

upon this water supply, and that if this Bill is not passed the colony will go to the dogs. I have too much faith in the colony to believe that the future rests on anything so slender. I feel confident, that if the Government do not take the matter in hand, the colony will in no way suffer, because private enterprise will come forward and carry out the work. I may say that I am not in favour of private enterprise, but I do not wish to see that, before the Government enter upon a work of this magnitude, it shall be shown that it is a right one, the cheapest and the best. The Hon. Mr. Haynes referred to various letters from Mr. Cox and Mr. Box as to this scheme. We do not want the opinions of Cox and Box, but the genuine reports of eminent engineers. The Hon. Mr. Taylor told us that this matter was not being rushed and that it had already been delayed for a month. If it were delayed for 10 years we should be no better off unless we took some steps to gain information. I do not propose to say any more because, as I say, I do not understand the question, but I desire before finally passing it to have the opportunity of making some further inquiries. Hon. members cannot digest these written reports. They want to ask questions of engineers, who understand the subject. The Hon. Mr. Stone referred to a remark made by the Engineer-in-Chief that there would be a mighty hurry-scurry some day. It seems to me that the mighty hurry-scurry had commenced. I have been approached by a large number of persons in connection with this matter, all of whom have expressed the opinion that this matter should be inquired into more closely. Even the Engineer-in-Chief proposes to refer it to high-class specialists in England, and, if he has some doubt about it, surely hon. members cannot be blamed if they wish to obtain more information.

Question—that the Bill be now read a second time—put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

#### AGRICULTURAL LANDS PURCHASE BILL.

##### QUESTION OF PROCEDURE.

THE PRESIDENT (Hon. Sir G. Shenton): I have to make a statement to the House with reference to a measure which has just been passed. When the Bill

was under consideration I mentioned to the Hon. the Minister for Mines that one of the amendments should go to the Legislative Assembly by way of suggestion. Since then I have carefully considered the Statute, and I now think the Bill should be sent to the Legislative Assembly with a message requesting them to make the amendments. Perhaps the Hon. Mr. Stone will move to that effect.

THE HON. F. M. STONE: I beg to move that the amendment requested by the Legislative Council in the Agricultural Lands Purchase Bill be transmitted by message to the Legislative Assembly and their concurrence desired therein.

Question put and passed.

#### ROADS AND STREETS (MULLEWA AND BUSSELTON) CLOSURE BILL.

This Bill was received from the Legislative Assembly and was read a first time.

##### ADJOURNMENT.

The House at 10.25 o'clock p.m. adjourned until Thursday, 3rd September, 1896, at 4.30 o'clock p.m.

## Legislative Assembly,

Wednesday, 2nd September, 1896.

Question: Blocker system of land settlement in South Australia—Question: Drainage of land in South-Western district—Report of Joint Select Committee on Meat Supply—Motion: Scarcity of labour for farms, &c.—Motion: To import trained boys and girls—Roads and Streets (Mullewa and Busselton) Closure Bill: third reading—W. A. Turf Club Act Repeal (private) Bill: second reading negatived—Powers of Attorney Bill: Legislative Council's amendments agreed to—Motion: To relax labour conditions on goldfields: debate resumed; motion withdrawn—Annual Estimates, 1896-7, in Committee of Supply; debate on financial policy resumed—Adjournment.

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

PRAYERS.

# QUESTION: BLOCKER SYSTEM OF LAND SETTLEMENT IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

MR. TRAYLEN (for Mr. Throssell), in accordance with notice, asked the Commissioner of Crown Lands whether inquiry had been made, as promised last session, as to the working of the blocker system of land settlement as now existing in South Australia, and whether it was the intention of the Government to introduce such system into this colony.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. A. R. Richardson) replied that he had communicated last year with the Minister of Lands in South Australia on the subject of the working of the blocker system in South Australia, and the reply he had received had not given exactly the kind of information he desired, though the South Australian Government had forwarded copies of the Regulations and the Act dealing with the working men's block system. One paragraph of the reply stated that most of the land utilised for working men's blocks was situated within two or three miles of centres of population; and a paragraph in another report on the working of the system recommended that the Government of South Australia should introduce legislation to empower the Government to *re-purchase* lands, with the object of cutting them up for working men's blocks. The Commissioner was of opinion that there was not sufficient Government land, of sufficiently good quality, near enough to centres of population, in this colony, to enable the Government to cut up any considerable area for working men's blocks; and unless the Government could avail themselves of the terms of the *Re-purchase of Lands Bill*, then before Parliament, he feared the Government had not land in the right situation to be used for this purpose.

# QUESTION: DRAINAGE OF LAND IN SOUTH-WESTERN DISTRICT.

MR. VENN, in accordance with notice, asked the Commissioner of Crown Lands, whether it was the intention of the Government to proceed with a system of drainage in the South-Western District—more particularly in regard to the area extending from the Collic River to a point beyond Drake's Brook.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. A. R. Richardson) re-

plied that the Government did contemplate, this season, initiating some drainage work in the Southern District, in the vicinity of the Harvey River. During the last two seasons the Government had been taking levels, and in one instance an estimate for drainage works had been prepared, but the amount of that estimate appeared to him to be rather out of proportion to the good that would result from the work. But further Southward, towards the Collic River, he thought a certain amount of drainage of agricultural land could be undertaken with advantage to the settlement there going on. It became too late to make a start last season, before the winter rains came on; but he hoped to initiate drainage works this season that would give relief to the settlers in that locality, who were somewhat troubled with water during the winter rains, there not being sufficient outlet.

# REPORT OF JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON MEAT SUPPLY.

MR. HARPER, chairman of the Joint Select Committee on Meat supply, brought up the report of the committee.

Report received, read, and ordered to be printed.

# MOTION: SCARCITY OF LABOUR FOR FARMS, &c.

MR. HARPER, in accordance with notice, moved "That it is desirable that the Government should take some steps to attract the attention of farm and other labourers elsewhere to the large requirements of the colony for labour in the immediate future." He said: It has been brought under my notice, particularly by people residing in the country, that they have great difficulty in obtaining sufficient labour to carry on agricultural operations. Several farmers have told me they do not know how they are going to get in the next harvest with the amount of labour now available; and that, if they cannot get more labour, they will not be able to get in the harvest at all. When we consider the enormous amount of public works to be undertaken during this year, and the present scarcity of labour, it is evident that the amount of labour which will be required in the immediate future is not really in the colony, nor anything like the amount

required; therefore some means should be taken for attracting labour from elsewhere to this colony. We must assume that a very large proportion of the available labour that can be spared from the other colonies has already arrived here, and we cannot expect to receive a great deal more in the future from those colonies. I have no information to lead me to believe there is any scarcity of artisans in this colony at present. My motion does not deal with artisans, but with the labour that is required more particularly for agricultural operations; and I think if the Government would undertake to communicate with the Agent-General in London, with a view to his drawing the attention of people in England to the large amount of public works to be undertaken here, and the great demand there must be for labour in this colony, and especially for agricultural labour, it is to be hoped the result of making known this information would be that a considerable number of people would come of their own accord to this colony. There are some arriving now, and I think if people in England, generally, only knew there are abundant openings for labour in Western Australia, a great number more would be prepared to come. I dare say other hon. members also know the great difficulty there is in procuring labour for agricultural purposes at the present time, and they will be aware of the anxiety of agriculturists as to how the next harvest and future harvests are to be got in. I hope I shall receive the support of the House in this motion, which I now beg to move.

MR. HASSELL: I quite agree with what the hon. member for Beverley has stated with regard to the scarcity of labour, especially for agricultural requirements. I know it is a fact that if you were to import hundreds of men into this colony, as soon as they got here they would all go to the goldfields, or would take employment on the various public works. Farming is very hard work, and men cannot scheme on farming. They can scheme on public works better than on farming. You cannot get men to go into the country, under present conditions, in the district where I am living; for, as I dabble a little in agriculture, I see great difficulty in inducing men to come here

as farm labourers, and I believe that if they do come they will go to the goldfields or on the public works, where they can get much higher wages than farmers can afford to pay for labour.

MR. LOTON: I am in accord with the remarks of the hon. member for Beverley with regard to the scarcity of labour; but, after considerable thought, I do not see any way out of the difficulty except by the farmer, who wants to employ labour, giving the same rate of wages that men can get at other employments.

MR. A. FORREST: The farmer cannot afford to pay the same rate.

MR. LOTON: Then he will have to let farming stand still while the expenditure of this public money is going on, and while money is voted by this Parliament at a greater rate than the labour can be found for spending it. For that is the position; that we are trying to do more public works than it is possible to get the labour for carrying out within the year, and we are trying to force this colony ahead faster than it is possible for it to go. I see no way out of the difficulty, for the settlers on the soil except by raising the rate of wages to something near that which labourers can earn on public works or on the goldfields. You cannot blame men, in these circumstances, for refusing to work six, eight, or ten hours a day on a farm for less wages than they can get in other employments, when there are the attractions of the goldfields and the many public works going on all over the colony. If I were an ordinary working man I should try, in the same way, to get the best wages I could, and we cannot blame men for doing it. We have to meet this fact, that farming operations and the development of the soil are brought to a standstill, to a great extent, for want of sufficient labour to carry them on; and I say that is the fault of the policy of the country at the present time. It is a fact that you cannot get away from, that you are endeavouring to drive the country along faster than it is possible for the country to go, and faster than it is possible for the Government to get men to perform the labour, and faster than you can use the money provided by this House for these enormous public works. I do not know whether anything can be done in the way of attracting labour

from the old country; but there are lots of people in England who are getting low wages, and possibly many of them might be willing to come here, if the Government would place before them the inducements that are held out for labour in this colony, and in farming operations especially. But I think the position will be that, when the labourers do come here, they will not go on the soil, or will not remain there long at the present rate of wages, but will rather go to those parts of the country where they can get the best wages on public works or on gold-fields; so that, when more labour does come, we shall be in the same fix. It seems to me the settlers on the soil must be prepared to advance the wages to something near the same rate that is paid in other avocations in this colony; otherwise, the working men will not go on the land. You cannot expect them to take 5s. or 6s. a day as farm labourers, when they can get at least 10s. to 12s. a day in other employments which are open to them in many parts of the colony.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest): The hon. member who moved this motion could not tell us, or at any rate I did not catch, what steps he proposes we should take in order to carry out the motion. It seems to me there is some little difficulty about doing so. The hon. members for Plantagenet and the Swan have pointed out some of the difficulties. Of course it would be quite easy for the Government to employ lecturers to go into the farming districts of England and describe in glowing colours the prospects of Western Australia as a field for labour; so that, no doubt, we would be able to induce some farm labourers to come here, if we paid their passage. But the question is whether they would take to farming when they got here. My own opinion is that they would go to the gold-fields, or at any rate they would do what the hon. member for the Swan says they would, go to those parts of the colony where they could get the highest remuneration. I have had the matter under consideration for a long time, and the Agent General has been very anxious to employ lecturers, or even to go himself into the farming districts to describe the prospects of this colony, and he would be a very good man to do so too. If it is the general wish of the House that this

should be done, I shall be glad to act on it. In regard to the reason given by the hon. member for the Swan for the scarcity of labour, I must be allowed to take exception to it. The colony is not going too fast. I do not think it is going too fast at all. [MR. LOTON: Trying to.] I know that the demands of the people, from one end of the colony to the other, are far greater than the Government can supply, with all our desire to go ahead at the present time. Although we desire to be progressive, and to do all we can to push the colony forward, it is not only the Government who are doing it—it is the people themselves. Indeed, their desire is to go even faster than the Government are willing to go; and I think that may be said also of many other members in this House who, from having formerly been desirous to hang back, have now gone to the other extreme, and wish the Government to go faster than we are able to go. But there is no doubt that it would be a very great advantage to get more farm labourers into this colony. I have thought a good deal upon it, but the difficulty arises from the fact that the wages paid to farm labourers here are not nearly so much as are paid for other classes of labour. Considering the good prices which farmers are receiving for their produce, I think they are certainly able to give better wages than they used to pay, and I believe that if they did so, a great many men would prefer a regular and quiet life on a farm rather than undergo the difficulties and discomforts and isolation they have to put up with in remote mining districts. I am sorry to hear the hon. member for Beverley say that men will not stay on a farm even at 6s. per day, because I have information which leads me to think otherwise. I know that in the past, when the prices of farm produce were very low, farmers were unable to employ labour, and consequently a great deal of land was left uncultivated; but I was in hopes that, with the rise in the price of produce, the farmers would be able to employ labour at higher rates of wages than were paid under the old conditions. I can only say that I am fully in sympathy with all that the mover has in view; and if any plan can be suggested by which farm labourers can be induced to come to the colony, and when

they get here to take the work which they are accustomed to and remain farmers, I shall be glad to support it.

MR. A. FORREST: I intend to support the motion, because I believe the object which the mover has in view is a good one. I would suggest to the Government that, as an experiment, one hundred picked married men of the farming class shall be brought to the colony, with their wives and families, free of cost. There would be no difficulty in getting these men in the farming districts of England, and they could be brought here by one of the largest boats trading to this colony. I am sure something will have to be done in this direction, because every man you employ nowadays has his head turned away from farming, which we believe to be the backbone of this colony. I hope the Government will take this motion into their consideration, and place £20,000 on the Estimates for the purpose of bringing out agricultural labourers, who will find immediate employment as soon as they arrive here, and will be a gain to the country. When the colony, years ago, spent over a hundred thousand pounds upon assisted immigration, three-fourths of the immigrants did not stay here; but at the present time there would be no difficulty of that kind in bringing out men from the farming districts of England.

THE PREMIER: They would go to the goldfields.

MR. A. FORREST: I do not think that men who came here from England—men of farming stock, whose families have been on the land for generations—would be likely to go to our goldfields in preference to farm work; but they have not the means to come here unless the Government pay their passages. In England the wages of farm labourers are only 9s. to 15s. a week. I think it would be a good thing for the Government to fall in with the suggestion which I make, and ask the Agent General to get, if possible, a hundred men of the farming class to come to this colony, and the Government could ask this House to provide funds to pay their passage.

MR. R. F. SHOLL: No doubt this is a very laudable motion, and, if the Government can assist the agriculturists, it will be a very great benefit to the colony.

But I hope that members will not be too sanguine about being able to get agriculturists from England, because they are not plentiful there; for the sons of farmers are leaving the soil, leaving the farms which their fathers have cultivated, and are trying some other means of making a livelihood. While the Government here are assisting the cultivators by importing farm labourers, I think it would be well for them to introduce into the colony a few thousands of expert miners, because there are not sufficient men here to fulfil the labour conditions on the goldfields. The Government would thus benefit the mining community as much as the farming interest.

THE COMMISSIONER OF RAILWAYS (Hon. F. H. Piesse): The difficulty suggested by the motion before the House is no doubt the outcome of the prosperity of the colony, as the gold discoveries have created a spirit of unrest among agricultural labourers, and a desire to try their fortunes on the goldfields, and I think it will be just the same with any immigrants whom we may introduce. The labour difficulty will settle itself in time, when men who have been disappointed with a miner's life will return to the settled portions of the colony. A great deal of the blame for the shortness of farming labour rests with the farmers themselves, in dismissing their men after the busy season of the year, and so dispersing them in search of other employment, whence they cannot always be drawn back when they are wanted. Nevertheless, in the Williams district we have very little difficulty in getting men at 6s. a day, or 25s. a week with board; although I can quite understand there may be a scarcity near Perth or in the Eastern districts, which are on the direct road to the goldfields. I am afraid that, no matter how many inducements we hold out to immigrants to stay on the land, they will want to go to the goldfields; and of course it is no use trying to get good work out of a discontented man, no matter how you may have him bound by agreement, for in the end an employer will find it better to let the discontented labourer go. The gold fever affects even men who are skilled in orchard work, and who are getting perhaps 8s. or 9s. a day; for when they read in the newspapers of the finding of reefs and nuggets, they

think they might find them too. As soon as the men who have been drawn away from the land get dissatisfied with the goldfields, this labour question will settle itself, and men will go back to farming. If it were decided to appoint lecturers in England on behalf of this colony, to foster emigration to Western Australia, we should have to be careful that we did not now, as was done some years ago, cause discontent among the new-comers by having exaggerated the condition of the colony, in which some of those who came here 6 or 7 years ago expected to find fruit ready for the gathering, and everything much cheaper than the actual prices. I do not see what inducement you can offer to the farm labourer of England to leave any place where he is settled and come out to this colony.

MR. VENN: As one who has been farming for some years, I cannot endorse the experience of some hon. members that farm labour is scarce, for I have found that when I have advertised for a man, I have had 20 or 30 applications, and the trouble has been to refuse men; but many of those who are employed in farming do go away to the goldfields as soon as they have earned money to take them there. This question of labour will settle itself in many instances. Many farmers cannot afford to pay 5s. or 6s. a day for hired labour; therefore, they have to carry on with the assistance of their families. With so many people of all classes coming, there is a chance of some of them being farm labourers; but I do not think there is much chance of getting the exact class of labour that farmers want, while wages are so high for other kinds of manual work. There is too much difference between the £4 or £5 per week given on the goldfields, and the 5s. or 6s. a day given on a farm. As it is no use trying to keep dissatisfied men, and as there are at present such strong attractions for men to go to the mining centres, the farmers will have to do the best they can, and make use of improved machinery.

MR. HARPER: I may point out that my motion does not refer only to farm labourers, and in view of the construction of the goldfields water supply scheme, which will require some thousands of men, it is necessary for the Government to attract labour, which cannot be drawn from the mines nor from the farms of

the colony, for the carrying out of public works. As to what is said about immigrants going to the goldfields, they would not go there unless they had money, and it would be no use for them to do so. As an employer who has engaged a great many men at different times, it is my experience that men will take service and stay and earn some money before they make their way to the mines; and the best men we have on the land are those who have returned from the mines, disabused of the idea that they were readily going to make a fortune there, and who settle steadily down to their old occupation. In addition to the goldfields, the building trade and the growth of the towns have drawn large numbers of men from farming pursuits; so that we must do something to add to the number of labourers of all kinds in the colony. Unless this is done, it will be unnecessary to pass the Loan Estimates, because we shall not be able to get the public works carried out. I should like to ask the Commissioner of Crown Lands whether anything has come of the proposal of General Booth, of the Salvation Army, to introduce into the colony some experienced farm labourers of high character. My motion does not ask that any sum of money shall be expended upon immigration, but I understand that the House has already voted a sum, and if my motion can be carried into effect by that means, so much the better. In any case, this motion will call the attention not only of the House, but also of the country, to the great demand there will be in the labour market for the next year or two.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. A. R. Richardson): In reply to the question put to me by the hon. member for Beverley, I have to say that the reply given to General Booth was to the effect that no special inducement could be offered him, if he desired to operate in this colony, and that there could be no departure from the Land Regulations. From what I have been told, I think it is possible the scheme will fall through.

Motion put and passed.

#### MOTION—TO IMPORT TRAINED BOYS AND GIRLS.

MR. COOKWORTHY, in accordance with notice, moved "That, in the opinion

of this House, it is desirable that the Government should put themselves in communication with Dr. Barnardo, with a view of his sending young people to this colony." He said that at a time when the House was considering the desirableness of importing farming labour, it was opportune for him to submit a proposal that would be of benefit to the colony, and at the same time be encouraging to a very deserving institution. For 30 years Dr. Barnardo had gone into the highways and byways of the great cities of England, rescuing the waifs of the streets and bringing them up most successfully to become useful and well conducted citizens. In his opinion it would be a good thing for the Government to invite Dr. Barnardo to send some of his young charges here, where by the time that they became men and women they would be thoroughly identified with the interests of the colony, and remain in it as their home. Dr. Barnardo had sent some of his boys and girls to Canada, under rules which he explained in the *Review of Reviews*, as follow:—"Only the flower of my flock shall be emigrated to Canada; those young people, namely (1) who are in robust health, physical and mental; (2) who are thoroughly upright, honest, and virtuous; and (3) who, being boys, have been industriously trained in our own workshops; or who, being girls, have had careful instruction in domestic pursuits." Moreover, Dr. Barnardo added that "In the case of the total failure of any emigrants, the colonies shall be safeguarded by their return at our expense, whenever possible, to England." But the failures had been very few, as another extract in the same publication showed, and the young emigrants had been very favourably received in Canada. That extract said: "The Dominion of Canada during 1894 has been passing through a period of severe industrial depression, which it might have been imagined would have operated to diminish the number of openings for our emigrants. As a matter of fact, however, there has come in from all parts of the country, from the Atlantic to the Pacific seaboard, from Halifax to Vancouver, a steady and increasing demand far beyond my power to supply, unless the

"means at my disposal for emigration purposes are largely extended." Dr. Barnardo had been written to with regard to sending some of the rescued children to Western Australia, and he replied that it would not do to carry out that idea on a small scale, as the equipment of the children would be expensive unless undertaken on a large scale. It was pretty evident that boys and girls from Dr. Barnardo's homes might be brought out here if sufficient inducement were offered. The expense of sending out the children was not very large, and if the Government gave Dr. Barnardo some assistance, a large number of the boys and girls might be introduced into the colony. He felt sure this House would agree to the motion, and there would be no harm in that course being taken, because the motion committed the Government to nothing. If, when they received a reply from Dr. Barnardo, the Government felt satisfied they could come to reasonable terms for getting a number of these children sent out, it would be a grand thing for the colony at large.

MR. ILLINGWORTH said he felt the greatest pleasure in supporting the motion of the member for Sussex. When in England, he came into contact with a large number of the boys and girls rescued by Dr. Barnardo, when attending a large entertainment under the management of the doctor. There was no scheme in all Great Britain, or in all the British-speaking colonies, that was doing a greater work than that of Dr. Barnardo, for the reason that the work carried on by him was complete in all its departments, most perfect men and women being turned out under his system, and out of the worst possible material. One fear had always been that there would be danger in introducing into Australia members of the class to which these boys and girls belonged. It was suggested, for instance, that a colony of the Salvation Army should be established in this country, and to this proposal many grave objections were raised, and justly raised in some respects; but those objections failed if they were directed against the young men and women who came from Dr. Barnardo's homes. The waifs rescued from the streets were removed from all the old in-

fluences, and were placed in circumstances calculated to bring out the highest and best results, and were surrounded with all the care that was possible. The children got the benefit of 30 years' experience in the education of young people, and the success attained had been most marked in every department. Inquiries made, even in the city of London, from those best able to judge, were unanimously to the effect that Dr. Barnardo's children gave complete satisfaction in the families where the girls were engaged, in the workshops where boys were employed, in the places of business, and on the farms to which they were sent. The reports that came constantly from Canada were to the effect that the work of Dr. Barnardo, in its completeness and in its effectiveness, was worthy of the highest praise. If he (Mr. Illingworth) had anything to give, he would send it to Dr. Barnardo; and, in fact, he did contribute to the funds. He only wished we had £10,000 to send to Dr. Barnardo's homes every year. Every year a large number of young people were sent to Canada, to the advantage of that colony, while at the same time assisting a great work. Those who had a knowledge of political economy would know that it cost to produce a full grown man about £200, and if they could land on these shores a number of these young people, each of whom had cost £200 to produce, they would by that means increase the wealth of the colony considerably. By taking that course, they would get a number of young men and women who had been placed under restraint and guidance, who had been brought up intelligently on the best and purest principles, and who, everyone of them, had been taught to work, and taught to recognise the positions in life in which they were placed, and taught to do their work with spirit and energy. Those were the kind of men who would build up the national life in the very best possible way. The cost would be very little, because he did not think that Dr. Barnardo would expect much financial help from this Government. No expenditure in the direction of immigration would yield half the result that the same money, expended in bringing out Dr. Barnardo's young people, would yield. He was not prepared to suggest in what direction the Government should

offer to assist, but he would strongly impress upon the Government the desirability of supporting, in its fullest strength, the proposal made by the hon. member for Sussex. The Government, by taking that course, would be doing a good work, and, at the same time, helping the fallen in the old country. They would also be bringing into Western Australia desirable persons at not more than half the cost they could obtain them for elsewhere. He therefore strongly urged the acceptance of the motion.

MR. MORAN said that, from what he could gather, the institution of Dr. Barnardo was principally an industrial home, where boys were taught trades. The artisan classes of Western Australia were not likely to approve of the introduction, with Government assistance, of artisans from any other country, whether trained at the expense of an institution or brought to this colony under the auspices of the State. As to the argument of the hon. member for Nannine that, by introducing these admirable young men, the wealth of the State would be increased to the extent of £200 in respect of each one, he (Mr. Moran) had to reply, most emphatically, that artisans were coming to this colony fast enough already, without any cost whatever to the country, and each of those artisans was worth £200 for his manhood. Importation of the class suggested in the motion would not meet with favour from the classes to which the youths to be imported belonged. It was necessary that, in the present prosperity of the colony, the artisan class should receive a fair share of the money distributed; and that was why the rate of living was comparatively high, and why wages also were comparatively high; and if the artisans received good wages, they would be induced to remain in the colony. It was for that reason he was inclined to think that the very classes to which these young people belonged would not look with favour upon the proposal of the member for Sussex. With reference to the moral aspect of the proposal, he had yet to learn that the Australian people needed an example of industry, or stability of character, or sobriety or moral character, in any way from the old country. [MR. ILLINGWORTH: It has never been suggested.]



He denied that Dr. Barnardo's institution, or any other institution in England, could lend a tone to the youth of Australia. There was no necessity for the Government to introduce farm labourers; and if they went to that expense for one class of the community, they would have to go to the same expense for all classes, and the Government might be called upon to introduce skilled miners. [MR. A. FORREST: Skilled miners are needed.] It was ridiculous to consider the question of importing labour when sufficient workers were coming into the colony as fast as the ships could carry them, and many of them brought sufficient capital to keep them going for a time after landing.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) said he was inclined to agree with what had fallen from the member for Yilgarn. People were flocking into the colony in large numbers. During the last year, 32,870 people had landed in the colony, and only a day or two previously 800 people had landed from one steamer. This influx of people would greatly increase during the year. [MR. LORON: It will be 1,000 a week, at least, I should say.] The prospects of the colony, as regards population, were better than those of the other colonies, for the influx was coming from the Eastward. He believed this colony would receive not only people who were going to the mines or engaging in business, but farmers as well from South Australia and other places. From what he understood, the boys trained at Dr. Barnardo's homes were not taught agriculture, but were strictly artisans. If the motion of the member for Sussex were carried out, it would not only cost some money, but also entail a good deal of care and trouble and responsibility in regard to the young people after they arrived. There had been nothing said showing that Dr. Barnardo was to have an organisation in the colony to look after his young people, and therefore the Government would have to undertake some responsibility with regard to them after their arrival. There was no doubt that a little prejudice existed in Australia against the introduction of people who had some little taint connected with them.

MR. ILLINGWORTH: In this case the only taint is poverty.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest): The member for Nannine had himself said that the material that was dealt with by Dr. Barnardo was not good, but that a great deal had been done with it, and good men and women produced from it. The feeling to which he had referred was probably an improper feeling; and, for his own part, he thought it was, but it existed, and they could not altogether ignore it. Then, with the exception of Canada, none of the other self-governing powers had entered into negotiations with Dr. Barnardo. That might not be a very good argument; still it was one worthy of consideration, for it might have been thought that, if the advantages to be obtained from Dr. Barnardo's system were so very great, there would have been a rush by all the colonies to obtain the services of his young people. The principal reason why he was not in favour of the proposal of the member for Sussex was that there was no necessity at the present time for increasing the population; but, notwithstanding that, there was very little objection to be taken to the terms of the motion, for it only asked that the Government should put themselves in communication with Dr. Barnardo with a view to his sending some of his young people out to this colony. He supposed the member for Sussex did not mean that the Government should at once proceed to conclude arrangements with Dr. Barnardo. Taking the motion as meaning only the making of inquiries of Dr. Barnardo, and also, he supposed, of the Government of Canada, to see how the scheme had worked in that colony, there was no reason why they should not pass it. Personally, he did not see at the present time any necessity for taking steps to induce people to come to the colony, as people were coming very fast, and were likely to come in at double the rate of the past year.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. A. R. Richardson) said that one good effect of the motion might be to draw the attention of hon. members to Dr. Barnardo's homes. He (Mr. Richardson) had had some personal communication with Dr. Barnardo about his homes, and the records of those homes were truly marvellous. The results attained there gave no indication of any

inferiority of material; and Dr. Barnardo seemed to have banished the idea that sin was hereditary, and that there would be any taint in a child so long as its associations were good. The expense of sending one of these young people to Canada was £12, but probably it would be a little more to send one of them to Western Australia. Hon. members knew there was a great scarcity of female servants in this colony, and some arrangement might be made with Dr. Barnardo for sending out some of his girls, who would be better than the class of immigrants who were coming out at the present time. The thanks of the House were due to the hon. member for Sussex for bringing the matter under their attention; and he hoped the discussion that had taken place would have the effect of stimulating the benevolence of members of Parliament and others, and inducing them to send some well-deserved subscriptions to Dr. Barnardo.

MR. RANDELL said no harm would result from the passing of the motion. If it were carried out it might result in the colony being supplied with a useful class of female immigrants. From what he had read in connection with Dr. Barnardo's homes, he (Dr. Barnardo) was carrying on a grand work in that great centre, London, and deserved the sympathy of everyone. He had rescued great numbers of children from the depths of misery, and trained them to lead useful lives. The boys and girls sent to Canada had turned out well, and he (Mr. Randell) felt certain that a considerable number of them must have been trained to agriculture. He had no information on that point, but he assumed that, as Canada was essentially an agricultural country, many of the youths would require to be taught to make themselves useful on farms. The percentage of failures was very small, being only 1 per cent. The question had arisen as to whether Dr. Barnardo would not have some organisation in the colony for giving an oversight to his young people. From the reports of the institution, it appeared there was supervision exercised in Canada, and he supposed the same thing would be done in this colony. The House might well accept the motion, and the Government might put themselves in communication with Dr. Barnardo, and also, as a matter of prudence, with the Canadian

Government. If that were done, it would show, at any rate, that they sympathised with, and appreciated, the noble services Dr. Barnardo had performed for society in general, and for London in particular.

MR. SOLOMON said he favoured the motion so far as it related to the female portion of Dr. Barnardo's homes. With regard to the male portion, he did not think there was any necessity for bringing boys here, as young men were coming fast enough—young men with every appearance of health and vigour. No harm could be done if the motion were carried, and he heartily supported it.

MR. COOKWORTHY said he certainly had expected there would be no opposition to his motion, and he was rather surprised to hear the expressions of the Premier to the effect that he saw no necessity for the motion. Was there no necessity for assisting in doing good work at little or no expense to the colony? By passing the motion, they would help in a noble work, and assist to rescue thousands of poor unfortunate children from the streets of London. Those children only needed the efforts of such men as Dr. Barnardo, to make them good citizens and thoroughly good members of society. Dr. Barnardo needed more funds to enable him to further extend his great work. There was not the slightest doubt that, with very few exceptions, Dr. Barnardo's homes had turned out good members of society. Where there had been failures, those failures had been taken back by Dr. Barnardo to his own place in London. The hon. member for Yilgarn, and the hon. member for Fremantle, need not be alarmed about this interfering with the working classes. These were only lads about 14 or 15 years of age, and they were apprenticed, as it were, to different people, and, though they learnt a trade, that was no reason why they would not be good and useful on farms. Knowledge of a trade was always useful on a farm; and where people had been well brought up, as in this case, they might usefully turn their hands to almost any occupation. He was sure the Government, on consideration, must give this proposal their sympathy as well as their attention. The reason Canada had been selected as the place for sending these children to was principally on account of the expense, as the steamship companies charged much

less for the passage from England to Canada than they charged to other colonies. That was the reason the other colonies had not received them; and in the other colonies, also, there had been a feeling against introducing any labour. In the present state of this colony, however, it would be money well laid out to introduce some of these boys.

Question put and passed.

#### ROADS AND STREETS (MULLEWA AND BUSSELTON) CLOSURE BILL.

##### THIRD READING.

Bill read a third time, and transmitted by message to the Legislative Council.

#### W.A. TURF CLUB ACT REPEAL (PRIVATE) BILL.

##### SECOND READING—DEBATE RESUMED.

MR. RANDELL: At the desire of the House, last night I moved the adjournment of the debate. Personally, I am opposed to the Bill; and, after the remarks of the Attorney General, my opposition became more confirmed that it would be impolitic and not in the general interest that this Bill should be repealed. I do not intend to enlarge upon it, but simply to state my opinion on it, and that I will vote against the repeal. The statements made by the Attorney General last night were sufficient to convince all that this is an undesirable thing to do without very much graver consideration, and without more safeguards as to the purposes this land may be put to hereafter.

Question—that the Bill be now read a second time—put and negatived, and the Bill rejected.

#### POWERS OF ATTORNEY BILL.

##### LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL'S AMENDMENTS.

On the motion of MR. MOSS, the House went into committee to consider the amendments made in the Bill by the Legislative Council, as follow:—

##### *Schedule of Amendments made by the Legislative Council.*

No. 1.—On page 1, Clause 2.—Strike out the whole clause.

No. 2.—On page 2, Clause 3.—Strike out the whole clause.

No. 3.—On page 2, Clause 4.—Strike out the whole clause.

No. 4.—New Clause.—Add the following new clause, to stand as No. 2:—"An instrument creating a power of attorney may be deposited in the Supreme Court Office."

No. 5.—New Clause.—Add the following new clause, to stand as No. 3:—"A separate file of instruments so deposited shall be kept, and any person may inspect the file and every instrument so deposited, and an office copy thereof shall be delivered to him on request."

No. 6.—New Clause.—Add the following new clause, to stand as No. 4:—"A copy of the instrument so deposited may be presented at the office, and, after examination, may be stamped or marked as an office copy, and when so stamped or marked shall become and be an office copy."

No. 7.—New Clause.—Add the following new clause, to stand as No. 5:—"An office copy of an instrument so deposited shall, without further proof, be sufficient evidence of the contents of the instrument and of the deposit thereof in the Supreme Court Office."

No. 8.—New Clause.—Add the following new clause, to stand as No. 6:—"Every instrument so deposited shall, unless otherwise provided in the instrument, be in force until notice of revocation or extinguishment thereof shall be deposited in the Supreme Court Office."

No. 9.—New Clause.—Add the following new clause, to stand as No. 7:—"Notice of revocation or extinguishment of any such instrument shall be published once in the *Government Gazette*, and twice in a newspaper published in the colony."

No. 10.—New Clause.—Add the following new clause, to stand as No. 8:—"General rules may be made by the Attorney General for the purposes of this Act, regulating the practice of, and prescribing the fees to be charged and taken by, the Supreme Court Office."

No. 11.—New Clause.—Add the following new clause, to stand as No. 9:—"This Act shall apply to instruments creating powers of attorney executed either before or after the commencement of this Act."

##### IN COMMITTEE.

MR. MOSS said the amendments made by the Legislative Council practically

meant striking out the whole Bill as it had passed the Assembly, and practically made it a new Bill. He admitted that the alterations made by the Council were, on the whole, a very decided improvement to the measure. The Bill, as he had introduced it, was a copy of an Act that had been in force for a number of years in New Zealand; and it was somewhat cumbersome, for where an attorney acted under the provisions of a power of attorney, it was necessary for him to make a statutory declaration to the effect that he had received no notice of death or revocation. The clauses proposed by the Legislative Council were copies of a series of clauses appearing in the "English Conveyancing Act of 1881," and they had been the law of England for the last 15 years. There was power to register the powers of attorney, as had been suggested in this House by the member for West Perth; but it was permissive registration, and on the power of attorney being registered in the manner prescribed, it was deemed to be in force until notice of revocation was deposited in the Supreme Court. He moved that the amendments made in the Bill by the Legislative Council be agreed to.

Question put and passed.

Resolution reported to the House, and report adopted.

Ordered, that a message be transmitted to the Legislative Council, informing them that the Legislative Assembly had agreed to the amendments made in the Bill.

#### MOTION: TO RELAX LABOUR CONDITIONS ON GOLDFIELDS.

##### DEBATE RESUMED.

Debate was resumed on the motion of MR. A. FORREST "That, in the opinion of this House, it is desirable, in the best interests of the mining industry, that the labour conditions be amended as follows:—That the first 12 months after approval of an application for a gold mining lease (24 acres) not less than two men shall be employed on the lease, after which the present labour conditions shall come into force."

MR. HASSELL: In rising to support the motion, I do so on various grounds. A principal ground is that labour is very scarce and very dear throughout the

colony. I have visited lately several portions of a very large mining district, and I find labour is very scarce. If a few poor men are lucky enough to find a mine, they soon realise that they are unlucky to have it, because they cannot provide the money to keep it going. A syndicate in the town where I live has a good mine, but is not able to find the money to work it under the present labour conditions. I feel sure we will have to do away with the labour conditions in this country, to a great extent, if we are to make mining the success it ought to be, and therefore I have great pleasure in supporting the motion.

MR. A. FORREST (in reply): It appears to me, from the few members who have spoken on such an important question, that they are, to all intents and purposes, in favour of the motion; but I am not so wedded to the proposition that I intend to place my friends, just on the eve of an election, in the position that this motion will do. This House, in the course of a month, will be dissolved, and the elections are impending. I presume the annual Estimates will come on to-night; and, after they have been adopted, there will be little more to do. Members are in this position, that they believe in the motion, but as many of the electors, who are of the working class, may be opposed to it, it may be impossible for those hon. members to support the motion. I do not wish to place myself in that position, either. There is no man, I do not care whether inside or outside this House, who does not agree that something will have to be done to make the working conditions more liberal, as it will be impossible to carry on these mines unless it is done. The member for Yilgarn told us, and I believe his facts were correct, that there are not enough people in the colony to comply with the labour regulations if fully enforced; and we may say that nearly every lease-owner without machinery on his claim is evading the regulations, and I do not think that is a good thing. Only this morning, I see the warden at Coolgardie states that a gang of people was there, waiting to rob prospectors of their claims by jumping them, but that he would do all in his power to put them down. If my motion were carried, it would not be necessary

for the warden to make these statements in open court; but it is a fact that in all the large centres there is a gang of people, a kind of syndicate, who do nothing but watch people's claims, and if a man is off only part of a day his claim is likely to be jumped. That is not a state of things we want. The cry in England, where all the money is coming from, is that they will have no security if they happen to have a dishonest manager or dishonest workmen for the thousands they may have paid for the claims. There is not a *bona fide* miner with a claim on the Eastern goldfields who will not agree with this motion. The Government, however, should introduce an amendment of the regulations, and this action ought not to be left to a private member. Why should I have to go and appeal, on my knees, to the Minister of Mines because one of my men leaves me? If I have eight men on a claim, and four of them make up their minds to leave me, or if they sit down and won't work, which is very common, why should I have to go down on my knees to the Minister and ask him to revoke the decision of the warden in the particular case? The whole of these regulations are iniquitous when you have to work under them. It is all very well if a man buys a good claim developed, and has machinery on it, as there is then no question of the working clauses cropping up; but it is in the first stage, when the ground is pegged out, that I wish to give relief. When a man pegs out a claim, perhaps 50 miles from water, he comes into town and applies for a lease. He has to place on it four men, and when he gets the approval of his application he must put on eight men. He has to get horses or camels and cart water, as I have done, 20 or 30 miles, and then not know whether the thing is going to turn out right or not. The members for Nannine, Geraldton, and Yilgarn have acted fairly towards me, and I intend to act fairly towards them by asking the House to allow me to withdraw the motion for the present.

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

At 6.25 p.m. the SPEAKER left the chair.

At 7.30 p.m. the SPEAKER resumed the chair.

# ANNUAL ESTIMATES, 1896-7.

## DEBATE ON FINANCIAL POLICY.

In Committee of Supply, the adjourned debate on the Financial Statement delivered by the Premier and Treasurer, 27th August, was resumed; Mr. Traylen in the chair.

Vote—*His Excellency the Governor*, £1,035:

MR. JILLINGWORTH: I have a suspicion, sir, that there is a feeling in the House that I am going to inflict a lengthened speech upon hon. members on the present occasion; and, in order to dissipate that feeling, I will say at the outset I have no such intention. There are several reasons why I should not do so. The first one is that the Budget speech which has been delivered is of such a character that it does not leave many openings for attack. The next reason is that members of this House, I may also say the country, are not in a state of mind to be critical. The circumstances in which we stand to-day are rather of a free-and-easy-going character. The great mass of the people are doing well, and as a consequence the Treasury is overflowing with money. All departments in the State are flourishing, and, under such conditions, the people are not likely to be critical, and are rather in a spirit to overlook many things that, under other circumstances, they would give close attention to. The House and the country are not in a condition to be very critical. We are inclined at all times to be exceedingly liberal with those leaders who are successful; though I think we recognise, as a matter of absolute fact, that oftentimes there is more genius in failure than in success; that there is oftentimes more keenness, and more energy, and more worthiness, in times of difficulty when men are overcome by failure, than is shown by the most brilliant success. Yet, we cannot hide our face, and we cannot control our feelings, and we cannot control those by whom we are surrounded, when we are in the midst of success, for then we cannot help feeling, to some extent, that those who are our leaders at the time are worthy of a considerable amount of the success which has been achieved. I have said, in another place, that the Ministry who hold the power of the State in Western Australia at the present, and

have done so for many years, are to be commended at least from one standpoint. It is the standpoint which is referred to by Sir Walter Scott in "Ivanhoe" where, speaking of Robin Hood, he says: "That man who does good, having unlimited power to do evil, is worthy of praise, not only for the good which he does, but for the evil which he refrains from doing." I am disposed to give a large amount of praise of this particular character to the Ministry of the day. That they have done good, for that we praise them. That they have not used to the full extent the vast and irresistible power which has been within their reach, and have not used that power for their own aggrandisement at the expense of the country, is also a matter for which they should be praised; and I commend them for this, because I am free to admit—standing as I do in direct opposition, and prepared to criticise to the fullest extent, prepared with boldness, and I hope also with conscientiousness, to criticise every action of this Government or any other Government that may sit upon the Treasury benches—that I hope I shall never, in the House or out of the House, be unwilling to recognise the qualities of the men to whom, for various reasons, I may for the time being be opposed. I trust the day will never come, in our national life, when any hon. members, sitting in any part of this House, will refuse to recognise worth when they see it; will refuse to acknowledge energy when they have it placed before them, or refuse to acknowledge integrity of purpose when it is plainly manifested by those in action. Whatever differences of opinion there may be in this colony about the Government, when their actions necessarily come under review, I think there is no difference of opinion in this particular, that the House, the country, the people of this colony, and I think those out of the colony, are satisfied in this, at any rate, that the Government have proper intentions and right purposes, and have an earnest desire to carry on this country to success. Admitting that, we may yet be pardoned if, in some minor matters, we on this side of the House differ as to the modes, the purposes, the plans, and the suggestions which the Government bring before this House. In some things I do differ from them, and differ very materially; but in

the few words I have to say to-night I feel that, as the actions of the Government are distinctly under review, and as I have been compelled, in doing what I believe to be my duty, to criticise somewhat severely some actions of the Government, it is fair and honest in me to make these expressions, which I do sincerely, in regard to the action of the Government as a whole. Coming now to the subject before the House, it must be, and I am sure it is, a matter for congratulation to all members of this House, and must especially be a matter for congratulation to the Government, to find the country in the flourishing condition in which it is to-day. The most sanguine expectations have been realised. Members who sit on the Ministerial side of the House are in the habit, when we on this side advocate caution and discretion and care, of charging us with being pessimistic, with having no faith in the country, and with having no confidence in the future. This kind of charge can hardly be said to apply to me, however, when I have, for two years in succession, told the Treasurer, on occasions like this, that he had largely under-estimated the income of the colony for the year. Last year I told the Treasurer that he had largely under-estimated his revenue, that his estimate was at least £350,000 under the probable receipts; and I said then I did not disapprove of under-estimating, because the conditions of this country are such that there is a tendency to extravagance—I do not say by the Government, but by the people—there is a tendency to rush to the Government and expect them to spend money here and spend it there, without considering whether such expenditure is justified by the conditions in which we find ourselves. If there is one thing above another that I would commend the Government for, it is for their firmness in resisting many of the applications which have been made to them in this particular direction, and I hope the present prosperity will not lead them to depart from this wholesome rule. It is better to be under than to be over, in our estimates, in times like these. The fatal thing, in flourishing times, is for us to get into a system of extravagant living, from which it will be difficult for us to retrace our steps, difficult to retrench, painful to all concerned; and it is in-

finitely better to be careful in our expenditure, in order that we may not have this painful reflection in the time that is to come. Now, I am optimistic for many years to come, but I do say the time is coming—I hope it is far off—when it will be necessary for us to shorten sail. I hope it is not near, but it will come, as sure as night follows day. With the certainty that such a time will come, it is absolutely necessary that we should exercise care and forethought, and not commit ourselves to permanent expenditure which cannot easily be reduced. I have made this statement on former occasions, and I feel it necessary to make the same statement now, that I think the Treasurer has under-estimated his revenue again. I calculate that the estimate is at least £400,000 under the probable receipts. [THE PREMIER : I hope so.] But I also venture to say that the Treasurer of any country ought to be able to estimate the revenue something nearer than one-sixth of its actual return, and that such an estimate is not a guide for this House, and is not a guide for the country. If the Treasurer comes into this House and tells us we shall have £2,400,000 to spend during the coming year, when he really has or will have, at a low estimate—because I am certain that I am rather below than above the actual figures—when he really will have £2,800,000, I say such an estimate places this House at a disadvantage with regard to the policy which it may be disposed to carry out. It acts on my mind in this way. The Government come to us and ask us to undertake large public works, and if the Government will show the House and the country that, over and above what they deem to be the necessary public works spoken of in these Estimates, they will have a surplus of £400,000 or £500,000, then I ask where is the necessity of going in for a loan policy? This is the point on which I join issue with the Government on the present occasion. In these Estimates we have provision made for public works all over the colony—I do not complain of that, for I think the Estimates have been carefully prepared, and that most of the works are necessary, also that a great amount of judgment has been shown by the Government in the selection of the works they propose to carry out—but we have

this absolute fact that, with its present resources, this Government will be fully taxed, with the whole of its resources and the whole of its capacity, to complete the works here provided for, without adding anything else to the list; and, more than that, I am satisfied the Government will not be able to complete these works with the means at their disposal. Why, then, are we to go in for a loan policy, when we have plenty of money of our own to spend, and when we cannot spend the whole of the money with the labour and facilities available? I have dealt with this point on a former occasion, and I say again that I know, from experience, that you can never stop a loan policy, wise or unwise, when it has once commenced. I know there is no use in attempting to make anything like a forcible attack on a Government that has a large surplus; for, no matter what they do, I know that those people who shake their heads and say they do not believe in a loan policy, will very carefully appropriate their portion of that policy, and will very steadily assist in the creation of the policy. Consequently, knowing that I stand probably very much alone, not only in this House but in the country, in my view of the question of loan money, I do not intend to occupy the time I might occupy if the conditions were different. I do not want to weary hon. members on the one hand, and I do not want to waste the time of the House on the other. There are only a few figures that I desire to bring before the attention of hon. members, and I do this for only one purpose. In the year that has gone, our imports were valued at £3,774,951, and our exports were £1,332,554. Both these returns contain gold. The export of gold is about covered by the import of sovereigns; consequently we did not send away gold to pay our debts, but we simply sent away gold to get it coined, or, at any rate, a sufficient quantity has come back in sovereigns—perhaps imported by the banks, perhaps sent here for investment in our mines and properties—at any rate, a sufficient quantity of sovereigns has been returned to this colony to pay for the gold which had been exported; so that the relative conditions remain the same, irrespective of the question of gold, the one side balancing the other. The difference between the imports and the exports,

to which I would draw special attention, amounts to the alarming sum of £2,442,397. Last year I pointed out that a borrowing policy in every case has this result, that it always reduces exports and always inflates imports. But when we come to look at this more closely, it impresses me even more strongly from another standpoint than the one I have mentioned. The imports for 1896 were valued at £3,774,951, and the imports for 1895 were valued at £2,114,414; showing that the increase in the imports for the year that has gone is £1,660,537. Now, while we have increased our imports by £1,660,537, we have increased our exports by only £81,148, and in the total of these exports nearly one million was gold. But, as I have said, I do not bring gold into the question, because the import of sovereigns balances the export of gold. I am not surprised, in some respects, that hon. members should be anxious, exceedingly anxious, to promote our agricultural interests. There is no one more anxious than I am to do that, although I may look at the question from a different standpoint. While I give other members every credit for their anxiety to develop agriculture, and while I join with them from my own standpoint in desiring to do so, yet I hope they will admit that I am as sincere from my standpoint as they are from theirs. I say no country can be permanently prosperous that maintains a large discrepancy between its exports and its imports. It simply comes to this, that we have stopped earning money and are living upon borrowed money; and the result of this process is that, if you are to keep up prosperity, you must keep up a system of borrowing. As I said on the Address-in-Reply, we have come to the parting of the ways, and I fear that the Parliament and the country are prepared to take the wrong way. They are disposed to go into a loan policy, which will not stop until London refuses to lend, and which is not a self-sustaining policy, that of doing public works out of loans. There is no need for this colony, in the condition which it is in to-day, to start upon a course which has proved to be disastrous in the other colonies, and which must, from force of circumstances, lead to the same result in Western Australia; for, as the Treasurer has told us, we shall

have sufficient money coming in during the next three years to pay for public works. The Treasurer estimates that the population of the colony will about double itself in the next three years, when, according to the hon. gentleman's figures, there will be nearly a quarter of a million of people here. I think the Treasurer over-estimates the increase, but that circumstance only accentuates the position I take. Not only will the Treasurer have half a million of money to spend beyond the amount of his estimate, in the year that is coming, but in the years that are to follow these increases will come in the same ratio—that is if the population increases as the Treasurer estimates, and probably he is right. That being so, this colony will be in the position of enabling the Government to carry out, with current revenue, all the public works that it would be possible to complete in the time. By doing so we should be absolutely safe, and we should free ourselves from all contingencies in the future, whether the future turn out well or ill. It is possible, and I hope it is not only possible but probable, that the great success which lies before this colony will be sufficient to make good and to overcome any defects of policy to which I refer—that is if the present Government, or any other Government, if there is ever to be another Government, do not stop at the loan that is proposed for the present year. I may say that I should not have much fear for the future of this country if I could only feel sure that the £5,000,000 loan would end the borrowing; but I feel sure that this £5,000,000 will grow to £50,000,000 if the loan policy is allowed to go on, and that it will bring disaster in the years to come. I think there has been no time in the history of Western Australia, and probably there never will be such a time, when it will be so easy for the Government to confine itself to the construction of public works out of its own resources, as it is at the present time. It would be wise to construct the goldfields water supply scheme out of our own money, instead of out of loan money. If we did so, the work would be done in less than five years, as we should receive as much surplus revenue within the five years as the Treasurer proposes to borrow, and we should be able to keep within the limits of our own income, and



maintain our present strong position. I enter my protest, as I purpose doing on every possible occasion, against the loan policy. I have suffered from it in Victoria, and have seen the effects of it in other countries. I should be faithless to my convictions, and to the trust reposed in me as a member of this House, if I did not enter my protest against that policy. As we shall have the opportunity, in committee, of criticising the Estimates in detail, I will only, at this stage, refer to one or two items. The estimates of public works have, I have said, been carefully prepared, and I think most of the works are wise. I notice that Newcastle has a very large proportion—sufficient, I should say, for a place having a population of about 40,000 people.

**THE PREMIER:** That money was voted last year.

**MR. ILLINGWORTH:** Probably that explanation is the correct one, that the public works voted for Newcastle last year have not been carried out, and I would suggest that they never should be. The construction of the York-Greenhills railway, which was forecasted in the Budget Speech, and for which an item appears on the Estimates, I regard as a purely political railway. It is not in the interests of the country to make this line; but as it is to be built out of revenue, and as we can do as we like with our own, even if we waste the money, possibly it will be as well to build that railway. From the slight knowledge I have of the country, I do not think it is wise to make the line from York. It should start from Beverley, so as to connect with the goldfields line and give the local producers communication with the best market in the colony. In conclusion, I want to remark that I notice the large increases given to the higher officers of the public service. I have called attention to this before, and would like hon. members to seriously consider whether it is fair to keep on raising the salaries of highly paid officers, and to leave the poorly paid civil servants practically where they were. While highly paid officers are being raised £50 or £100, and in some cases £200 a year, the rank and file, who really do the work, are left alone. Now I think that in these prosperous times, if we deal with our

public service at all we should deal fairly, and that the lower-grade men who work in the railway and other departments should share in the general prosperity.

**THE COMMISSIONER OF RAILWAYS:** There have been increases in the Railway Department.

**MR. ILLINGWORTH:** I am very pleased to hear it, and I am sure it is very satisfactory to all concerned. I want to emphasise the fact that the men who are working for 6s., 7s., or 8s. a day in the public service ought to have some little consideration shown them in these prosperous times, and in a colony in which the cost of rent and of living is so high. It is easy for the Government to say they could get plenty of men to fill the places of these men; but, as business men, we know it is better to have men who are fairly well satisfied, instead of constantly changing them, and especially railway men. I promised that I would not detain the House; so I will now conclude by congratulating the Government upon the prosperous condition in which we find ourselves. I congratulate them on one point in particular, that they have at last, somewhat slowly, admitted that the prosperity of this colony is due to our great gold-mining industry. Last session and the session before, it was quite common to hear, from the Ministerial side of the House, complaints of the vast amounts of money that were being expended on the goldfields, and of the money that was being carried away from the South to the mining centres. I am glad that the opinion of the Government and of Ministerial members has changed, and that it is now admitted the prosperity of the colony is to a very large extent, if not wholly, due to the development of the great gold-mining industry. I am glad to notice that the Government are prepared to assist that industry to some extent by removing the duty on mining machinery. I should have been glad if they could have gone further, and sacrificed some of the £98,000 or thereabouts that is annually paid in Customs duties in this colony upon the absolute necessities of life. I think the conditions of this colony are such that we could do without these duties, and that so far as revenue is concerned we should have a large portion of it recouped in the increase of prosperity and

of production. I am sorry the Government do not see their way to make further reductions in the tariff, but we must be thankful for small mercies, I suppose. While making that remark, I am fully in accord with the opinion of the Treasurer, and I think he echoes the voice of the people, that they would prefer public works to go on rather than there should be reduced taxation and no works; but, at the same time, it should be remembered that the cost of those works and the cost of mining operations would be lessened if the cost of living were cheapened. I do not think the State or the revenue would suffer, if the Government could have seen their way to propose a further reduction of duties, and I am sorry they did not do so. On the whole, however, I am able to congratulate the Government upon the carefully prepared Estimates, providing a large number of public works, which have been equally distributed, and showing that a considerable amount of judgment has been used in selecting them. I congratulate the Government and the country upon the position in which we stand, and I hope that next year it will be found that my forecast of the revenue will be as right as it was last year. [THE PREMIER: Hear, hear.]

Vote put and passed.

*Executive Council*, £296—agreed to.

*Legislative Council*, £2,690—agreed to.

*Legislative Assembly*, £4,025—agreed to.

to.

#### COLONIAL TREASURER'S DEPARTMENT.

*Office of Colonial Secretary*, £3,810:

MR. A. FORREST asked why the Chief Clerk and Registrar was not recommended for an increase. He was an old and valuable officer, who had been in the service about 25 years. When such an officer was passed over without an increase, hon. members were entitled to know the reason.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) said the officer in question received an increase of £50 last year, and it was not the rule to add to an officer's salary every year, although the officer referred to was a very deserving one.

MR. HIGHAM said no provision was made for the electoral registrars of the new districts formed under the amending Constitution Act.

THE PREMIER said the Government would take the responsibility of the expenditure, as soon as the Bill in question became law.

Vote put and passed.

*Audit*, £3,930—agreed to.

*Medical*, £53,853—agreed to.

*Police*, £87,580:

MR. MORAN said he would like to see the pay of the police increased, especially on the goldfields, where a very superior body of men performed duty with exemplary zeal, discretion, and efficiency, so that they were held in general respect by the people of those centres.

MR. ILLINGWORTH said that, although the Treasurer had assured him, last session, that the police had a Sunday off, it was not so, and he must again press this matter on the Minister's attention. Another matter that gave rise to much disaffection in the force was that the men were compelled to wear the uniform whenever they appeared in public, even in their leisure time. A member of the force could not accompany his wife for a walk, when off duty, without wearing the police uniform, and this rule was felt to be unreasonable and oppressive. On the other hand, some constables were sent on duty wearing only a badge to distinguish them from civilians; and, believing one of these guardians of the law in mufti to be a civilian, a citizen the other day resisted arrest, and somewhat serious consequences were the result.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) said the member for Nannine had informed them last session, and the session before he had also referred to these matters of a Sunday off for the police, and the wearing of uniform when not on duty. He (the Premier) had asked for a report from the Commissioner of Police in regard to these two points, and he would have pleasure in laying that report on the table of the House. In regard to a former complaint as to promotions being made outside the force, he had always been opposed to persons from outside being promoted over the heads of older officers; and, although he might not be able to carry out his wishes in all things, he had been able to do so in that respect up to the present. The men would naturally feel, when outsiders were brought in and placed in the only good

positions in the force, that it was disheartening. It was necessary to give promotion in the service in order to encourage better men to enter it, there being more prospect for them. That was the rule in force at the present time, and he did not think there had been any cases for some time past in which any officer had been appointed from outside the force.

MR. R. F. SHOLL: Does that apply also to the civil service?

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest): The rule was applied to the civil service as far as possible, but hon. members must remember that a large number of new officers were required in the service. When so many officers were required, some being required to have special knowledge, promotion in the service could not always meet these requirements; but it was the intention of the Government, as far as possible, to give promotion to officers already in the service. He would look up the report of the Commissioner of Police in regard to the points referred to by the member for Nannine, and lay it on the table of the House. With regard to men being on duty in plain clothes, the detectives of course did not wear uniform, and he understood it had been found necessary to put some of the constables on duty in plain clothes, with a badge, as their uniforms were not ready.

MR. SOLOMON said the ration allowance for police in certain districts did not seem very liberal.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) said the allowance did appear low, and he had called the attention of the Commissioner to it; but the Commissioner seemed to think the allowance was sufficient, he being able to get any number of men on those terms.

Vote put and passed.

*Gaols*, £22,583 3s.—agreed to.

*Rottnest Establishment*, £3,630—agreed to.

*Printing*, £19,618 9s. 6d.—agreed to.

*Observatory*, £3,364 4s.—agreed to.

*Registry*, £3,890—agreed to.

*Charitable Institutions*, £15,790:

MR. HASSELL asked why the meat allowance to the paupers in Albany had been stopped? He had it on the best authority that this allowance had been stopped.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) said he had not heard anything about that, and thought the hon member must have been misinformed. All the Crown institutions were victualled in the same way.

Vote put and passed.

*Government Gardens*, £1,300—agreed to.

*Defences*, £21,585 11s. 4d.:

MR. A. FORREST drew attention to the fact that the amount of this vote was double that for the last year. He noticed that the commandant's salary had been increased by £100 a year, and that the services of another valued officer, who did his work well, were not recognised by an increase. That seemed to be the regular course, the head of the department obtaining an advance of salary, and the next officer, who usually had to do most of the work, being overlooked. A salary of £250 for the adjutant was not a great deal. He was allowed £50 for lodging, while the commandant got £100, and presumably the adjutant would require as good a house as the commandant. Could not the Treasurer see his way to give this old and valued officer an increase of salary of at least £50 a year? The Defence vote was getting to serious proportions, although they were not a fighting community. The sum of £21,000 was a good proportion of the public revenue, and that sum might be better spent in the Fremantle harbour works. He failed to see what good the Defence forces did for the people of the colony. They could not expect, with their small army, to be able to protect themselves in time of war, while the presence of the little force might be a source of menace to them, inducing an enemy to come and blow Fremantle up. The country was prosperous, and hon. members were not in the humour to criticise the Estimates too closely, knowing they had been carefully prepared: but they would ask the attention of the Government in cases where deserving officers had been overlooked.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) said the reason the adjutant had been overlooked was that no request had been made for an increase of salary for him. He (the Premier) had no desire to cut down that officer's salary, for he was a very good officer; but,

at the same time, hon. members knew that the Treasury did not prepare all the details of the Estimates. The figures under the heading of "Defences" were recommended to the Minister by the head of the department. The adjutant received £250 a year as salary, £50 a year lodging allowance, and £50 a year for travelling expenses. The travelling allowance was not supposed to be an emolument. He would be glad to consult with the commandant with regard to this matter. The reason the commandant had an increase was that the Government had found him an excellent officer, and they wished to encourage a good man. Looking at the position he occupied, the salary of £500 was not quite adequate; and, with regard to house allowance, rents had risen very much since the commandant arrived in the colony. The colony was fortunate in having such a very good officer in command of the forces, and he (the Premier) believed the volunteers would very soon be an efficient defence force.

MR. HASSELL, referring to item 48, "Contribution towards maintenance of garrison at Albany, £1,100," said the garrison of permanent artillery at Albany was so small as to be almost useless, and unless steps were taken to improve it, the garrison had better be done away with. The number of the garrison was not sufficient by one half. The garrison in case of war would be a menace to the town, instead of a protection. It would be better to strike the item out altogether, than leave it as at present.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) said it was remarkable that the hon. member had called attention to the smallness of the garrison only after it had been in existence for several years. This was a federal fort and garrison, and if they could get the other colonies to contribute more largely, the Government would increase the force, which at the present time was on a peace footing of thirty men. Even thirty men were better than no force at all, for they kept the guns in order and all ready for times of emergency. Under the proposal of the commandant, there would be in Albany an auxiliary force of one hundred men, who, with the permanent garrison, would be able to show a very good face to an enemy if he appeared.

MR. HASSELL said that they had been looking for a long time now for an increase of the garrison.

MR. WOOD said this vote should be increased, as it was necessary to provide a stronger garrison at Albany. He had inspected the forts there, and was of opinion that, in the event of war, those forts would be no better than slaughter-houses, owing to the rocks being all around. All that an enemy would have to do would be to fire at the rocks, and the splinters would kill every man in the neighbourhood.

MR. ILLINGWORTH, referring to Item 51, "Headquarters band, maintenance and incidental expenses, £200," said he agreed with the member for West Kimberley that the whole of the money would be absolutely wasted. The headquarters band was the best part of the Defence force, and pretty well all that the public would get in return for the expenditure of £21,000. As a Defence vote it was a delusion, for there was no defence in it of any use whatever. Members must know that any force that could be raised in Western Australia would be of no use whatever. If they were to have a Defence vote at all, they ought to have a good band, and he was in favour of increasing the allowance on that item.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) said that the amount for the bands was placed on the estimates by the commandant, who was himself desirous of having a good band, and there could be no doubt the amount proposed would provide it.

MR. MORAN, referring to item 57, "Small Arms, Ammunition, £700," said he had received a communication from residents at Kalgoorlie, who were anxious to form a rifle corps there. What they wanted was to know whether the Government would supply small arms, ammunition, and uniforms? He would like the Premier to give an answer to the question, in order to let the people at Kalgoorlie thoroughly understand the position taken by the Government. He thought these rifle corps would be much more useful in time of war, judging from the experience in South Africa, than ordinary soldiers would be. He was in favour of encouraging every man to handle a rifle. As to the point raised by the member for West Kimberley, he too

would like to see the salary of the adjutant increased.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) said he could not then give the information asked for, as to the formation of a rifle corps at Kalgoorlie, but would make inquiries and let the hon. member know the result.

MR. SOLOMON said he noticed that item 61, "Field-day-expenses, guards of honour and parades, £5,000," had been increased to that amount from £2,058. Why was this increase made?

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) said the increase was made in the item because it was proposed to give more gratuities, and also give more in capitation grant than was given at the present time. Hon. members would notice, from the report of the commandant, what it was proposed to do in the future for the improvement of the Defence forces. It was intended each year to pass the best men of the volunteer force into a partially paid force. That system had been in existence for a year, and the commandant proposed to extend it, as it had proved a great success. By this means it was hoped to give the volunteers more interest in their work. Some time ago it was intended to have a partially paid militia, but the proposal did not meet with the approval of this House, and the estimate for it was not passed. In lieu of that proposal, the present system had been instituted by the commandant, and it appeared to be working well and was popular with the men. The colony was fortunate in having such an officer as the present commandant, and the money spent in that direction was not wasted. He (the Premier) would like to see the movement extend, as he believed it would pay the colony both by the good it did to the men and by the assistance it gave to the country. He hoped they would not get into a way of thinking there was no need for defence, as in time of war a small body of men, well armed and disciplined, would be better than ten times the number of undisciplined men. He hoped that, as the colony got richer and more important, the military spirit would not altogether die out.

MR. A. FORREST said the explanation given by the Treasurer was not satisfactory. Last year they spent £2,058, and this year they were called upon

to pay £5,000 for field-day sports. [THE PREMIER: No.] Well, it was for field-day expenses. The Premier told them he hoped they would go on, so that next year they might be called on to pay £12,500. All the other colonies were reducing their defence force expenditure, but this colony was building up a big defence force. The officer in charge of the department was a gentleman they all admired, but he had the fault of being extravagant in his estimates, as the amount had been increased by £10,000. The sum of £5,000 was a piece of extravagance, as it would practically do no good. No one could say, if a hostile force landed at Fremantle, that our defenders could stop it. This colony had to depend on a country (England) strong enough to defend them, and he hoped the commandant would be informed that the committee viewed with dissatisfaction the items of extra expenditure.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) said the commandant, in his report on page 5, stated—"The pay of this 'partially paid force of 900 strong, 'namely 200 artillery and 700 infantry, would amount to £5,000 a year; and it was with a view to being 'able to carry out this scheme that I 'asked for the sum of £5,000 to be 'placed on the Estimates for field-day 'expenses, &c., for the current year." He (the Premier) thought the force would increase under the new arrangement, and the £5,000 asked for would be money well spent, but he would bear in mind the remarks of the hon. member.

MR. HASSELL said he had been informed that not one single West Australian had enlisted in the permanent defence force at Albany during the whole time it had been in existence.

MR. COOKWORTHY said the defence expenditure was in a great measure wasted, and that if the same amount were spent on the military training of young men in the colony at certain times of the year, by teaching them to handle weapons, and giving them a little military drilling, this system would be more advantageous, as it would teach them habits of discipline, and also result in the creation of a force which could be used at some future time for the defence of the country.

MR. WOOD asked whether the Premier had noticed that the amount of £1,350

for capitation money was in addition to the amount of £5,000.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) said this was only for uniforms.

Vote put and passed.

*Admiralty Surveys, £11,748 6s:*

MR. A. FORREST said it was usual for the Imperial Government to pay one-half towards the cost of coastal surveys, and he asked whether representations had been made to the authorities in England to reimburse the colony to that extent.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) said he had communicated, through the Governor, with the Secretary of State, also with the Agent General in England, asking the latter to seek a personal interview with the Secretary of State, and urge the Imperial Government to contribute towards the cost of this survey, as had been done in the Queensland coastal surveys. He had suggested that the contribution should be one-half the cost. Having taken this action, he expected the Imperial authorities would consent to contribute, as it was only reasonable they should contribute.

MR. HASSELL said that, whether the Imperial Government contributed or not, he would support the vote.

Vote put and passed.

*Central Board of Health, £394:*

MR. SOLOMON asked whether it would not be wise to provide for a general inspector to assist and have a certain amount of supervision over local boards. This would be a great assistance to local boards, bearing in mind what had taken place lately.

MR. MORAN said, as a resident of Perth, he would like to strike out the line "Secretary and chief inspector of nuisances, £150," as they paid that amount but got for it more than £150 worth of bad smells. What were the duties of that officer?

THE PREMIER: He controls the whole of the health of the colony.

MR. MORAN said it was a convenient peg for him on which to express the opinion that Perth could beat the world for concentrated bad smells in a small area.

MR. WOOD said the powers of the Central Board should be extended so as to control the quarantine both on the seaboard and inland.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) said the Board was not a hard-worked one. He agreed that the system needed reorganising, and must be taken in hand as soon as possible. The Central Board of Health, as at present constituted, required re-organising; but, to get a proper board, it would have to be paid. He asked the committee to pass this vote, and the Government would undertake to look into the matter and see if they could not put the board on a proper basis.

Vote put and passed.

*Treasury, £7,961 6s. 2d.—agreed to.*

*London Agency, £3,650:*

MR. GEORGE asked whether the Government were taking steps to keep the Agent General better informed as to the requirements of this country, by forwarding reports.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) said the Government were trying to keep the Agent General fully supplied with all the information necessary about the colony. Directions had been given to the Government Printer to forward to the Agent General all printed documents and reports likely to be of use in the London office.

MR. GEORGE asked whether the Government had taken steps to put the Agent General in possession of sufficient information in regard to the railway rolling stock required, so that he might be able to avail himself of any favourable condition of the market in England or elsewhere for obtaining supplies. A large quantity of rails and fittings, and also rolling stock, would be required for the contracts to be let shortly, and the Agent General should be placed in the same position as a buyer for an ordinary commercial concern. Did the Government intend to go on with the twopenny-halfpenny policy of the last few years, and wait until the necessity was forced on them before ordering supplies?

THE PREMIER: It is all right—get on.

MR. GEORGE said he wanted something more definite than that.

Vote put and passed.

*Customs, £29,312:*

MR. WOOD asked how it was the "Blue Book" for last year had not been issued yet.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) said he regretted that the "Blue Book" was not ready yet. All sorts of excuses

were made as to delays in the printing, but he had no doubt it was nearly ready now.

MR. WOOD, referring to item 28, "Jerquer, £270, increase £20," said it seemed to have fallen to his lot to call attention to the inadequate salary of this officer, year after year. An increase of only £20 was given this year, while for the chief landing surveyor an increase of £100 was given. The former officer had been, to his certain knowledge, in the service at least 30 years, and his salary should be at least £300. He (Mr. Wood) had protested before that this officer seemed to be kept down in the service, although he was known to be a really good, honest officer.

MR. SOLOMON said he could bear out all that the hon. member had said. He had known this officer for 30 years, and could say he was one of the best officers in the service.

MR. HIGHAM supported the remarks as to this officer, who was most deserving, and his salary should be raised to £300.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) said the amount of this officer's salary was that which the head of the department had recommended. This officer's claim to an increase had not been altogether forgotten, as last year he received an increase of £30, and now another £20 was put down, so that he was gradually going up, and these increases did not look as if his merits were ignored.

MR. WOOD, referring back to item 3, "Statistical Clerk, £300; increase, £45," said last year the House refused an increase, but this officer was now set down for an increase of £45.

MR. GEORGE, referring to item 104, "Sub-Collector of Customs, Perth, £325, increase £50," asked whether the Government were not ashamed of that small rise? For an officer holding so important a position, the increase ought certainly to have been about another £50. Taking the revenue now received at the Perth bond, it showed an increase from £1,500 a month formerly to about £11,000 a month at present, and yet the officer in charge of this bond was put down for a miserable rise of £50. The Perth bond was proving a great convenience and saving to the merchants in Perth, as compared with the trouble and expense they had in getting things up

from the bond at Fremantle; for it was now possible to get stuff from the Eastern colonies or from London, and clear it in Perth, in half the time that it took to get the stuff from Fremantle and clear it down there. His own firm, for instance, were enabled, by importing goods from London through Albany and on to Perth, to get the goods into their premises two days after arrival in Perth. The men who were carrying on this increasing business at the Perth bond were entitled to be treated equitably and respectfully, and a rise of £50 a year for the Sub-Collector in Perth was paltry. No jealousy on the part of Fremantle, in regard to importations coming through Albany, or in regard to the bond in Perth, should be allowed to affect these salaries.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) said he was glad to hear the hon. member advocating even greater increases than had been placed on the Estimates; for, considering the pressure that was constantly brought to bear on the Government by nearly all officers in the service, the Government might congratulate themselves that they had not succumbed altogether to the influences around them. If the hon. member for the Murray thought the Government should give a higher salary to this officer, he (the Premier) did not know what principle the hon. member would like them to work on. This officer's salary was increased last year from £250 to £275, and now a further increase of £50 was made in the Estimates; and as these increases in two years amounted to £75, the hon. member for the Murray should be satisfied that a fair increase had been given to this officer. If officers were to be paid in proportion to the amount of money that passed through their hands, as the hon. member seemed to suggest, then he (the Premier) would like to know how much should be paid to the Collector of Customs at Fremantle, for instance, or to the Under-Treasurer in Perth, through whose hands very large sums must pass. If an officer's salary went on increasing year after year, that officer could not complain. It was competent for any hon. member to pick out some officer's salary in the Estimates, and advertise that officer in this House by bringing his case before it; but this was not a good thing to do, because those officers whose cases might

be brought forward by hon. members were not the only ones in the service deserving of consideration or deserving of an increase of salary. This officer was a very good man; he had been promoted from Fremantle to be Sub-Collector in Perth, and on that appointment he received an increase, which was being followed by another increase of £50 this year.

Vote put and passed.

*Harbour and light, £20,446—agreed to.*  
*Government Stores, £5,747 5s. 6d. :*

MR. GEORGE asked whether steps had been taken, as far as possible, to call for tenders within the colony for the materials required as stores, or whether the Government were going on with the antiquated system by which, if a few pins or a few pens were required, they must be ordered from England by a routine process, through the Agent General, and the order must necessarily pass through his hands. Representatives of all the large manufactories in the world were now endeavouring to bring the merits of their manufactures and productions under the immediate notice of the Government Storekeeper and heads of departments, and this way of doing business was likely to bring about better results than the old system of sending requisitions to London for a continuance of antiquated things that might have been in use many years ago. The Government departments in this colony should be up to date in all requirements, and this could best be done by dealing directly with the representatives of firms who now came to the colony to supply the wants of the Government and the commercial houses. Although these representatives were now bringing the newest and best things under notice in the colony, so that orders for requirements might be given in a direct way, yet he was told it continued to be impossible for an order to be given to them here, because the order had to go through the Agent General in London, in continuance of an old system that had become antiquated.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) said the practice adopted by the Government Storekeeper was to advertise in the colony for annual supplies of all kinds required, outside of the large expenditure on loan account. This was

called the "line upon line" system of tendering, and by it the Government had the option of selecting whichever items were lowest in a tender, and not necessarily accepting the tender as a whole. In regard to supplying tenders from England, the rule of the service was that all supplies should be ordered through the Agent General, who called for tenders in England for what was required; and, in dealing with tenders, the Agent General had the advice of consulting engineers who acted for the Government in such matters, and he could accept the best tender. In regard to stationery, it was tendered for in the colony, although he (the Premier) was not prepared to say the Government get any advantage from that system—indeed, his opinion was that they did not.

MR. GEORGE: It would employ labour in the country, surely.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest): No; that was not the effect of it, for he believed the material was imported from Melbourne, and then supplied to the Government here. It seemed to him the Agent General was more competent to deal with manufacturers on the spot, in England, than the Government of this colony would be in dealing with agents or representatives who might come here on behalf of manufacturers in England or the colonies. He believed the practice in New South Wales was that railway rails and almost everything required were tendered for in the colony, and the large firms who made the contracts had to ship the goods and deliver them; but in this colony that condition was not yet reached, although if he could see any advantage in it the Government would introduce it. Nothing had been brought to his notice showing that the present system was not good, or was not economical.

MR. GEORGE said the Premier had misunderstood him. Some of the largest manufacturing firms in the world were now represented directly in this colony, and in that way would bring the newest things under the notice of heads of the Government departments; therefore he wanted to know whether it was not possible for the departments to deal directly with these representatives who came to the colony, and who were in a position to give information at first hand



respecting all the articles which they made or supplied.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) said that when a department wanted particular goods from England, a full description of the articles required, and probably the name of the firm and the number in a particular catalogue of prices, were usually sent to the Agent General for guidance in ordering the articles named in the indent. If the agent of a manufacturing firm came to this colony and showed the officers of a department that he made a good article, the probability was that the firm represented by that agent, and the particular article in that firm's catalogue, would be mentioned to the Agent General when the order was sent to England. He believed that was done every day.

Vote put and passed.

*Literary, Scientific, and Agricultural Grants, £10,950 :*

MR. ILLINGWORTH asked what provision was being made for the Victoria Public Library. Was it intended to erect the new building near the Museum ?

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) said that was the intention. A sum of £2,500 for the upkeep of the Victoria Public Library was in this estimate, and tenders had already been let for the building of the first wing of the Library on a site near the Museum. It was intended to transfer the Library to the new building, when finished, the building at present occupied being rented, and not owned by the Government. It was also intended to carry on the building, by voting the necessary funds from year to year; and they would soon be able to have a Public Library and a Museum in that convenient part of the city, on a scale which would be a credit to the colony.

Vote put and passed.

*Bureau of Agriculture, £7,000 :*

MR. A. FORREST asked whether the Government intended to give a lump sum of £7,000 for the members of the Bureau to spend in their own way; because in that case this House would only have a report laid on the table showing what had been spent, but would not be able to deal with the proposed expenditure before it was made. This vote for the Bureau was a new departure, a new mode of handing over a lump sum to a body of

trustees or managers for expenditure as they thought fit. There had been an obligation to do this in the case of the Aborigines Protection Board, but that was a precedent which should not be followed. The amount of this vote was double, as compared with that of last year, and this House was entitled to some explanation of the expenditure, instead of being asked to vote a lump sum. No items were given in this year's estimate to show how the £7,000 was to be expended, and he objected to vote a lump sum in this way. It would be far better if the items were put down in detail, so that the committee might have an opportunity of saying whether particular items were right or wrong.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) said it was not at the suggestion of the Bureau of Agriculture that the vote was proposed to be handed over to that body in a lump sum, but other bodies of trustees, such as those in charge of the Perth Museum, the Perth Park, and the Victoria Public Library, obtained votes in the same way. As the Bureau of Agriculture was becoming a large office, it was not desired to make it a Government department, and therefore it was allowed to control its own expenditure; otherwise the Government must have some voice in the appointment of its officers, who, if they were Government officers, would have a right to superannuation allowances. The Bureau submitted to the Government a statement of how they proposed to expend the money that was asked for, and at the end of the year a report was made showing the actual expenditure.

MR. GEORGE contended that this House should have control over the expenditure of the country. He objected to any sum of money being handed over to what was practically an irresponsible body; therefore he moved that the amount of the vote be reduced by £1,000.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) said that when asked for a grant of £9,000 for the Bureau, he cut it down by £2,000; but he did not think that the House would follow the hon. member for the Murray in his amendment. The good work done by the Bureau of Agriculture entitled its managers to the thanks of the community for their gratuitous services.

MR. ILLINGWORTH said it would be a very improper requital for all that the Bureau of Agriculture had done, without the members of its committee receiving fee or reward, if that body were now deprived of the money necessary for carrying out its work.

MR. HARPER said the expenditure of the Bureau had been increased owing to its being called upon to carry out the provisions of the "Destructive Insects Act" and the "Fertilisers Act," which would otherwise be a dead letter. The Bureau had also to pay a higher rent this year for their office premises.

MR. SIMPSON asked whether it was a fact that, two years ago, the Bureau informed the Government that diseased meat was being supplied to the Perth Hospital?

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) replied that had no recollection of it.

MR. GEORGE said that, having gained his object of protesting against the handing over of a lump sum to any irresponsible body, he would withdraw his amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Vote put and passed.

*Agricultural Bank, £1,228:*

MR. GEORGE asked why it was not proposed to increase the salary of the manager?

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) said that, while the Bank was not paying its way, it was not considered to be a good time to increase salaries, beyond that of the clerk and accountant, which had been done on the recommendation of the manager. When the institution became a paying one, the Government would be glad to increase the salary of the manager.

Vote put and passed.

*Pensions, £4,083 10s. 10d.:*

MR. GEORGE said he would like to protest against this vote, but he supposed it would be of no use to do so.

Vote put and passed.

*Miscellaneous Services, £3,000: £51,151 13s. 4d.:*

MR. SOLOMON asked whether a gratuity could not be given to the children of an old officer (deceased) named McEwan, whose family had only one son capable of assisting them.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) said that if the hon. member would place

the whole of the facts before him, he would see what could be done, although he knew of no case in which a gratuity had been given to the children of an officer deceased.

MR. RANDELL asked for explanation of item 5, "Incidental expenses, £5,000."

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) said that was merely an item to meet cases of unforeseen expenditure which might arise during the year, and not otherwise provided for in the Estimates. It was a lump sum which the House entrusted to the Government for meeting cases of expenditure in all departments of an exceptional character.

MR. RANDELL said he had thought there must be something special in this item, seeing that it occupied a more prominent position than usual in these Estimates.

MR. GEORGE, referring to item 6, "Grant to fire brigade, Perth, £50," said this £50 was a miserable sum to give the fire brigade of Perth. The Government had every reason for liberally supporting the Perth brigade, for they had property of enormous value in the city, and in case of fire in any of these buildings the Perth brigade would be called on to act. There was a special reason for a larger contribution in the fact that the Government owned so much property in the city; therefore the Perth brigade should receive a special grant.

MR. HIGHAM supported the remarks of the member for the Murray, and said £50 was a quite inadequate sum for the Government to pay to a fire brigade having the care of so much Government property.

THE PREMIER said the amount used to be £25, but he had doubled it.

MR. HIGHAM said the Government owned a large amount of property in Perth, and £50 was not a fair proportion for them to pay towards the upkeep of the city fire brigade. Two hundred pounds would be more like the sum the Government should pay. Fire brigades deserved every encouragement, not only from the public and the insurance companies, but also from the Government.

MR. WOOD said the fire brigades ought to get twenty times the support that the volunteer movement received. The members of a fire brigade ran all sorts of risks and dangers, and this House

ought to show its appreciation of their efforts by increasing the subsidy. His experience was that insurance companies did not want fire brigades, because the presence of fire brigades had the effect of reducing the premiums, whereas the companies preferred to take the risks.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) said he did not see why the Government should contribute to fire brigades throughout the colony to a large extent. People who had property were just as much interested as the Government in the support of fire brigades. The Government had given to the Perth Council £500 for a steam fire engine, and the Government gave £50 a year, not only to the Perth brigade, but also to the brigades at Fremantle, Kalgoorlie, Kanoona, Menzies, and other places. When there was a fire, the insurance companies were eager to have the fire brigade, but they did not seem so ready to contribute to the funds of the brigade. He had no desire to be niggardly towards fire brigades, whose services he thoroughly appreciated; but it was not only a question of increasing the subsidy to Perth, but meant a consequent increase of subsidy to every fire brigade in the colony. It could not be said that the Government were not liberal towards fire brigades.

MR. SOLOMON said the Government might favourably consider the claim for an increase; and not long ago the Fremantle brigade came to Perth to assist in extinguishing a large fire at the old Barracks.

THE PREMIER said he hoped they were treated liberally on that occasion.

MR. SOLOMON said the fire brigades had a very good system, for the members could be roused at any time of the night to attend a fire. The Perth and Fremantle brigades might be specially considered, for the reason that they were ready to assist either town at any time.

MR. GEORGE said the Premier had not looked at this matter with his usual broad view. The Government had a large amount of property in Perth, and in case of fire they would no doubt call on the Perth brigade; and how could they expect that brigade to be properly equipped for a subsidy of £50 a year? It was a miserable sum to give the brigade, and he was surprised the Government were not

ready to increase it. A fire brigade was the finest insurance they could possibly have in a city. If they had a good fire brigade, they would have no incendiary fires.

MR. RANDELL said he was surprised the City Council of Perth should ask for this increase of subsidy, when they had been so remiss in the matter of procuring a steam fire engine, for which money had been voted by this House. The support of the fire brigade was distinctly a question for the municipality itself. The Government were justified in giving £50 a year, because they had a considerable number of buildings in the city. A properly equipped fire brigade was a protection, but he questioned whether a properly equipped brigade existed in Perth. A year ago the Perth Council had received £500 for an engine and had ordered it only lately, whereas the Fremantle brigade, which received a similar amount at the same time, had its engine now in use.

THE PREMIER said the City Council did not seem very anxious about it.

MR. RANDELL said this matter of the fire brigade was one for the municipality to a larger extent than it was a question for the Government. As to the insurance companies, it was not to their interest to encourage fire brigades, because when there were fire brigades the owners of property did not insure to the same extent, relying on the services of the brigades to save them from loss. Taking into consideration the liberality with which the Government treated municipalities, the sum of £50 was as much as the people could reasonably expect the Government to give to the Perth brigade.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) said the member for the Murray had had a good deal to say as to what the Government should do, but he had forgotten to mention that the City Council of Perth had taken 12 months to order a steam fire engine, although they had the money in hand all the time. If they had cared much about the welfare of the fire brigade, they would not have kept that money for twelve months without using it.

MR. GEORGE said the City Council repented of their misdeed with regard to the steam fire engine, and he was afraid

that, in order to find the same money now, the City would have to rely on the bank overdraft.

MR. RANDELL, referring to item 12, "Subsidy to municipalities at the rate of £1 per £ raised by general rate, £20,000," said it was desirable that in some cases the Government should exercise certain control over the subsidy moneys. For instance, in the city of Perth, at the present moment, the approaches to Government House were a disgrace to the city, and the vicinity of the vice-regal palace of the colony should not be allowed to remain in such a state. When £ for £ was given to the Municipal Council of Perth, the Government might well attach the condition that the approaches to Government House should be placed in good order.

MR. HASSELL said there were many streets in Perth that were a disgrace to the City Council, and it was time some effort should be made to see that some of the money the Council received was not wasted.

MR. GEORGE said no doubt the approaches to Government House were decidedly bad, but so was also nearly every street in Perth; and all he could do was to ask the members of the House to give a little time to the spirit of reform which seemed to have entered the Council. The subsidy of pound for pound was a very meagre matter, so far as Perth was concerned, and there the Government might fairly grant 30s. in the pound, or let the corporation rate the property owned by the Government. During the last few months the Government had resumed, for railway purposes, something like three-quarters of a mile of land frontage in Roe Street, and the Council would receive no rates from that land in the next year. The Government owned frontages equal to about a seventh of the whole frontages in Perth, and particularly in streets with positions that would bear very heavy assessments. The Government had offered to the City Council £40,000 for the Town Hall, and when that was indignantly refused, and £60,000 was asked for it, the Government were uncertain whether to close at the higher price. If £60,000 was the value of that block, what was the value of the huge buildings called the Govern-

ment offices, on the adjoining block of land? There was no other town in the colony where the Government had taken away so much rateable property from the municipal council.

MR. RANDELL asked if it was true that the gates to the Perth Park had been placed in a wrong position, as stated.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) said the gates were said to be in a wrong place, which would necessitate the cutting down of a few trees, if the gates were to remain where they had been placed. The gates could not be brought nearer the city unless the Government purchased some private land; and if placed nearer along the present approach they would be obstructing the street. The matter was under the consideration of the Park Board at present, and some arrangement might be made for removing the gates later on. He did not know that great harm would be done, even if a few trees had to come down; and he hoped that, before long, the public would have the pleasure of using the new park road, which would be a great advantage to the people of Perth.

MR. GEORGE asked whether the making of the park had been taken away from the Public Works Department?

THE PREMIER said the Works Department carried out the fencing for the Park Board.

MR. GEORGE asked whether that was along the same road in connection with the park that there had been so much messing about, through the conditions of the contract being altered. [THE PREMIER: Yes.] Representations were made to the contractor that he could obtain stone at a certain place, but he was not able to get it there, and large sums were paid for taking away rubbish that might have been taken away without cost to the amateur managers on the Park Board. He would like to hear from the Premier if that was the result of the work of the amateur board.

MR. RANDELL asked whether it would not be desirable to arrange for Havelock Street to connect inside with the road proposed.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) said there was a public road running along the north side of the park, and that would connect with Havelock Street.

No doubt, when funds permitted, there would be many roads through the park.

MR. GEORGE said the Premier had not had the courtesy to reply to his question; therefore he moved that the item be reduced by £1,000, as he did not believe in being treated like that.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) said the fence referred to was erected along the Fremantle Road, and in order to leave the road as wide as possible, the fence was put close to the bank, the result being that a quantity of soil slipped down and had to be removed, and a considerable amount of expense was thus incurred. He thought the contractor had received nearly twice the amount of his contract price through this alteration of the fence, and the contract had been carried out very slowly. The contractor requested to be allowed to obtain stone from the park, and also along the face of the Fremantle Road, but the Park Board refused permission, as they thought the removal would disfigure the roadway. No promise was made by the Board that the contractor should get stone from there.

Amendment for reduction of item put and negatived.

Vote put and passed.

On the motion of MR. SOLOMON, progress was reported, and leave given to sit again.

#### ADJOURNMENT.

The House adjourned at 10:48 p.m., until the next day.

## Legislative Council,

Thursday, 3rd September, 1896.

Select Committee on Meat Supply: report of—Constitution Act Amendment Bill: third reading—Post Office Savings Bank Bill: third reading—Excess Bill, 1895: third reading—Coolgardie Goldfields Water Supply Loan Bill: committee: third reading—Judges Pensions Bill: first reading—Streets and (Greenmount and Marble Bar) Closure Bill: second reading: committee—Streets and Roads (Mullewa and Busselton) Closure Bill: second reading: committee—Adjournment.

THE PRESIDENT (Hon. Sir G. Shenton) took the chair at 4:30 o'clock p.m.

#### SELECT COMMITTEE ON MEAT SUPPLY.

THE MINISTER FOR MINES (Hon. E. H. Wittenoom): I have to move for an extension of time to the 22nd September, for the purpose of bringing up the report of the joint committee on the meat supply question.

THE PRESIDENT (Hon. Sir G. Shenton): I may point out to the hon. member that it is customary for these reports to be laid on the table of both Houses simultaneously. It appears that the report was presented to the Legislative Assembly yesterday, and it ought to have been presented here at the same time.

Question put and passed.

#### CONSTITUTION ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

##### THIRD READING.

THE MINISTER FOR MINES (Hon. E. H. Wittenoom): I move that this Bill be now read a third time.

THE HON. S. H. PARKER: The Hon. Mr. Burges was right, I think, in saying that these amendments should be given notice of. Now that we see the amendment in print, it appears to have been most clumsily drawn. It reads:—"Notwithstanding anything contained in Section 8 of the Amendment Act, the seats of the members elected at the first election of members for the North-East Province, which seats by the said section would become vacated on the completion of a period of two years from the date of election, and each succeeding period of two years, etc." Therefore, it goes on for ever, instead of stating that