

## ADJOURNMENT.

The House adjourned at 10-37 o'clock, until the next day.

## Legislative Assembly,

Thursday, 22nd November, 1906.

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The SPEAKER took the Chair at 4-30 o'clock p.m.

## PRAYERS.

## QUESTION—DOCK AT FREMANTLE.

MR. ANGWIN asked the Minister for Works: 1, Does the Government intend this session introducing a Bill for the construction of a graving dock at Fremantle? 2, If not, why not?

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS replied: The Government intends to immediately put in hand farther investigations to settle the question of site. It is believed that this can be determined during the recess. Any legislation which may be necessary will be introduced next session.

## QUESTION—HARBOUR WORKSHOPS AT FREMANTLE.

MR. ANGWIN asked the Minister for Works: 1, Does the Government intend closing the Harbour Workshops, particularly the Pipe Works, at Fremantle? 2, If not, why are the men being dismissed?

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS replied: 1, No, but the number of men may be expected to vary from time to time according to the Government demand for pipes. 2, Men belonging to the ordinary

workshop staff and pipe-foundry staff are not being dismissed, but some 30 men employed on repairs to the dredge "Premier," and on some heavy castings for the Goldfields Water Supply and Metropolitan Waterworks Board, both of which works are finished, have been recently dispensed with.

## PAPERS PRESENTED.

By the TREASURER: 1, Report on the Agricultural Bank to 30th June, 1906. 2, Report of the Department of Agriculture to 30th June, 1906. 3, Report of the Central Board of Health to 30th June, 1906.

## BILL—LAND TAX ASSESSMENT.

## COUNCIL'S AMENDMENTS.

Order read for consideration of the Legislative Council's Message No. 31 (dissenting from the Assembly's proposal for a free conference on amendments requested by the Council).

THE TREASURER moved that Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair for the purpose of farther considering in Committee the Legislative Council's Message No. 25 [namely, schedule of amendments returned by the Council with request that they be made in the Bill by the Assembly].

Question passed.

## IN COMMITTEE.

No. 1—Clause 2, line 7, after the word "planting" insert the words "roads made or macadamised by the owner," and after the words "wells" insert "pumps, windmills, and other apparatus for raising water":

THE TREASURER saw no objection to this amendment, and moved that it be agreed to.

Question passed, the amendment made as requested.

No. 2—Clause 9, Subclause 3, add at the end the following: "Provided that this subsection shall not apply to any person absent from Australia on the public service":

Amendment agreed to.

No. 3—Clause 11, paragraph (d), "strike out all the words after "the Mines Act 1904":

**THE TREASURER:** As members would see, this amendment removed timber leases or licenses from the list of exemptions. The Assembly, in dealing with this clause, had thought it reasonable that these should be exempted. He moved "That the Council's amendment be made" (as requested).

**MR. A. J. WILSON:** When a pastoral lease was granted over a timber lease, who would pay the tax? Would there be a double tax?

**THE TREASURER:** In such cases a clause provided for the apportionment of the tax.

**MR. A. J. WILSON:** How would the assessment value of the land be arrived at when the timber lessee had no exclusive right of occupancy?

**THE TREASURER:** With this the Government had nothing to do. Assessors and valuers would be appointed for the purpose.

**MR. BATH:** The assessors should have no difficulty. It appeared that when a timber lessee acquired a right over a pastoral lease, the land became of little use to the pastoralist. The dual holding was most unsatisfactory, the timber company receiving by far the greater advantage.

Question put and passed, the amendment made.

No. 4—Clause 11, Subclause 2, strike out the subclause:

**THE TREASURER** moved "That the Committee decline to make the amendment." The subclause exempted all lands the unimproved value of which did not exceed £50, the exemption being in favour of the small man who was trying to establish a home. The revenue derivable by taxing such lands would be small.

**MR. BATH** opposed the Treasurer's motion. Desiring to see the measure carried through with as little delay as possible, he believed it would be in the best interests if we accepted the suggested amendment. It would enable us to raise more money, and would simplify administration. Though the Treasurer said the amount that would be raised by taxing the persons specified in this clause would be small, the valuation must be made just the same, so that there would be no saving to the department on that

score; and though the items would be small individually, when accumulated if all the exemption were omitted from the Bill, it would bring in £30,000 in excess of what the Treasurer estimated was likely to be received with the exemptions.

**MR. GORDON:** The hon. member favoured exemptions at one time.

**MR. BUTCHER:** We should make the suggested amendment. When the Bill was first brought down, he did not consider the land tax was advisable; but things had taken a different course altogether, and now we had a huge Loan Bill before us, so that it would be absolutely necessary, if development was to go on in the State, that we should look round for farther money to meet our obligations when loans were raised. In the circumstances he now desired to see the Bill become law, and to see that the small man paid his quota towards the revenue of the country as well as any other man, because unquestionably the small man would receive equal benefit from the expenditure of loan moneys. If we struck out this exemption to £50, it would bring in nearly £8,000, and probably with all the exemptions deleted, the additional revenue would be even more than was suggested by the Leader of the Opposition.

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

Ayes	...	...	...	25
Noes	...	...	...	9
Majority for				16

**AYES.**

Mr. Barnett  
Mr. Brebber  
Mr. Cowcher  
Mr. Daglish  
Mr. Davies  
Mr. Eddy  
Mr. Ewing  
Mr. Foulkes  
Mr. Gordon  
Mr. Hayward  
Mr. Hicks  
Mr. Keenan  
Mr. Layman  
Mr. McLarty  
Mr. Male  
Mr. Mitchell  
Mr. Monger  
Mr. S. F. Moore  
Mr. Piesse  
Mr. Price  
Mr. Stone  
Mr. A. J. Wilson  
Mr. F. Wilson  
Mr. Hardwick (Teller).

**NOES.**

Mr. Angwin  
Mr. Bolton  
Mr. Brown  
Mr. Butcher  
Mr. Gull  
Mr. Stuart  
Mr. Underwood  
Mr. Ware  
Mr. Bath (Teller).

Question thus passed, the Council's request not agreed to.

No. 5.—Clause 11, Subclause 3, strike out:

**THE TREASURER:** This subclause provided for the £250 exemption on rural lands. The same arguments would apply to this amendment as to the previous one. He moved "That the Committee decline to make the requested amendment."

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

Ayes	...	...	25
Noes	...	...	9
Majority for			16

**AYES.**  
 Mr. Barnett.  
 Mr. Brebber  
 Mr. Butcher  
 Mr. Cowcher  
 Mr. Daglish  
 Mr. Davies  
 Mr. Eddy  
 Mr. Ewing  
 Mr. Foulkes  
 Mr. Gordon  
 Mr. Gregory  
 Mr. Hayward  
 Mr. Hicks  
 Mr. Keenan  
 Mr. Layman  
 Mr. McLarty  
 Mr. Male  
 Mr. Mitchell  
 Mr. Monger  
 Mr. S. F. Moore  
 Mr. Piesse  
 Mr. Price  
 Mr. Stone  
 Mr. A. J. Wilson  
 Mr. F. Wilson  
 Mr. Hardwick (Teller).

**NOES.**  
 Mr. Angwin  
 Mr. Bolton  
 Mr. Brown  
 Mr. Butcher  
 Mr. Gull  
 Mr. Stuart  
 Mr. Underwood  
 Mr. Ware  
 Mr. Bath (Teller).

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

Ayes	...	...	26
Noes	...	...	8
Majority for			18

<b>AYES.</b>	<b>NOES.</b>
Mr. Barnett	Mr. Angwin
Mr. Brebber	Mr. Bath
Mr. Butcher	Mr. Bolton
Mr. Cowcher	Mr. Brown
Mr. Daglish	Mr. Underwood
Mr. Davies	Mr. Walker
Mr. Eddy	Mr. Ware
Mr. Ewing	Mr. Stuart (Teller).
Mr. Foulkes	
Mr. Gordon	
Mr. Gregory	
Mr. Gull	
Mr. Hayward	
Mr. Hicks	
Mr. Keenan	
Mr. Layman	
Mr. McLarty	
Mr. Male	
Mr. Mitchell	
Mr. Monger	
Mr. S. F. Moore	
Mr. Piesse	
Mr. Price	
Mr. A. J. Wilson	
Mr. F. Wilson	
Mr. Hardwick (Teller).	

Question thus passed, the Council's request not agreed to.

No. 7.—Clause 31, Subclause (8), after the word "shall" insert "in the case of a company registered in Australia":

No. 8.—Subclause (8), after the word "business" insert "and in case of a Company registered outside Australia, within three months after its establishment or beginning to carry on business":

**THE TREASURER** moved "That the amendment be made."

Question passed, the Council's request agreed to.

No. 9.—Clause 32, Subclause (1), strike out all the words after the word "excessive":

**THE TREASURER** moved "That the amendment be made." It appeared to him that we might agree to this amendment, because it was only fair that a man should have the right to appeal against any assessment, whether it was in excess of, or under, that of any local authority.

Question passed, the Council's request agreed to.

No. 10.—Subclause (4), strike out this subclause:

**THE TREASURER** moved "That the amendment be made." This was a question of the publicity of proceedings in a

Question thus passed, the Council's request not agreed to.

No. 6.—Subclause (4), strike out this subclause:

**THE TREASURER** moved "That the Committee decline to make the amendment."

**MR. H. BROWN:** The exemption of conditional purchases must be opposed, the main policy of the Government being to extend railways in every direction. According to the Engineer-in-Chief, we were going to have a yearly loss on the spur lines already made, and also on others contemplated. In the case of the Jandakot Railway, built at a cost exceeding £4,000 per mile, the Commissioner of Railways estimated the revenue to be derived in the coming year at £150. These considerations compelled him to oppose the motion.

court of review. The subclause was inserted in order to enable the court, on the application of the appellant, to require persons to withdraw from the court.

MR. ANGWIN: Would the excision of this clause mean that witnesses of any description, who were to be brought forward, could not remain in the court?

THE TREASURER: Yes.

MR. FOULKES: Any court had the right to ask that all persons should leave the court. The reason for asking witnesses to leave the court was that they might not hear the evidence given by other witnesses.

THE TREASURER: The general rules of procedure would apply in this court, and if it was considered detrimental to the bearing of the case that witnesses should be permitted to remain in court they could be ordered to withdraw. Under this subclause, however, upon the application of the appellant, every one, the public, could be excluded. The Legislative Council asked that the clause should be struck out, in order that the proceedings should be as public as the proceedings of any other court.

Question passed, the Council's request agreed to.

No. 11.—Clause 35, add the following words at the end: "Provided, however, that the tax may be paid in equal half-yearly instalments":

THE TREASURER moved—

That the Committee decline to make the amendment.

The insertion of these words would make it optional on the part of a taxpayer to pay either in moieties or in one sum. If notices had to be sent out half-yearly instead of yearly in connection with a tax of this description, the cost of administration would be largely increased. He did not apprehend that the tax would be so heavy on individuals that they could not pay in one sum. [MR. GULL: Not at present.] If we found later that yearly payments were working hardship, the matter could be reconsidered.

MR. H. BROWN trusted the amendment would be made. If the tax were collected in two instalments, the towns, which would bear the greatest burden under this taxation would only be required to pay six months' taxation during the current year, as the Bill would prob-

ably be assented to in December. He hoped the fact would become known in the country that the Government who had been pleading poverty had refused the opportunity of increasing their revenue at the instigation of another place. Members generally should vote for the amendment to be made and thus afford relief to the towns, which it had been said by the Minister for Agriculture (Hon. J. Mitchell) and the Treasurer, would bear the greater portion of this taxation.

MR. GORDON supported the Treasurer's motion. The amount to be raised by the tax was small, and the Government should arrange for the collection of the tax at harvest time, which was the best time for the purpose. It was not of much moment to men in towns on wages as to when the tax was collected, but it was of considerable importance to the men working on the land.

MR. BATH: It would simplify administration if the tax were collected once a year; and, as pointed out by the Treasurer, if it were found that this method of collection worked a hardship a change to collection by instalments could be made later on. He supported the Treasurer because he strongly favoured reducing the cost of administration as far as possible.

MR. ANGWIN: It would not be necessary for collecting by instalments, to send out notices every six months, as one notice would suffice. This was the system adopted in connection with municipal taxation, and it could be applied to this tax. The Government proposal would work a hardship on taxpayers in towns; but were every part of the State to be equally treated, he would not object. This measure exempted the country and penalised the town. Municipalities would require to levy high rates to make up the deficiency caused by the reduction of the municipal subsidies.

MR. FOULKES was sure the Government did not attach great importance to the amendment made by another place, nor did he believe the Government wished to inflict a hardship on any taxpayers. It would be a relief if the tax were collected in two instalments, and there need not be additional expense, as the one notice, showing the dates on which the respective instalments were payable, would suffice.

He knew of no tax, except the dog and wheel taxes, which were collected in one amount.

**THE TREASURER:** The income tax?

**MR. FOULKES** was not sure about the income tax; but he urged the Government, if they did not desire to inflict hardship, to permit this tax to be paid in two moieties.

**MR. H. BROWN:** In some instances in Perth the amount of the tax would be £300, and under the Government proposal this amount would require to be paid within 30 days. Many struggling storekeepers and other taxpayers would have to pay £30 or £40 each, and for some persons the immediate payment of such amounts would be more than they could stand. The amount payable in country districts was so small that no hardship would be entailed by its collection in one amount; but he appealed to members on both sides to make this iniquitous tax payable in two instalments.

**MR. GORDON:** If the suggestion were adopted to collect the tax at harvest time, the struggling storekeeper would be in a better position to pay the full tax than to meet a demand in midwinter for half the amount. Harvest-time was a period when money was plentiful in town, as at that time the commercial houses were getting in money.

**MR. BREBBER:** The tax would be collected mainly in small sums, and if the collection was made in two instalments the cost of collection would absorb a great proportion of the tax. The member for Perth represented a constituency which was in an exceptional position, as Perth contained property of a higher unimproved value than any other part of the State; hence the member for Perth was correct in his statement that it would be advantageous to his constituents to have the tax collectable in two instalments. But the member for Perth should take a wider view of this tax than he took of most other questions. The tax would affect part of his (Mr. Brebber's) constituency in exactly the same way as the hon. member's; but the proposal to increase the cost of collection by dividing the tax in two parts was ridiculous and unjust. The wisest course was that recommended by the Government; the tax would cost

less to collect, would not increase the cost to the taxpayer, and therefore would do greater good to the country. He would support the motion.

**MR. WALKER:** Apparently the last speaker presumed it was a pleasure for the taxpayer to keep large sums of money ready on demand. Could the hon. member say from his municipal experience that municipal tax-collectors always obtained the amounts demanded at the first call. The last straw broke the camel's back; and suppose a rate collector called to-day and emptied the purse of the occupier or owner of land, and next day the Government collector came along for the whole year's tax in advance, could there be anything more annoying? Again and again ratepayers fell into arrears and had to be threatened, sometimes extreme courses being taken. Whether the tax was paid yearly or not, the Government would have some difficulty and expense in collecting it. If the tax had to be paid a year in advance, more likely still would it be that the Government would experience difficulties in its collection. Every person would rather pay the amount in two instalments than in one sum. It was a principle sacred to legislation that we should make the burdens of the people as light as possible. That principle had governed in the past, but now a new rule seemed to be started by those who had no sympathy or experience of Parliamentary government. The difficulty of collection would be as great if it were an annual collection as it would be if a half-yearly collection. There must be duns for those who did not pay up. If a staff had to be kept to collect rates in arrears, what extra expense would be incurred on the country by that staff collecting half-yearly instead of yearly?

**MR. GORDON:** Did the hon. member know anything about the incidence of taxation?

**MR. WALKER:** He knew something about the member for the Zoo, who should be muzzled. He believed the hon. member was anxious to get back the Whipship.

**MR. GORDON:** The hon. member was dirt, pure dirt.

**MR. WALKER:** The hon. member's argument consisted of two words, "harvest" and "midwinter."

**THE CHAIRMAN:** The member speaking must confine himself to the question.

**MR. GORDON:** The hon. member had been confined already.

**MR. WALKER:** What did the member for Canning mean?

**MR. GORDON:** The hon. member was confined here now, for the time being.

**MR. WALKER:** The hon. member used a vulgar and insolent insinuation.

**THE CHAIRMAN:** Order!

**MR. WALKER:** hoped that at least if one member, especially the member for Canning, was allowed to have free latitude with a licentious tongue, he (Mr. Walker) might be permitted to reply as licentiously. What the hon. member had to say to him he had better say outside.

**MR. GORDON** would say it anywhere. The hon. member need not worry about that.

**MR. WALKER:** On the question before the Committee, people in town or country would rather pay half-yearly than yearly.

**MR. GORDON:** As regarded the incidence of taxation, it was laid down that if people were taxed they should be taxed at the time they could best pay. The best time for country people to pay was at harvest time, and the best time for city men to pay was once a year when money was coming in from the country. He was sorry he had raised the ire of the member for Kanowna. The hon. member had several times attacked him, not in a subdued voice, and said he should be muzzled. That statement was repeated more than once in this House before he took exception to it; but now he did take exception to it. Whilst the hon. member was in this Chamber let him confine his language decently.

**MR. UNDERWOOD:** There was little chance of there being any collection of this tax at all. The collection of such a miserable tax once in two years would be sufficient. To attempt to split up the collection of such a small affair was ridiculous. We had been told over and over again about the poor man owning land, but what about the poor man who did not own land? A man owning a block of land worth £100 would pay somewhere about 6s. 3d., yet there was a desire to split that into two instalments of 3s. 1½d. each. We had heard about

the rates paid to municipalities and roads boards. If people did not want to pay those rates they need not do so. The only thing would be that they would have to go without roads.

**MR. ANGWIN:** In the last 12 months he had seen people with tears in their eyes on account of their inability to pay the rates. There had repeatedly been great difficulty in getting payment of rates in our municipalities.

**MR. GORDON:** The hon. member was in favour of the tax, was he not?

**MR. ANGWIN:** Yes. There was scarcely a town in the country districts that was not taxed, and it was the duty of the Government to make this tax fall as lightly as possible. People should be allowed to pay the tax in such instalments as suited them best. He had made a request in regard to a council that quarterly payments might be made. The Government said that if the people did not pay this tax within 30 days they would have to pay 10 per cent. extra, so they were going to fine people for their poverty. It was not always the poor man who could not pay. A man in business might find it hard to find the money when due, and he would be penalised.

**MR. H. BROWN** moved an amendment that the following be added to the clause:—

Provided, however, that the tax may be paid in equal half-yearly instalments in the municipalities of Perth and Fremantle.

He and other hon. members with municipal experience in Perth knew that every year hundreds of warrants of distress had to be signed and issued against defaulting rate-payers for collection of rates. This land tax alone would be equivalent in the towns to a 9d. municipal rate. Another place which we looked on as a conservative body was prepared to help the struggling tradesman or agriculturist by allowing him to pay the tax in half-yearly instalments; and surely a democratic House like this should assist the worthy amendment which had emanated from another place. During the last ten years the condition of Perth had not been so bad as at present, and this was no time for harsh methods of taxation.

Amendment by leave withdrawn.

**MR. BOLTON** supported payment in two moieties. In North Fremantle some ratepayers were unable to pay even half-

yearly, and weekly instalments had to be accepted. If the half-yearly collection proved too costly, the Treasurer could easily revert to the original proposal; but demanding the tax in a lump sum would lead to numerous appeals.

Mr. VERYARD supported the Council's amendment. Surely every member with municipal experience must agree that people paying a new tax should be let down lightly.

Question (not to accept amendment) put, and a division taken with the following result:—

Ayes	...	...	...	17
Noes	...	...	...	16

Majority for ... .. 1

AYES.	NOES.
Mr. Bath	Mr. Augwin
Mr. Brebber	Mr. Bolton
Mr. Ewing	Mr. Brown
Mr. Gordon	Mr. Butcher
Mr. Gregory	Mr. Cowcher
Mr. Hardwick	Mr. Daglish
Mr. Hayward	Mr. Davies
Mr. Keenan	Mr. Eddy
Mr. Mitchell	Mr. Foulkes
Mr. Monger	Mr. Gull
Mr. S. F. Moore	Mr. McLarty
Mr. Price	Mr. Male
Mr. Stuart	Mr. Veryard
Mr. Underwood	Mr. Walker
Mr. A. J. Wilson	Mr. Ware
Mr. F. Wilson	Mr. Holman (Teller).
Mr. Layman (Teller).	

Question thus passed, the Council's request not agreed to.

Resolutions reported; the report adopted.

Reasons for declining to make four of the suggested amendments were drawn up and adopted, and a message accordingly returned to the Council.

#### ANNUAL ESTIMATES, 1906-7.

##### IN COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY.

Resumed from the previous day, Mr. ILLINGWORTH in the Chair.

COLONIAL SECRETARY'S ESTIMATES CONTINUED (HON. J. D. CONNOLLY Minister), the TREASURER now in charge of these Estimates.

Vote—Office of Colonial Secretary, £8,611:

##### ON THESE ESTIMATES GENERALLY.

Mr. BATH: After perusing these Estimates, he would withdraw his statement that Ministers were drifting they

knew not whither. He perceived that in these Estimates there was a certain amount of method, not in the madness, but certainly in the eccentricities of the Government to which members had been treated during the session. In view of the portents of the time, it seemed that the Ministry would require the Caves over which there had been a good deal of discussion in the House, to retire to at no distant date. Apparently by providing extra votes for Police, Gaols, and Lunacy, the Government had made provision for the victims of their disastrous control of affairs. In connection with the Police Department, matters had come under his notice from a perusal of the files on the table dealing with various officers of the department, showing that there must be grave reasons of complaint from members of the force and the public generally as to the administration of the Police Department. There were on the table voluminous files of papers dealing with the case of ex-Constable Tyler, and papers dealing with the case of ex-Constable Carroll, and there was also the matter brought up yesterday in reference to ex-Constable Casserley. It seemed that the great fault in administration was that the rank and file of the police force were hampered by the dictatorial methods of the central office. Every man at heart was a rebel. Conservatives rebelled against the encroachments of radicalism, in the tendency to be more liberal in legislation, and radicals rebelled against too conservative control of affairs, and it was only natural that in the majority of the community there was a certain latent rebellion against constituted authority, which we should bear in mind when we heard criticisms against the police. Generally speaking, throughout the State we had competent men and officers in the police force who did their work with a great deal of discretion. However, it was apparent to those who travelled throughout the State that there was a great deal of discontent in the service at the methods of control exercised at headquarters, so that we could not hope to have that degree of efficiency we might otherwise enjoy if there was satisfaction throughout the force and if there was no reason to complain against dictatorial control from headquarters. There was difficulty in

having just grievances remedied. In some instances, boards of inquiry were appointed; but after going through the file relating to ex-constable Tyler, one was led to the conclusion that, despite an apparent irritability, that officer had a great deal to complain of against the method of control on the part of his immediately superior officer and in the great length of time taken to hear his complaints and decide them. There was as much ground for complaint on the part of the Commissioner against ex-constable Tyler's superior officer who laid the charges against him, as there was in any action taken by ex-constable Tyler himself. It seemed that there was also some ground for complaint in the case of ex-constable Casserley. That officer's service entitled him to a considerable gratuity, but owing to the fact that there were certain misdemeanours recorded against him, all he received on leaving the service was the amount he had contributed to the benefit fund. It was really taking money from the police officers under false pretences. When an officer joined the force, he was told that by the contribution of a certain sum to the benefit fund, he would be entitled to a certain amount after a period of service; and if at the end of the term, for one or two delinquencies—and even the best officer was liable to be guilty of those—the officer was to be denied, really defrauded of the amount to which he was entitled, there was something wrong with the administration of the police department. There were only three trivial grounds of complaint against ex-constable Casserley, but for those he was denied the amount to which he was entitled for the length of time spent in the service. There was ground for complaint owing to the fact that in some instances officers dismissed from the police force were denied boards of inquiry. In the Police Department which to a certain extent was administered with military precision, and naturally with the restrictions of that militarism, it was only natural that officers would have reason to complain bitterly of the treatment meted out to them. It was only necessary that one of their superior officers should not be carrying out his duties in a proper manner for those under him to suffer and to have grave reasons for complaint; but

while in many instances the superior officer who caused the trouble went scot-free, those under him who were innocent of any delinquencies were made to suffer, and when they asked that their cases should be heard or that investigation should be made, they were denied a board of inquiry. In the Railway Department, we had it on the authority of the Commissioner and the Minister for Railways that the boards of inquiry constituted under the Railways Act had in the majority of instances given satisfaction. If so, why should the police force be denied a similar privilege to that enjoyed by the servants of the Railway Department? If there was reason to believe that injustice was done to officers, they were entitled to have their grievances remedied, or at least an investigation made by a board of inquiry constituted in an impartial way. In regard to the Medical and Health Department, as the Treasurer informed us yesterday, the factories work previously controlled by the Minister for Labour, was now administered by the Health Department. Whatever might be urged on behalf of this alteration on the score of economy, it could not be commended on the score of efficient administration of factories legislation. The factory inspectors would probably not be afforded an opportunity of carrying out their work in an efficient way under the control of the medical gentleman in charge of the Central Board of Health, because it stood to reason that the Chief Medical Officer would have no acquaintance with many matters which were purely matters for expert officers trained in factories inspection work. Especially was this true in Western Australia where we had an opportunity, by providing an efficient department of factories inspection, to make the necessary alterations to ensure that the health and welfare of the workers in our factories would be protected, without placing a large burden on the factory owners. If after our industries grew and buildings were erected the necessity arose for more efficient administration of factories, it would mean that the owners of the factories would be involved in more expense than would be necessary at the present time. That was the main contention when the Act was passed. It was pointed out by Mr. Walter James,



who was in charge of the Factories Bill, that it was a fitting time, at the inception of our factories, to see when the factories were being built that the interests of those employed were protected.

**THE TREASURER:** We would still have a chief inspector of factories.

**MR. BATH:** There was a possibility that the medical gentleman controlling the Health Department would look at the matter purely and simply from a health point of view, and that officers would be retained on that score, while officers with special fitness to administer work in factories would be set aside on the ground of economy, and the factories aspect of the question lost sight of. Judging by the last report of the Factories Department in Victoria and the last report issued by the Department of Labour under the British Board of Trade, efficient factories inspection was the more important item of the two. He hoped the Colonial Secretary, when effecting economies, would study this side of the question. There were numerous items on which he hoped the Treasurer would volunteer information.

**MR. HOLMAN:** It was hard to criticise the Colonial Secretary when that gentleman was not here amongst us; in his absence, moreover, one could not inquire as fully into the working of the departments as one would like. The same state of affairs, however, seemed to exist in the Colonial Secretary's departments as in other departments: the cost of administration was going up. There was an increase of over £1,000 in the cost of administration, and this caused one to wonder why large increases should occur in this department year after year. In these times of retrenchment the Government should see that the cost was kept within reasonable limits. Only a year or two ago the accountancy branch of the Colonial Secretary's department was started, and while the number of officers was increasing year by year there was no compensating decrease in the cost of other departments.

**THE TREASURER:** The cost of all the departments had been decreased.

**MR. HOLMAN:** A decrease had occurred only in the factories inspection branch, and there ought not to have been any decrease in that branch, which had

done good work. If officers of that branch were allowed to bring cases into court as soon as possible, the working of the factories legislation would be much improved. The officers were, however, harassed, and not allowed to do their work. The administration of our industrial legislation would suffer by the amalgamation. The Chief Inspector of Factories, who was the best man to be got in the State, was allowed no latitude in doing his work. We ought not to neglect those of our citizens who were compelled to work in factories. This State at present had few factories, but their number was increasing year by year, and it was the duty of Parliament to see that any new factories were built on the latest, most improved, and most sanitary system. In connection with gaols, he could bear out what the Leader of the Opposition had said. An increased expenditure in this direction was necessary, because people in a state of poverty were more likely to commit offences than people better situated, and at the present time there was a great deal of poverty in this State. Regarding the Police Department, there had been cases of men driven to crime through being harassed by individual members of the force. We had undoubtedly as fine a body of police as any in the world, but the conditions under which the force was working at the present time were such as would, under ordinary circumstances, almost tend to make the men criminals. That married men should be earning only 6s. 6d. a day in such a country as Western Australia was an absolute disgrace.

**MR. EWING:** But they were not long on that rate.

**MR. HOLMAN:** Even 7s. 6d. per day was not much better.

**MEMBER:** Did these constables receive rent allowance?

**MR. HOLMAN:** No; a policeman had to live in a respectable quarter of the town, and this involved higher rent.

**MR. ANOWIN:** Sometimes the inspector ordered a constable to live in a certain quarter.

**MR. HOLMAN:** Yes; and that would also tend to increase the rent. The conditions of the police service were utterly unsatisfactory.

MR. GULL: It did not look like that, when applications for enrolment were so numerous.

MR. HOLMAN: No doubt a number of young men were always desirous of entering the force; but a comparison between the number of men desirous of entering the force and the number of really good men who had left the force would astonish hon. members. The encouragements were not sufficient to retain good men in the service. The strength of the force was 436 constables, and the number of officers was 78. So large a proportion of officers was a grave mistake. There were subinspectors in such small places as Bunbury and Cue; in Perth there was a Commissioner, a superintendent, and an inspector, as well as several subinspectors. There was a subinspector in Subiaco; in fact subinspectors were scattered all over the country. [MR. EWING: That was only necessary.] It was unnecessary. Some subinspectors here did no higher work or better work than that of a first-class constable in the Eastern States. We should reduce the number of officers and increase the salaries of the men who did the work.

THE MINISTER FOR MINES: There were only eight inspectors and five subinspectors on the Estimates.

MR. HOLMAN: Some of the officers ought to be done away with. No increases had been proposed for the ordinary rank and file, but a superintendent was set down for a £50 rise. Why was that? [MR. MONGER: Because it was deserved.] The Commissioner and inspectors, instead of knocking around Perth, ought to go out into the country and do the work now being done by subinspectors. The average constable had no opportunity of rising. In case of disputes between a constable and a superior, the case invariably went against the constable. An appeal board ought to be established, so that an accused constable could be protected by a man from his own rank. Was the tremendous amount of money for forage in the police estimates spent in the right direction? Was it wise to keep police horses, buggies, and four-wheelers in Perth for the sake of allowing the Commissioner and his friends to drive about the city?

MR. MONGER: When did the hon. member last see the Commissioner driving?

MR. ANGWIN: The Commissioner spent his time on the river.

MR. HOLMAN: The superior officers were either driving about, or else they were idle. The Police Department was not administered as it should be. The Colonial Secretary, who of course had had only a few months' experience of the department, could not be expected to grasp the position immediately; but it was to be hoped that the hon. gentleman would give it his special attention.

At 6:30, the CHAIRMAN left the Chair.  
At 7:30, Chair resumed.

MR. HOLMAN (continuing): At the present time a drag with four horses was kept for the use of the Commissioner of Police. We should have a return of the cost of the upkeep of this turnout. There was also a sulky and horse for the Commissioner, and a buggy for the Superintendent of Police, the upkeep of which must be considerable. Men had to be kept to look after these turnouts, and if the services of these men were not fully employed they should not be retained. He did not believe in making positions for the sake of giving employment to people. He would like also to know what number of visits the Commissioner and Superintendent of Police had made to the various stations throughout the State during the past 12 months. An inquiry should be made into the working of the Police Department at any early date. A visit to the police stables would show that a large number of men were employed, whereas the work could be done by half the number of men kept there. A week or two ago he made certain statements in regard to the police launch "Cygnet," and he represented that it was one of the worst transactions that had ever taken place. The Government admitted that it was a smellful transaction. Whatever statements he made in regard to the police launch "Cygnet" he was prepared to substantiate. We were told by some person that the reason why a Thornycroft engine was purchased was because the British Admiralty had adopted that type of engine. From a good authority he

learned that the British Admiralty refused to have anything to do with oil engines that used explosive oils. The British authorities only had one motor engine on a launch, and it was not a Thornycroft engine. This engine was used on a small tender running between the submarines and the shore. He would deal with this matter when the item was under consideration, and he looked forward to receiving correct information then. He would show to the Committee that he had been misled by the answers given by the Premier, although the Premier was not to blame, for he received his replies from the Police Department. Something should be done to assist the hospitals in outback places more than had been done in the past. The present system of looking after the hospitals in Western Australia was not a wise one, and it would amply repay the Government to employ a qualified officer to see that they were carried out in a systematic manner, and also to see that the drugs, bandages, etc., were purchased from one source by contract through the Government Tender Board.

**MR. H. BROWN:** More was paid through the Tender Board than by obtaining a private contract.

**MR. HOLMAN:** If that were so, then it was time inquiry was made into the working of the Tender Board. Instead of each hospital purchasing drugs, the supplies for all the hospitals should be purchased wholesale, and the Government would then get the supplies cheaper and better. There was considerable room for improvement in the Colonial Secretary's Department, but we must admit the present Colonial Secretary had not had an opportunity of fixing up his department. As we came to the various items he would deal more fully with them. It was to be hoped the Government would give some explanation as to the purchase of the engine for the launch "Cygnet." The Minister for Works endeavoured to throw the blame on the shoulders of a firm in Fremantle. He (Mr. Holman) made no charge against the firm of Denny Bros.; his charge was against the Public Works Department for the way in which they purchased this engine. He was prepared to give the Committee full information on this matter.

**MR. ANGWIN** congratulated the Colonial Secretary on taking charge of this department, for he was one of those gentlemen he (Mr. Angwin) had every respect for, and who would do his duty well to the country. While we had a Public Service Act in this State, in almost every subdepartment under the control of the Colonial Secretary the greater number of officers were exempted from the provisions of that Act. All the nurses, the warders of the gaol, and the attendants male and female in the hospital for insane did not come under the Public Service Act. These officers were permanent employees. Take for instance the hospital for insane; before an attendant was appointed permanently to a position he had to go through a course of training for three years. On entering, an attendant was paid a salary of £65 a year with keep, which brought the amount up to £112 a year. This salary after 10 years of service was increased to £130 a year, which showed clearly the conditions on which the men and the women engaged were of a permanent character. If there were any officers in the public service to-day who should come within the provisions of the Public Service Act, such were the attendants in the hospitals for insane. Not long ago the chief medical officer recommended one officer for special compensation owing to his nervous system having given way on account of the strain which was put upon him. This showed the duties these officers had to perform, therefore the Government should extend to them the privileges which the Public Service Act conferred on officers. The Colonial Secretary expressed pleasure at the fact that the cost per head of those in hospitals for the insane had been greatly reduced. In 1904-5 it stood at 15s., in 1905-6 at 13s. 5d., and for the last month or two at 12s. 4d. He would not mind the Minister taking credit for the management of these institutions, if he thought they were being managed in a fair way in regard to the employees; but when it was realised that heavy penalties were imposed for the slightest breaches of the regulations, no one could wonder at the cost per head of the patients being reduced. When female attendants at one of these hospitals received very little, £40 per annum, and penalties as heavy as £5 were imposed, a decrease in

the cost of maintenance or administration of such institutions was sure to take place. The Minister should consider the advisability of giving the attendants in these institutions their just due by placing them under the Public Service Act, in order to secure to them the right of appeal which was the privilege of every other officer in the public service. And the same might be said in regard to the gaol officials and the nurses on the medical staff. Not long ago a nurse in a goldfields hospital had been suspended, but the subsequent inquiry clearly proved that the medical officer and not the nurse was entirely to blame, with the result that the nurse was reinstated. If power existed to dismiss or heavily fine nurses and there was no right of appeal, hardship must in some cases ensue when the person penalised was not to blame. He drew attention to this matter in the hope that the Minister would do that justice to these officers which their services demanded. He was pleased that the Leader of the Opposition had drawn attention to the advisability of appointing a proper board of inquiry in connection with the Police Department. He knew of cases in which it would have been as well to have had only one officer hearing the case, for the board virtually consisted either of officers in control of the men, or of the officers' friends. Such a board would not give justice to the men charged by an officer. The member for Murchison had dealt with the question of the large number of officers in the Police Department. One need not wonder why the officers were so numerous. Immediately a man became an officer in the force, such as a subinspector, he ceased to be a policeman, and consequently drew a large sum of money from the police annuity fund. The Colonial Secretary should also look into this question and see that the annuity fund was maintained for the purpose of assisting police constables, and not paid as reward to officers because they were promoted and placed on the civil list at an increased salary. He noticed in regard to the Medical Department there was a possibility of the removal of one who had for some years satisfactorily filled the position of President of the Central Board of Health. In this matter the Government were practising economy at the expense

of the health of the State. He hoped the good work recently initiated by Dr. Black in regard to the inspection of food supplies would be continued. Had the Government given this question the consideration it deserved, they would not have taken steps to remove the President of the Central Board of Health. He again urged the Minister to render justice to the gaol warders, the female attendants in the hospitals for insane, and nurses and attendants in our general hospitals by placing them under the Public Service Act, and thereby securing to them the privileges to which they were entitled.

MR. T. WALKER: It was evident by the present Estimates and also by those which preceded them that very little alteration had been made in the direction of improvement either in the management of our gaols or in the discipline and service of the police force. Some little time ago it was his misfortune to criticise the head of that force in this House, and on the following day a whole column of criticism, condemnation, and contemptuous scorn was published from the lips of Commissioner Hare, in the *Herald*. One had no complaint to make against criticism from a civil servant; but a gentleman of that impulsive character, who allowed himself to be guided not by understanding and experience but purely guided by his personal feelings, was scarcely a suitable officer to have the control of a large police force. But he (Mr. Walker) was not so much concerned with the Commissioner's character as with the condition of the force itself. There appeared to be a wrong principle actuating the heads of the force, a rule of guidance which instead of being beneficial to the citizens was inimical to their welfare, well-being, content, and peace. Not very long ago an officer in the service warned one of his men that if he gave evidence which would clear an accused man he would have to take the consequences; thus interfering with the liberty of a member of the force by what was an actual threat implying to that policeman that his duty was, not so much to tell the truth or what he knew, but to stand by other policemen and secure a conviction at any cost. That was the spirit in our police

force, not so much amongst the men as amongst the superior officers. The police were instructed to get cases, to secure convictions; and the merits of policemen were judged not by the peace they preserved, not by causing citizens to avoid litigation, but by bringing cases up and standing by each other, and getting convictions rightly or wrongly. Inspector Drew, whilst stationed in Perth, so intimidated one of his subordinates—

MR. MONGER: What became of that inspector?

MR. WALKER: He was afterwards removed, but not on that particular case. He (Mr. Walker) would take a more recent instance. One Saturday night, not many months ago, a drunken man in William Street was using language such as drink produced, and he was brutally arrested, struck to the ground, knelt upon, and handcuffed; and when the drunken man was afterwards helped to his feet a constable, whilst the drunken man was handcuffed, struck him in the face with his clenched fist. Such conduct would be brutal in any mortal, and more particularly was it brutal when committed by one whose duty it was to preserve the peace and to set a good example to the citizens. The facts were published the next day, and witnesses who saw what happened were invited to attend the police court when the case was to be called on. They came to the police court; but what was the course pursued? The case was adjourned till the following Friday, ostensibly to make inquiries, but really what for? In order not to have that case tried, so it appeared, while witnesses were present to testify to the brutal treatment the man had received. On the following Friday the witnesses did not turn up. Citizens could not be expected to neglect their business or their labours day after day and attend the police court, even for the protection of a man so brutally wronged. When the case came on, the police swore in accordance with the charge, and the man was punished accordingly. The man might have deserved punishment, but he did not deserve that brutal treatment; and it was that of which he (Mr. Walker) complained. Speaking of the police force of the State generally, they were as fine a body of men as could be

found anywhere in similar situations; but they were spurred on by their officers to secure arrests and make charges. In this case by this kind of ill-treatment a second charge was brought against the man, that of resisting the police in the execution of their duty. Matters were still worse in some parts of the detective department, particularly that of hounding a man who had once been in their clutches until they got him once more into their hands, driving the man to commit offences that they might have him again convicted and might read a long list against him, making perhaps a good man a dangerous man by that kind of treatment. Some weeks ago a lad came out of gaol, resolving to lead a respectable life. He obtained work in the Newcastle district, and was acquiring a good reputation. At the Newcastle show detectives exhibited his photograph, and told the employer that the lad had been in gaol. The employer said he would stick by the boy; but the latter, feeling that his good resolves were useless, left the district. Such police methods created criminals. Some years ago a man thus harassed committed suicide because he lost billet after billet. The police pretended their object was to warn the employer; but their real motive was to drive the servant to beggary or robbery. A Royal Commission on the Police Force, appointed on a motion by the late Mr. Vosper, utterly condemned the force as then constituted. What improvement had since been made? Not the slightest. The police were becoming more and more aggressive, and were the instigators of those Police Offences Bill provisions which would create new crimes. How could a human being consider it justifiable to drive men to wrongdoing? Surely such a desire was one of the lowest traits of human nature. In some countries a policeman was rewarded for preventing offences, for keeping his beat clear of crime and disturbance. Here, the policeman who attempted to preserve the peace, who would rather send a drunken man home than arrest him, was considered valueless, and was sacked as soon as possible. He was a marked man. In almost every instance, with a few honourable exceptions, those promoted were of malicious and interfering dispositions. Again, when a police-

man fell under the ban of his superiors and was sacked, he had no redress. Corporal Tyler was tried practically by his accuser, Inspector Newlands. The accused had abundance of testimony to his honourable conduct when in the police force, but for an impartial inquiry he applied in vain to the Police Commissioner and the Premier. Having a family to support, and being ill-adapted to earn a living in the outside world, the man's mind was almost unhinged. Another constable, Carroll, stationed at Roebourne and occupying the bachelor's room, found that the room was desired by his superior. Carroll declined to give it up, and his officer conceived a grudge against him. One day Carroll discovered in the station an old box, partially burnt, containing some burnt pearls of no value. He tried to clean the pearls, and put them on his table. Some time afterwards his superior asked for the pearls, and the constable stated they were on his table. Thereupon the superior wrote a report charging the man with theft. Carroll was suspended and dismissed. To his appeal for a fair hearing Commissioner Hare turned a deaf ear, and Carroll had that stigma on his character. Were those facts sufficient to stigmatise a man for life as a thief? The police force should at once be brought under the rules of the civil service, especially in the matter of giving subordinates a fair trial when accused. There could be and was such partiality shown that certain men enjoyed advantages while perhaps the most honest were neglected, had no chance of rising, and were always liable to be aspersed and cast out at the instance of envious rivals. And a man's offences were generally discovered about the time he became entitled to superannuation, when old age was overtaking him. Then he was dismissed to starve or be a burden on friends or relatives, apparently so that the superannuation allowance should be saved, the fund being in a state of rottenness. One had just grounds for complaining when these facts met one at every turn. True there were loyal men in the force, men of character, but they were being spoilt every day and taught not to be men but to be dogs, hunting people and driving them into the commission of offences. The age had made great advances in the treatment of criminals. In America

crime was looked upon as a product of diseased organism, and there physical, mental, and moral education were used to bring back the man to the full strength of his faculties, and such marvellous reforms were obtained as to astonish the world. Also in Europe the same experiment was being tried. We were taught by scientists not to treat men as wilfully and consciously criminals, but as being the victims of heredity and environment. It was laid down that we could depend upon the repetition of crime in a given state of society, even to the instrument with which the crimes were committed, so long as the condition of society remained unaltered. That being so, what were our Government doing to show an intelligent appreciation of the way the world was going? Were we still to treat our criminals as they were treated a hundred years ago? Were we to neglect altogether the teaching of science in the treatment of alleged criminals? True, we were doing something in the lunatic asylum at Claremont, but there was in the way lunatics had been treated at Fremantle in the past a menace to society. Had we improved the Fremantle gaol one iota since the report of the Commission granted at the instance of Mr. Vosper? Was there not still a lack of classification, the first offender having to consort with the hardened criminal? We assumed towards an offender, be he a first offender or an old offender, the attitude of vengeance, of punishing for punishment's sake. There was no benefit in treating a criminal unless it tended to reform him. Some sneered at him (Mr. Walker) for his attitude towards criminals, but he stood among the best of company. Victor Hugo and Charles Reade had in great novels treated the subject as he treated it. He was also in company with the ablest scientists in Europe, such as Lombroso and Havelock Ellis, and amongst those who had been taking a leading part in gaol reform was Mr. Morrison, who for many years was in charge of one of the gaols in England, studying the subject by personal observation and personal contact with criminals. What was there more awful than the treatment of drunkards by our police? On Saturday nights those who took a drop too much were looked upon as the natural prey of

the helmeted force. One objected most strongly to the way in which the police pursued what were called habitual drunkards, those who had reached the stage when they must have liquor or else die, who were time after time sneered at by justices on the bench, ill-treated by the police in the cells, and thrown about by the police as if they were animals, and given long terms of imprisonment. Those men, in spite of all moral suasion and all the terrors of the law, were so given over to the disease that they would even sacrifice their lives to get drink; but it was regarded as a jest by the great organs of the city that Mary Ann So-and-so was for the fiftieth time given free lodgings at Fremantle. To him (Mr. Walker) it was no jest; it was melancholy to regard the great anguish and suffering that lay behind that fiftieth offence. We heard of So-and-so being taken to the cells and afterwards discovered ill and hurried to the hospital, and dying next morning; but no comment was made upon that by the Press, no philanthropy was shown. These Estimates revealed that we were not progressing, that we were still manufacturing crime instead of reforming criminals, that we were making society worse instead of better, and that we were still treating society as children to be dogged by policemen. The same might be said of the unfortunates on the street. They were dogged from street to street and not, as should be the case, segregated and placed under proper supervision and control. They were dogged into places where the evils they did were untold, and where the injury done to the body as well as to the morals could not be realised, with the result that an ulcer was eating into society, constitutions were ruined, lives were blighted, and injuries that could not be realised eventuated. The Minister should not neglect the just and fair request of members who asked what was being done towards the classification of prisoners in our gaols, towards their proper treatment and towards any reform: and what was being done particularly for the man who left the gaol to have a chance of redeeming himself and to go amongst society and earn an honest livelihood. If nothing was being done, our State could not call itself

civilised. If it was left to the captious effort and fitful desires of a few organisations, the Salvation Army and one or two great churches for religious motives, we neglected the practical side of the question. Provision should be made by the Government so that every prisoner leaving the gaol should have another chance in life, and a chance to get on in the world. Certainly that man should not be dogged by the detectives, or followed from place to place by policemen and driven back to the cell he had just left. Another phase of the question, equally serious, was the alterations made in the Health Department. The removal of Dr. Black as the head was going to cause this State suffering which would make people shudder by-and-by. He did not care what could be said in favour of Dr. Lovegrove, and no doubt much could be said in his favour; but against could be set this fact, that he had outlived his usefulness. He was not abreast of the times in matters of reform as to public health. He could not adapt himself to the rapid changing circumstances of this progressive era. He was hidebound and prejudiced, which was injurious to himself, and still more injurious to society.

**THE CHAIRMAN:** The hon. member must not reflect on a civil servant.

**MR. WALKER:** When the Estimates were under discussion it was justifiable. When should we say anything about these men? Where could we? What was the good of the hypocrisy that pretended to shield men who were doing an injury? It needed someone to speak out and tell the truth. In comparison with Dr. Black as health officer of the State, Dr. Lovegrove could not hold a candle. Proof could be brought forward at any time for that statement. It was not the man one was concerned with now: it was the health of the people of the State, the sanitary conditions of the city of Perth, the health of the whole of the towns and villages of the State; and had he no right to protect them? Would someone tell him how, with kid gloves and chained tongues, we could convey the truths that were necessary to be known, that we might have effective work done by the officers whom the taxpayers had to support? Therefore he was justified in saying a great mistake had been

made in relegating Dr. Black from the position he had held. We had proof already of the degradation of some officers who were not palatable to Dr. Lovegrove. An injury had been done to one old servant, whose services under proper treatment could be made beneficial. He had one instance in his mind now, and the member for North Perth could speak of it if he were in his place, of a gentleman called Anderson, who had been degraded from his position to save a few pounds per year. What was the result? The practices originally adopted, especially after the plague outbreak at Fremantle, had now ceased, and we had become almost regardless of the safety of people from plague. Ships came here and were not properly fumigated: this was what was happening. The service was being rendered less efficient, precautions hitherto taken were now foregone, neglect was the order of the day, and indifference characterised the whole department. The Government should be brought to task for permitting this: they were the guilty people. We were not ruled by the Government; we were ruled by the heads of departments, and it was on the advice of Dr. Lovegrove the change had been made. Good men had been got rid of, and the arm that cleansed our cities and kept the plague and disease from us was being paralysed. He spoke of the neglect and lack of energy of the Government in their duties. Their works stood as a testimony against them. They had got rid of their best officers and kept their worst. It was against this conduct, this lackadaisical, useless sort of Government that he entered his protest.

THE TREASURER (in reply to Mr. Walker): It was necessary to point out to the Committee that if one-half of the charges or even one-fourth of the charges the member had thrown broadcast over the Chamber were true, then he agreed with the member, the Ministry ought not to be in power; in fact perhaps they ought to be in Fremantle Gaol. Unfortunately the member allowed his eloquence to get the better of his judgment.

MR. WALKER: Never.

THE TREASURER: Certainly he allowed his eloquence to get the better of

his facts, and made charges which by the time he had worked himself up into a paroxysm evidently he might believe to be true. Who could listen to the member accusing and abusing Dr. Lovegrove without feeling sorry for him?

MR. HORAN: Who?

THE TREASURER: The member who in the House got up and attacked a gentleman who had given a lifelong service to this country.

MR. HORAN: And now deserved a pension.

THE TREASURER: Certainly he deserved a pension when he had done. He (the Treasurer) wished it to be understood at once that Dr. Lovegrove had given his best ability to the service of the country, and still was a very much younger man than perhaps his years would warrant members in thinking. He was a man full of energy, activity, and full of good service, and was giving excellent service to the country. He (the Treasurer) resented this attack on a civil servant who could not defend himself. If the hon. member wished to bring charges against Dr. Lovegrove, let him give specific instances; let him bring a charge that would bear being inquired into, instead of abusing that gentleman in the manner he had done.

MR. WALKER: The truth he had told. Dr. Lovegrove was too old for his position.

THE TREASURER would go farther and say generally it was the duty of a member to prove his charges. The member accused Ministers, and the Minister who had the control of this department, with being neglectful; he accused the Government with not paying any attention to the departments under their control. He wished it to be understood that the Government did pay attention to their departments. But so long as members made such statements as the member had to-night, unwarranted, without any just grounds, and keeping on repeating such absurd statements—

MR. WALKER: They were not absurd; they were true.

THE TREASURER: The member might well acknowledge that we could not enter into the details of our departments as perhaps we would otherwise like to do. He would say that no Government in Western Australia had yet given



more attention, had been more attentive to the management of their departments than the Administration of this State; and he did not say it in any boasting attitude, but he believed from the Premier downwards the Cabinet Ministers were men to work. Ministers had given ungrudgingly the whole of their time night and day, and it was unfair and unjust to bring accusations of this sort against a Ministry which was doing good service to the country, with all due respect to the member. He was sorry indeed and pained to listen to the tirade of abuse which fell from the member in connection with the Police Department. On the one hand he said, contrary to what he had said some few weeks ago in the Chamber, that the police force contained an excellent body of men.

MR. WALKER: On a point of order, he could not allow a contradiction. The member was misrepresenting him in stating that he made other statements about the police force than he had made to-night.

THE CHAIRMAN: What was the point of order?

MR. WALKER: That the member misrepresented and misquoted.

THE CHAIRMAN: There was no point of order.

MR. WALKER denied the accusation.

MR. BATH: Before the Treasurer proceeded, the member for Kanowna had denied making the statement that the Treasurer said he had made. Since he (Mr. Bath) had been in the House it was the custom that when a member denied a statement it was withdrawn.

THE TREASURER: What was the statement?

MR. HOLMAN: The statement about the police force which was made some time ago.

THE CHAIRMAN: The Treasurer could proceed; he was in order.

THE TREASURER: What specific statement had the member referred to?

MR. WALKER: That a different statement had been made.

THE TREASURER had a lively recollection of the member making a charge against the police force in the Chamber, and to prove the truth he quoted Captain Hare, whom he complained about to-night.

MR. WALKER: That was not different. If the hon. member would allow him, he would explain what he did say.

THE CHAIRMAN: The hon. member was entitled to make an explanation, but there was no point of order.

MR. WALKER: What he had said was that the police force in this State were too ignorant to be entrusted with those high questions of alienology and psychology such as were involved in the discussion on the Police Offences Bill. That was not saying that we had not an able body of men taken as a whole.

THE TREASURER could not see where the distinction came in. The member accused the police force of being ignorant.

MR. WALKER: On these subjects.

THE TREASURER: Now the member said we had an able body of men. It seemed to him regrettable in the extreme that all these charges should be hurled against a principal officer at the head of a department, which certainly had the most onerous duties to perform in the protection of the life and property of our people; charges which would only have a tendency to produce—if he might be pardoned for saying so—insubordination. If the police force were to be on the same footing as the employees in an industrial section of the community, we could not have the discipline absolutely essential to the proper performance of police duties. The member for Kanowna had quoted one or two isolated instances, as to the truth of which he (the Treasurer) was not prepared to speak. [MR. WALKER: The charges were true.] The hon. member would condemn the whole system, from the Commissioner down to the last officer connected with the force, on account of these isolated instances. That was an unfair proposition to put before the Committee. Perhaps it had happened that a constable here or there had treated prisoners badly; but to maintain that this was an every-day occurrence was absurd, and wrong, and not justifiable from any point of view. To say that our police officers had spurred on constables and other subordinates to crime—and that was practically what the hon. member's statement amounted to—to effect arrests and secure convictions regardless of the truth of the case, was

discreditable in the extreme; and it was much to be regretted that any hon. member should be guilty of such statements against the officers of the department.

MR. SCADDAN: But did the hon. member say that?

THE TREASURER: The hon. member spoke to that effect.

MR. WALKER: The Treasurer was misquoting.

THE TREASURER: Then there was the charge that the police force hounded down men who had been released from gaol. Again there might have been an isolated instance or two of such conduct; but taking the police as a whole, nothing of the sort occurred.

MR. WALKER: The Treasurer was wrong.

THE TREASURER: To make a general charge like that was utterly unfair. He refused to believe the charge, and he did not think the hon. member in his innermost heart believed that such a state of affairs existed in this country. [OPPOSITION MEMBER: The hon. member did not say that.] Next we had an eloquent appeal on behalf of certain officers. One did not know whether they were dismissed, but at any rate they had retired from the force. A man named Tyler was referred to, and the member for Kanowna said, or was understood to say, that Tyler's case had been inquired into by some inspector, without recourse. To the best of his (the Treasurer's) recollection the information given to him, and by him to the House, on that case was that Tyler had the usual appeal to a board. The Act provided for an appeal. One would gather from the remarks of the member for Kanowna that all that had been done was that the constable was hauled up again before the inspector, the man probably who had made the charge; that the case was supposed to have been inquired into again by the same inspector, with dismissal as the result. How absurd! The Police Act of 1902 made provision for inquiries in every case of this description, under Section 26; so that there was an appeal in a case of this kind. [MR. WALKER: An appeal which might be refused.] As a matter of fact, the case to which the hon. member referred was tried by a board, with the result that the man was found guilty of certain acts

which warranted the refusal to him of his allowance from the police benefit fund.

MR. ANGIN: The board consisted of the resident magistrate, the officer, and one person nominated by the officer; so that the officer appointed two members of the board.

THE TREASURER: No. The board was appointed by the Government.

MR. FOULKES: Who appointed the board on this occasion?

THE TREASURER: The Government.

OPPOSITION MEMBERS: Inspector Newland.

THE TREASURER: The misconception which it was apparent the hon. member desired to put on the action of the board and of the department was to be resented. The Government were not content that this department and the gaols of the State should continue as they were 50 years ago, and hon. members must be well aware that great improvements had been made in the Fremantle Gaol. It was true that some eight years ago things were not in too good a state at that institution, which was overcrowded; for with the rush of population which came to our shores at that time we naturally had an increase of crime. Many hon. members in the House at the time when the late Mr. Vosper drew attention to the state of affairs backed up that member in his demand for a Royal Commission to inquire into the matter. If the member for Kanowna took the trouble to visit the gaol at Fremantle, as he (the Treasurer) had done a few months ago when inquiring into the building of a new wing, the hon. member would find, as he himself had found, that very great improvements indeed had been effected in the institution. A large addition for the better classification of prisoners was just being completed, and one learnt from the governor of the gaol that he had in view the very object to which the member for Kanowna referred, namely that those who came in as first offenders and for trivial offences should not have to consort with hardened criminals of long standing. But these reforms could not be effected at five minutes' notice, and he believed the Committee would accept his statement that the Minister in charge of the department had the matter well in hand, and

had the welfare not only of the police officers and constables but also of the criminals at heart. Any reforms which could be effected, now that the new wing was about completed, would be effected with the least possible delay. He hoped members would not allow a debate of this description, which to his mind had become very much wider than it should have become, to bias their ideas with regard to this vote, or allow it to give them the impression that the Government had unduly cut down the vote and were not going to carry out the reforms referred to; because whatever economies had been made, had been made after full investigation and with the full knowledge that we must have a proper and efficient service in connection with the police department, as also in connection with other departments under the Colonial Secretary.

MR. FOULKES rose to speak.

THE CHAIRMAN: The hon. member was not quite in order. The general discussion had been closed by the reply of the Minister.

MR. FOULKES: The Treasurer had replied to the member for Kanowna, and might find it desirable to reply to him also.

THE CHAIRMAN: It had always been our custom to treat a general discussion on Estimates the same as the second reading of a Bill, and when the Minister had replied the same position was taken as after a reply on the second reading of a Bill. If, however, that had not been generally understood, the hon. member might proceed.

THE TREASURER: In rising on the spur of the moment to reply to the member for Kanowna, the remarks he made were not intended as a closing speech.

MR. BATH: Did the Treasurer say there was a decrease in the Police Department?

THE TREASURER: No.

THE CHAIRMAN: The member for Claremont (Mr. Foulkes) was in order.

MR. FOULKES: It was well within his recollection when discussion was inaugurated by the late Mr. Vosper regarding both the control of criminals and the best way of dealing with them. The

Royal Commission appointed as the result of Mr. Vosper's efforts took a great deal of evidence and went thoroughly into the question. The main part of that Commission's report treated of the best means of inaugurating a system for reformatory treatment of criminals. The report practically stated that it was all very well to make due provision for the locking up of these unhappy people in prisons, and to see that they did not escape, but that this was a very small matter in comparison with the necessity for proper steps to assist prisoners to reform. The Commission recommended that prisoners should be taught habits of industry and trades, so that they might be able to earn a living when leaving prison. The Commission drew attention to the fact that these unhappy people, after being confined in prison for perhaps a series of years, were prevented from earning an honest living owing to the fact that they had got out of the way of working, and besides found it almost impossible to obtain work. The Treasurer's reply dealt with small minor reforms, and the hon. gentleman had referred to the fact that a new ward had been added to the Fremantle gaol. While that was of course a very easy thing to do, the Treasurer had gone so far as to say that the governor of the prison was endeavouring to see that steps were taken for the keeping apart of new prisoners from old criminals. That, however, was not a very great step. It was a step which had been taken in other countries years ago, and had been recommended here by the Royal Commission which sat seven years ago. He agreed with the member for Kanowna that practically nothing had been done from that day to this. The Treasurer seemed to think that so long as they built plenty of stone walls with iron gates to keep these people in, that was sufficient; but he (Mr. Foulkes) wished to go farther than that. It was the duty of the State not only to see that proper steps were taken to lock these people up, but to put them on the right track to earn a living after they came out of prison. The Commission reported that there were very long sentences in some cases, and that after the prisoners had been locked up for that length of time they were quite unfit to earn a living. He thought it was reported by the Com-

mission that some of these prisoners were sent down to Hamel. He would like to see a farther extension of that work. The proper way of dealing with prisoners to keep them from continuing in the path of crime was to fit them for doing regular and competent work. This was not a new subject. Many books had been written on it, and great advances had been made in the treatment in other countries. In this country we were much behind the times in our treatment of prisoners. The member for Kanowna spoke strongly in regard to the conduct of those officers. So far as he (Mr. Foulkes) had had experience, we had in this country a splendid set of men in the police force. Probably there were exceptions. There were exceptions in every body of men. Some men had not sufficient common sense, not sufficient tact, and did not understand the best way of dealing with the unfortunate people with whom they came into contact. The hon. member charged certain members of the force with hounding some of these people who had escaped from prison, and stated they had warned employers that people they employed had been in prison. That was not his experience. Some time ago he knew a man who had been in prison, and gave him some employment. He had him in his service for about three months. The police officer in the district knew of that. In the course of time this man left of his own accord, and went to another district, and it was not until the man had left that this police officer came to him and asked him if he knew this man had "done time." That would show there were some men in the force who wished to give these unfortunate people every opportunity of earning an honest living. The hon. member dealt with Dr. Lovegrove. He (Mr. Foulkes) had always looked upon Dr. Lovegrove as one of the best servants in the civil service here. He certainly had some fads, but surely the hon. member should look with great leniency upon a man having fads. The hon. member had one or two himself.

MR. HORAN: The tendency referred to by the member for Kanowna was certainly to be found, very often unintentionally he believed, in the police force—he referred to hounding down persons who

had gone through their hands. At the time he exercised control over probably from 500 to 1,000 men, he was compelled to dispense with the services of some of the very best men he had, on account of the actions of the police in reminding his superior officer at that time that certain persons had committed some trivial offence, for which possibly they were not altogether to blame. He thought that arose from a desire on the part of the police force, for whom as a body he had the highest esteem, to do a good turn to the employer, though as a matter of fact they did quite the reverse. There was another point on which he agreed with the member for Kanowna, namely that the object of punishing a man was not with the idea of vindictiveness at all, but to prevent other people from committing the same kind of offence. This had been the tendency in modern times, and surely it had been most pronounced in ancient days, when most celebrated authorities on penology, Bercaria and Lombroso amongst the Italians, and Montesquieu among Frenchmen, gave expression to these views. He (Mr. Horan) was not satisfied with the way in which the Police Department was being controlled now. He believed that substantial reasons might be advanced for reform in that direction. He was not sure whether the Minister controlled the Commissioner, or the Commissioner controlled the Minister, or somebody else controlled the Minister as well; but certain things were within his knowledge which seemed to indicate the necessity for close inquiry by the Minister into that particular branch. He was satisfied that the hon. gentleman, with his knowledge and desire to see justice on all hands, would accede to the wish expressed when the matter had been brought under his notice.

[General discussion ended; votes and items followed.]

Vote—Office of Colonial Secretary: £8,611:

Item—Housekeeper, cleaner, and night watchman, £381:

MR. ANGWIN: The Minister for Works informed us the other night that the whole of the cleaning was now carried out by the Works Department.

**THE TREASURER:** The whole of the cleaning in reference to the Government departments except this department was, he understood, done under the Works Department.

**MR. ANGWIN:** Why was not this also under the Works Department? If this work were carried out in conjunction with that of the other offices, it could be done cheaper. The Colonial Secretary's Department did not see that, and opposed it very strongly.

**THE TREASURER** could not follow the hon. member in saying the work could be done cheaper under the Works Department. It might be advisable, but the matter was one which he had not entered into, and he did not suppose the Minister had entered into it yet. He would bring the matter under the notice of the Minister, and if any saving could be made he was sure there would be no objection to transferring the work to the Works Department. Why did not the hon. member when he was in the Government make an alteration, if it was so desirable now?

**MR. ANGWIN** had never had the responsibility. If he had had, some of those officers would have known it.

Item—Caretaker, Rottnest, £155:

**MR. HOLMAN:** Was there any other officer at Rottnest at the present time? It was stated some time ago that the whole of the officers had been taken away from Rottnest. Was this caretaker merely caretaker for the Government buildings, or what work was he doing?

**THE TREASURER:** There was only one man left at Rottnest. Previously the Rottnest prison was separate from the Fremantle Gaol, but it now formed part of the latter, and the officials had been absorbed under that heading. This caretaker looked after the Government House at Rottnest; he also looked after the trees, and collected permits from people allowed to land on the island. He was likewise the fishing inspector, and had been some 23 years at Rottnest.

Item--Accountant, £325:

**MR. HOLMAN:** The accountant's branch was first formed, it was said, with a view to economy; but it was becoming yearly more expensive. This year the accountant was receiving an increase of

£50. The number of clerks had been increased from 11 to 15, as was usual in all new branches, the object being to get an increase for the superior.

**THE TREASURER:** This was a capable officer, and his work and responsibility had largely increased. Formerly there was an accountant in each sub-department; now all the accounts were kept under the supervision of one accountant, at a saving of £1,000 per annum. In reorganising, much overtime had to be worked, 11 clerks and two temporary officers averaging seven weeks' overtime each. The accountant, who was underpaid compared with similar officers, was to receive £50 additional on the recommendation of the Public Service Commissioner.

**MR. BATH:** If we deducted from these Estimates the amounts for immigration and caretaker at Rottnest, there was still an increase of £361 in the cost of administration. While the increase in crime and lunacy might have demanded an increased expenditure, what justification could there be for a purely administrative increase?

**MR. HOLMAN:** The Treasurer was unintentionally misleading when he spoke of a saving of £1,000. Last year the saving was estimated at £800; but there was likely to be, instead of a saving, an increase.

**THE TREASURER:** All the subdepartments must be included in that calculation.

**MR. HOLMAN:** Even so, there was no reduction. He trusted there would not be another increase next year.

Item--Immigration, £2,500:

**MR. HOLMAN:** What was the immigration policy? Last month for the first time in our history we had a decrease in population. Many were leaving our shores because of the lack of employment.

**THE TREASURER:** The vote was for the usual purpose, contributions towards assisted passages from the old country and from the Eastern States. An immigration officer met immigrants on their arrival from the old country, to give them information. The department was preparing proper pamphlets for distribution on boats calling at Fremantle. An immigration office had been established

on the Fremantle wharf. The Government had done nothing to bring here labour that was not required. The object was to settle the land by immigrants either from the old country or the Eastern States.

**MR. ANGWIN:** Where was the bold immigration policy of the Government, of which we had heard from every platform in the last twelve months? This vote would be absorbed in printing and the salary of the immigration officer at Fremantle. If the Government were genuine in their intention, why did they not put three times this sum on the Estimates?

Vote put and passed.

Vote—Charities, £35,320:

Item—Superintendent of Charities, Industrial Schools, and Government Labour Bureau, £450:

**MR. BATH:** The Treasurer, in speaking on these Estimates generally, presented a certificate of merit to himself and his colleagues for their conduct of this department. In reply to a question yesterday we had been informed that the Superintendent of the Government Labour Bureau administered that department by special telephone from another place. That officer's time was fully occupied elsewhere, while his duties in this branch were really performed by sweated clerks at £110 a year. He moved an amendment—

That the item be reduced by £25.

**THE TREASURER:** The Superintendent of Charities, Mr. Longmore, had an office in Cathedral Avenue, while the Labour Bureau was in Irwin-street. Mr. Longmore had also to look after the industrial schools, and as he could not be in every subdivision at once, was compelled to manage the branches as a Minister managed subdepartments, through the telephone.

**MR. HOLMAN:** It was a grave mistake to connect the Labour Bureau with the Charities Department. When he (Mr. Holman) administered this department he took the first opportunity of arranging for removing the office of the Labour Bureau from the office of the Superintendent of Charities. The Labour Bureau should be made a place where no one need feel ashamed to go in order to

secure employment; in fact we should make the institution a place where all engagements of employees should take place. It was so with Government labour bureaus in America. Mr. Longmore was a good officer for charities and industrial schools, but was not a good officer to control the Labour Bureau. We should have a distinct superintendent of the Labour Bureau. People seeking work had the idea that in going to the Labour Bureau they were seeking charity. We should disabuse their minds of that idea, but it would exist so long as it was necessary for persons seeking employment to interview Mr. Longmore. The salaries paid to the officers in the Labour Bureau were too low.

Amendment put and negatived.

**MR. BATH:** Did the Treasurer consider £110 a fair salary to pay a clerk in the Labour Bureau? If the officer was not worth more he should be dismissed, but if he was doing work that was necessary a higher salary should be paid.

**MR. HOLMAN:** Would the Minister disconnect the Labour Bureau from the Charities Department?

**THE TREASURER:** The hon. member's ideas would be brought under the notice of the Cabinet, and consideration given to them. The officer receiving £110 had filled the position temporarily while the officer formerly holding the position was ill. On that officer's retirement through continued ill-health this officer was appointed, being at the time fully aware of the salary the position carried. The Public Service Commissioner had classified the position at £120 minimum rising to £150, and applications had been invited throughout the service by the Commissioner for this position. An appointment would be made at £120 rising to £150, and the officer now occupying the position would have an opportunity of applying for the position.

**MR. SCADDAN:** Under this vote there were items for indoor relief £9,750, outdoor relief £7,900, and aid to orphanage industrial schools £9,000. Would the Minister explain these?

**THE TREASURER:** The first provided for maintenance of institutions run exclusively by the department. The item "Outdoor Relief" provided for the relief dispensed by the department to those in want or unable to work; in fact it prac-

tically took the place of old age pensions for the time being. Charities were dispensed in the form of rations and monetary assistance from 5s. to 10s. a week, each case being inquired into on its merits and being first approved by the superintendent. The money for the orphanage industrial schools was a *per capita* subsidy paid to various institutions.

MR. ANGWIN: There was an item providing a small sum for the payment to inmates of homes for work performed. At Fremantle an inmate of the Old Men's Depot performed the work of cementing the front of the building. The work was worth about £150, but that man received no more than 1s. 9d. a week. The payment was very small for the work done.

THE TREASURER: Work of the character referred to was paid for as a gratuity, or pocket money. The services of these old people could not be of great value. It was better to keep them employed, especially in outdoor work?

Vote put and passed.

Vote—*Fisheries*, £2,155:

MR. BOLTON: Was it the intention of the Government to take notice of the report of the joint select committee appointed to inquire into this question? The recommendations in the report would not cause additional expenditure, but a certain amount of reform which would be of assistance to the department. The main question was the inauguration of fish markets for the sale of all the fish caught.

THE TREASURER: The report was received only a fortnight ago. It was the intention of the Government to give the report consideration, but up to the present time the Government had not an opportunity, and would not have an opportunity of acting on the report until the recess.

Vote put and passed.

Vote—*Friendly Societies and Industrial Arbitration*, £3,435:

Item—*Incidental*, £100:

MR. BATH: Action had been taken by the registrar for the purpose of cancelling or endeavouring to cancel the registration

of a number of unions and industrial organisations throughout the State. The question at present had resolved itself into the Government practically insisting on one industrial society, which would be taken as a test case, entering into legal proceedings and involving the State in legal expenditure which he failed to see the necessity for. It was undue interference on the part of the Government with the internal administration of these organisations. The London courts had given a decision that a union in the old country registered under the Trades Unions Act had a perfect right to take part in political organisation; he referred to the case of the South Wales Miners' Association. A member of that organisation named Steele, who belonged to the Conservative Miners' Association, brought an action in the first place to restrain the organisation from making any farther levies from members and securing a return of levies collected from him to the amount of 4s. That case was brought before a Judge of the County Court in the old country, and the Judge determined that the organisation had a perfect right to do this. There was nothing in the rules or the Trades Unions Act to debar them from making these contributions for the purpose of supporting certain labour members in Parliament. The Judge said the only remedy for this individual, if he felt aggrieved, was to withdraw from the organisation. With that decision in our minds it was absurd that the department should worry and annoy the organisations, and involve them and the State in legal proceedings and interfere with them in their internal administration—the expenditure of their money. In the case under notice, he did not think it had been heard, but he drew the attention of the Treasurer to the fact that no attempt had been made to interfere with the right of the Chamber of Mines to deal with political questions. A subterfuge under which they were supposed to be exempt was that they did not take part as individuals, but as representatives of various companies operating on the goldfields. They were to all intents and purposes registered as companies under the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act, the same as the industrial unions were. He did not know why this

action was not taken against the Chamber of Mines as against the unions.

**THE ATTORNEY GENERAL:** Was the Chamber of Mines registered?

**MR BATH:** The individual companies were.

**MR. SCADDAN:** It was the Attorney General who was behind the guns in this matter.

**THE ATTORNEY GENERAL:** The only matter on which any difference of opinion could arise was an application made to register under the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act. There could be no difference of opinion in regard to registration under the Trades Unions Act. No point arose until an application was made to register under the Act. The action was first taken by the registrar when the Daglish Government was in power, and it arose in connection with the coastal Coach Builders' Union. They made application for registration in the month of May 1905, and exception was taken to one particular rule on the ground that it was calculated to apply the funds of the union for political purposes, and the registrar was of opinion, which opinion he pointed out arose in his mind from reading a debate in the Federal Parliament which had just taken place, in which it was pointed out as being contrary to the spirit of the Act itself that funds which under the Act could be recovered in court should be used for anything but union purposes. The Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act gave power to recover from members the arrears of subscriptions, and even where there was power to inflict a fine, up to the full term of 12 months. They also applied under the Act to expunge from the list of members any member who was not financial. The consequence was, the whole financial state of the union was brought within the four corners of the Act. The registrar was of opinion that in the circumstances these funds were earmarked by the Act for union purposes and should be devoted solely for industrial purposes, and he apparently refused on that occasion to register the Coach Builders' Union. The matter, as far as the file gave information, was not dealt with by any Minister. There was some correspondence which pointed out that a prior application containing the same provision had been

received by the registrar, and there appeared to be no distinction between the prior rules registered and the ones taken exception to. The registrar maintained the position which he originally took up, and the matter was handed on as a heritage to the new Government. The registrar wished to obtain a decision, and he (the Attorney General) advised that the proper course was to get the President of the Arbitration Court to decide the question, and he instituted for that purpose certain proceedings, which unfortunately were ruled to be out of order. The difficulty arose as to how to bring the matter before the court. Although the proceedings when instituted by the registrar were such as he, in his opinion, was justified in bringing under the section and the rules, the President delivered a minute in which he stated he was not prepared to hear the application, as it was not open to take the action which was then being taken. Since then it had been desired by the registrar to obtain from the President of the Arbitration Court an indication of the manner in which the matter could be settled as far as the judicial position went. It remained open for the House to review legislation. In the meantime he understood as far as one of the largest unions of the State was concerned, that Mr. Dodd, the secretary of the local branch at Kalgoolie, had submitted a proposal to constitute two funds, one to be an industrial fund to which all members were obliged to contribute, and which would come under the provisions of the Act, and another fund to which all members would be asked to contribute which would not come under the provisions of the Act and not be recoverable at law. He (the Attorney General) was not quite sure to what extent that proposal had been considered by the general body of unionists or whether it was a local proposal. [**MR. COLLIER: Local.**] If it were to become a general proposal it would solve the difficulty at once. If the two funds were distinct, a fund to which the provisions of the Act would apply and recoverable at law to the extent of that Act, and another fund for another purpose, whether for political action or social enjoyment, the difficulty of attempting to have a judicial decision given would be obviated and it would not be necessary



to attempt to obtain a decision. It seemed to be a very happy solution of the difficulty. He was now, of course, replying to the question of the Leader of the Opposition.

MR. BATH: On a previous occasion the Attorney General had made a statement that the first refusal was given during the time of the Labour Government; and on that occasion he (Mr. Bath) had stated that he believed the Attorney General was all at sea; but not having information at hand he could not deny the hon. gentleman's statement. However, shortly after the statement was made he had received from the secretary of the Coastal Trades and Labour Council of Western Australia the following letter, dated Perth, 20th July, 1906:—

Re the remarks of the Attorney General in the Legislative Assembly relative to the application of the Coachbuilders' Union to register certain rules giving power to the union to use their funds for political action, I am instructed by the above council, on the authority of the delegates of the Coachbuilders' Union, to inform you that their rules with the political clauses referred to were registered some three years ago. No objection was taken by the Registrar to the "political clauses" until the union forwarded an application to register amendments to other rules. This application was made only a few months ago, and not, as stated by the Attorney General, during the time the Labour Government was in power. It may have been, however, that the union submitted a galley-slip of their amended rules to the Registrar for revision at a much earlier date.

He (Mr. Bath) believed the action was taken by the Registrar of Friendly Societies coincidentally with certain remarks by the then Attorney General, now Agent General, at Midland Junction. That gentleman had said that an alteration was about to be made to prevent the registration of unions with political provisions in their rules. On the goldfields, however, to his knowledge unions with political provisions in their rules had been registered. Another matter to which he wished to refer was the decision of the High Court in regard to the appearance of members of the legal profession before the Arbitration Court. The President of the Court had said that it was for the Legislature to make its intention known, but that until the intention was made known he would acquiesce in the appearance before the

Arbitration Court of members of the legal profession who happened to be attorneys of companies. A reference to the debate in the Assembly showed a clear intention that members of the legal profession should be debarred from appearance in the court. The then member for Albany, Mr. Gardiner, moved an amendment absolutely excluding members of the legal profession; but that amendment was rejected as unnecessary, because it was pointed out that the Bill as it stood provided that members of the legal profession could not appear unless with the consent of both parties, and that was regarded as an improbable contingency. The right of audience which members of the legal profession now had was obtained by subterfuge. Notice should be taken of the decision of the High Court and of the opinion expressed by the President of our Arbitration Court.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL: The Leader of the Opposition, like probably most hon. members, was under a misapprehension as to the decision of Mr. Justice Burnside. A former President of the Arbitration Court had objected to the appearance before him of a certain member of the legal profession who claimed right of audience by reason of being sole attorney in this State of a company which was party to a dispute before the court. First of all, application was made to the Full Court for a *mandamus* to compel the President of the Arbitration Court to admit this gentleman to audience, and that application being refused, appeal was made to the High Court. The High Court refused the appeal, not on the merits or on the interpretation of the Act, but simply on the ground that a *mandamus* did not lie. The same individual applied to the President of the Arbitration Court, and the new President's ruling reversed the ruling of the former President, presumably with the concurrence of one or both of his colleagues on the bench, because each member of the court had absolutely similar powers of decision. So the gentleman in question was admitted to right of audience. The President's ruling, however, was a very limited one, to the effect that right of audience would be granted only when he was satisfied on three points: first of all, that the mem-

ber of the legal profession had not been clothed with the character of an agent merely for the purpose of acquiring the right of appearance, but that he had been acting *bona fide* in a representative capacity for some time; secondly, that he was the only representative of the company in the State and therefore the only person who could be properly said to represent the company in any court of law, or at equity, or, as in the case of the Arbitration Court, in both forms of jurisdiction.

MR. BATH: The result would be that every company and corporation registered would have a lawyer as its attorney.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL: If that phase arose it would presumably be dealt with by the President. The object of his remarks had been merely to explain what the President had ruled, in order that hon. members might properly grasp the position. The general question was not now open for debate, otherwise he might have a good deal to say as to the folly of the position taken up in excluding professional men from the Arbitration Court. In New South Wales there was no such rule: it existed only in New Zealand and Western Australia.

MR. COLLIER: The New South Wales Arbitration Court had practically broken down.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL: From that cause?

MR. BATH: Yes; owing to the expense.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL: He had some knowledge of the expense of proceedings in the Arbitration Court, and he ventured to say that no professional man got the fees which agents in the Arbitration Court were able to obtain. The advocates on both sides were better rewarded than solicitors. Again, legal practitioners were prohibited from appearing; but if one were struck off the roll for an offence, he immediately became eligible to appear. An Eastern lawyer, not admitted here, could plead. Why these absurd anomalies? The exclusion of local practitioners cast a stigma on them: and their admission to the court would lessen the cost to the parties and to the State. The longer the proceedings were protracted, the greater the expense, as witnesses must be kept in Perth till wanted. Laymen could not be prevented from prolonging the proceedings, for

they could not be compelled to confine themselves directly to the points at issue. Thus the inquiries were most discursive, some occupying as many weeks as they should days. If a lawyer attempted to transgress so far, the Judge would immediately stop him on the ground that he should know better. Why these frequent attempts to cast a cheap slur on the legal profession, a body of men who, as a whole, had as honourable a record as had the members of any other profession?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Daglish): As one Opposition member had spoken on this subject, the Attorney General had been allowed to reply; but this discussion, being entirely out of order, must not be carried farther.

Item—Industrial Arbitration fees to members of court, £625:

MR. HOLMAN: The discussion could be continued on this item.

THE CHAIRMAN: No. The hon. member must adhere to the subject.

Item—Industrial Arbitration, Incidental £1,000:

MR. HOLMAN: The Act should be amended so far as it related to the Registrar of Friendly Societies.

THE CHAIRMAN: The hon. member must deal strictly with the item.

MR. HOLMAN: The cost would be greatly reduced if the clerk of the court acted as registrar under the Arbitration Act.

THE CHAIRMAN: The hon. member should know that the Registrar of Friendly Societies Item had already passed. He must confine himself to this item.

MR. HOLMAN was confining himself to the item.

THE CHAIRMAN was the judge of that.

MR. HOLMAN: All cases must be brought before the court through the Registrar of Friendly Societies. This involved double expense. Correspondence should go direct to the clerk of the court. The provision for travelling expenses and other incidentals should be increased. Presidents of the court had always endeavoured, when not prevented by sickness, to hear cases in the localities affected; but they were not obliged to do so.

Another point was that it would prevent many cases from going before the court at large expense. At present the Act only provided that an award should last for a certain time.

**THE CHAIRMAN:** The hon. member must not discuss the Arbitration Act under this item.

**MR. HOLMAN** considered that in pointing out that reporting fees could be reduced and greater facilities given for travelling he would be in order, but if the Chairman ruled otherwise he could not do that. He would urge the present Government to do all they possibly could to see that the Act was utilised as much as possible, and the expenditure kept down. He would rather see the item increased tenfold than that we should go back to the old days of industrial disputes which would cost the State and the workers a lot more. Unless some provision was made in the near future there would be a great danger of the item being done away with altogether, and of industrial disputes occurring which would result in great loss.

Other items agreed to; the vote passed.

Vote—*Gaols*, £33,568 :

Item—Salary of Comptroller General of Prisons, £250:

**MR. BATH:** A saving could, he believed, be effected by the Colonial Secretary in regard to this item without in any way militating against the efficiency of the department. Apparently it was largely a question of abstract control without the real practical work being accomplished by the gentleman who secured this amount. That was really done by the superintendent of the Fremantle prison.

**THE TREASURER:** It was necessary to have a comptroller general. This officer not only controlled the prison at Fremantle, but there were prisons in other parts of the State to be controlled. This was only a portion of his duties. He also acted as Sheriff.

**MR. SCADDAN:** Did the hon. gentleman mean he acted or held the position?

**THE TREASURER:** The officer held the position and acted.

**MR. SCADDAN** had heard that he did not.

**THE TREASURER:** The total salary received was £800.

Item—Surgeon at Fremantle prison, £250 :

**MR. SCADDAN:** There was a footnote which showed that this officer also drew £560 from Medical, and £110 from item 19 (medical officer Rottneest gaol), making a total of £920. Had this officer also the right of private practice?

**THE TREASURER:** This officer was Dr. Hope, of Fremantle. He believed the officer had the right of private practice, but that his duties occupied the whole of his time. He carried out the duties appertaining to his office very satisfactorily.

Item—Religious instructors at Fremantle prison, £300 :

**MR. SCADDAN:** The time had arrived when we could more or less economise in the direction of asking various denominations to give their own religious instruction without payment. It would be very unfair to other denominations to have only two represented on the Estimates. If it was necessary for religious instruction to be given in our prisons, persons following any creed should get any instruction. He moved an amendment—

That the item be struck out.

**MR. BATH:** If the salaries of these gentlemen were struck out they would be unable to take up a collection in Fremantle Gaol from the prisoners because the prisoners had nothing to give, and therefore they would be debarred from the ordinary receipts which they obtained if they administered to their adherents outside.

**MR. SCADDAN:** We should not encourage one denomination as against another.

**THE TREASURER:** If it were left optional to the different denominations to supply instructors, he was afraid the prisoners would come very badly off. About 600 prisoners passed through that gaol. A part of the discipline of the gaol, and a very good part, was that they had morning prayer every morning. There was a chapel, and there were two instructors, one being a Church of England clergyman and the other a Roman

Catholic. They devoted the whole of their time to the prison duties.

MR. SCADDAN: Why were the two salaries different?

THE TREASURER could not say. He supposed they were paid according to the work they did. One received £125 and the other £175.

Amendment put and negatived.

Item—Assistance to prisoners on discharge, £120:

MR. BATH: It was pleasing to see this item to enable the Superintendent of Prisons to assist prisoners on their leaving the gaol. The amount, however, was somewhat small. During official visits to the prison he had seen letters from men who had learned useful trades while in the gaol. One of these was from a man who had learned the baking trade, and at the time of writing the man had been in a position for six months earning £3 a week. Another, a bootmaker, wrote regularly to Mr. George. Unfortunately in many instances when prisoners left the prison, owing to the lack of accommodation for such people, they went to houses of ill-fame or the resorts of thieves, and thereby came under the supervision of the police, frequently with the result that they returned to gaol. The Government should not only subsidise the Salvation Army Prison Gate Brigade, but should do something themselves in the direction of providing some place to which discharged prisoners could go.

MR. STUART: This item should be larger, considering the amount of good it would do. The fact of having a few pounds on his discharge from prison might decide whether a man would return to a life of crime or not. In other States a prisoner who had served a certain term was entitled, if well behaved, to a certain gratuity. Was there any similar system here? Instead of subsidising the Prison Gate Brigade it would be preferable to leave the distribution of this £120 in the hands of the Comptroller of Prisons.

THE TREASURER: A sum of £400 was put down for the earnings of prisoners, and was allocated under prison regulations. Prisoners earned from 1d. per day to 2d. per day, and by this means were enabled to accumulate a few pounds during their servitude with which to start afresh.

Other items agreed to; the vote passed.

Vote—*Harbour and Light*, £19,018:

Item—Officer controlling Swan River and Wharves, etc., £250:

MR. SCADDAN asked for information.

THE TREASURER: No appointment had as yet been made. The Harbours and Light Department was taking over the control of all the wharves in the river right up to Perth, and wharfage was to be levied on all existing wharves and wharves to be constructed. There was a considerable increase in river traffic, and this appointment was absolutely necessary. At present this work was performed by the Chief Harbour Master, but it took him away from Fremantle, where his most important duties were.

Item—Wharfingers (Broome, Hope-toun, Port Hedland, and Carnarvon), £816:

MR. BATH: What was the reason for the increase of £500 in this item?

THE TREASURER: The department had taken over the jetties at Broome, Port Hedland, Hopetoun, and Carnarvon, hitherto let by tender. The total increase of expenditure on these wharves was £2,000, including this item, but it was anticipated that the excess of revenue from wharfage over expenditure would be £3,492. The revenue last year fell short of the estimate by £500 owing to the fact that the revenue returns from the North-West had not yet been incorporated in the Perth books.

MR. ANGWIN: A farther increase of socialism.

Item—Jetty Working Expenses, £3,300:

MR. SCADDAN: There was an increase of £1,575 in this item.

THE TREASURER: The same explanation was offered in regard to this item as to the last.

MR. SCADDAN: Were members to understand that the Government received the dues which were previously received by the contractors? Perhaps there was some reason for the Government taking over these jetties.

**THE TREASURER:** Only economy. The Government would receive more revenue.

**MR. SCADDAN:** Was it because the companies found they could not make the jetties pay, and that the Government were prepared now to go in for socialism?

**THE TREASURER:** The Government could not force companies or individuals to lease the jetties. On the other hand, when the Government called for tenders and did not think the amount offered was sufficient, we were certainly justified in saying that we would run the jetties and wharves ourselves. The Government were not hidebound in connection with contract work or departmental work.

Other items agreed to; the vote passed.

**Vote—Lunacy, £23,511:**

**MR. ANGWIN:** Did the Inspector General of Insane carry on private practice?

**THE TREASURER:** No. He devoted the whole of his time to the Government.

**MR. ANGWIN:** Were the fees collected by the Inspector General paid into the Consolidated Revenue? He knew of a case in which the Inspector General had charged as much as £10 for services rendered in one day.

**THE TREASURER:** No fees were charged. The Inspector General of Insane devoted the whole of his time to the work of his department.

**MR. ANGWIN:** The Inspector General did carry on private practice and charged fees as high as £10 in one day.

**THE MINISTER FOR WORKS:** Dr. Montgomery was one of the best authorities on diseases of the brain in Australia, and if private individuals did consult him occasionally it would be rather stretching a point to prevent him taking the fees. On one or two occasions he believed Dr. Montgomery had done some private practice and had taken fees. He might be called in for consultation in extreme cases.

**MR. GULL:** The Inspector General only received £700, and if he were not allowed to collect fees the Government might have to pay him £1,000 or £2,000 a year. Expert services of a man like Dr. Montgomery were worth more than £700 a year.

**THE TREASURER:** So far as the department knew, Dr. Montgomery did no private practice; but if he were to ask

for permission in special cases no doubt the Minister would feel himself justified in granting permission. Dr. Montgomery was well worth the money the Government were paying him. He (the Treasurer) would like to see the officer receiving considerably more, for he carried out his duties excellently.

Items agreed to; the vote passed.

**Vote—Medical and Public Health, £83,887:**

**Item—Principal Medical Officer and President of the Central Board of Health, £850:**

**MR. BATH:** The Treasurer had accused the member for Kanowna of abusing this officer. One did not know if the member used abuse, but he questioned the fitness of the officer and the wisdom of placing him in this position. He was of a similar opinion to the member for Kanowna in regard to the respective qualifications of Dr. Black and Dr. Lovegrove. Did the Treasurer think Dr. Lovegrove as well fitted as Dr. Black to have control of this department?

**THE TREASURER:** That was a most improper question to ask, and he was sure an answer was not expected.

**MR. BATH** did not know about the question being improper; it was awkward, but the Treasurer ought to give some information in regard to the change.

**THE TREASURER:** It would be improper to answer the question and to say that one gentleman was superior to another. Dr. Lovegrove was the senior officer and a worthy officer, and was filling a position which he had previously held. Dr. Black was an excellent officer also, and one was sure Dr. Black would be the first to resent a question being put as to the qualifications of Dr. Lovegrove. Dr. Black's position was abolished, but his services were not dispensed with: he could have remained on receiving the same salary as coroner. The question of his transfer to another department or his retirement was in abeyance until the expiration of his leave.

**MR. WALKER:** All he had said of Dr. Lovegrove was justified by the Treasurer's remarks. He (Mr. Walker) had compared the two men and pointed to Dr. Black as the proper head of the

Health Department because of his special training.

**THE TREASURER:** Where had he received special training?

**MR. WALKER:** He was a bacteriologist, fully in touch with up-to-date scientific developments, whereas Dr. Lovegrove was of the old school. The Treasurer admitted and proved that nothing could be said against Dr. Black's ability, for it appeared he could have remained had he chosen. He left because he was degraded; another man, whom he evidently believed to be unqualified, being put at the head of the department. The only excuse for disgracing Dr. Black was Dr. Lovegrove's being the senior officer in this State, a man who had spent all his life in a place where opportunities for keeping up to date were few.

**THE TREASURER:** Dr. Lovegrove was now in a position he had occupied for years, except when on leave.

**MR. WALKER:** Dr. Black's department was practically abolished.

**THE MINISTER FOR MINES:** Dr. Black recommended the amalgamation of offices.

**MR. WALKER:** But he did not recommend his own supersession. The Government would soon find trouble arising from the change, made on sentimental grounds because Dr. Lovegrove had been long in the service.

**THE TREASURER:** A very capable man.

**MR. WALKER:** Possibly, but very old-fashioned as an administrator.

**MR. HOLMAN** had watched a great deal of the work in connection with hospitals. He found Dr. Lovegrove a very good officer and would give him much more latitude than was allowed at the present time, believing that he would introduce a system that would result in saving a great deal of money in regard to hospitals. The hospitals were not carried out on the best system at present.

Item—Medical Officer, Fremantle £52:

**MR. SCADDAN** drew attention to the item.

**THE TREASURER:** Dr. Hope was medical officer at Fremantle.

**MR. SCADDAN** moved an amendment—

That the item be struck out.

The officer was receiving a fair salary now, in his opinion.

**THE MINISTER FOR WORKS** explained that the item had reference to Dr. Anderson, special plague officer at Fremantle.

Amendment withdrawn.

Item—District medical officers, one at Fremantle £560:

**MR. ANGWIN:** This medical officer was drawing £1,072 per annum, and had free quarters at the gaol. It was unnecessary for him to hold so many offices. Not only that, but Dr. Hope received a salary from the Fremantle Municipal Council as district medical officer; consequently he was the best-paid man in the Health Department.

**THE TREASURER:** The officer received £920.

**MR. ANGWIN:** He received £972.

**THE TREASURER:** Was that too much?

**MR. ANGWIN:** Then he got free quarters at the gaol, equal to another £100 per annum; he also received another £100 at Fremantle, making a total of £1,172. It was only a few months since Dr. Hope came from a trip on the Continent of Europe; and was away now at Singapore, or Java, or some other of those places.

**THE TREASURER:** The trip previously referred to was four years ago.

**MR. ANGWIN** believed the Public Service Act did not allow a public officer to go away after only four years. If Government had again granted Dr. Hope long leave, they should be censured for doing so. He did not see why an officer receiving the highest salary in the department should be allowed to travel over the whole world and leave the work of the office to be administered by someone else. The Government ought to consider whether Dr. Hope should not give up his private practice.

**MR. STUART:** This item included a medical officer at Kalgoorlie at £350. He understood it was the intention of the Government to make a change not indicated in this document; that they intended to reduce the salary of the present officer from £350 to £100. If they were wise, they would allow the present arrangement to continue. It was proposed to reduce the salary by that amount, and to increase the salary of the

resident medical officer by £150. By making this change they would save £100. They were counting on having the assistance of a visiting staff from Boulder and Kalgoorlie. It would, however, be far more in the interests of the patients in the large hospital there to have their needs attended to by one officer specially appointed for the purpose. The inconvenience to the patients and the ineffectiveness of the method proposed would counterbalance the saving of the £100. He desired also to draw the attention of the Minister in charge of the department to the great dissatisfaction existing regarding the use of the X-rays in the Kalgoorlie hospital. A vote was passed last year to provide the necessary apparatus, and there was now a dispute as to whether patients unable to pay were entitled to the use of the up-to-date instruments. This dispute should not be allowed to continue. He desired to emphasise that the Kalgoorlie hospital was not a purely local institution, but, on the contrary, treated the patients of a large district, many of whom travelled long distances.

MR. HORAN: With the member for Leonora (Mr. Stuart), he wished to call attention to the exorbitant fees sometimes imposed by medical men who were subsidised by the Government. The resident medical officer of this district received a subsidy of £200. A document now before him stated:—

Only yesterday I have heard of a case at Burracoppin where a bill of £25 was put in for one visit to a baby, and then only for advice.

This charge was made by a Government medical officer, Dr. Humphries. One would be glad to know whether this doctor's fees, he being a Government medical officer, were not subject to the control of the Colonial Secretary, who might see that they were fixed at a reasonable figure. In another case, a patient was charged £54 by the same doctor, all he got being a box of pills. This doctor also charged £37 for visiting another baby and giving advice. The working men on whom these charges were imposed found themselves practically compelled either to resign their position or to go through the insolvency court. The state of affairs was disgraceful. He had not an opportunity of bringing the full facts

before the Colonial Secretary, but as soon as this had been done the hon. gentleman would no doubt take action.

MR. HOLMAN: There was also occasion to complain of the fees charged for amputations performed in public hospitals. At the Cue hospital 20 guineas was charged for the amputation of a finger or thumb, besides two guineas for the administration of chloroform. In addition a hospital fee of three guineas per week was charged. Lastly, the patients had to pay for the services of a nurse and for drugs supplied by the Government. In the interests of fair play to patients, the Colonial Secretary should draw up a scale of charges payable by persons undergoing operations in public hospitals. For an operation costing two or three guineas in Perth, 20 guineas was charged in Cue.

THE TREASURER: If the hon. member had made representations to the Colonial Secretary, the question of these fees, which certainly seemed excessive, would be inquired into.

MR. HOLMAN: Representations had been made to the police magistrate, but whether they would go farther he could not, of course, say.

THE TREASURER: No doubt they would. In reference to the remarks of the member for Leonora, it was intended to make certain alterations regarding the Kalgoorlie district medical officer. This gentleman was at present looking after the hospital, which would shortly be placed under the care of an honorary staff of half-a-dozen medical men, assisting the resident medical officer. The latter would receive a salary of £350 per annum—an increase of £100 on the present salary. The other item of £350 in this connection would be reduced by £250, providing an annual fee of £100 for ordinary medical attention.

MR. ANGIN: Would the hospital be placed under a board?

THE TREASURER: Yes; in the same way as the Perth Hospital had been; and equally good results were anticipated.

Item — District Medical Officers, £10,665:

MR. S. F. MOORE: This item showed five district medical officers, at Dongarra, Greenbushes, Jarrahdale, Newcastle, and

Pingelly, who were to receive salaries of £162 per annum. On last year's Estimates the same gentlemen were allowed £212, or £50 per annum more. Their districts contained only small and widely scattered populations, and the opportunities of private practice were limited; therefore it was an injustice to reduce the salaries. Only one officer, the medical officer at Dongarra, was in his electorate. The Minister should give assurance that this matter would be taken into consideration with the view to increasing the pay of medical officers in sparsely populated districts where there was little chance of getting private practice.

**THE TREASURER:** It was all a question of value received. Medical officers were subsidised by the Government in order that they might settle in sparsely populated districts. The Colonial Secretary had made inquiry into the amounts paid to these officers, and in the interests of economy and on the recommendation of the responsible officers in the Medical Department had reduced each salary by £50. Many of these officers drew salaries in two places. For instance, the Dongarra medical officer also received £62 for Minginew. The Minister would take into consideration any cases brought under his attention showing where hardship occurred or where the salary was too small.

**MR. STUART:** Would provision be made for placing a medical officer in charge of the newly erected hospital at Sir Samuel?

**THE TREASURER:** Inquiries would be made.

Other items agreed to; the vote passed.

*Vote—Observatory, £3,563:*

**MR. FOULKES** doubted whether the result of the labours of the officers at the Observatory was of value to the State. Records of temperature and rainfall certainly were useful, but for this purpose the State need only retain the services of the meteorological telegraphist and the observers in the various districts.

*Item—Government Astronomer, £600:*

**MR. FOULKES** moved an amendment that the item be struck out.

Amendment put and negatived

*Item—First Assistant, £350:*

**MR. HORAN:** Differences of opinion prevailed as to whether we should retain the services of a Government Astronomer who mostly delegated his duties to other officers and published figures which did not appear until a month afterwards. When the earthquakes occurred at San Francisco the Government Astronomer did not know of them through not looking at his seismograph until the news was cabled from all parts of the world.

**THE CHAIRMAN:** The hon. member must address himself to the item.

**MR. HORAN** was speaking to the Committee, not to the item.

**THE CHAIRMAN:** If the hon. member desired to speak to the item he must confine his remarks to the First Assistant. If the hon. member did not speak to the item there was nothing before the Chair but the adoption of the vote.

**MR. HORAN:** If a person wanted an assistant it implied that there was sufficient work to justify the appointment. He submitted there was not sufficient work to justify the appointment, and that in the circumstances we should not retain the item on the Estimates.

Other items agreed to; the vote passed.

*Vote—Police, £126,793:*

*Item—Commissioner, £750:*

**MR. HOLMAN:** As it was intended to increase the salary of the superintendent, who did most of the work which the Commissioner was paid to do, he moved—

That the item be reduced by £50.

Was the position of Commissioner warranted at all? The work was carried out mostly by the superintendent. The salaries in this department were creeping up, therefore we should reduce the expenditure as much as possible. He remembered the time when the superintendent was acting commissioner, and the police work went on just as well as now.

Amendment put and negatived.

*Item—Superintendent, £490:*

**MR. COLLIER:** Why was it necessary to increase the salary of this officer from £440 to £490?



**THE TREASURER:** This was a very old officer, Superintendent Lawrence, who was second in command.

**MR. BATH:** Why not cut the £50 off the Commissioner's salary, for this man did the work and the Commissioner got the salary.

**THE TREASURER:** An army such as the police force could not be controlled without an officer at the head.

Item—Sergeants, coxwain, corporals, constables, £86,206 :

**MR. STUART:** How was it that at Leonora the time of the sergeant of police was taken up carrying out the work of the mining registrar, who was stationed at Malcolm, and not in touch with the people doing business with the Mines Department. The police in that district at times were overworked. Would it not be well to allow the mining registrar to do his work and leave the sergeant of police free to do the work which he should perform?

**MR. HORAN:** At Marble Bar, a constable was specially told off to travel a certain area of spinifex country, where there was not a soul to be seen, when the temperature was 120 degrees in the sun, and this was brought about because in the early days this officer made a report against a superior officer. It was to be hoped such a thing would not occur again.

**THE MINISTER FOR MINES:** It had been the desire for some time past to appoint a mining registrar at Leonora, but we had a mining registrar only a few miles distant. The sergeant of police was appointed deputy registrar at Leonora. At present we could not make alterations, because it would be rather expensive. The present arrangements must exist, and the sergeant of police would carry out the mining registrar's duty to a certain extent.

**MR. HOLMAN:** What special services were the constables engaged on who received 12s. a day, seeing that a number of sergeants received only that salary?

**MR. COLLIER:** It would be well to know on what system promotion was made in the service. There were several excellent men in the rank of first-class constables, and had been in that position for years, with very little opportunity of promotion. He knew of an instance

where a first-class constable had been in charge of a district for 12 years. It was unfair. If a man were qualified to take charge of a large and important district for such a length of time, he should be promoted to the rank of sergeant. The officer was either qualified for that position, or he should be reduced to the position of a second-class constable. There was very little inducement to police constables to be diligent and attentive to their duties, when such a system was in vogue that a man could remain in one position for 12 years without having a chance to get a step higher.

**THE TREASURER:** Constables were paid according to rank. A certain number received 10s. a day, others 11s. a day, and they went down to 6s. 6d.

Item—Japanese Instruction Ju Jitsu for six months, £100 :

**MR. BATH:** From what one could gather, in Japan these men could break the arm, the leg, or the neck of any person by this science or new development of wrestling. Those instructed in this science, in their enthusiasm were likely to injure people on arresting them. The ordinary methods at the command of a constable had not failed in the past. It seemed that instead of filling our gaols, we should be filling our hospitals, under this new system.

**THE TREASURER:** From the information supplied, he understood that this science had not resulted in broken limbs, but that it was so carefully applied that one could use his opponent's weight and strength to assist in rendering him helpless. This system was being adopted at home by the Government. They were training the policemen there in the science, and it was considered that it would do away with injury to prisoners to a large extent. Very often policemen now had to use their batons to quell a disturbance. It would be unnecessary to do that if one could seize a prisoner in such a fashion as to render him helpless, without breaking his bones. We should keep up to date and get the latest scientific methods we could obtain.

**MR. STUART:** It was not advisable to introduce this system in our athletics. Anyone who took the trouble to read up about the system would find that there were very undesirable elements in it.

He would have no objection to having our constables taught to wrestle in a manly style, nor would he have any objection to an instructor being subsidised for that purpose; but the results of the particular class of wrestling referred to were not such as we should encourage. We had samples of that in the wrestling which took place between a black man and a white man. We found that where the white man would wrestle in a manly style, the coloured man would introduce holds which the white man regarded as cowardly. It was distinctly laid down in the teaching that a broken arm or leg or dislocation of the spinal column might be brought about by certain holds.

**THE TREASURER:** The hon. member was wrong in that.

Item — New Engines for launch "Cygnet," £720:

**MR. HOLMAN:** This matter had previously been before the House, and there had been misleading replies from the Treasurer. The Treasurer, speaking only a week or so ago, told us that after due consideration it was intended to purchase 25-horse power engines, but after consulting with Mr. Denny, the departmental officer, the size was increased to 45-horse power. The engineering officers were not consulted in the matter at all, and the file showed that pretty clearly. The British Government apparently did not use oil engines at all.

**THE TREASURER:** Not in launches?

**MR. HOLMAN:** No; except in one case. He found there was no danger on the river here with a launch. The more he went into this matter, the worse it seemed to him. It was admitted that the matter was not carried out properly. He asked for information.

**THE TREASURER:** A report from the Commissioner of Police had been received by him, which stated that on the 26th June 1906, the Government engineer, Mr. Ramage, reported that the engines were "fairly satisfactory" and could be taken over, the contractors to be held responsible for their maintenance and efficiency until the end of the contract period (six months). He (the Commissioner) inspected the "Cygnet," and had a trial with the engines on the 29th June, and found that the engines

were working satisfactorily, and recommended that she be taken over. The Colonial Secretary approved of the "Cygnet" being taken over on the 2nd July, and the contractors were paid the contract money at the Treasury on the 12th July. They were paid £720, less £50 withheld until the expiration of the contract period. With the exception of a few stoppages subsequent to the date of payment, caused by no fault of the engines, the machinery had worked most satisfactorily. The "Cygnet" was placed on the slip on the 10th October, for the sole purpose of carrying out the contract for extension of her cabin, and not in consequence of any defect in the engines. An officer of the department was engaged to inspect the new work of extension of cabin, and passed it as satisfactory on the 8th November 1906. The cost of this work was £35, with £5 10s. for necessary additions. The charge for use of slip was £3. No officer of the department had been employed in any other capacity than that stated since the new engines were placed in the "Cygnet," and in the instance referred to there was no pulling up of cabin floors as alleged. That rejoinder did not bear out the hon. member's contention. The makers of the engines sent out a man to take charge, and paid his expenses, so jealous were they of their reputation. The man was now engaged as a river constable at 7s. 6d. a day with the usual allowances. He had proved a most economical man to the department.

**MR. HOLMAN:** Where did the Treasurer get the information he gave the House when he recently said the Works Department had arranged for a special man to be sent out with the boat? Now it was said the company sent him out.

**THE TREASURER:** The arrangement was that the man should be sent out by the company, who paid his expenses, on the understanding that when he came here he should be engaged as a river constable at 7s. 6d. a day. The firm had not made anything out of that transaction.

**MR. HOLMAN:** Probably not. The Minister said the launch was taken over on the 12th July.

**THE TREASURER:** On the 2nd July.

**MR. HOLMAN:** No. The Treasurer had been wrongly informed. The depart-

ment had tried to cover up their work. The arrangement was that the launch had to be passed by the engineer, Mr. Ramage, and taken over by the Commissioner. A minute on the file, dated 12th July 1906, showed that the "Cygnet" had not been taken over, and queried whether Mr. Denny should be paid. The reply was, "See page 53" for a recommendation that the boat be taken over at once. In spite of that, the Commissioner refused to take it over for some time. The Commissioner's replies were misleading. To a question asked some time ago the Premier replied that after duly considering the capabilities of various types of oil engine it was decided on the advice of the Government engineer to order a 45 horse-power Thorneycroft engine. As a fact, it was decided by the department to purchase a 25 horse-power union engine. Afterwards, without any inquiry from the Government engineer, the Colonial Secretary and the Commissioner of Police decided to purchase a 25 horse-power Thorneycroft engine. Then, after a private interview or interviews between Mr. Denny and the Commissioner of Police, the decision was altered to a 45 horse-power engine. Minutes showed that decision was arrived at without any advice from Government engineers.

**THE TREASURER :** No. The absence of a recommendation from the file did not prove there was no recommendation.

**MR. HOLMAN :** There was a minute from the Under Secretary, Mr. North, who got his information on the 20th September last, to the effect that no professional advice was obtained concerning the substitution of the Thorneycroft for the union engine.

**THE TREASURER :** Prior to that Mr. Ramage's reports would be found.

**MR. HOLMAN** had read all the reports, and said the manner in which the engine was bought was a disgrace to all who took part in the transaction. When we had a Tender Board, all purchases should be made through that board. The officers responsible for the purchase of this engine deserved the severest censure for not buying it through the board. The matter should have been the subject of inquiry. No purchases

should be made by an individual officer. Denny, by interviewing the Colonial Secretary and the Commissioner of Police, secured this order over the heads of all other contractors in the State. The blame should be sheeted home to the proper party. He would say outside what he had said here, following his practice with regard to such transactions. It was even now questionable whether the engines were working right, though a man was imported to drive them. He was satisfied that the next Minister and the Commissioner of Police would not enter into another such transaction.

Other items agreed to; the vote passed.

*Vote—Public Gardens and Government House Domain, £2,619—agreed to.*

*Vote—Registry, £8,105—agreed to.*

This completed the votes for the department.

Progress reported, and leave given to sit again.

#### ADJOURNMENT.

The House adjourned at four minutes past 12 o'clock midnight, until the next Tuesday.