not wish to be in any sense of the term invidious. There were men in South Africa now doing just as good work as the first men who left our shores.

MR. GREGORY: Mr. Conolly, a member of the present Assembly, had not been mentioned.

MR. WILSON: True. Hon. members themselves might well be proud that a member of this House was fighting in the ranks of the colony's soldiers. He hoped that hon. member would return safely to Western Australia, and was quite sure he would uphold the valour of his forefathers. The record of the men sent to South Africa had shown what could be done for the Empire by those who had no special training whatever, who, at short notice, volunteered to serve the British flag, and who, with very little drill, had done such excellent work as to draw reports and commendation from the Commander-in-Chief and his generals. He would like to draw hon. members' attention to one or two of these reports. On 15th February, 1900, at Arundel, the following appeared in the General Orders:—

The General Officer commanding wishes to place on record his high appreciation of the courage and determination shown by the body of 20 men of the West Australian Mounted Infantry, under the command of Captain Moor, in the above operations. By their determined stand against some 300-400 men, they entirely frustrated the enemy's attempt to turn the flank of the position.

Again, there were individual reports such as the following:

No. 66. Corporal W. George to be sergeant for service rendered in the field. By permission of the General Officer commanding.

There was a telegram received in November last from Lord Roberts, reading as follows:

One officer, 27 men returning in the Harlech Castle, leaving Cape Town to-day. I cannot allow them to leave South Africa without tendering to them my best thanks for the magnificent service they have rendered to the Empire.

Again there was the following telegram from Lord Roberts received to-day:

Lord Kitchener informs me that General Paget has brought to his notice the great gallantry of Major Vialls's Third West Australians, and of the magnificent behaviour of that regiment in a recent engagement. I offer to their relations and to the colony generally my most hearty congratulations.

It required no further words to commend this motion to the House. Briefly, these despatches proved that our men had faithfully carried out their duty to the Empire, and had set an example which he hoped every other man in the colony would be prepared to emulate.

THE PREMIER (Right Hon. Sir J. Forrest): The hon. member must be congratulated on moving in this direction, for our best thanks were due to the officers and men of the West Australian Contingents who had so patriotically volunteered to serve the Empire in South Africa; and we rejoiced that those services had been appreciated by those in authority. The people of the colony might feel very proud of the part played by their soldiers. The community in Western Australia was not large, and hitherto had had no opportunity of showing that the people of the colony were warlike; but they had not hesitated in offering to send contingents to serve the Queen in South Africa, following the example of the other colonies of Australia; in fact, it was evident that, in comparison to our population, Western Australia had sent more troops to South Africa than had any other Australian colony. The war had shown in a very marked degree that in this, as well as the other colonies, we were not only willing to share the advantages of belonging to a great and powerful Empire, but spon-

taneously to take upon ourselves the responsibilities devolving upon a colony. In regard to the heroic band sent forth to fight the battles of our country, it must be a source of great gratification that they had covered themselves with so much honour and glory, and had upheld under great difficulty, and in trying conditions with which they had hitherto been altogether unacquainted, not only their own honour, but the honour and integrity of the colony. Anyone who read the telegram which Lord Roberts had forwarded this morning could not but feel a thrill of pleasure and gratitude that our gallant friends, under Major Vials, should have so acted as to receive such strong commendation from such a great soldier. He heartily supported the motion which had been proposed in such appropriate terms, and he would only suggest that there be added to it a paragraph to the effect that, if passed, it be forwarded to His Excellency the Administrator.

MR. ILLINGWORTH (Central Murchison) : It was hardly necessary to say that on a motion of this character there was neither Government nor Opposition, and it was with great pleasure he had listened to the remarks of the mover (Mr. Wilson) in submitting this motion. War was painful at all times, and to all nations engaged in it; but war was the price we had to pay for our national insurance, for although it cost both blood and treasure, it was a price, a sacrifice, that all nations which loved honour and liberty must pay from time to time. He felt proud that Australia as a whole had come to the front on this great occasion in our national history, and that we who had for so many years enjoyed the prestige and protection of the home-land should recognise, as we did nobly and bravely and earnestly, our obligations when the necessity came. He rejoiced especially that Western Australia, though but a small community and a busy one at that, did not fail to contribute her quota to the national help when that help was needed. The war was now to a large extent over, and we had to deal with the stern realities which always followed war. Therefore we should not forget our duty to those who remained, when our colonial soldiers went forth to fight the battles of the Empire. Some of these soldiers had come back; some had been wounded;

some would come back no more; but there was a responsibility resting upon us in regard to those whom they left behind, those dear to them, who should be and were dear to this colony. Those who had been wounded and returned to our shores, unable to enter again into the ordinary avocations of life, should have our special care. We in this House might do some little in carrying out the will of the people through the Government; for as we had a large civil service, there were vacancies constantly occurring in it, and he suggested that the Government should carefully consider that those men who had fought our battles in South Africa and returned to us should have the first claim on the State for those positions which might become vacant, and which these men were fitted to fill. These men who by their vigour and energy on the battlefield had proved the greatness of the nation they represented should not be forgotten by us, but should have the preference whenever suitable vacancies occurred in the civil service; not that the Government should endeavour to make vacancies for them, but that these men should be given the preference for such vacancies as they were fitted to fill. For instance, where a man had been wounded in the war, the Government should endeavour to find a place for him in the public service of the country. So also with regard to those brave men who had fallen on the battlefield, their immediate dependents, the sons and daughters they had left behind, should have the kindly care of the Government, who should see that when places suitable occurred for them in the civil service, those relatives of our fallen soldiers should receive the preference. It was indeed the common duty of the whole of the people of the colony to give preference to these persons for any positions they were capable of filling; and he hoped the people would recognise their obligations to the men who had fought the nation's battles, and that they should have the first claim on our sympathy and our help. The Government had doubtless already considered this aspect of the subject, and would do what they could; and he felt sure the citizens of the colony would also do what they could to further the material interests of those who had been bereaved, especially those who had been wounded and had

returned to our shores. It was with great pleasure he supported the motion.

MR. GEORGE (Murray) : The motion was one he could heartily support. It would be unseemly if we who had witnessed the departure of our military Contingents were to allow the opportunity to pass, when these brave men returned to our shores, of giving them a suitable welcome and a proper recognition of the brave services they had rendered to the country and the Empire. As an Englishman-born, he could hardly express the feeling of pride he felt when the Contingents went away from this colony; because for years he had been accustomed to hear of "the degeneracy of the British race," a "degeneracy" that had been written about in newspapers and spoken about on platforms and in Parliaments, until the very name of "Englishman" had become almost a by-word. The people of this his adopted country had shown that the spirit which animated our forefathers in the centuries that had passed still animated their children and descendants to-day, and showed that the ancient flame of patriotism and love of liberty, which had always burnt so brightly, was still undimmed, and that their descendants to-day were still ready to carry on the watchwords of the British race: "Let justice and equality reign." It was gratifying to know that the conduct of the British army had been such on the battlefield that no barbarity had been practised, but that simply the stern measures which war made necessary were carried out. It had been shown that the colonies were ready to stand shoulder to shoulder with the people of the old land; which meant that when those barking and carping critics found fault with the British nation, foreign countries would find that they had not merely to deal with the people in England, but that they had to reckon with the British nation throughout the Empire, and with the strength of Britain's stalwart sons under the Southern Cross.

MR. MORAN (East Coolgardie) : It was gratifying that the mover of the motion (Mr. Wilson) had taken trouble to present it to the House in such a manner that the interesting historical references he made in connection with it might be recorded in the pages of

Hansard. He congratulated the mover on the complete way in which he had brought before the House a number of interesting historical references bearing on the subject. There was this small point, however, that he (Mr. Moran) wanted to substitute the word "British" for "English" in regard to questions affecting the Empire, because the use of the word "English" to describe the whole of the British people might cause a little friction hereafter. It should be understood that in these references we meant the British race, of which no branch was more distinguished than another. He had been one of those who had watched with the keenest interest the preparation of our citizen soldiers for the several Contingents: he had watched closely the drilling they underwent before their departure; for he believed in compulsory military drill as a grand cure for larrikinism, and as a means of improving the character of the Australian youth. Now that members of the several Contingents had begun to return from South Africa, and we had seen and welcomed a number of them here, he had been struck with the great difference in their demeanour since they returned as compared with their demeanour before going away. These men who had returned were now like seasoned soldiers; for having faced death in many hideous forms on the battlefield and undergone its numerous perils, they now came back and demeaned themselves as men for whom war had lost its old glamour. He noticed this particularly in the behaviour of the men when they were entertained at luncheon in the Perth Town Hall, for the change was so marked that they now seemed to be men of sterner stuff. He wanted to take this opportunity of reminding the House of what had been remarked by many of those who had visited South Africa, remarked by many of those who had seen the Australian Contingents in camp and on the battlefield, that it was with pardonable pride we were able to say that the Contingents sent from this colony had shone prominently through that war. All the Australian Contingents indeed had done their duty nobly and well, but it was remarkable that in regard to the Contingents sent from this colony we had not heard any complaint of personal misconduct or any

failure of duty among all the men we sent to South Africa. They had acted throughout with most conspicuous bravery; they had taken their part nobly in facing and conquering the Boer wherever they met him; and in now coming back to this colony they had behaved with credit on every occasion. All this was indeed remarkable, and he thought it was due to the fact that we had sent the best-trained men and the best-behaved men among the many hundreds who had volunteered to go to the war. He wanted now to put in a word on behalf of the grand old soldier in Western Australia who was mainly responsible for the training of those men, and fitting them to take a worthy part as members of the several Contingents. It was mainly to the careful training and to the serious words of wisdom which that experienced soldier gave to these men, that the high character which now distinguished them was due. In these remarks he was referring to Major Campbell, and was glad to be able to take this opportunity of saying that members of this House knew how Major Campbell loved his work, how he entered into it heart and soul, how thoroughly he endeared himself to the men; and that above all things he was a soldier, loyal to his Queen and country first. Looking back to the departure of our Contingents, one remembered how many of their friends and admirers followed them to the port, even watching them out to sea, and how when their ship was fading in the dim distance, those friends on the tender heard the words go up from soldiers on deck: "One more cheer for Major Campbell." In coming back now from the war to the colony which sent them forth as soldiers of the Queen and as representatives of the patriotism of Western Australia, he was perfectly certain that when Major Campbell met these men on their return, singly or in groups, his words of welcome would be, "You have done your duty like men!" These men loved and respected Major Campbell because he had been as a father to them in the camp; and although stern, his heart was with the men, because he knew what he was sending them to. He (Mr. Moran) asked the Government to, in some sort, recompense the able and experienced soldier who had enabled us to bear ourselves creditably in the eyes of

the world, as represented by our Contingents in South Africa; and the cablegram in to-day's newspapers showed that we had received another word of high commendation from Lord Roberts, and that our troops were such as any man might be proud of. He was not taking away any honour that attached to the Commandant in this colony, who was ill most of the time our men were in preparation for service abroad, and we all knew the bulk of the work was done by Major Campbell. It was the wish of the Commandant, he believed, that Major Campbell's services should be recognised in this matter; and he (Mr. Moran) laid special stress on this, that a good and faithful servant like Major Campbell should not go without recognition.

MR. VOSPER (North-East Coolgardie): It was distinctly an honour to any member of this House to take part in a discussion of this nature. It was not merely an honour for any member to be able to take some share in the testimonial of gratitude to the brave men who had gallantly served their country and the Empire by undergoing the dangers and the hardships of an arduous campaign in a distant country. Nothing could be more significant of the value of these troops, and of the great difficulties and dangers they had to endure, than the fact that some months ago, when an order was given for a certain duty to be performed by one of our Contingents in South Africa, it was found that out of a total of 130 men who had formed the Contingent on leaving this colony, only some 40 were fit for duty. Their numbers had been reduced by death and disease; thus showing the tremendous hardships they had to encounter, showing also the brave disdain with which they had faced all difficulties, and the terrible results of warfare, when only 40 men were left out of 130 to carry on the work which they were sent to do. Another incident which one might recall to memory was the battle which was fought at Kosta River, when the men of our Contingent were landed at Beira to make their way by a remote route to the scene of war. It was thought that when Mafeking was relieved and Pretoria was held, our men of that Contingent would have no chance of seeing real warfare at the front; yet it happened that on one

occasion they were surprised by the Boers of the district, and an engagement took place in which an incident occurred that cast a stigma on the bravery of our soldiers by the conduct of one of the officers. That officer had hoisted the white flag and offered to surrender to the Boers; but a detachment of our men stood their ground, and not only faced the difficulty of a position in which they were surprised by a large force, but Major Vialls had to take on himself the great responsibility of disregarding the order of his superior officer by holding the ground instead of surrendering to the enemy. Although the white flag continued till evening to float in the distance where first put up as a signal of surrender, yet the men of our Contingent kept up such a fire that none of the enemy could get near it, and that flag was pulled down by our own men at the close of a day of brave and successful defence. Incidents like that might well stir our pulse and warm our blood. The action of Major Vialls reminded one of that famous incident in a naval engagement with the French, when Nelson, seeing the signal of recall, placed the telescope to his blind eye and refused to withdraw his ships out of action, his bravery resulting in one of the greatest British victories on record. The action of Major Vialls was parallel with that of Nelson both in its intent and its effect. While referring to the bravery of our soldiers, he would be sorry to sound a jarring note; but it did appear to him that we should endeavour to turn this testimonial into something of a permanent character. It had been a matter of regret to him to see that in the administration of the funds raised for providing comforts for our soldiers in the field and assisting the relatives they left behind, there had been a certain amount of red-tapeism practised in this colony, by difficulties of a formal nature being interposed in some cases when reasonable claims were made for assistance from the funds. We should brush all that aside, and consider the position of those who were left behind, by the loss of the men who had served their country in war and could never return. He trusted that some provision would be made for every one who had so nobly upheld the credit of Australia, and especially of Western

Australia; and we should be careful not to allow claims to be raised in the present or the future such as would bring discredit on the colony. It was notable that on the occasion of the Queen's Jubilee, one newspaper proprietor in London, by way of showing the neglect of the nation towards some of its heroes, collected at a banquet all the known survivors of the famous "charge of Balclava," as an object lesson to those in power and a lesson to the people generally, by showing that what the nation had neglected to do one benevolent citizen was willing to do at his own expense. It was to be hoped that in Western Australia and throughout Australia generally we might not in time to come have any such stigma cast on us. The way in which many of these men might be rewarded and at the same time made useful to the State, was comparatively simple; for in days to come Australia might have to fight for her own land, and we might hear the sound of hostile guns on our shores; and that being so, what could be more fitting or more useful than that these men who had come back from one of the most extraordinary wars on record should be used as the nucleus of a future Australian army? They had learned a style of fighting peculiarly suited to the country in which we live. Therefore he hoped we should not only provide for making these Australian soldiers useful as a nucleus of a future military organisation for the whole of the States, but that they might become the guides and teachers of the future band of heroes who would defend these shores against foreign aggression. In this way any money expended on our soldiers would have been well spent, and the blood which had been shed would not have been shed in vain. He trusted therefore that this vote would be only the first of similar votes to be moved in days to come, when men might have to fight in defence of our soil and our liberties.

MR. RASON (South Murchison): In sending our military Contingents to South Africa, we did expect great things from them, but he did not think that even the most sanguine among us expected them to do so well as they had done on the battlefield. In all the arduous requirements of warfare, they had proved them-

selves worthy to be classed amongst the best of the soldiers of the Queen. Many of them had been wounded, and many unfortunately had gone to their last home; but to those soldiers who returned to us we should give not only our hearty welcome, but some such recognition as was proposed in the motion. Sympathy, however, was rather an empty mockery in the case of soldiers who had lost their lives, and relatives who had lost their means of support; and he did hope that the people of this country would show their sympathy in a practical form, for if there was anything that could relieve pain, anything that could deaden loss, it was surely the knowledge that some of these men had been wounded and some had died in a noble cause, fighting the battles of the Empire. Of these brave men we might well say their names were

On Fame's eternal bead-roll
Worthy to be filed.

Mr. WALLACE (Yalgoo): Every hon. member must feel proud at the hearty response which had been made to the call to fight for Queen and country. The demonstrations throughout Australia, Canada, and other portions of our vast Empire which had volunteered assistance, showed that the affection existing between Britain and her colonies was greater than had ever been believed. Some provision should be made for those who were maimed, and therefore unable to follow their previous occupations. He would not say positions should be found for the whole of them, unless they were fitted for such positions, but many of the maimed had been in the Government service, and all should certainly be provided for by the Government. It was many years since British colonies had had to make such provision; still, when we looked around and saw the number of old pensioners in the colony, we could rest assured provision would be made for the sick and wounded in this war. Regarding the administration of the Patriotic Fund, it was regrettable that there should be so much red-tapeism preventing the relatives of the dead receiving immediate relief. However, it was not clear that for this anyone was to blame, for in handling these large funds, all possible care must be taken. But there should be no occasion for again mentioning in the House such cases as that

brought forward by the member for North-East Coolgardie (Mr. Vosper). There was now in the colony a body of trained soldiers. Originally these had been placed under the command of what he would call, not unkindly, "ball-room and garden-party officers." The few kindly words of advice from Major Campbell had had more effect than weeks of drill by these garden-party subalterns. Such management, however, was all past; for there was now a class of men having experience in the battlefield, from which competent instructors could be obtained. In losing those who had fallen, the country had made a present sacrifice for the sake of future benefit. Much was due to Major Campbell. He had known how to handle the men, and how to prepare them for what they had to face; and not a man who left these shores for the war had one hard word to say of that officer, whose services should at once be substantially recognised. There had been some friction regarding the reception of the returning soldiers, but the way in which they came back, by twos and threes, rendered a suitable reception difficult. When the bulk of the men returned, it was to be hoped their reception would be as hearty as had been their send-off.

Mr. SOLOMON (South Fremantle) congratulated the mover on the manner in which the motion had been brought forward. All colonists owed a deep debt of gratitude to those who had left our shores in health and strength, many of whom had returned sick and maimed. The men had left with the idea of doing their duty, which duty had been done more effectively, perhaps, than many had expected. When the bulk of the soldiers returned, he hoped, as Mayor of Fremantle, to have the honour of giving them a reception which would demonstrate that the chief port of the colony, as well as Perth, was desirous of welcoming our soldiers. Let us give "honour to whom honour is due."

Mr. PIESSE (Williams): As one who had taken a prominent part in the despatching of the various Contingents, he must record his appreciation of the manner in which the motion had been proposed. He was proud to think our soldiers had so distinguished themselves in South Africa, and that we were on the eve of welcoming home a further number

of both the First and Second Contingents. He hoped the welcome to the troops would be a sufficient proof that the people of the colony highly appreciated their good work and gallant action at the seat of war. This debate would serve to bring under the notice of hon. members a subject frequently discussed by advocates of a military system in the colony. Prior to the last year or so, the defence force vote had invariably been almost annihilated in the Estimates, and this had caused the Defence Department to lose that power which it ought to possess, and which, if attained, would have resulted in a useful military establishment. The member for East Coolgardie (Mr. Moran) had shown the usefulness of military discipline to the rising generation, and that it would in a great measure counteract the larrikin element. Having had opportunities of meeting German soldiers engaged in the ordinary occupations of life, he (Mr. Piesse) had noticed their promptness in obeying orders. The German military system might well be followed. Much good must result from the experience gained in the Transvaal war; but disappointment would follow if it were expected the returning soldiers would form themselves into a militia; for three-fourths of them were men who would not take up war as a profession, most of them being already engaged in other spheres—many as farmers, and some as civil servants. Still, the training the soldiers had received must have a good effect. In Australia the war had roused a spirit of military ardour which would doubtless bear good fruit. An Australian army in the future would come as a matter of course, and the experience gained in the war would be of service to coming generations. He joined in expressing his appreciation of the bravery of our troops, and the great honour they had conferred on Australia by their gallantry during their military career in South Africa.

MR. HALL (Perth): If it were not for the thought of the many brave men who had fallen on both sides during the campaign, the colonies might almost rejoice at the conflict. As there had always been a tendency to belittle anything Australian, so there had been a tendency in the past to laugh at the volunteer forces of the colonies. The war, how-

ever, had proved that the immigration of Britons from one part of the world to another had not lessened their fighting capacity. Regarding Major Campbell, he sincerely hoped there would be no necessity for sending for a commanding officer to the old country when we had that gentleman in our midst. The war had also proved that, although we heard of Australia's intention to "cut the painter," the Australian people were as loyal and true to the old country as the inhabitants of Britain themselves; instance our patriotic demonstrations at any news of a victory, and the intense disappointment and sorrow on receiving intelligence of a defeat. It was not generally known that, at the beginning of the war, a gentleman living in this community had offered, at his own expense, to send a unit of 100 soldiers. At that time, the magnitude of the war had not been fully realised, and the military authorities did not entertain the offer. The Government should seriously consider the necessity of providing for the sick and wounded; and these men should be appointed to any vacancy in the public service for which they were fitted. For the hon. member's motion there were due to him the thanks of the community.

Question put, and passed unanimously.

On further motion by MR. WILSON, resolution forwarded to the Legislative Council, with request for concurrence; and the joint resolution to be transmitted through His Excellency the Administrator to the Commander-in-Chief, Lord Roberts.

The National Anthem (on the initiative of MR. ILLINGWORTH) was then sung in the Chamber, all members standing; followed by three cheers for the Queen.

INDUSTRIAL CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION BILL.

COUNCIL'S AMENDMENTS.

The Council having amended the Bill, the Assembly having thereon made further amendments, and the Council having disagreed with certain of the further amendments, the Council's Message was now considered.

IN COMMITTEE.

Council's Amendment (Assembly dissenting) No. 2, Schedule A.—Strike out the word "eighteen" in line 1, and in-

sert the word "sixteen" in lieu thereof ; and strike out the word "eighteen" in sub-paragraph (b), and insert the word "sixteen" in lieu thereof :

THE PREMIER: The Upper House did not agree to the alteration regarding the age of the worker, which had been originally fixed at 18 years, and which the Assembly had altered to 16. Personally, he was not inclined to resist the Council in this matter, and he moved that the Assembly's amendment be not insisted on.

Question put and passed, and the Assembly's amendment not insisted on.

Council's Amendment No. 5—Strike out the schedule, and insert the following in lieu :

No Industrial Union shall be entitled to commence or continue proceedings in the Court unless it shall lodge with the Registrar of the Supreme Court the sum of Fifty pounds where the number of members does not exceed fifty, and of One hundred pounds where the number exceeds fifty but does not exceed one hundred, and the sum of Two hundred pounds where the number of members exceed one hundred, or shall prove to his satisfaction that it has been placed in some security approved of by him in the joint names of two members of such society and of himself, or shall deposit with the Registrar of the Supreme Court a guarantee, to be approved of by him, to pay and discharge any order of the Court to the amounts herein before mentioned; Provided that no union of employers shall commence or continue proceedings in the Court until it deposits a sum of Two hundred pounds, or finds security for that amount.

[The Assembly having amended the new schedule by reducing the several amounts to be deposited by unions as security on commencing proceedings before the Court, and the Council dissenting from the reduction of the security, the amounts of the deposits were further considered.]

THE PREMIER: This amendment seemed to be a difficult one for this House to agree to. It was a case in which we should try to compromise, and he suggested that we should ask the Legislative Council to split the difference by halving the several amounts mentioned as security to be deposited by industrial unions. For instance, instead of a society having to lodge £50, we could agree to make the amount £25; and in case of a larger society, instead of having to lodge £100 we could make it £50; and so on, halving

all the amounts which the clause required to be deposited. As there had been so much insistence shown in regard to some amount being put up as security on both sides, it was not wise to risk the loss of the Bill by insisting on no amount being lodged at all. The words in the first line "or continue" might be struck out, for it might be held that if a defendant wished to continue the proceedings he might be called upon also to put up an amount before the case could proceed, whereas the party first commencing the proceedings should be the one to lodge the amount, and the defendant in the case should not be required to lodge an amount before his defence could be heard.

MR. ILLINGWORTH: Why not accept the Council's amendment? The words "or continue" ought to remain in, because one party might begin an action, and because the other party did not put up a deposit to cover costs, the action could not be continued, as both parties had to put up amounts to cover costs. This showed the absurdity of the clause. The party who desired to defeat the other party could do so by refusing to put up costs, because both parties had to put up costs according to the clause.

THE PREMIER: No; only the party beginning the proceedings.

MR. ILLINGWORTH: We had struck out of the Bill any right for the court to grant costs, and each party must pay its own costs if it engaged a solicitor. The court was not constituted for giving awards concerning money, but had to settle questions of wages and whether certain men who were not unionists should be discharged from a particular employment. He could see that, according to this clause, an adverse side might defeat the whole proceedings; and there was no necessity for the clause, because no sum for costs should be put up. If it was considered wise to concede this point in order to save the Bill, let it be so; but he would rather have a conference between the two Houses on the question.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (having returned to the Chamber) said: As regarded the phraseology of the clause, there was much to be said in support of the contention of the member who had just spoken in regard to the words "or continue." The clause would hit not only the person who brought the question

before the court, but would hit the defendant as well. To remove ambiguity we might say "and continue" instead of "or continue," as we desired that the measure should become law this session. The clause would then read: "No industrial union should be entitled to commence and continue proceedings in the court," etc.; the conjunctive "and" being substituted for the disjunctive "or." As the clause stood now, it applied not only to the person who started the proceedings, but also to the defendant, and both sides might be required to put up security.

MR. WILSON: That was what it ought to be.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL: But surely the defendant, being there against his will, should not be required to put up security before the defence could be heard. He moved that the word "or" be struck out and the word "and" inserted in lieu.

MR. GEORGE: Assuming proceedings to be started, and that the party who started the appeal did not go on, and was desirous of dropping it, then the defendant might say he would go on with the case because he wished to get a decision on the principle involved.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL: If the workers brought their employer before the court, and the workers afterwards dropped the proceedings, the court would only have to make the party who brought the case pay the costs of the attendance of witnesses on either side. It would not be competent for the defendant to put himself in the position of the plaintiff by continuing the case, and the word "continue" would have no effect in that case, because if the defendant wanted to start proceedings he would have to begin *de novo*.

Amendment (Attorney General's) put and passed, the word "and" being substituted for "or" in the first line.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL: The whole question of security was, to the mind of any impartial person, repugnant to this Bill altogether, but we had to pay regard to opinions of another place as well as our own. The amounts were too large, and he moved that they be reduced by one half in each case. There was another amendment later on having reference to employers, and, in regard to that, the sum of £200 was an outrageous

amount. The amount really should be reduced to £50. Why should we ask an employer to find £200? We started with a union of between 15 and 50, and that union would have to put up £25. It became a question whether the employer ought not to be in the same box.

MR. PIESSE: If there were a union of employers, £100 would not be too much; but if there were only one employer, the sum might be too high.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL: The dispute might be a small one, and why should they have to put up £100?

MR. ILLINGWORTH: There must be a union of employers before the employers could go to the court.

MR. PIESSE: One employer could approach the court.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL said he could not see why the amount of security should be increased *pro rata* to the number of people in the union, because the expense was just the same whether the union consisted of 15 or 500.

MR. ILLINGWORTH: To adopt the Council's amendment would be only linking ourselves to an absurd clause.

Question put and passed.

Council's Amendment No. 12 (Assembly dissenting)—Clause 44, Sub-clause 1, in the fifth and sixth lines of the third paragraph, strike out "present and voting by ballot," and insert "on the rolls of such association or union voting by ballot or by proxy":

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL: Although feeling strongly on this question, he feared there was great danger of the Council not accepting the amendment he had intended to propose. The amendments hon. members did not agree with could be subject to alteration at a future time, and with that object in view he moved that the Council's amendment be agreed to.

Question put and passed, and the amendment agreed to.

Resolutions reported, the report adopted, and a Message transmitted to the Legislative Council.

REMEDIES OF CREDITORS AMENDMENT BILL.

— COUNCIL'S AMENDMENTS.

Schedule of two amendments made by the Legislative Council, considered.

IN COMMITTEE.

No. 1, Clause 1, line 3, strike out "six" and insert "eight."

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL: This amendment had reference to the amount of interest which a judgment debtor would have to pay. The Bill when it left this House fixed the amount at 6 per cent., and the other House had altered it to 8 per cent. Inasmuch as the present interest was 10 per cent. he moved that the amendment made by the Legislative Council be agreed to.

Question put and passed.

No. 2, Title, add following words: "as to interest on judgments:"

Council's second amendment also agreed to.

Resolutions reported, report adopted, and a Message transmitted to the Legislative Council.

GOLDFIELDS ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

COUNCIL'S AMENDMENT.

Amendment made by the Legislative Council considered.

IN COMMITTEE.

Council's Amendment—Clause 4, strike out the following paragraph: "Nothing in this section shall apply to the goldfields of East Coolgardie and North-East Coolgardie for at least twelve months after the passing of this Act":

THE MINISTER OF MINES moved that the Council's amendment be agreed to. This merely brought the Bill back to its original state when introduced. The member for North-East Coolgardie (Mr. Vosper) had moved an amendment to insert a paragraph exempting East Coolgardie and North-East Coolgardie from the operation of the Bill in regard to homestead leases, and he was supported by the member for East Coolgardie (Mr. Moran). As the goldfields members in another place had more recently come from the country, it was possible they were more in touch with public opinion than members of this House.

MR. VOSPER: The member for East Coolgardie and himself looked on the scheme for giving areas of 20 acres on the goldfields and 500 acres in more remote districts as a disguise for dummying, and we failed to conceive that any public good would be obtained by the

granting of large areas on the Eastern goldfields, as they could not be used for pastoral or agricultural purposes. The position of a person who was able to obtain a pastoral lease of 20 acres in the vicinity of Kalgoorlie or Boulder was a magnificent one. Although goldfields members in another place came more recently from the country, those members represented the propertied interests on the goldfields and not the body of miners generally. The objection which came from the Council was from the exponents of the rights of property, and he could quite understand the position which those members took up. The member for East Coolgardie and himself spoke on behalf of the working miners, who did not desire to see large areas held for speculative purposes. The effect of the striking out of the paragraph would be to promote landlordism and dummyism on the goldfields. Therefore we were more in accord with public opinion than the members who had supported the amendment in another place. If a referendum of the people on the goldfields were taken, the amendment made by the Council would be defeated by an overwhelming majority.

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

Ayes	...	...	...	13
Noes	...	...	...	8

Majority for ... 5

Ayes.	Noes.
Sir John Forrest	Mr. Hall
Mr. A. Forrest	Mr. Holmes
Mr. D. Forrest	Mr. Illingworth
Mr. George	Mr. Oats
Mr. Higham	Mr. Solomon
Mr. Hubble	Mr. Vosper
Mr. Jeffrey	Mr. Wallace
Mr. Pennefather	Mr. Moran (Teller).
Mr. Piessie	
Mr. Quinlan	
Mr. Throssell	
Mr. Wood	
Mr. Reason (Teller).	

Question thus passed, and the Council's amendment agreed to.

Resolution reported, and the report adopted.

PERTH PUBLIC HOSPITAL.

SELECT COMMITTEE'S REPORT, ADOPTION MOVED.

MR. HALL (Perth), in moving the adoption of the report, said the report had been for some little time before the House, and no doubt hon. members

had read it closely. The report was made after a good deal of consideration, and after the committee had held a great number of meetings; and as a large number of witnesses were examined, he ventured to think the report was extremely moderate and fair. The select committee expressed their pleasure at the cleanliness of the Hospital, which in this respect was undoubtedly beyond reproach; but the committee found considerable friction amongst members of the medical profession, and were of opinion that the friction was detrimental to the best interests of the institution and of the community. It was thought there should be a change in the mode of management. In other colonies, notably Victoria, the hospital committees were composed entirely of laymen and chosen by subscribers; whereas in Perth, the medical profession or some of the profession seemed to have almost the entire control of the Public Hospital, with the result that there had been a close corporation, leading to friction and jealousy. One notable case which had come before the select committee was the investigation into the death of the man Rodgers. His case had been mentioned in moving for a select committee, and the committee were unanimously of opinion that the jury who inquired into that case did their duty in a thoroughly efficient manner; but the committee found that the depositions taken at that inquest were very incomplete, that most important matters had been entirely left out of them, and that therefore it was not surprising the Colonial Secretary wrote his minute to the effect that the verdict was in accordance with the evidence. The Colonial Secretary was right so far as the evidence tendered to him went; but it had been acknowledged by the officer who took the evidence that the evidence was incomplete; and, therefore, although the depositions were read over to and signed by the witnesses, the committee, finding them to be incomplete, were decidedly of opinion that in such cases *verbatim* records should be taken. The friendly societies complained of the management of the Hospital, inasmuch as their members were excluded from its benefits. The member for North Murchison (Mr. Moorhead), when shown the report, had laughingly said that he had been a

member of the Perth Hospital Board, but had not attended for three years, because he had found that the medical profession almost entirely ran the institution. The report might well be left in the hands of the House. It had been arrived at after prolonged consideration, and the cost of this committee had been some £22 10s. only; and that, in comparison with the cost of many other similar committees was extremely small. He moved that the report be adopted.

On motion by MR. QUINLAN, debate adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT.

The House adjourned at 10:55 o'clock, until the next day.

Legislative Council,

Tuesday, 4th December, 1900.

Paper presented—Question: Northampton Railway Station—Question: Patriotic Poem, Mr. F. L. Weiss
—Railways Amendment Bill, second reading, etc.—
Boulder Health Rates Validation Bill, second reading, etc.—Resolution: Public Service, to grade and classify—Conspiracy and Protection of Property Bill, second reading, etc.—Water Street (North Fremantle) Closure Bill, second reading, etc.—Bank Holidays Further Amendment Bill, second reading, Division (negated)—Public Service Bill: Administrator's suggested Amendments—Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Bill: Assembly's further amendment (amount of security)
—Assembly's Resolution: Military Contingents, W.A., thanks to soldiers, sympathy to sufferers—Bills of Sale Amendment Bill, second reading, etc.—Perth Electric Tramways Lighting and Power Bill (private), second reading, Amendment (six months) passed—Criminal Law Amendment Bill (age of consent, etc.), second reading, etc.—Motion: Guano (Abrothos), to permit export (adjourned)—Adjournment.

THE PRESIDENT took the Chair at 4:30 o'clock, p.m.

PRAYERS.