

tion. Always go to someone who does not know and he will show you how not to do it. I am not willing to press this motion against the Government. If they say, "We will not make an appointment under any circumstances," it is no use asking them to do so. It was my ultimate object that there should be utilised the practical knowledge of settlers and there are any number of them who could be selected, but another object was to draw public attention to the whole matter. I have succeeded in doing that and now with the permission of the House, I desire to withdraw the motion.

Motion by leave withdrawn.

*House adjourned at 9.23 p.m.*

## Legislative Assembly.

*Tuesday, 19th October, 1915.*

	PAGE
Papers presented .. .. .	1713
Assent to Bills .. .. .	1713
Question: Industries Assistance Board, control ..	1713
Annual Estimates, Votes and Items discussed ..	1714
Loan Estimates 1915-6 .. .. .	1745
Bill: Supplementary Loan, £1,300,000, 1s., 2s. ...	1751
Lieut. Thro-sell, V.C., congratulations .. .. .	1752

The SPEAKER took the Chair at 3 p.m., and read prayers.

### PAPERS PRESENTED.

By the Premier: 1, Audit of accounts of trading concerns—Report of Auditor General. 2, Return of transfers in the Education Department from 1st November, 1914, to 1st March, 1915 (ordered on motion by Mr. Heitmann). 3, Returns of the business done in Western Australia by the various life assurance companies operating herein.

By the Minister for Agriculture: Audit of accounts of State Meat Stalls.

By Hon. R. H. Underwood (Honorary Minister): 1, Report on the Charities Department for the year ended 30th June, 1915. 2, Resolution (A) under the Health Act, 1911-12, adopting model by-laws, passed by the Corrigin and Menzies Boards. 3, Resolution (B) under the Health Act, 1911-12, adopting model by-laws, passed by the Burtville Local Board of Health. 4, By-law of the Melville Roads Board. 5, Amendment of Regulations (Nos. 163 and 96) of the Fremantle Harbour Trust.

### ASSENT TO BILLS.

Messages from the Governor received and read notifying assent to the following Bills:—

- 1, Permanent Reserve.
- 2, Grain and Foodstuff.
- 3, Government Electric Works Act Amendment.
- 4, Roads Act Amendment and Continuation.
- 5, Cottesloe Beach Rates Validation.
- 6, Postponement of Debts Act Continuance.
- 7, Marriage Act Amendment.

### QUESTION—INDUSTRIES ASSISTANCE BOARD. CONTROL.

Mr. THOMSON asked the Minister for Agriculture: In the case of farmers who, having received advances from the Industries Assistance Board have repaid all such advances, do they still remain in any way subject to control by the board?

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE replied: Section 14, Subsection 4B, provides that an applicant may at any time repay the whole of the advance made under the Industries Assistance Act, and should he do so, there would be no surplus in the hands of the Colonial Treasurer to apply towards the discharge of the other debts of the applicant, as provided in Section 21 of the Act. The Government, however, has an obligation to the creditors as per the third schedule

of the Act, and the matter of providing necessary protection to such creditors is receiving consideration.

# ANNUAL ESTIMATES, 1915-16.

## *In Committee of Supply.*

Resumed from the 14th October; Mr. Holman in the Chair.

Department of Colonial Secretary (Hon. J. M. Drew, Minister—Hon. R. H. Underwood, Honorary Minister, in charge of the Votes).

Vote—*Office of Colonial Secretary*, £31,664:

Item—Under Secretary and Comptroller General of Prisons, £600.

[Mr. O'Loughlin had moved an amendment—"That the item be reduced by £100."]

Hon. R. H. UNDERWOOD: On Thursday there was considerable discussion on this item, and members expressed themselves fully and freely, not only on the capabilities of this officer, but on his mannerisms, the way he twirled his stick, how he played golf and cricket, where he came from, and the colour of his parents' eyes.

Mr. Thomas: Those are his chief occupations.

Hon. R. H. UNDERWOOD: My ten months' experience of him is that, while he is a good athlete, he is also a most intelligent worker. Although he does not go to his office at 9 o'clock in the morning, he never leaves until he has finished his work, and almost every night he is at the office till 6 o'clock. Consequently if he is an hour late in arriving in the morning, he is an hour late in leaving at night.

Mr. Heitmann: It is bad discipline.

Hon. R. H. UNDERWOOD: Perhaps so, but this officer holds that he can get a better opportunity to do his work properly when the office is quiet than when the ordinary business is in progress. He has adopted this system and it has been approved by his Minister. He works during the ordinary lunch hour and has his lunch between 2 o'clock

and 3 o'clock. This possibly accounts for him being seen about the streets during office hours.

Mr. Thomas: Too thin altogether.

Hon. R. H. UNDERWOOD: The member for Leonora said this officer walks along twirling his stick. He usually rides a bicycle, and I have never yet seen a cyclist twirling a stick. I have rarely seen this officer knocking about the town.

Mr. THOMAS: The Honorary Minister's speech has convinced me that the member for Forrest was right in laying this indictment. The Minister admits that this officer, in contradistinction to officers in all other departments, has a sort of right not allowed to others to go to the office when he likes each morning. I was under the impression we were a democratic country and what was good for the officer on £600 a year was good for the clerk on £150. On the Minister's showing, it might be an advantage for all to arrive at the office late each morning.

The Premier: The services of the head of a department are at the disposal of the department during the whole 24 hours.

Mr. THOMAS: They may be at the disposal of the department for the whole 24 hours, but the work the officer would do would probably occupy only four hours. I am astonished at the remarks of the Honorary Minister and at the readiness with which he has accepted these excuses. We have a right to expect that all grades of officers in the service should be treated alike so far as hours of work are concerned, and yet we find the Honorary Minister taking no exception to the hour at which this officer comes to his office in the morning. I have no personal feeling in the matter, but I regard the preference which is extended to this under secretary in the light of a bad example to the rank and file of the service. If the amendment does nothing else than show that the Committee does not approve of this sort of thing, it should have some effect, and if half the statements which have been made about this officer are correct, the proposed reduction in the item will be justified. The

credulity of the Honorary Minister is astounding.

Mr. FOLEY: Notwithstanding the remarks of the Honorary Minister, I contend that members have a perfect right to criticise any officer who is employed in the service of the State.

Mr. B. J. Stubbs: But not to indulge in personalities.

Mr. FOLEY: I wish to refute the statement of the Honorary Minister to the effect that I said that this officer walked about the streets when he should be in his office. What I did was to protest against this officer going to work at a later hour than other officers in the service. He may be as good an under secretary as any in the State, but if the Minister is going to allow him to come and go as he pleases, there can never be proper discipline in the department. I may say that I have no fault to find with this officer so far as his abilities are concerned. Everyone who has had any dealings with him in his office, would I am sure, give him credit for being one of the cleverest under secretaries in the State.

Mr. HEITMANN: It is often impossible for a man in charge of a department to leave his office exactly at the general hour for closing. There must be some latitude given to members of the service who find it impossible to keep regular hours. The reason given for the proposed reduction in the item is that the officer in question does not arrive at his office at the proper time, but there are ways of correcting this without taking the action that is now proposed. I have seen quite a number of civil servants in the streets, and I believe their duties sometimes take them there. I feel sure that if this officer had not been doing his work, some black mark would have been placed against his name by one or other of the many Ministers under whom he has worked. Instead of that, however, we find that his salary has gone on increasing during the last eight or nine years. It does not show a great amount of pluck on the part of members to continually pick out a man in the service and endeavour to decrease his salary. I

am not referring to the member for Forrest.

Mr. O'Loughlen: You have attacked him more than anyone else in the House.

Mr. HEITMANN: No evidence has been adduced to show that this officer is not carrying out the duties allotted to him. He is the under secretary of possibly the biggest department in the State and has more work to perform than the majority of other under secretaries. I do not think £600 a year is too much for the work he has to do. Of course if he is not worthy of the position he should be dismissed, but I am not going to vote for the amendment.

Mr. TAYLOR: If the member for Forrest had come into contact with the officer in question and with his work as under secretary, he would, I think, have held a different view in regard to his capacity than he has given utterance to. There are few officers in the service as capable as this one. He was under secretary when I was Colonial Secretary and I know his value. He is capable of running the show well. I am afraid that some hon. members who are attacking him would not be so ready to do so if they met him on the common ground of a public platform or gave him the same privileges of reply as they themselves enjoy of attack.

Mr. O'Loughlen: I am willing to do it.

Mr. TAYLOR: I am afraid the flesh would be weak when it came to the point.

Mr. O'Loughlen: The hon. member was sacked from the department.

Mr. TAYLOR: It only shows how dirty the member for Forrest can be, when he says something that he knows to be absolutely untrue. In view of that, what would he say about a man who is not here to protect himself? It shows how far some Huns will go. The hon. member once pursued me into my electorate, but after 20 minutes before an audience he went back with his tail jammed.

The CHAIRMAN: Order!

Mr. TAYLOR: I am prepared to protect an officer against the type and calibre of man who attacks him here,

where that officer cannot reply. The attacks on the officer are cowardly.

Mr. O'Loghlen interjected.

Mr. TAYLOR: I know the hon. member would like to associate with somebody decent.

Mr. O'Loghlen: I ask you, Mr. Chairman, whether the member for Mt. Margaret is in order in saying that I would like to associate with somebody decent?

The CHAIRMAN: The member for Forrest having objected to the statement, the member for Mt. Margaret must withdraw.

Mr. TAYLOR: I withdraw; but the hon. member was looking for it. It is unfair for a member supporting the Colonial Secretary to move a reduction in an item without first having consulted the Minister. The member for Leonora has, since this item was under discussion at the last sitting, satisfied himself that this officer is a capable man.

Mr. Foley: I never at any time said that he was incapable.

Mr. TAYLOR: I am as satisfied about the officer's intellectual capacity as the member for Bunbury is about the officer's physical appearance. The officer is most courteous, capable, and painstaking; and I hope the Committee will not entertain the idea of reducing his salary.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: As I said when moving the reduction, I have no personal grievance against this officer, whom I have never met. My objection to him is that he does not attend to his office. Other Ministers certainly would not allow their under secretaries to attend the office just as they pleased. I fully expected eulogies of the officer from the members for Perth and Mount Margaret. The member for Perth, as Colonial Secretary, had a long experience of the officer, and the member for Mount Margaret, as Colonial Secretary, had about 12 months'. The member for Mount Margaret talks about the cowardliness of my action in attacking an officer who is absent. If ever a member of Parliament carried the assassin's knife, it is the member for Mount Margaret; and he knows when and how to use it. As for the capabilities of the officer, concerning which

the member for Mount Margaret talks, if that officer had not capabilities, he could never have carried the member for Mount Margaret on his back. The member for Mount Margaret has been the Ministerial joke of this country. It is open for the Colonial Secretary to debate the question of this officer's salary in another place if he likes. As a public man I intend to draw attention to an officer who fails in his duty. I admit that a salary of £600 is not too much for the position, and, if I may, I propose to move that the item be reduced by £1, by way of protest. I am not sufficient of a political hypocrite to withdraw the amendment, although I know it will not be carried; and, even if I stand alone, I am prepared to express my opinion.

The CHAIRMAN: The hon. member must move a reduction by some substantial amount.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: In that case I will leave the amendment as it is. I would like to remind hon. members opposite, when voting for the abolition of clerks at £3 per week—

Mr. Thomson: Why did not you attack the other under secretaries?

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: Because I had no occasion to attack them. I know the amendment will be defeated.

Hon. R. H. Underwood: Then why trouble about it?

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: I am not going to climb down in this matter. It is well for hon. members to know that the officer in question will in future be influenced by the fulsome eulogy of Ministers who were not competent, and who fortunately for Western Australia are no longer Ministers—I refer to the members for Perth and Mount Margaret—to continue to run his department just as he pleases.

Hon. FRANK WILSON: I would not have said anything but for the attack which has been made on this side of the House. In season and out of season the member for Forrest and others like him seem to regard it as their duty to say that we are out to reduce the salary of the small man. I do not know that anyone on this side of the House has ever suggested that the man in receipt of £3 a

week should have his salary reduced. That is not a true bill as far as the members of the Opposition are concerned. It is, however, refreshing to hear hon. members opposite criticising each other. Whether or not that is the usual style of caucus debate it is certainly derogatory to this Chamber. If hon. members are justly of the opinion that a certain official is not doing his duty to the State they have a perfect right to draw attention to the fact. They must not, however, make a personal attack on the individual. The question whether an under secretary should attend to his office within stated and fixed hours is one for the Minister controlling the department to see to, and if an attack is to be made it should be made on the Minister. It is the duty of the Minister to investigate the charges. I do not believe one half of that which has been said in regard to this officer. I know him to be a very capable officer, although I have not come into personal contact with him, that is to say, in regard to the details of the department. We all know, however, that Mr. North undoubtedly is an excellent officer, who has spent his lifetime in the service of the State, and that he has a grip of the work of the department second to none so far as under secretaries go. That, however, does not excuse him for being lax, and if there is laxity the matter should be settled by the Minister. I deprecate the tone of this discussion, which must be hurtful to the discipline of the department and certainly must be hurtful to the officer in question.

Mr. CARPENTER: It seems a remarkable thing that the gentleman under discussion appears to be the only officer about whom we are always having a controversy when the Estimates come before us. When I was a member of this Chamber previously, the first thing I heard was a complaint from the member for Geraldton about this Under Secretary. The complaint was in regard to laxity, and more particularly about his practice of getting to his office at 11 o'clock instead of at nine in the morning. If I mistake not, the then Premier—who is now the leader of the Opposition—

made a promise that steps would be taken to see that Mr. North reached his office at the proper time.

Hon. Frank Wilson: If I made that promise it was kept.

Mr. CARPENTER: But the practice has continued, and to my personal knowledge this officer goes to his office at 11 o'clock.

Hon. Frank Wilson: How do you know that?

Mr. CARPENTER: He often comes up in the same train with me. It is quite possible that Mr. North does as much work as other officers.

Hon. Frank Wilson: Why does not the Minister see to it?

Mr. CARPENTER: I agree that the Minister is responsible, and it is time that he had a good heart-to-heart talk with this officer. It would be far better for him to attend to his duties during the regular office hours, rather than stay behind in the evening. The hours are from nine to five, and no man should have the privilege of saying that he will alter them and stay until late in the evening. I cannot agree with the proposal to reduce the salary by £100. I have had dealings with Mr. North, and I admit he knows his work well and is a capable officer.

Amendment put and negatived.

Item—Messengers exchange, £466.

Hon. FRANK WILSON: This item shows an increase of £134 over the vote of last year. Will the Minister explain how that increase comes about?

Hon. R. H. UNDERWOOD: This system has been built up within the last year or so for the purpose of passing files from department to department. Instead of sending boys to each individual department, the central exchange secures the files and distributes them. The introduction of the system has reduced the number of messengers, and I am convinced that a saving has been effected.

Hon. FRANK WILSON: The Minister has not explained why it is necessary to increase the vote from £332 to £466.

Hon. R. H. UNDERWOOD: The exchange was not worked for the whole of last year. The Estimates were

not introduced until the year was half way through, and, furthermore, the business of the exchange has been extended, and it has been found necessary to employ two additional boys. No doubt a saving has been effected in other departments.

Hon. FRANK WILSON: If the Minister has found it necessary to employ two extra boys, he ought to tell us where the corresponding saving is. There must be a decrease somewhere else to correspond with this increase. What I want to emphasise is that we must look after the pence, and then the pounds will look after themselves. It is no use putting on two additional messengers if there is no increase in the work.

Hon. R. H. Underwood: There is an increase in the work. I am not compelled to convince you.

Hon. FRANK WILSON: I think the Minister is. He should at least endeavour to give the information asked for.

Mr. B. J. STUBBS: I think the explanation given by the Minister is quite clear. The exchange was in operation for something less than the whole of last year. To find out what saving has been effected it would be necessary to scrutinise the various provisions made for messengers in 1913. In organising the new exchange it may be that too many messengers were dispensed with and that now it has been found necessary to bring in a couple more.

Hon. FRANK WILSON: All that is mere surmise. The exchange was in existence for practically the whole of last year.

Hon. R. H. Underwood: It started on the 27th July—two months gone.

Hon. FRANK WILSON: No, less than one month.

Mr. B. J. Stubbs: What did the messengers cost in 1913, when attached to the various departments?

Hon. FRANK WILSON: That is the information I am asking for; the hon. member just now declared he was satisfied with the Minister's explanation. This year the Minister proposes to spend an extra £134. Why?

Hon. R. H. Underwood: More work.

Hon. FRANK WILSON: No, there cannot be. It is in this way the expenses are piled up. I move—

*That the item be reduced by £134.*

I do not think a penny more should be expended this year than sufficed for last year.

Hon. R. H. UNDERWOOD: The exchange was started last year and, of course, in the beginning the full body of work did not come to it. That is obvious. I have here a report of the work of this exchange, which shows that during the year 201,000 files and 194,000 letters and packages were handled by the exchange. Of those letters and packages 15,000 came from or were sent to Fremantle. Previously, of course, they were either posted or sent by rail, at a total cost of something like £196. A saving of £557 7s. 4d. has already been effected by this department, and it is estimated that the gross saving for this year will be £1,187 17s. It is further anticipated that a still larger saving will be effected when it becomes possible to bring the combined messenger staff under this exchange. It is also proposed that the exchange shall deal with all correspondence, etc., between the departments and outside firms within a radius of one mile, thus effecting a considerable further saving. The department is undoubtedly saving money, and the volume of its work is steadily increasing.

Hon. FRANK WILSON: Why did not the Minister give us that information at the outset? It would have saved a lot of discussion. Just the same I would point out to him that an estimate of assumed savings should not be good enough for the Minister when his mission is to exercise economy.

The Premier: By the establishment of this exchange we were able to dispense with a number of messengers in the various departments. It is in those departments that the saving is definitely effected.

Hon. FRANK WILSON: But £446 will not cover all the messengers' work of the various departments. This exchange

deals principally with the correspondence between the Colonial Secretary's department and the other departments.

The Premier: Not all all. It deals with the correspondence of practically all the departments; it is merely controlled by the Colonial Secretary's Department.

Hon. FRANK WILSON: If it is to save money in all the departments, it should be placed, not in the Colonial Secretary's Department, but in that of the Treasurer. However, in view of the explanation we have had I will withdraw the amendment.

Amendment by leave withdrawn.

Item—Clerks (State Labour Bureau), £884.

Mr. ROBINSON: This item shows an increase of £119. Last year we had a great deal of unemployment. We understand from the Minister that this has been satisfactorily dealt with. Therefore there should be less work in the bureau this year than obtained last year.

Hon. R. H. UNDERWOOD: The increased expenditure is chiefly due to the fact that some of the officers provided for this year were not working all the time last year. Really no more officers are engaged.

Item—Temporary labour Class "G" officers (Labour Bureau), £215.

Mr. ROBINSON: Why should there be temporary employment in the State Labour Bureau? All temporary employment should be cut out.

The Premier: At present we require more than usual. You do not expect us to fill positions being vacated temporarily by men who are enlisting.

Mr. ROBINSON: No.

The Premier: Then we must have temporary employment.

Mr. ROBINSON: I should think we want permanent employees, but if this represents labour to temporarily fill the positions of men who have gone to the front, I have nothing further to say.

The Premier: If you want economy, wipe out the observatory.

Hon. R. H. UNDERWOOD: This department has been working at top pressure and temporary labour is necessary in the case of officers on leave through

sickness. There is no chance of filling up with permanent men because the service would become overloaded.

Item—Observatory, Acting Government Astronomer, £504.

Hon. J. D. CONNOLLY: I am not advocating the abolition of the observatory.

The Premier: Then you do not want genuine economy.

Hon. J. D. CONNOLLY: There are things which must be kept going.

The Premier: Surely there is no reason why we should keep on mapping the stars.

Hon. J. D. CONNOLLY: The State is in honour bound under an old agreement with the Greenwich Observatory to keep the local observatory going until a certain amount of work has been done.

The Premier: That is not correct.

Hon. J. D. CONNOLLY: If the observatory were closed the very expensive instruments would become useless. Is there any chance of the Federal Government taking over the observatory?

The Minister for Works: None whatever. If there is any item in the Estimates that is not wanted, it is this one.

Hon. J. D. CONNOLLY: The Federal Government took over the meteorological portion and left the astronomical portion of the work to the State, whereas the astronomical is more a Federal matter than the meteorological. The previous Government received a half-promise that the astronomical branch would be taken over.

The Minister for Mines: We have been urging that until we are tired.

Mr. WILLMOTT: Is this item absolutely necessary? The estimated expenditure on the observatory is £1,580, whereas two years ago it was £1,482. A reduction should be made, but I am not sufficiently acquainted with the workings of the institution to know where it can be made.

Hon. J. D. Connolly: There has been a big reduction on the expenditure of five or six years ago.

Mr. WILLMOTT: Because a large amount of the work previously done by

the State officials is now done by the Federal officials.

Hon. J. D. Connolly: No, that was the inexpensive portion.

Mr. WILLMOTT: We are spending too much money in this direction.

The Minister for Mines: But we are discovering new stars every night.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: This is one of the institutions which might well be done without. I do not desire to inflict any injury on the officers but some might be placed in other departments if the Commonwealth could not find scope for them. The State Government have made efforts to get the Federal authorities to take the institution over, but so far have failed and the Observatory is a sort of dead horse for this State to carry. As nearly six months of the financial year have elapsed, and as I consider there is no necessity for this expenditure, I move an amendment—

*That the item be reduced by £252.*

Hon. Frank Wilson: Why not move to reduce the whole lot?

The CHAIRMAN: It is necessary to deal with one item at a time.

Hon. R. H. UNDERWOOD. There is no possibility of the Federal Government taking over the Observatory and it is for Parliament to decide whether the people can afford to keep the institution open. If we close it this year, the best course to adopt would be to dispose of the stock and decide not to re-establish it later on. From the Observatory a time ball is dropped and a gun fired daily at Fremantle. At Perth two balls are dropped and a gun is fired daily. A public clock at the Observatory, two clocks in the chief telegraph operating room and one at the railway station are maintained. From these centres a daily signal is sent to every railway and telegraph station in the State. Time signals are given to clockmakers when desired. There is still a great demand from visitors to make night observations at the Observatory.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: It might seem extraordinary for a Minister to support the reduction of a vote, but we must realise what reductions the Com-

mittee have already made. Despite the Government's representations, the Committee have reduced the vote for the Public Library, Museum and Art Gallery. The Museum and Art Gallery might be considered luxuries, but it cannot be argued that the Library is a luxury; still the vote has been reduced and these institutions will be considerably hampered in their operations and the public will be debarred from obtaining that educational assistance which every community desire and deserve. Therefore, we should compare the Observatory with those institutions. Much information of value to the State is obtained from the Federal meteorological department, and we are maintaining an establishment, the usefulness of which has been largely curtailed because the central bureau is supplying the information which this institution was originally established to supply.

Hon. J. D. Connolly: They are separate things entirely.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: I am not going to argue that the whole of the functions of the Observatory are covered by the Federal establishment, but the work done by the local Observatory is of small importance. The usefulness of other institutions has been curtailed considerably and in view of that, the Committee can come to only one conclusion as regards this item.

Hon. FRANK WILSON: The observatory was established many years ago when Western Australia was booming, when we had practically unlimited revenue at our disposal and when the expenditure of several thousands of pounds did not bother members as the expenditure of the same number of shillings or pence would perturb us at present. The question whether we should maintain the Observatory or not has concerned previous Governments. Many years ago a Government of which I was a member approached the Federal Government with a view to having the Observatory taken over *holus bolus*, and I believe our present Government have made similar efforts. The Federal Government, however, have persistently declined to have



anything to do with the work represented by several of these items, namely, the work of mapping the heavens. That work will last several generations.

Hon. R. H. UNDERWOOD: Two or three hundred years.

Hon. FRANK WILSON: It is work undertaken by various observatories in different parts of the world, according to the geographical advantages of their situation. We were best situated as regards Australia.

The Premier. We are the only observatory in Australia called upon to do that work. Why should it not be a Federal matter?

Hon. J. D. CONNOLLY: Other States are taking their share of the work.

Hon. FRANK WILSON: No. I believe there are only half a dozen observatories in the whole world engaged on this work. We fell in, somewhat foolishly in my opinion, with the suggestion that our observatory should do this work, which has already cost thousands of pounds. The Observatory cannot be put in the same category as the Education Department, since the benefits from an observatory are enjoyed only by a very few advanced students. If we take a firm stand now, and put our Government in a position to say to the Federal authorities that Western Australia will not bear the cost of continuing this work beyond another three or six months, because of our financial position, that may lead the Commonwealth Government to take it over. To-day it is necessary that we should lop off everything that is not absolutely essential. We are not justified in spending loan money on such work as this. On the understanding I have indicated, I am prepared to support this expenditure.

Hon. J. D. CONNOLLY: I am rather surprised at the attitude of the Minister for Lands, in supporting a reduction of the Government Estimates. The Minister for Lands is in error in his belief that Western Australia has erected an observatory for purposes which are now carried out by the Commonwealth Government. The Meteorological Depart-

ment really require no buildings at all, but only a few rain gauges.

Hon. Frank Wilson: They have a fair staff, though.

Hon. J. D. CONNOLLY: When the Federal Government took over the meteorological work, it was understood that the astronomical work would be taken over shortly afterwards. However, it would be a bad advertisement for Western Australia to close down the observatory. There is no doubt that this State has derived considerable advertisement from the existence of that scientific institution. Fifteen years ago, I believe, a distinct agreement was made with either the Paris or the Greenwich Observatory that each observatory throughout the world should map a portion of the heavens.

The Premier: That is not correct.

Hon. J. D. CONNOLLY: Perhaps not every observatory. However, a heavy portion of the work fell on our observatory by reason of its geographical position, ours being the furthest southwestern observatory. I understand that part of the work for Australia is done by one of the Eastern States observatories. This particular work was kept back a good deal in former years, by reason of lack of funds. I would support a reduction if it would force the hands of the Federal Government, but I suggest a smaller reduction. To reduce the amount by half will not get us over the difficulty.

Hon. R. H. UNDERWOOD: My experience is that the Federal Government point as much as ever they can on the State Governments. If it is the desire of the Committee to try to force the Federal Government to take over the Observatory, let us close the institution down. There is great difficulty in obtaining payment from the Federal Government, who now owe us about £13,000 for providing special constables, of which amount we cannot get a penny.

Mr. B. J. STUBBS: There is a good deal in what the Honorary Minister says, but it must be obvious to hon. members that the Federal Government are not

likely to take over the Observatory at the present time. If we are going to close down the Observatory what is to become of all the valuable instruments up there?

The Premier: We can hand them over to the University.

Mr. B. J. STUBBS: That will involve the provision of further funds for the University. This astrographic work is being carried on throughout the world. The Perth Observatory has been doing its share and, if we close down the Observatory, it will dislocate the world's work, a work of the utmost value to scientists.

The Premier: Well, let them pay for it.

Mr. B. J. STUBBS: This work being done by the Australian observatories was the chief cause of the recent visit of scientists to Australia. They took a keen interest in the work being done by the Perth Observatory and delivered lectures on the subject.

Hon. Frank Wilson: Are we justified in borrowing money to please the scientists?

Mr. B. J. STUBBS: I would not mind if it were merely proposed to reduce the vote, but it would be most unfair to stop the astrographic work after so much has been accomplished. Our Observatory has been congratulated by scientific societies throughout the world. If it is intended to wipe out this institution some notice should have been given to allow of the work being continued elsewhere. Many people in our midst obtain considerable benefit from the Perth Observatory, among others, the numerous members of the Astronomical Society. Again, the members of the Observatory staff give scientific lectures, not only in Perth, but in other parts of the State. It would be a great mistake to close down the Observatory.

The PREMIER: It was, I think, in 1900 that the Perth Observatory undertook to do its part in mapping the stars. Since that time we have done a fair proportion of the work. How long it will take to complete, I cannot say. We entered into no contract to do this work.

We had the Observatory, and at the time, the money also, and so we agreed to permit the Observatory staff to attend to the work. But, having regard to all the circumstances, we cannot be expected to continue that work indefinitely. "War conditions" is sufficient excuse to enable a man to get out of a definite contract without penalty, and it should be sufficient to enable us to conclude our arrangement in regard to this astrographic work. Obviously the Observatory is of some value, but at the same time we have other even more valuable institutions suffering as the result of economy. The previous Government asked the Federal authorities to take over the Observatory, but were met by a definite refusal. We, in our turn, approached the Federal Government, and declared that as an alternative we would close down the Observatory. We came to Parliament with only six months' provision for the Observatory, and explained that we proposed to close it down at the end of six months. No exception was taken by members to that proposal. However, later, somebody in London, on behalf of some society, wrote to the Agent General, asking him to make representations to us to continue the Observatory for a little period until arrangements could be made for some other observatory to take over this work, or for some person of means to take over the Observatory. We agreed. That was 18 months or two years ago, and we have heard nothing further. We cannot be expected to indefinitely continue the maintenance of this institution, whose publications, I am informed, are placed in the library of this House, but never opened. We are maintaining this institution merely that we may supply information to a few interested persons, the scientists referred to by the member for Subiaco, while other institutions of practical value to the State are suffering through economy.

Hon. J. D. Connolly: If you close down will you not lose all the work that has been done.

The PREMIER: No, for it is there, and it will be continued by other observatories. It should be undertaken by the Federal Government, but they have abso-

lutely declined to take over the Observatory. They have said, "When we take over the observatories of Australia, it is almost certain that the Perth Observatory will be closed down. Possibly we will retain only one observatory, or perhaps two, for the whole of Australia." We can guess where those two will be; certainly neither will be in Perth. If the Perth Observatory is not necessary in the interests of Australia, it is certainly not necessary in the interests of Western Australia. As a Government we want to know whether Parliament agrees to the attitude we previously adopted. Having waited so long to see if someone else will take up the work, we want to know definitely what Parliament desires.

Hon. J. D. CONNOLLY: It will mean closing down from the end of the year.

THE PREMIER: Yes.

Amendment put and negatived.

Item—Temporary Labour (including office cleaner) £415.

Hon. FRANK WILSON: In view of what the Premier has said I move—

*That the item be reduced by £21.*

Hon. J. D. CONNOLLY: I agree with the suggestion made by the Premier. I assume the Premier will give an ultimatum to the Federal Government and that that will afford sufficient time to make provision. There is this other point to be considered: It will be found from past reports of the late Government Astronomer, Mr. Cooke, that the Observatory buildings are on an extravagant scale, and that about 75 per cent of the buildings is house, and the balance observatory. Mr. Cooke always complained that the house was far too big. Therefore it would be a waste of money to hand it over to the Federal Government.

The Premier: They have no chance of getting the property.

Hon. J. D. CONNOLLY: I am glad to hear that. The site is too good to give away. It is the best site in the City for a public reservation. Evidently the Observatory is in the wrong position. The late Surveyor General had to take certain magnetic observations and they could not be taken at the Observatory because it was too near the influence of

the electric cars and the atmosphere was not clear owing to the smoke from West Perth. An astronomer who came here some years ago took his observations from Bayswater in preference to the Observatory. This shows that the position is not a good one for the Observatory, and there is no reason why it should be handed over to the Federal Government. Perhaps the instruments might be handed over.

Hon. Frank Wilson: Give them nothing; let them pay for everything.

The Premier: They have power to take it over if they want to.

Hon. J. D. CONNOLLY: To take the land and buildings?

The Premier: Certainly: to take over departments.

Mr. Thomson: Then close it down.

The Premier: If we do, they will not be able to take it because it will not exist.

Hon. J. D. CONNOLLY: I trust the Federal Government will not have an opportunity to take over the site.

Amendment put and passed.

Item—Government Printer, £600.

Hon. FRANK WILSON: The printing department, which was purged a good many years ago, seems to have drifted back into the same extravagant, spendthrift condition. The vote, which used to be about £30,000, is now £46,574. This is beyond all reason.

Hon. R. H. UNDERWOOD: Commonwealth work to the value of £11,000 was done last year, an increase of £2,000 over the previous year. If the turnover for the Commonwealth is deducted, the State printing bill is reduced to £30,581. The main increases asked for this year are Commonwealth £2,464, Public Works £480, and University £481. The work is charged up to each department. The output has been 150 per cent. greater, but, in spite of this enormous increase, the expenditure is only £6,000 greater.

Hon. FRANK WILSON: That is probably due to an increase in the Commonwealth work. If not, it is all the more reason why the matter should be inquired into. To say that this work is charged up to each department does not answer

the objection that perhaps we are extravagant in our printing. How much of the 150 per cent. increase is covered by excess work for the Commonwealth? Years ago the printing went up by leaps and bounds until the whole House was scandalised, and I put the department on an economical basis. I am afraid it is drifting back to the old condition.

The Premier: It is not.

Hon. FRANK WILSON: If the increase represents Commonwealth work, and it is being paid for, that is a different matter.

The Premier: The Minister controlling this department cannot control the printing sent from other departments.

Hon. FRANK WILSON: No; it is the printing of the Government generally.

Hon. R. H. UNDERWOOD: The Minister cannot control the printing of the Government generally. The Government has had this matter under consideration. A good many reports, which we used to have printed, are now laid on the Table type-written. Many have been reduced considerably in size. The Colonial Secretary is going into the question of stopping the printing of various statistical registers which are being printed by the Federal Government, and I am sure a considerable saving will be effected on the Estimates. Ministers are doing their best to keep the printing as low as possible.

Item—Government Gardener (Public Gardens), £276.

Hon. FRANK WILSON: The estimated expenditure on public gardens is £1,640. On what is this to be expended?

Hon. R. H. UNDERWOOD: The following gardens are now under the control of this branch,—Government Gardens, Perth Public Hospital, Museum, West Subiaco Hospital, East Perth Reserve, Observatory, Perth Modern School, Royal Mint, Agricultural Department, the foreshore, the foreshore near the Supreme Court, the Home of Peace, and the Subiaco Industrial School.

Hon. Frank Wilson: Have you the particulars of the expenditure on each?

Hon. R. H. UNDERWOOD: No, it would be difficult to obtain that, because a man might be working in two or three different places.

[Mr. Male took the Chair.]

Hon. FRANK WILSON: This item shows an estimated increase of £105, and it is questionable whether there should be a greater expenditure this year.

Hon. R. H. UNDERWOOD: The estimate is the same as last year's but a saving was effected. This provision must be made, and, if a saving can be effected it will be done.

Hon. FRANK WILSON: Of course there will be a saving, if possible, but we have already decided that expenditure on other parks should be reduced and if the item is passed as printed, it will be drawn on by the officials until all is expended.

Hon. R. H. Underwood: It was not all expended last year.

Hon. FRANK WILSON: If £105 less sufficed last year when, on account of the drought, much more attention was needed than would be necessary in a season such as the present, surely there is no justification for the increase.

Hon. R. H. UNDERWOOD: I do not think there is anything in the argument that because an amount is on the Estimates it will be spent. The amount proposed is for a staff which is considered not more than sufficient for the work, and which has to be paid at Arbitration Court rates. Occasionally men are away from this work, and it is got through without them. That may be so this year. At the same time, if hon. members want to cut the amount down, let them do so.

Item—Foremen Gardeners, £365.

Hon. FRANK WILSON: I move an amendment—

*That the item be reduced by £22.*

Hon. R. H. UNDERWOOD: As the item includes two foremen, who have to work on some Sundays, I think this amount had better not be reduced.

Hon. FRANK WILSON: I ask leave to withdraw my amendment.

Amendment by leave withdrawn.

Item—(Public Gardens) Labourers, £1,000.

Hon. FRANK WILSON: I move an amendment—

*That the item be reduced by £83.*

Mr. FOLEY: The amendment represents an attack on men who are on the lowest rung of the ladder. Why should the item be reduced by £83?

Hon. Frank Wilson: Because that is the amount which was not spent last year.

Mr. FOLEY: When the salaries of highly paid officers were in question, members made charges of cowardice against those who moved reductions; but as regards a labourer on 9s. a day, the members who were concerned on behalf of highly paid officers are quite willing that reductions should be made. The amount of the item has been fixed, not by the Minister, but by the officer in charge of the labourers. To reduce the amount will mean the discharge of some unfortunate labourer and the speeding up of the other workmen.

Mr. GREEN: I support the amendment, because reduction of labourers does not enter into the question. Last year the expenditure on this item was £917, and the effect of the proposed reduction would be to make the same amount available this year. The parks affected by this item are all in the metropolitan area, and the expenditure on parks all over the State has been reduced.

The Premier: Parks all over the State have not been reduced. The amount of the reduction will come off the King's Park.

Mr. Robinson: That is not what Parliament said.

Mr. GREEN: I am pleased to hear the Premier's statement.

Hon. Frank Wilson: The Premier is at sea.

Mr. B. J. STUBBS: On several previous items we were told that the reason why the full amount had not been expended last year was that some of the men had asked for holidays, for which they had not been paid. The reduction of this item will not mean the discharge of

a labourer, who gets more than £83 for a year's work. It will mean that the men who took holidays last year, possibly owing to sickness—and labourers are not paid when they are away ill—will be compelled to take the same holidays this year, though possibly they may not be able to afford to take them.

Mr. Green: That statement has not been made by the Honorary Minister on this item.

Mr. B. J. STUBBS: That is the explanation which was given on other items and I think it would be given by the Honorary Minister, were he present, on this item. The member for Kalgoorlie is hardly showing an altruistic spirit.

Mr. Green: The parks on the gold-fields have been starved.

Mr. B. J. STUBBS: If the item is reduced a number of labourers will have to take holidays because there is not sufficient money to pay them full time. The reduction will make very little difference to the Estimates, but a great deal of difference to the labourers on 9s. a day, some of whom have a hard struggle to live during these trying times. Certainly the same thing would not be done in the case of highly paid officers.

Mr. ROBINSON: It is surprising that members of the Committee will listen to such talk as has fallen from the member for Subiaco. There is not a single man in this Assembly who wants to cut down a labourer's wage. Why did the member for Subiaco support the cutting down of the King's Park item?

Mr. B. J. Stubbs: You are wrong.

Mr. ROBINSON: Why did the member for Leonora support that reduction? The result of it has been that five labourers had to be dispensed with. Now the Premier talks of cutting another £300 off the amount for King's Park.

The Premier: I did nothing of the sort.

Mr. ROBINSON: If the Premier does that, two or three more labourers will be thrown on the streets. And yet we have claptrap talked by members opposite about dispensing with labourers. If last

year the gardens could be kept going for £917, it should be possible this year. The question is not one of less labour or of cutting down wages.

The PREMIER: I am delighted to hear the member for Canning champion the cause of Labour. However, he voted for the reduction of the Zoological Gardens item, practically the whole of which is spent in labour. If this item is reduced some labourers must suffer reduction. The amount provided is the amount which will be paid to those men if they work the full number of working days in the year. These Estimates are gone through in Cabinet item by item, and every Minister has to produce good grounds for the slightest increase. The Estimates, as submitted by the various departments, were reduced to the tune of £150,000 in Cabinet. This increase of £83 is necessary for the purpose of paying those men their present rate of wages if they work the full number of days. If it is reduced, certain of the men will have to stand off.

Hon. Frank Wilson: Well, stand them off.

The PREMIER: I am not objecting, nor is the Honorary Minister. I am only asking members to understand what they are doing. If the men do not work they will not be paid. But we do not desire to have to force them to stand down because Parliament will not provide the money.

Hon. FRANK WILSON: No one has suggested that the labourer should be deprived of his wages. The question is, are the Government to keep a lot of men hanging on at full wages when they are not fully employed? Why should more money be spent on the gardens this year than was necessary last year? It is not a question of labour, but of the amount the State can afford to maintain these gardens. All we can get from the other side is the cry of "The poor labourer." Labour generally was in a better position in this State under the Liberal Government than in any other part of the civilised world.

The CHAIRMAN: The hon. member must keep to the item.

Hon. FRANK WILSON: It is a question of how much we can afford to spend on the gardens. I would like to see the vote cut down by several hundred pounds.

Mr. GREEN: I am not going to be a party to putting men off. The Premier has said that if the men work the full number of working days the full amount will be required. In these circumstances I think we ought to provide the full amount.

Mr. WILLMOTT: Previous Estimates show that the money provided under this item has never yet been fully expended.

Hon. R. H. Underwood: Therefore there is no danger in voting it.

Mr. WILLMOTT: By providing more than is necessary we run the risk of allowing the item to creep up year by year. The item has been reduced since 1913, yet the gardens have not deteriorated.

Mr. Bolton: But some poor devil has gone home with less wages.

Mr. WILLMOTT: We have no proof of that. If the Honorary Minister can show us that certain men were away sick last year I will be agreeable to voting the full amount. The Premier made an assertion which was not borne out by any statement by the Honorary Minister.

Hon. R. H. Underwood: I will make any statement you like.

Mr. TAYLOR: Obviously the item is for no other purpose than the supply of labour. If the item be reduced, the earning capacity of those men will be reduced also. If hon. members think too many men are employed in the gardens, that is quite another thing. If we are to maintain the gardens at all we should do it decently. In the face of a reduced provision the Government gardener must put off certain of his men. If we reduce the item the Minister can still excess his vote, and will do so if occasion demands it. I am prepared to support economy, but I do not think we can reduce this item on the plea of economy.

Amendment put and a division taken with the following result:—

Ayes	..	..	..	8
Noes	..	..	..	22

Majority against	..	14
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## AYES.

Mr. Connolly	Mr. Veryard
Mr. Lefroy	Mr. Willmott
Mr. Mitchell	Mr. F. Wilson
Mr. Robinson	Mr. George

(Teller).

## NOES.

Mr. Allen	Mr. McDowall
Mr. Angwin	Mr. Mullany
Mr. Carpenter	Mr. O'Loughlin
Mr. Chesson	Mr. Scaddan
Mr. Collier	Mr. B. J. Stubbs
Mr. Foley	Mr. Taylor
Mr. Jas. Gardiner	Mr. Thomas
Mr. Green	Mr. Thomson
Mr. Hardwick	Mr. Underwood
Mr. Heitmana	Mr. A. A. Wilson
Mr. Hickmott	Mr. Bolton

(Teller).

Amendment thus negatived.

Item—Registrar General and Government Statistician £528.

Mr. B. J. STUBBS: Some years ago when the Commonwealth Government ceased compiling certain records the Government of this State decided to continue compiling them. It is a waste of money to continue this work for had it been necessary the Commonwealth Government would have continued it.

Hon. R. H. UNDERWOOD: It is the intention of the Colonial Secretary to cut out several of the publications issued not because they are not necessary but because the Commonwealth Government are publishing identical matter, and generally the Commonwealth information is published before ours.

Mr. B. J. STUBBS: I think that these statistical publications should be done away with. I move an amendment—

*That the item be reduced by £50.*

If this officer is to be relieved of certain work then his salary should be reduced.

Hon. R. H. UNDERWOOD: We are not paying a high salary for a capable statistician. I trust the member will not press the amendment.

Mr. B. J. STUBBS: I ask leave to withdraw the amendment.

Amendment by leave withdrawn.

Item—Temporary Clerical assistance, Class "G." officers (Registry), £817.

Hon. J. D. CONNOLLY: There should not be any increase in this item. The onus of compiling these statistics should be thrown on the Commonwealth but it seems that the Commonwealth statistics are largely copied from ours.

Hon. R. H. UNDERWOOD: Much of the information compiled is necessary for State purposes. This item is increased because it was impossible to complete the work last year and in addition to the current year's work the arrears from last year have to be undertaken.

Item—Incidental, including firewood, cleaning material, travelling, transport, postage, stationery, reporting, fees to examiners, telephone, rents, instruments, water, power, lighting, fuel, collection of statistics and not otherwise provided, £8,560.

Hon. J. MITCHELL: Why is the item £1,388 more than last year. There seems to be no justification for the increase.

Hon. R. H. UNDERWOOD: The amount is the same as that proposed last year but the amount last year was not all expended. It is absolutely impossible to estimate this item as it must vary considerably. A great deal more expenditure this year is not anticipated.

Hon. J. MITCHELL: It does not seem as if the Estimates were very carefully revised by Ministers when the amount was over estimated last year to the extent of £1,388. I move an amendment—

*That the item be reduced by £1,000.*

Hon. R. H. UNDERWOOD: It does not really matter whether the amendment is carried or not. If we want more money we will spend it. If we do not want it we will not spend it. We must spend what is required irrespective of what the vote is.

Mr. THOMSON: We are told by Ministers that, if they want to spend money, they will exceed the vote concerned. It is an absolute farce to bring down these Estimates, and ask us to

go into them and pass them under such conditions. Why submit them to us at all if we are not going to have a say in them?

The CHAIRMAN: The hon. member must speak to the items.

Mr. THOMSON: I thought that I was justified in replying to the statement made by the Honorary Minister.

The CHAIRMAN: The question is that the item be reduced by £1,000.

Mr. THOMSON: I support the amendment. It seems to me that it is only on these incidental items that we are permitted to have a say at all. We cannot touch questions of salary because of the Public Service Commissioner, and if we touch anything savouring of restricting the avenues of employment we are told that we are making an attack on labour. It is a very difficult position indeed. The Government managed last year with £7,172; surely they can do the same again this year. Why put more money on the Estimates than is necessary?

The Minister for Works: One can hardly tell sometimes what is required. These are only estimates.

Mr. THOMSON: If the Government want more money they have the power to excess the vote.

Mr. B. J. STUBBS: I support the amendment. The Honorary Minister has told us that the Government intend cutting out a large number of statistical productions. I agree that they are unnecessary. In some cases they are duplications of the Commonwealth publications, and others are not required at all.

The Minister for Works: We want the inter-State publications.

Mr. B. J. STUBBS: If there is going to be a reduction in the number of returns that are got out, I contend that there will with the amendment be ample money to meet the requirements of the Minister. The Government can take this reduction as an indication that we endorse the desire of the Minister to reduce the number of publications. I trust that, so far as possible, all unnecessary statistical productions will be cut out, so as to reduce the expenditure.

Amendment put and division taken with the following result:—

Ayes	..	..	..	18
Noes	..	..	..	12

Majority for	..	..	6
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#### AYES.

Mr. Allen	Mr. Robinson
Mr. Carpenter	Mr. Thomas
Mr. Connolly	Mr. Thomson
Mr. Jas. Gardiner	Mr. Veryard
Mr. Hardwick	Mr. Wansbrough
Mr. Harrison	Mr. Willmott
Mr. Hickmott	Mr. F. Wilson
Mr. Lefroy	Mr. George
Mr. Mitchell	(Teller.)
Mr. Piesse	

#### NOES.

Mr. Angwin	Mr. Scaddan
Mr. Cherson	Mr. Taylor
Mr. Collier	Mr. Underwood
Mr. Foley	Mr. A. A. Wilson
Mr. McDowall	Mr. Bolton
Mr. Mullany	(Teller.)
Mr. O'Loghlen	

Amendment thus passed.

Item—(State Labour Bureau) Rail Fares, £1,500.

Hon. J. MITCHELL: I notice the Minister has reduced the item by £1,678, which was an excess over the vote of last year. How much of the expenditure of £3,178 was returned?

Hon. R. H. UNDERWOOD: We have up to date about 68 per cent. of the money in hand, and have collected a good deal of last year's money. We put £1,500 on the Estimates because we are of opinion that we can get through on this expenditure. Last year we had a big rush of unemployed, and there was an excess on the vote. I have already curtailed the issue of fares, and during the last two months they have been curtailed to the extent of over 50 per cent. If nothing happens during this year, we shall get through on that £1,500, but if anything happens it may cost us £3,000, as it cost us last year.

Item—(Printing) Machinery, Type, Repairs, Stationery (printing paper) for public service generally, £20,750.

Mr. WILLMOTT: I see there is an increase of £5,000 odd on this vote. Can the Minister give the Committee an explanation?



Hon. R. H. UNDERWOOD: The item includes a redemption of an old liability to the General Stores Department for stationery. The full amount of £5,000 odd we had credited to revenue. It is a mere bookkeeping entry.

Vote (as reduced to £30,664) put and passed.

*Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.*

[*Mr. Holman resumed the Chair.*]

Vote—Aborigines, £8,449:

Item—Provisions, Clothing, etc., including all other expenditure incidental to promoting the welfare of the aborigines, £14,997.

Hon. J. D. CONNOLLY: Will the Minister explain what he intends to give to the missions this year? I have not the last report of the Aborigines department but I have the report for 1913-14, and I see by that that the Australian mission received £470. They have 27 children and that works out at about 1s. a day. The Beagle Bay mission has 147 children and received £800, or about 3s. a week for each child. The Salvation Army received £149 for their 15 children, an average of about 4s. a week. Last year I understand these grants were reduced and I would like to know now to what extent the Minister proposes to further reduce them this year.

Hon. R. H. UNDERWOOD: In regard to the missions, the two in the vicinity of Perth and the one at Kalgoorlie are paid for the maintenance of every child we send them. That is to say, they do not go out and gather up these children. It is an expenditure that we cannot possibly get out of. It is a different proposition in regard to the other missions. So far as Beagle Bay is concerned, that was established some years ago and over £16,000 has been spent in building there and in the endeavour to cultivate very bad soil. They gathered up the natives from all round the place. In addition to the cash subsidy granted them, Beagle Bay has also been supplied with provisions.

Hon. J. D. CONNOLLY: For indigent natives?

Hon. R. H. UNDERWOOD: For indigent natives and children. So far as the three missions I have referred to are concerned, we cannot do otherwise than pay them for the children we send to them, just as we do for the white children which we send to the orphanages. I think we pay them 6s. 10d. for each child.

Hon. J. D. CONNOLLY: What was the amount given to the Swan last year?

Hon. R. H. UNDERWOOD: I have not the figures with me at the present moment. In regard to Beagle Bay I am of opinion that it will be advisable to close up that mission entirely, as I do not think the aborigines are getting the full benefit of the money that is being expended by the Government. The place is quite unsuitable. The object in establishing that mission was to have an institution which would eventually become self-supporting, but they started it on a bit of ground which is absolutely useless as far as cultivation is concerned and the place can never become self-supporting. The object of the department is to establish stations which, if not altogether self-supporting, will become partially so. Further than that, I do not believe it is an advantage to gather natives from the far away interior where they are living their wild life and take them into missions. I have already explained in regard to the Presbyterian mission at Hanover Bay that I have given them notice that they will get their last subsidy as far as I am concerned this year. I am giving them £100 worth of stores and that is the last of the Government support which they will get. I cannot give the hon. member the exact figures, but I know we are paying less to Beagle Bay this year than we did last year. We have also cut down the grant to Lambadina. We found that the Police department had stationed an officer there and the Aborigines department were paying half his salary. At the same time we also had on our own account a man stationed there receiving and distributing rations, so we got rid of the policeman.

Hon. J. D. CONNOLLY: Can the Minister tell me how many children there are at the present time at the Swan? It is quite impossible for them to carry on with less money than they got last year. There are a number of half-caste children gathered at Kimberley and the Government are bound to pay for their support. I do not agree with the Minister when he states that these natives should not be brought in from the bush. The children collected are mostly half-caste and it would be a criminal act to allow them to grow up in the wilds. They had 42 children at the Swan in the financial year 1913-14 and they received 4s. 6d. a week for each. The mission cannot do with less than that and the Minister should see that they do not receive less.

Hon. R. H. UNDERWOOD: Although I was going to pay only half the subsidy it was demonstrated to me that it would be unfair to do so, and I paid the capita-tion grant right through last year and I am doing so now. I agree with the hon. member that we should pick up all the half-caste children. What I said was that we should not take the wild natives from outback and place them in the mis-sion stations. They can well be permitted to run wild, but wherever there are half-castes or full-blooded children we should pick them up and pay for their keep. I am working to establish outside the missions, Government stations which I hope will be more economical.

Hon. J. D. CONNOLLY: Are you continuing the advances to the Australian Mission and the Swan Mission?

Hon. R. H. UNDERWOOD: Yes, to the three missions.

Hon. J. D. CONNOLLY: Did I understand the Minister to say he is cutting away the vote for the Beagle Bay Mis-sion? According to the report before me, they had 147 children of whom 90 were half-castes, and they were receiving only 2s. a week for them.

Hon. R. H. Underwood: That is so, but they were receiving rations.

Hon. J. D. CONNOLLY: But rations are given to distribute among indigent natives, and do not affect the missions.

Vote put and passed.

Vote—*Charities, £80,698*:

Hon. FRANK WILSON: What steps are the Government taking to get the old age pensions allowed to the occupants of the Old Men's Home at Claremont? Many of those men are qualified to re-ceive a pension from the Commonwealth Government.

Hon. R. H. Underwood: They are not qualified. There is a section in the Act that any person in a Government insti-tution is not qualified.

Hon. J. D. Connolly: In a Govern-ment institution, but not in a private institution; that is the absurdity of it.

Hon. FRANK WILSON: During the year ended 30th June, 1915, the average number of inmates was 632, and over 400 of them were more than 60 years of age. It is questionable whether such inmates are not qualified to receive the pension. When I was in office, negotiations took place—

The Minister for Works: And have taken place since.

Hon. J. D. Connolly: I think there was an arrangement to give 8s. a week to the Government and to pay the men 2s. a week.

The Minister for Works: No.

Hon. FRANK WILSON: But the Commonwealth make no allowance at all. There are 400 persons who ought to be receiving up to 10s. a week.

Mr. Heitmann: The funny part is that these men can get it if they come out.

Hon. FRANK WILSON: Then should not some arrangement be made to get them out? It is an absolute injustice to the State that pensions are not paid in these cases.

Hon. R. H. Underwood: If they go into a Government institution, and then come out, they cannot draw the pension.

Hon. FRANK WILSON: Do the Gov-ernment receive 8s. a week from the Commonwealth in respect of these men?

Hon. R. H. Underwood: In respect of a few of them.

Hon. FRANK WILSON: I suppose very few of them will sign their liberty away.

Mr. B. J. Stubbs: The same applies to the Perth Public Hospital. If a man goes in there he loses his pension.

Hon. FRANK WILSON: Then pressure should be brought to bear to get the Act amended. It is disgraceful.

Mr. Taylor: If a man goes into the Perth Public Hospital, and is treated, his pension ceases.

Mr. Bolton: And the same in regard to the Fremantle hospital.

Hon. FRANK WILSON: That is a shocking state of affairs, and steps should be taken to get the Act altered. The State is put to enormous expense to keep these men.

Mr. Heitmann: The State which does the most is handicapped the most.

Hon. FRANK WILSON: The Federal Government are evading their responsibilities.

Hon. R. H. UNDERWOOD: I agree with the leader of the Opposition. I have done my best to bring this matter before the Federal authorities. There is a section in the Act providing that any person in a Government institution is not entitled to a pension. Men have made applications for pensions, and the magistrate has sent back the claims rejecting them, stating that it would be better for the men to remain in the Old Men's Home. It is a simple way for the Federal Government to evade their responsibilities, and it is a matter which should be brought prominently before the Federal members.

Hon. J. D. Connolly: Was not an amendment of the Act promised?

Mr. Bolton: No; it was only discussed.

Hon. R. H. UNDERWOOD: The Federal Government pay us 8s. a week for persons who will practically sign away their liberty, that is, sign a declaration that they will not ask for the full pension. These men go into the home and are paid the 8s. and the Federal Government very meanly keep the 2s.

Hon. J. D. Connolly: Then how can they legally pay the 8s.?

Mr. B. J. Stubbs: Under the Act they can pay any amount.

Hon. R. H. UNDERWOOD: Many old men stay at the home for a month and are not debarred from receiving the pension. Then they draw their £2, do it in, and return to the home for another month. They are old men who have learned a bit of life. The Federal Government, having undertaken to pay old age pensions, should pay them without restriction to all men in indigent circumstances and over the specified age, but at present they are absolutely shirking what they promised to do and made such a great boast of doing.

Mr. HEITMANN: The boast that the old age pension is not a pauper's pension falls to the ground. The difficulty seems to arise from a lack of co-operation between the two Governments.

The Minister for Works: It has nothing to do with us; we have tried repeatedly.

Mr. HEITMANN: The State Government have the burden of keeping a number of old people and yet the actual duty of doing so should rest with the Federal Government. The Federal Government are right in one sense, when they say this pension is merely to keep a man from want. When a man is in a Government institution, he receives his keep and is not in want.

Mr. Foley: How is it that argument does not apply to a private institution?

Mr. HEITMANN: That shows the Federal Government have not gone far enough.

Mr. Taylor: They have gone too far.

Mr. HEITMANN: These pensions represent an experiment which will be found wanting in many respects.

The CHAIRMAN: I have allowed the hon. member a lot of latitude. I cannot allow him to deal with legislation. I hope he will not transgress too far.

Mr. HEITMANN: An effort should be made to come to an agreement covering the whole of the cost of the upkeep of our poor people. The State which is doing most to provide for these people is handicapped the greatest by the Federal Government.

Hon. J. D. CONNOLLY: In New South Wales, where old age pensions were first enacted, they had homes for old people, and it was provided that when a man was an inmate of a Government institution he was not entitled to receive a pension. That was all right when the State which provided the institution provided the pension. The Federal Government copied the New South Wales Act, and that is how the difficulty arose. The matter was exhaustively dealt with four or five years ago.

The Minister for Works: And has been exhaustively dealt with since.

Hon. J. D. CONNOLLY: The Commonwealth have since admitted their liability to a certain extent, as they are saving 2s. in regard to some of these old men.

The Minister for Works: In your time they were paying 7s. 6d.

Hon. J. D. CONNOLLY: No, they promised to pay us 8s., and to pay 2s. to the men themselves. The question was referred to the Crown Law Department, who advised that so long as the men were in the home they could not claim the old age pension, but that if every new admission was forced before the court to apply for an old age pension the money could be obtained. Last year's report shows that there was an average of 680 inmates. New admissions last year totalled 326, and re-admissions 547. If each of these cases had been forced to apply to the court, then, unless the Commonwealth Government shifted their ground, the State would be receiving the 8s. per week in respect of those cases. In these circumstances, a large proportion of the £15,000 representing the cost of the Old Men's Home could be recovered from the Commonwealth Government.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: I have discussed this question repeatedly with the Superintendent of Charities. The position is that once a man or a woman is ordered to the home, he or she loses the right to the old age pension for ever afterwards. Numbers of these old people go into the home for a few weeks' attention, and, naturally, they will not agree

to forfeit their right to the pension, seeing that they hope to come out again in a short time. A magistrate has power to order an old pensioner to the home, and once the pensioner is there the Commonwealth Government pay the 8s. per week. But if the inmate leaves the home he loses his right to the pension.

Hon. J. MITCHELL: Do I understand from the Minister that a man goes into the home for three or four weeks and draws his pension for that period and spends it?

Hon. R. H. UNDERWOOD: That happens in a few cases.

Mr. Foley: They go out to see how they get on.

Hon. J. MITCHELL: I was wondering if the people were called on to pay both the old age pension and the cost of the pensioner's keep.

Hon. Frank Wilson: That is so in a few cases.

Hon. J. MITCHELL: If there are many such cases the matter should be seen into.

Hon. R. H. UNDERWOOD: That kind of thing does not happen very often. The Old Men's Home is also a hospital, and therefore a good place for an old man who is unwell. I do not think Parliament desires to prevent old men from obtaining the benefit of such treatment. Shortly after I took office, I asked Mr. Longmore to get into communication with the Federal authorities on this matter. He told me he had already done that under instructions from the present Minister for Works—that he had been trying to get satisfaction from the Federal Government for some years, but without avail. The fault does not lie with the Charities Department.

Hon. J. Mitchell: Do you admit young and strong men?

Hon. R. H. UNDERWOOD: No. The institution is conducted as an Old Men's Home. On the 30th June last there were 681 inmates. The daily average of residents for the year was 632. The average age of the inmates was 63. I suppose there are about 50 inmates who are really more fit to be in the Claremont

Hospital for the Insane, though they are not in any way dangerous. There are in the Old Men's Home men young in years but who are broken down. No men are kept there who it is thought can obtain a living outside.

Hon. FRANK WILSON: I am not sure I agree with the Honorary Minister that some of the inmates ought not to be outside. Pages 5 and 6 of the report show that on the 30th June last there were 245 inmates between 61 and 70, 175 between 51 and 60, 57 between 41 and 50, 17 between 31 and 40, and 6 between 20 and 30; so that at least half of the inmates are of an age when they could earn their living unless some physical disability prevents them.

Mr. Foley: There is no other place where they can be housed.

Hon. FRANK WILSON: The report states—

The average age of inmates is 63 years. The younger men are more or less suffering from chronic heart or nerve affection.

That is the explanation given, but since half the number of the inmates are of an age when they ought to be able to earn their living unless prevented by physical disability it seems to me there may be some laxity. I do not know that anyone of mature years is refused admission to the institution. As to the question of getting some assistance from the Federal Government, if the whole of the inmates in this one institution received the ordinary old age pension it would mean a saving to this State of something like £16,000 a year. Taking the inmates of all other charitable institutions, the saving might be very considerable—perhaps £25,000 a year. I realise that the present Government have re-started the ball rolling to try and get this grant. We could not get satisfaction in the matter, and the present Government will not be able to get satisfaction. It is a matter for joint action by the Premiers of the various States at the Premiers' conference. The claims of several other States must be heavier than ours, and probably the claims of all the States would in the aggregate amount to £150,000 or £200,000 a year.

The Federal Government are evading their responsibilities to certain citizens of the Commonwealth.

Mr. FOLEY: In reply to the leader of the Opposition, I may point out that the average age stated by the Honorary Minister shows that the great majority of the inmates of the Old Men's Home are old men. As one who has visited the institution I can say that it is one of the best of its kind in Australia. No young fellow would stay in that institution unless compelled by circumstances. A young man from there who came to see me the other day, and who was suffering from aneurism of the heart, said that his life was made a hell upon earth for him by the old men in the institution. He would gladly have left the place could he have done so, but for such as him there is no other place to go to. It would certainly be a good thing if the Commonwealth Government could be prevailed upon by the State Governments to provide some help towards maintaining institutions such as this.

Hon. J. D. CONNOLLY: There is another aspect of the question. In New South Wales these institutions are purely Government, and so they receive no payment from the Commonwealth. In Victoria, I understand, these institutions are subsidised by the Government, and so get over the difficulty. I am told that all those in the Victorian institutions who are eligible receive their old age pensions. If we were to place our Old Men's Home under similar management a considerable portion of this £1,500 would be drawn from the Federal Government.

Hon. Frank Wilson: If that is so, how is it that the inmates of the Perth Public Hospital are debarred from getting old age pensions?

Hon. J. D. CONNOLLY: Because it is classed as a Government hospital. It is in a different position from that of subsidised hospitals.

Hon. Frank Wilson: The Minister says that in all cases where old people go into a hospital they are deprived of their old age pensions.

Hon. J. D. CONNOLLY: A good deal of extras and comforts are provided for

the inmates of the Old Mens' Home under the Padbury bequest. I am one of the trustees under the will, and I know that we spend £700 or £800 a year on this institution. The ruling of the Supreme Court is that the money can only be spent on something which these old people are not receiving from the Government, and so we are confined to the provision of mere comforts. If the institution were under a board of management more could be done for the inmates under the Padbury fund. From personal observation I can assure members there is no man in the Old Mens' Home who should not be there. It is the cheapest place in which to keep them.

Mr. HEITMANN: It has been said that about 100 of the patients in the Old Mens' Home are under medical treatment. Of course, many of them are chronic cases and require nursing rather than medical attention, but it appears to me that there should be a reorganisation of our medical staff in the metropolitan area and that we should locate one of our district medical officers at this Home. Under the existing system a district medical officer calls there, but that is hardly sufficient.

The Minister for Works: He should reside there.

Mr. HEITMANN: Yes, and he should be made a full-time officer. It is not good organisation to pay a district medical officer £350 a year to do nothing in particular. If we had a medical officer stationed at Claremont he could do all the work of the institution and be of great service of the inmates. Again, he should give a little more attention to that side of medicine dealing with prevention. A little while ago I was disgusted to learn that the medical officer supposed to deal with prevention had nonchalantly dealt with a number of consumptive patients in that institution and had afterwards admitted that there were "a few such patients" there. The present occupant of the position, I am informed, has been brought before the court for failing to notify infectious cases. In reference to the management of the institution, I am told that irrespective of prices paid for certain com-

modities it is made a strict rule that they shall be provided. For instance, if butter happened to be 5s. a pound the authorities would require the same amount as in normal times.

Hon. R. H. Underwood: That is not right.

Mr. HEITMANN: I have been informed that when, recently, butter was very high, they took exactly the same quantity as before. Again, I remember sending a case down from Geraldton a little time ago. It was a stretcher case, and the patient was met at the central station, Perth, by an orderly who carelessly left him for a considerable time while he went off to ring up the institution. Later the patient was conveyed to Claremont, where he lay in the sun for three or four hours before being taken to the institution. I hope the Minister will manifest the same personal interest in this institution and its officers as I know he is taking in other departments and officers under his administration.

Vote put and passed.

Vote—*Fisheries*, £4,078:

Item—Chief Inspector, £480.

Hon. Frank Wilson: Is this position connected with that of the Chief Protector of Aborigines?

Hon. R. H. UNDERWOOD: Mr. Aldrich is the Chief Inspector of Fisheries. The Secretary, Mr. Bolton, is also secretary for the Aborigines.

Hon. J. Mitchell: Where do you get your fish supplies from?

Hon. R. H. UNDERWOOD: Shark Bay.

Item—Incidental, including postage, stationery, travelling, upkeep of boats, exploitation work, and not otherwise provided for, £650.

Hon. J. MITCHELL: I see there is an increase of £181 on this item over last year. Will the Minister explain why it is? It is practically useless to discuss these items with the Honorary Minister because of the attitude he takes up. Year by year we are increasing these items.

Hon. R. H. UNDERWOOD: We are not increasing them at all. Last year we voted £1,050, and this year we have only voted £650.

Hon. J. MITCHELL: The Government only needed £469 last year, and this year the Minister wants £650.

Hon. R. H. UNDERWOOD: My remarks made before tea stand. If we cut down a charity vote by £5,000 I accept that as the vote of the House, and I do not exceed it. These incidentals are purely estimated, and to run the country Ministers must vary the Estimates at times. In regard to this item, last year the operations of the department were reduced to bedrock, with the result that certain deferred work had to be undertaken during the year, such as travelling by the Chief Inspector, and the upkeep and repairs of boats and launches. This is the reason for the increase of £181 this year. There was work which should have been carried out but which was not carried out. This shows that in framing these Estimates we have not attempted to deceive the Committee by indicating a lower expenditure than we are likely to have to incur. We tried to provide the full amounts that we think are necessary.

Hon. J. MITCHELL: I understand that Mr. Aldrich will attend to the expenditure of this Department. If that is so, I am sure there will be no extravagance. He is one of the officers who was brought here under the term of office of the previous Government.

Vote put and passed.

Vote—*Gaols*, £26,077 :

Item—Clerks (2), £302.

Hon. FRANK WILSON: Has the Minister instituted the inquiries he promised to make in regard to the prison in Kalgoorlie? I am informed that the prison is unsatisfactory and an unhealthy place for prisoners to be kept in.

Hon. R. H. UNDERWOOD: I have started inquiries, but I have not yet got a report.

Hon. Frank Wilson: Who is making the inquiries?

Hon. R. H. UNDERWOOD: One of the officers of the department.

Hon. Frank Wilson: Not the gaoler, I hope.

Hon. R. H. UNDERWOOD: No. I have brought the matter under the notice of the Colonial Secretary, and the Colonial Secretary promised to have inquiries made.

Item—Provisions, bedding and clothing, uniforms, fuel, water, machinery and tools, material for manufacture, general repairs and alterations, gaols and quarters, £11,720.

Hon. J. MITCHELL: I notice there is an increase here of £3,674. Will the Minister explain?

Hon. R. H. UNDERWOOD: This increase is attributed solely to the provision and supply of flour and bread for the military camp at Rottneest. The bread is baked on the island by the prisoners, and sold at 2½d. a loaf, which leaves a slight margin of profit. Since the outbreak of the war, to the 30th June last, £1,337 6s. 2d. was payable by the Military Department for bread supplied. The increased contract price for bread, meat, and flour and other lines of provisions, has also entailed an additional outlay as compared with last year. We have to provide for the flour.

Hon. FRANK WILSON: We have had a good number of prisoners at Rottneest since the outbreak of the war. Is this responsible for the increase of £3,674? The possible revenue to be got from bread supplied to the Military Department is £3,700. Presumably, the £8,046 expended last year included a considerable supply of bread to the Military Department, for which the Government received payment. Will the Minister explain?

Hon. R. H. UNDERWOOD: The increase is £3,674 and the revenue for bread supplied to the Military Department is £3,700. We estimate that we will expend £3,674 more this year, and that we shall get a revenue of £3,700.

Vote put and passed.

Vote—*Harbour and Light, Jetties and tramways*, £20,892 :

Item—Light-keepers (7), £1,092.

Hon. J. MITCHELL: Will the Minister explain why there has been a decrease on this item of £4,273?

Hon. R. H. UNDERWOOD: The Federal Government have taken over this work.

Item—Workers' Compensation Act, 1912—Amount transferable to workers' compensation fund, £175.

Hon. J. MITCHELL: The item this year shows an estimated expenditure of £175, whereas last year the amount was £75. Will the Minister explain?

Hon. R. H. UNDERWOOD: I think the member for Northam can take it for granted that in the framing of the Estimates this amount has not been put in without some good cause. We have to insure the men in case of accident.

Hon. J. MITCHELL: There are 26 fewer people employed in the light-houses and yet the vote is £100 more.

Item—Extra remuneration, £50.

Hon. Frank Wilson: Will the Minister explain the meaning of this item?

Hon. R. H. UNDERWOOD: It is quite possible that something may arise requiring the expenditure of £50, something that may not have been foreseen. I am sure hon. members are really not serious in their criticism. They do not really expect me to know details of an item like this.

Hon. Frank Wilson: We expect you to have the information in your notes.

Hon. R. H. UNDERWOOD: It would be for extra labour.

Hon. J. MITCHELL: The Minister has not been able to tell us what this item is for. It was voted last year but it was not spent, therefore why put it in again? It is not the amount but there is a principle involved. I move an amendment—

*That the item be struck out.*

Amendment negatived.

Vote put and passed.

Vote—Lunacy, £55,735:

Item—Male attendants, £12,766.

Hon. FRANK WILSON: There is an increase of £1,746 in this item. Will the Minister make some explanation about it?

Hon. R. H. UNDERWOOD: Unfortunately there is a continual increase in the number of patients in the Hospital of the Insane and when that happens every year it is the proper thing to

anticipate a further increase in the subsequent year. The staff has been added to and the cost of provisions is considerably higher than it was last year. Furthermore, there is a slight increase owing to the various awards and agreements which have been made in connection with the attendants.

Hon. FRANK WILSON: The explanation of the Minister is not satisfactory. What have the attendants to do with awards of the court? I notice the increase in the number of attendants is only four, the staff having been increased from 121 to 125 and the expenditure by the sum of £1,746. Last year we voted £12,329 and we only spent £11,020. Either we had a large influx of patients which is very regrettable or there must be extravagance in connection with the number of attendants.

Hon. R. H. UNDERWOOD: There are also increments in regard to the lower paid members of the staff. During the past year the institution worked short-handed and this year we are providing for the full number.

Item—Tailor at 13s. per day, £205.

Hon. FRANK WILSON: This seems to be a newly created office. What is the tailor supposed to do?

Hon. R. H. UNDERWOOD: He mends clothes which were previously sent out of the institution to be repaired.

Hon. J. D. Connolly: They used to make a lot of clothes there before.

Item—Drivers, two at 10s. per day (Sundays included), £366.

Hon. FRANK WILSON: What about these drivers; why are their services required?

Hon. R. H. UNDERWOOD: These drivers were previously paid as attendants. The amount paid is in accordance with the Horse-drivers' Union award.

Vote put and passed.

Vote—Medical and public health, £116,839:

Item—Principal Medical Officer and Commissioner of Public Health, £1,020.

Mr. HEITMANN: Does the Minister anticipate making a permanent appointment in connection with this vacancy immediately?



**Hon. R. H. UNDERWOOD:** One or two schemes have been formulated and they are to receive consideration. One takes in the proposal suggested by the hon. member that we should do away with the present system of having a district medical officer who accepts private practice, and that he should devote his full time to his office. Another proposition has been suggested that we should divide the offices of Commissioner of Public Health and Principal Medical Officer, that is to say appoint one man for each position. The suggestions, however, have not yet been fully considered by Cabinet and until a decision has been arrived at we do not intend to fill the vacancy.

**Mr. HEITMANN:** I am pleased to know that the Honorary Minister is going into the question of re-organising this department, but I do not think we would be wise in creating two positions as has been suggested. The Medical department is not so much in need of a medical man to organise and look after the business side of the hospitals as it is in want of a business man. The great mistake is that we make treatment the first consideration, and these officers who are working on the lines of prevention and educating the public in sanitary matters are not receiving the consideration given to a man who is doing the work of restoring health. When an appointment is made, I hope an expert in preventive medicine rather than a medical man will be selected. In the public health branch we have a fine set of officers. Dr. Cumpston told me that Western Australia stands in a very enviable position as regards public health. On the return of normal times, these public health officers should receive better recognition. When a bacteriologist and pathologist receives a small salary of £552, there is not much encouragement for men to follow that line. We have lost this officer, and I believe it is due to the smallness of the salary. We pay officers, whose responsibilities are comparatively small, £500 and £600 a year, and we should give greater recognition to the work of these enthusiasts. They are

accomplishing more than the best surgeons or the best medical advisers in the State. The man who prevents disease is of more importance than the man who tries to patch it up.

Item—Inspectors, £2 at £252; 3 at £228; 4 at £216; 5 at £204; 1 at £168; £3,240.

**Mr. O'LOGHLEN:** Do these inspectors carry out the inspection of factories?

**Hon. R. H. Underwood:** Yes.

**Mr. O'LOGHLEN:** The Minister should inquire into the cabinet-making industry particularly, which is carried on by Chinese. I am informed on good authority that there are white men employing Asiatics only. I know of one case, of which I am fairly sure, and the furniture produced does not bear the stamp of Asiatic labour. It is an imposition that a man employing Asiatics should pass off his furniture as the product of white labour. If these assertions are correct, I hope the Minister will have this individual put in his proper place, so that those who employ white labour will have an opportunity to compete.

Item—Secretary and dispenser, £277.

**Mr. GREEN:** What is the reason for the decrease of £132 in this item?

**Hon. R. H. UNDERWOOD:** I presume there is another officer, and that the amount is included under the Woorloo sanatorium.

Item—School of Hygiene, temporary assistance, £150.

**Mr. HEITMANN:** I would like to know if this work is being carried out sympathetically. I am afraid it is drifting. All we have done to date, outside of dental matters, is to collect statistics which are not achieving any great object. In looking over the report, it is surprising how many defects have been discovered amongst school children, and it is more surprising that Parliament does not insist on following up the inspection of school children by treatment. There is a loose system of examining the children, and informing the parents advising treatment, and with the average parent there it ends. The natural corollary of this work is treat-

ment, and until we adopt this, the mere examination of school children will achieve no good results. Although this might be regarded as a further instalment of socialism, it is necessary. We are allowing children to grow up with these defects, which become more and more pronounced, and when they have to undergo a severe test such as that provided for enlistment, many are rejected. In Tasmania which eight or nine years ago started a crusade against disease, the number of rejects has been the least of any of the States.

Hon. R. H. Underwood : That might be due to the fact that they have different examining officers.

Mr. HEITMANN : Perhaps so, but when they first opened their Public Health Department they had an enthusiast who laid a good foundation for the subsequent work. An educational work is being conducted in regard to public health generally, and is producing very good results.

Hon. R. H. UNDERWOOD : I appreciate the hon. member's remarks, but I must say that I will give them attention next session. Although £150 is shown for this work, I fear very little, if any, of the work will be done during the current year. We are very short of doctors, and are in want of medical men for still more important work than this. I agree with the hon. member that when the work is resumed it should be done in a more uniform manner.

Item—(Wooroloo Sanatorium) Chief Medical Officer, £672.

Mr. SMITH : Will the Honorary Minister enlighten me on the method of conveying patients to and from the Wooroloo Sanatorium and the railway station ? At present, I understand, they are taken in an open vehicle and this course has been adopted even during stormy weather in the case of some patients in the last stages of consumption. A motor car might well be provided.

Hon. R. H. UNDERWOOD : A horse and buggy have been provided for the purpose mentioned by the hon. member. A request has been made, not only for a motor car, but also for a motor am-

bulance to convey patients from the City to the Wooroloo Sanatorium. However, we have been told that we must economise, and it must be borne in mind that Government motor cars are sometimes used for other purposes than those described on the Estimates. Patients in the last extremity should not be sent to the Wooroloo Sanatorium at all, but to some other institution. The Wooroloo Sanatorium is intended for patients with a chance of being cured. I think the hon. member for North Perth had in his mind the case of an old Coolgardie prospector who, it has been stated, died as the result of getting wet when leaving Wooroloo. Dr. Mitchell has informed me of the facts, which are that the old man left of his own accord, that he was well wrapped up in a rug of the doctor's and had his own oil skin over that, and that it was practically impossible for him to get wet on the trip. When the finances are in a better condition I shall be glad to provide a motor car.

Mr. HEITMANN : I am quite convinced that everything possible would be done in such a case by Dr. Mitchell and his staff. When the patients were transferred from Coolgardie some bungling occurred at this end, and the unfortunate people were forced to walk 2½ miles in the drenching rain.

Hon. R. H. Underwood : Two motor cars were sent up on that occasion.

Mr. HEITMANN : Yes, but some of the patients were impatient and would not wait for the cars. In Dr. Mitchell the State is fortunate in possessing an absolute enthusiast. No one not entirely wrapped up in the work could become a specialist in this particular disease and be content to work for £672 per annum. Of course, it has to be admitted that the doctor gets a residence and other privileges, which possibly would bring up the amount of his remuneration to about £900 per annum. A specialist in chest diseases, however, could easily earn £2,000 a year. Somehow or other, Parliament has decreed that medical officers should be paid very small salaries. It is unfortunate for Dr. Mitchell that he should have such poor material

for the purpose of showing what might be done in the way of cure.

Mr. Smith: How do you mean poor material?

Mr. HEITMANN: We simply provide an institution which unfortunate men and women enter when, generally speaking, they are cases so far gone that there is no hope of recovery. A proper organisation would be such that the moment an individual suffers from lung trouble he or she would be placed in an institution. We should be able to mark the progress of the case, one way or the other.

Mr. Smith: That would mean compulsion.

Mr. HEITMANN: There is compulsion now by notification by medical men. Moreover, there ought to be clinics for patients who are fit to remain outside the institution. At present we have no organisation whatever. I myself have sent scores of patients over the railways of this State, and at one time I found it most difficult to obtain isolated carriages for them or to induce people to recognise the danger of infection. Time after time I have seen patients travelling with the ordinary public. In fact, on one occasion I have seen the patients in an ordinary carriage, and six or seven passengers in the carriage intended for the patients. One result of this would be that the carriage used by the patients would not be disinfected, whilst that used by the healthy passengers would be disinfected. Patients expectorate freely, and yet they have to be taken into public places, such as hotels and coffee palaces. If they disclose the disease from which they are suffering, they run the risk of being refused lodging; and there should be some home in the City where they could be kept pending resumption of their journey to Wooroloo. Until Parliament demands that some thoroughly organised system should be adopted Ministries, as they come and go, will not bring about the necessary reforms. Even in times of stress money should be supplied for this purpose.

Hon. R. H. Underwood: Where are you going to get the money? It is easy enough to vote it.

Mr. HEITMANN: The educational vote has increased by £122,000 in five years, and there is no more justification for increased expenditure on education than for increased expenditure on public health.

Hon. R. H. Underwood: We have increased this item also.

Mr. HEITMANN: Yes; but it has not, in my opinion, been increased sufficiently by a long way. Expenditure will be well repaid if we can retard the progress of the disease.

Item — Perth Children's Hospital, £3,000.

Mr. FOLEY: Last year this item was increased from £2,500 to £3,000. I was led to believe that the extra £500 was voted on the distinct understanding that a specialist in children's diseases would be appointed by the managing committee of the Perth Children's Hospital. Up to the present I have not heard of any specialist being appointed. If they are not going to get a specialist there will be no need for the £500. Can the Minister tell us if any move is being made in the direction of appointing a specialist? The hospital committee are bickering among themselves, and I doubt very much if they intend to get the specialist.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: It is quite true that this increase was granted last year on the understanding that a specialist would be appointed. The chairman of the hospital committee, Mr. Lovekin, interviewed me on several occasions in regard to an increase in the grant, and at last I promised £500 on the understanding that they would appoint a specialist. From what I see in the Press the present hospital committee desire to get away from the understanding arrived at. If the Honorary Minister, who is now on the committee, cannot persuade that committee to abide by their undertaking, I intend to do my utmost to prevent this £500 being paid to the hospital. A specialist in children's diseases is necessary in that hospital. Very

good work was done there during Dr. Pearson's regime. His services were largely sought after. A distinct understanding was given that the specialist would be appointed when the £500 increase was given, and if the committee do not carry out their undertaking I will endeavour to prevent the £500 being paid.

Hon. R. H. UNDERWOOD: I agree with the Minister for Works that this additional sum, having been granted for a specific purpose, should not be paid if the expert is not appointed. I cannot say exactly what the objections are to his appointment, but I will probably know a little more about it after I have attended a couple of meetings.

Item—Incidental, including travelling, postage, stationery, mosquito eradication, and not otherwise provided for, £3,300.

Mr. SMITH: No doubt mosquito eradication is very desirable, but I shall be glad if the Minister would tell us something about the methods to be adopted.

Hon. R. H. UNDERWOOD: The system of mosquito eradication is somewhat experimental, and I cannot say definitely what the methods will be. Personally I think the use of kerosene on water is a waste of good kerosene, because the mosquitos are not in the water but on the land. The amount spent on mosquito eradication last year was £21 ls. 1d.

Vote put and passed.

Vote—Police, £129,720:

Item—Inspectors, £1,725.

Mr. TAYLOR: Last year we made provision on the Estimates for inspectors to be advanced in rotation. I find that although some of the inspectors have been moved up to higher positions, the sub-inspectors have not been thus advantaged. Perhaps the Minister can give us some reasons for the differentiation.

Hon. R. H. UNDERWOOD: The inspectors have not been put up, for the same reason as has prevented other Government employees being put up. We decided long ago that we would not increase salaries except under special circumstances. That is why the inspectors have not been put up.

Mr. TAYLOR: But the inspectors have been put up. It is the sub-inspectors who have not been advanced. I could understand the withholding of the higher paid positions, but to put up the inspector and refuse to advance the sub-inspector is scarcely economy.

Mr. HEITMANN: I would draw attention to the extraordinary relationship which apparently exists between the Police Department and the *Sunday Times*. The department should be run entirely apart from any influence other than that of the Government. Some 12 or 18 months ago Warden Troy at Kalgourlie animadverted on the action of a detective in bringing into court child witnesses two or three years of age, in a case in which the life of the defendant was at stake. On the following Sunday the *Sunday Sun* published a strong article dealing with the case and reflecting on the qualifications of the warden. It was very clear that the information secured by the paper must have been supplied by a member of the force. In one case a police constable on the Murchison was sent a cutting from the *Sunday Times* containing an anonymous letter, and was asked to explain the statements contained in it. Is that fair treatment?

Mr. Smith: What happened to the constable?

Mr. HEITMANN: The same as has happened to many others—sent out of the department, possibly through the instrumentality of the *Sunday Times*.

Mr. Smith: There must have been good reason for it.

Mr. HEITMANN: No public officer should be called upon to reply to an anonymous letter in the newspaper. If the *Sunday Times* can send such letters to the department and get an inspector to forward them to the officer, that paper has more influence than it should have. This department should be free from any such influence. The officer in question said he should not be called upon to reply to an anonymous letter. Later on he took exception to the Commissioner's action, and the Commissioner said that in future he would not protect this officer, but

would allow the letters to go in without comment or inquiry on his part. The result was that the paper published the reason why this officer was transferred two months before he himself knew it. Is that fair? Can the heads of the department expect confidence from the men when they themselves have not confidence in the men?

Mr. Smith: Did the officer appeal?

Mr. HEITMANN: I am not concerned with that. The fact that he could not get the information for two months indicates a condition of affairs which is wrong.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: The general expenses of the Police Department, apart from the trimmings, such as motor cars used for other than official purposes, might well be passed. I wish to draw attention to the order issued at the Commissioner's instigation, as disclosed by the papers laid on the Table, which indicated that the Commissioner and inspector exceeded their duty, and, to try to sheet home their indictment, adopted methods which would be no credit to any department. According to the papers, Inspector Drewry was instructed by the Commissioner to issue an order that the police were drinking in hotels in Perth until their conduct had become a positive scandal. We have to look at the papers to find how the ordinary ranker in the police force is likely to fare if he gets up against authority. The Commissioner went out of his way to justify his action by mentioning an incident which occurred in New Zealand years ago. He had not the pluck or courage to record a charge against one man, but put on record that a constable going into an hotel, asked that drinks be put down to the Commissioner of Police or to the sergeant. That might have happened. The man alleged to have made that statement has gone to his final rest in Gallipoli. The Commissioner, in trying to bolster up a very weak case, pleaded successfully with the Colonial Secretary to support his action. He pointed out that it was commonly rumoured amongst the police that one particular constable had the backing of the Labour party behind him, and he said

that without discipline the police and the Labour party could not succeed.

The CHAIRMAN: The hon. member cannot deal with the Commissioner; he must speak on the item of inspectors.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: The Commissioner's order was objected to by 40 or 50 constables. They signed their protest and asked for a copy of the order objected to, but were paraded before the inspector and asked to decide whether they would stand by their written protest. Only three of the number were prepared to stand by their protest.

Hon. J. Mitchell: Probably they did not know what they had signed.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: That information was given by other officers in the Police Department. It was given by detectives. The Commissioner of Police knew who the guilty parties were. I think not more than one man was guilty, and that man need not be discussed now.

Mr. Taylor: Do you think the detectives knew that?

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: I will not say there were not two or three men, but the Commissioner knew who the men were, and should have dealt with them. The Commissioner—

The CHAIRMAN: The hon. member must deal with the inspectors and not with the Commissioner.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: The inspector was not prepared to divulge the name of the person who gave the information, but according to the remarks of the inspector contained in the papers, two constables in uniform were seen leaving an hotel on Sunday. The inspector knew who they were, and yet no action was taken by the department. Yet because one man organised that protest, he was penalised by having an adverse statement put on his personal file. This department appears to be run on extraordinary lines. Whenever a superior officer, particularly the head of a department, has a complaint to make, he seems to confer with the Minister before expressing an opinion, and if the Minister is favourable that opinion stands and is irrevocable. When an inspector receives complaints and has a knowledge of the guilty parties, he

should punish them. The inspector had a knowledge of the guilty parties in this connection, but instead of punishing them he branded the whole force in the city as a lot of drunkards. He refused to give the name of the guilty party, and put up the plea that otherwise he would be breaking faith with a respectable citizen. If any such citizen claims to be respectable, he should not allow a body of men to be penalised owing to the faults of one or two who were known to the authorities. On those papers also it is stated that the police of Western Australia enjoy more privileges and freedom, and are better paid than any force in the British Empire. I think that is not correct.

The CHAIRMAN: The hon. member must not make a speech dealing with the whole of the Police Department. He must speak on the item of inspectors.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: I will deal with those items as we come to them. In regard to the influence exercised by the *Sunday Times*, it is an extraordinary fact that the *Sunday Times* seems to get information in preference to any other paper in the State. Perhaps that is shrewd journalism.

Hon. Frank Wilson: Has that been traced to the inspectors?

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: If an officer exceeds his duty the inspectors are responsible.

Hon. Frank Wilson: Have the inspectors given the information to the *Sunday Times*?

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: I want to know who was responsible for a man on cycle duty one Sunday morning taking a copy of the paper to the Commissioner's private house.

The CHAIRMAN: The hon. member is reverting to the Commissioner.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: In connection with the inspectors, I asked for particulars in regard to the drinking in hotels and the charge levelled against the police force, and was told less than a week ago that the information could not be obtained, as several files would have to be looked up. There must be absolute chaos in the Police Department if the few questions I ask cannot be answered. In regard to

the general allegation of drunkenness against members of the police force, I would say that less than a month ago, one constable was brought in off the street drunk and paraded before the inspector, who sent him home to his private house. On the next day he came back and went on duty, and was once more brought in off the street in a state of drunkenness and sent to his home. That is all the punishment that was meted out to this officer. The Minister should not make fish of one man and flesh of another. During the last three weeks I have heard of inspectors who have been unable to get on their trams to go home at night. These have been inspectors located in the city of Perth. I suppose they were coming from their clubs after going off duty. If an inspector of police is going to penalise members of the force who are below him for conduct unbecoming in a policeman, he should conduct himself properly, even if he is off duty.

Hon. Frank Wilson: The hon. member seems to be endeavouring to prove a general charge of drunkenness against the police.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: I am proving a charge against certain individuals. When an inspector knows that a constable has been brought off the streets twice for drunkenness he should certainly recognise that it is part of his duty to deal with that constable, and should not issue a general slander against the whole of the police force and say that all members of it are drunkards. He knows who the guilty people are, and that being so, he should deal with them in particular. I object to a general reflection on the whole force and to the real delinquents being allowed to go free. I am not prepared to say any more on this point until we come to the items. I missed my opportunity on the general discussion.

Hon. R. H. UNDERWOOD: I have no intention whatever of replying to the charges made by the member for Forrest. I am convinced that they are absolutely unfounded, and of too extravagant a nature to be taken seriously.

Mr. GEORGE: The Honorary Minister does not seem to realise the serious-

ness of the accusation. The member for Forrest, with considerable force, has made charges against inspectors and constables of the police force and inferentially against the Commissioner of Police. As a ratepayer myself, I do not feel at all easy when I hear that the guardians of the peace are, on the showing of the hon. member, conducting themselves in this manner. The hon. member absolutely justified the circular which was issued in connection with members of the police force drinking in hotels. It seems to me that the Committee would be failing in its duty if it did not take the matter up. We have also had complaints in regard to the *Sunday Times* getting information from the Police Department, which other newspapers do not get.

The Premier: Who made complaints against the *Sunday Times*?

Mr. GEORGE: The member for Geraldton.

Mr. Heitmann: Nothing of the kind.

Mr. GEORGE: The hon. member made complaints against the police for allowing the *Sunday Times* to have so much brain and business acumen as to get information before the constables themselves could get it. That, at all events, is a complaint against the paper for being too enterprising.

Item—Clothing, forage, shoeing and saddlery, travelling and transport, upkeep of motor-car, £16,410.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: I would like to hear from the Honorary Minister the reason for the increase in this item of £1,196. There is too much extravagance in this department, particularly with regard to the use of the motor-car. It has become a habit for departmental officers to utilise Government motor-cars on every possible occasion. I have been informed on good authority that the Commissioner of Police utilised this car to make a trip to his farm at Ongerup, and also that he utilised it on the occasion of his son's marriage. I am not quite certain as to the latter complaint. As a protest against expenditure of the State's money in his fashion, I move an amendment—

*That the item be reduced by £196.*

Hon. R. H. UNDERWOOD: I trust that the amendment will not be carried. There has been some development in this country, and as we open it up it is necessary to establish police stations in various parts of the State. For instance, along the Goomalling and Mullewa railway lines we will have to establish three or four new stations. In the wheat belt we shall also have to form branch stations. The motor-car is only a circumstance in the increased expenditure which is thus brought about. The Premier points out that although the vote may show an increase over last year, there may really be a reduction through the use of the motor-car, because previously constables were obliged to travel by train. Without a motor-car the Police Department would be in an absurd position. Men engaged in this class of work must have a motor-car. It is bringing things down to a low strata when members bring charges against a responsible officer to the effect that he is using a Government car to visit his farm and in connection with his son's wedding. There is no doubt that this car has been of great service in the Police Department, and has enabled officers to do a great amount of work which they could not otherwise have done. I am certain that members would not desire to prevent the Police Department from having the use of the car. I do not think it is advisable to make the reduction asked for. As I pointed out, there will be extra cost in the police force and particularly in the incidental item. The motor-car is absolutely necessary for the police force, and it receives as good usage as any other motor-car in the Government service.

Mr. GEORGE: I do not think it should go out that this Committee would sanction the use of a Government motor-car by an individual, who had the right to use it officially, for his private business, though, of course, in a case of emergency no one would grumble.

Amendment put and negatived.

Item—Extra remuneration, £100.

Mr. GEORGE: What is the explanation of this item?

Hon. R. H. UNDERWOOD: The explanation is that it might be wanted.

Mr. George: Wanted for what?

Hon. R. H. UNDERWOOD: For extra remuneration.

Mr. GEORGE: This is making a burlesque of the Estimates. The item may be all right, but more explanation should be given. In all my experience of Parliament I have never seen so bald an item.

The Minister for Mines: It is for officers filling higher positions.

Mr. GEORGE: It cannot be for that at all.

Hon. R. H. UNDERWOOD: The note I have referring to this item is that the item is the same as last year and that frequently calls are made on the item from entirely unexpected sources.

Mr. GEORGE: I move an amendment—

*That the item be struck out.*

The memorandum read by the Honorary Minister is impertinent, and I object to it very strongly. The money of the people should not be tricked with in this way.

Hon. R. H. UNDERWOOD: We have had a tremendous lot of discussion tonight on tiny, miserable things. This item for extra remuneration has appeared again and again on the Estimates. It may be for some extra duty done by officers, or in respect of officers relieving others. No Minister has ever explained what the item is for when it has not occurred. It simply represents a possibility.

Mr. George: It did not appear last year.

Hon. R. H. UNDERWOOD: Then a mistake was made last year.

Mr. George: It is a new item, and some further explanation should be given.

Hon. R. H. UNDERWOOD: I hope members will not strike the item out. By the same token, I do not care much if they do.

Mr. GEORGE: Are we to play the fool in this Chamber, and act the giddy goat?

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The hon. member should not make a remark like that, which is a reflection on the Committee.

Mr. GEORGE: I withdraw, Sir. The item has not appeared year after year, as stated by the Honorary Minister. If we do not question it now, we do not know what it may grow to in years to come. The only explanation which has been offered is a memorandum which is impertinent and impudent.

Amendment put and negatived.

Hon. H. B. LEFROY: In connection with this item may I ask what "Search for 'Wanderer II.'" means?

Hon. R. H. UNDERWOOD: The "Wanderer II." was a lugger lost in the North-West. I think the Dwyer brothers were lost in her.

Mr. CARPENTER: I observe that the item "Launch for Fremantle" has not been repeated. Do the Government not propose to supply the port of Fremantle with a police launch? Nothing has yet been done. There will be great disappointment at Fremantle if it is found that the Government have abandoned the proposal altogether. Every good port has a police launch, and we want one at Fremantle.

Hon. R. H. UNDERWOOD: The proposal has not been entirely abandoned, but owing to financial stringency has been postponed. Fremantle has been an important port for 25 years and has got on without a police launch so far, and therefore should be able to get through this year without one.

Hon. J. D. Connolly: When the "Waratah" was there she was never used.

Hon. R. H. UNDERWOOD: When we have the money to spare, a launch will be supplied.

Vote put and passed.

This completed the Estimates of the Colonial Secretary's Department.

*[The Speaker resumed the Chair.]*

Progress reported.



## LOAN ESTIMATES, 1915-16.

*Message.*

Message from the Governor received and read recommending appropriation for the Loan Estimates, 1915-16.

*In Committee of Supply.*

The House resolved into Committee of Supply for the purpose of considering the Loan Estimates, Mr. Holman in the Chair.

Vote—*Departmental*, £70,967:

The PREMIER AND TREASURER (Hon. J. Scaddan—Brown Hill-Ivanhoe) [10.32]: In introducing the Loan Estimates it is usual to make some reference to the public debt and the loan transactions of the previous year. I will, therefore, deal with these sections in as comprehensive a manner as possible. Upon the outbreak of the war the London market became practically closed to the State, but fortunately, as a result of my visit to the Eastern States, I was able to arrange with the Commonwealth Government for a loan of £3,100,000, to be paid in monthly instalments commencing in December last. For the time being we are paying  $4\frac{1}{8}$  per cent. interest on these advances, which are covered by two years Treasury bills. Hon. members will notice that  $4\frac{1}{8}$  per cent. is higher than the amount which we are permitted to pay under the Inscribed Stock Act. I intend shortly to introduce a Bill which will enable us to increase the interest payable to 5 per cent. I may explain that the interest is to be adjusted in accordance with the terms under which the Commonwealth Government are ultimately able to raise the money in London. Up to the 30th June last £1,808,331 was paid to the State on account of this loan, portion of the money being paid in London in accordance with our requirements and thus saving exchange on remittances. In addition to the Commonwealth loan we issued local Treasury bills for £339,750, also £316,215 in continuation of the current issue of local 4 per cent. stock at £97, also £154,000 of  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. Treasury bills in London. From the sources I have thus enumerated we received last year

£2,610,425, which, with a balance of £1,189,524 carried over from the previous year, provided the sum of £3,799,949 for credit of the General Loan Fund. The expenditure was £2,521,608, leaving a balance to the credit of the Loan Account at the end of the year of £1,378,341. This is accounted for in the deficit in stores, and in cash.

Hon. J. Mitchell: How much cash?

The PREMIER: It is shown in the "Public Accounts" now before members.

Hon. J. Mitchell: Up to June?

The PREMIER: The hon. member will find all the particulars in the schedules which are attached to the Loan Estimates. Our loan operations for last year were to an extent restricted, compared with the previous and recent years; at the same time we expended £2,521,608 upon Loan Account, also £18,165 from the Loan Suspense Account, which on the whole was £380,417 less than the expenditure for 1913-14 and £332,190 less than was authorised in the Loan Estimates. The expenditure for last year included £602,475 for assistance to settlers and industries, £271,611 Agricultural Bank advance, £21,962 for water supplies in agricultural districts, £70,450 in connection with State smelting and advances on copper ore at Ravensthorpe, £55,000 for the establishment of Plant and Stock Suspense Account, £97,500 on workers' homes, and £68,081 on metropolitan waterworks, thus leaving a balance of £1,334,529 expended on public works, etc. I have had a return prepared for the information of hon. members showing the expenditure in detail last year and also for the first three months of the current year. That is attached to the statement which has been supplied to hon. members. I may now be permitted briefly to refer to the statement so frequently made, particularly by the leader of the Opposition, that we have indulged in extravagant expenditure of Loan Funds. I would like to make a comparison between our Loan expenditure in the year 1914-15 and that of the Liberal Government, whose head was the present leader of the Opposition. In 1910-11 the loan

expenditure of the then Government amounted to £1,500,000, and 1914-15 to £2,500,000. Of this amount £602,110 represented cash found for assistance to settlers, £271,611 was cash found for the Agricultural Bank and £21,962 was cash found for water supplies in agricultural districts, making a total under those three heads of £895,683, largely for the purpose of keeping the settlers on their holdings.

Hon. J. Mitchell: For water supplies?

The PREMIER: I am speaking of expenditure in addition to that which was necessary in 1910-11. Then we have to add to that £68,081 expended in connection with the metropolitan waterworks, £60,000 spent in connection with the State smelters and advances on copper ore, £97,500 for the provision of workers' homes, and £55,000 for the purchase of plant, stock, etc., that merely being a book-keeping entry in order to put the amount in proper legal form in accordance with the instructions of the Auditor General. The amount had to be found from loan for the purpose of making that adjustment. Those items total £28,581, or adding the two we get a grand total of £1,176,264, represented in our total loan expenditure of £2,521,608 last year. Deducting those items on which we spent money which was not necessary in 1910-11, we find that our expenditure in 1914-15 was £176,000 less than that of 1910-11. What I want hon. members to understand from my statement is that that money which has been found and spent from Loan Funds was previously in a large measure provided for under special Acts, but brought under the Loan Act in order to simplify the method of book-keeping. Bad seasons and war forced us to provide the total which I have given, namely £895,683, to assist settlers, practically in round numbers a million pounds.

Hon. J. Mitchell: A long way off a million.

The PREMIER: The reason why I mention this is that, secondly, the other amounts mentioned were previously

financed under special Acts and not from General Loan Fund. Now they are. The Agricultural Bank was previously financed by debentures issued from the Savings Bank, but we have altered that and now the Savings Bank take up our inscribed stock and we then find the money, if there is any available in the Savings Bank, for the purpose of the Agricultural Bank, and it becomes a part of our national debt, as it should be. Previously that was not the case. Thirdly, the State smelters' advances and workers' homes are new and represented by assets which are being paid off as sales are effected and by instalments received respectively. So that by comparison our expenditure last year on public works, excluding those I have mentioned, as against that of 1911, shows that we have brought about a reduction of loan expenditure on public works amounting to £175,000. What I want to impress on hon. members is that the conditions over which we had no control, namely, drought and war, compelled us to find this additional money to spend in new avenues, which the previous Government were not called upon to find, and in making comparisons of loan expenditure, I say it is only fair to us and to the country to remark that the expenditure under these conditions over which we had no control, has not increased. However, I do not wish to pursue that any further. Our estimated loan expenditure this year as set out in the Estimates before hon. members, amounts to £2,103,881, as against £2,521,608 actually expended last year, showing an estimated decrease of £417,727 against the actual expenditure, not the estimated expenditure, of last year. Hon. members will notice, as usual, that the Loan Estimates are set out under departmental heads. The first is termed departmental. It is really expenditure on salaries and other expenses incidental to loan operations. This shows an amount of £70,967 as against £81,780 expended last year, or a decrease of £10,813. But even this cannot be accepted as final or correct, but is based on the estimated expenditure. If the expendi-

ture is less than anticipated this item will be reduced accordingly. It is arrived at by an apportionment of the departmental salaries and expenses between the loan and revenue expenditure. On our Revenue Estimates certain provision is made for recoups on loans, because all the salaries are voted on Revenue Estimates, and according to the amount of work performed on revenue or on loan expenditure the apportionment is made. Railways and tramways show a provision of £685,975, as against an expenditure last year of £665,985, or an estimated increase of £19,990. The increase is largely due to the electric power station, requiring £33,892, that being a liability for material ordered last year, accounts for which will be rendered this year, and for the completion of the works which we anticipated, when we submitted the Estimates last year, would have been completed and paid for last financial year. Hon. members will notice that there was an under-draft on that vote last year of considerably more than the increase shown this year. Also tramways show an increase of £66,000. That is due to extensions and to the relaying of the tramline in Murray-street, found necessary on account of the condition of the road in Hay-street and the congestion of traffic in that thoroughfare. It is proposed to extend the Crawley tram to Nedlands. This will facilitate traffic and will also be a good paying proposition. It is also intended to duplicate the line in Oxford-street. This is not so urgent, except that the city council are anxious to remake that road, and from the point of view of the taxpayer and ratepayer it will be economical if the duplication is made at the same time as the council are remaking the road. Harbours and rivers represent £157,883, as against £155,608 last year, the principal items of expenditure being Albany, Bunbury, Geraldton, and Fremantle harbour works. There are two new items under this heading, namely, Esperance and Wyndham jetties, the former being an amount of £2,000 and the latter £15,000. The £2,000 is required for the commencement of the

work, but its completion, of course, will cost considerably more.

Mr. Taylor: Have you an idea of the estimate?

The PREMIER: No. The Minister in charge will be able to give that information to the Committee when we reach the item. Under Water Supply and Sewerage, the estimated expenditure for the year is £337,120 as against an actual expenditure last year of £236,102, being an increase of £101,108. That appears to be a very large increase, but I may explain that the principal item responsible is "Water Supply for towns generally." Hon. members will there notice an item of £91,580, as against an expenditure of £14,532 for last year. Of the increase £57,000 is due to the Water Supply Department undertaking the provision of water supply for towns and railway purposes combined. Previously the one department was providing water for town purposes, while the Railways were supplying water for their own purposes. There was at times a duplication, involving unnecessary expenditure. Now the two departments have been brought together for the purpose of water supply, and so the supplies for towns and railways come under the one vote.

Mr. Taylor: The Water Supply Department were supplying the railways.

The PREMIER: That is so. The whole of the supply was provided for all purposes. We have also provided £14,000 for the progress of the Collic water supply, £11,000 for the Geraldton No. 2 scheme, and £6,000 for water supply at Moora. To complete the supplies for town and railway purposes which will commence under this vote, it is estimated that £127,000 will be required; but it is anticipated that we will have spent only £91,000 by the end of the financial year. That will include water supplies at Brookton, Bolgart, Dumbleyung, Katanning, Narrogin, Bridgetown, Kojonup, Tambellup, and other centres. The other principal increase under the heading of "Water Supply and Sewerage" is "Water supply in agricultural districts," including drain-

age and irrigation, £72,400 being provided on that item, as against £21,961 expended last year. But of that increase £45,500 is necessary to complete the Harvey irrigation scheme No. 1, and £4,000 for drainage on the repurchased estate at Harvey, being £49,500 in that direction alone. I hope the members for Bunbury and Murray-Wellington have noted those figures.

Mr. Thomas: The item for Harvey is the only one I can discover for the South-West.

The PREMIER: That represents about £50,000. If we undertake one thing at a time and do it well, it is preferable to doing patch work all over the place and getting no results. From this expenditure at Harvey, we expect to establish a large and prosperous irrigation settlement and, when that has been completed, we shall be able to continue our operations in the South-West. A sum of £3,000 is provided for the construction of tanks in the agricultural areas of the Norseman-Esperance district. Under the heading of development of goldfields and mineral resources £84,451 is provided, being a decrease of £11,203 on last year's expenditure. Of the amount of the vote £60,000 is in connection with advances on ore and working expenses in connection with the State smelter at Ravens-thorpe. Development of agriculture accounts for over half a million of the total estimated expenditure. This is about £4,000 less than was actually expended last year, the expenditure last year having been £954,223. It is anticipated that approximately £400,000 of the amount advanced to settlers last year will be repaid this year and again advanced to settlers, which will mean that the actual expenditure—although not representing all new cash—will be approximately the same as was advanced last year. For roads and bridges £59,000 is provided as against £109,039 last year, a decrease of £50,000. However, there is one increase under this heading namely, for new roads in country and goldfields districts, principally for feeders to railways. Last year we expended for this

purpose £4,715, and this year it is estimated that we will require an expenditure of £10,000 to provide essential feeders to enable settlers to get their crops to the railways, chiefly to those lines which were opened and handed over to the Working Railways last year.

Mr. Taylor: That will be for this harvest.

The PREMIER: We are doing our best to complete them for this harvest. Under the final heading, other undertakings, there is provision for £168,044 being a decrease of £55,173. Of this estimated expenditure, no less than £140,000 is represented in the purchase by bonds of the new Diesel ship which means that the actual cash which will have to be found for that purpose will be less the £140,000 being provided for by bonds. No provision has been made for the phantom ship mentioned by the *Daily News*. The expenditure from general loan funds for the first three months of the financial year to the 30th September last was about £385,000. At that date, after deducting this sum, the cash available was £388,576. In other words, to the end of September we had expended £385,000 and still had cash to the amount of £388,576 available. To this sum must be added the balance of the Commonwealth loan of £516,666 which is payable this month and next month, making a total amount of cash available of £905,242. Taking into account the amount due from the Commonwealth this month and next month, we have this amount of £905,242 actually available to-day. From this sum must be deducted Treasury Bills maturing before the 30th June next amounting to £311,500, leaving a balance of about £594,000 to meet loan expenditure for the remaining nine months of the financial year. I expect that a fair proportion of these Treasury Bills will be renewed, although at present I think that some of those held by the Commonwealth will have to be met. These Treasury Bills were issued at the outbreak of the war in accordance with the arrangement with the then Federal Treasurer that the State should receive so many notes for the gold it put up.

Bills were issued for 12 months to cover the notes and the Federal Treasurer is now demanding the repayment of those Bills. I hope he will not insist upon the repayment, but if he does, the amount will have to be deducted from the amount due by the Commonwealth to the State this month and next month. However, I have stated the position as it will be if I have to meet all the Treasury Bills falling due and if none are renewed. As I have said, we will have £594,000 to meet loan expenditure for the remaining nine months of the financial year. It is expected that about £100,000 will be made available through the Agricultural Bank by the repayment of advances; £50,000 for the sale of copper in connection with the Ravenshorpe operations, and £145,000 by a special sale of inscribed stock in connection with the purchase of the "Kangaroo," making a total of about £890,000 to meet the estimated expenditure on loan account of £1,718,881 for the remaining nine months of the financial year, or an actual shortage of cash of about £330,000 if we expend according to our Estimates. I regret that I am unable to state at the present time how this money will be raised. A committee representing the States was appointed at the Premiers' conference, and this committee is negotiating with the Federal Government and the Home authorities with a view to raising sufficient funds to meet the requirements of the States, but up to the present finality has not been reached. The requirements of the States are now under consideration by the Imperial Government. Should the Federal Government or the Imperial Government not be in a position to come to the assistance of the State, a stoppage of the works will without doubt result. I am endeavouring to raise money locally by the issue of Treasury Bills which are now on the market at  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. for two years with the right of renewal on the part of the Government for a further period of two years.

Mr. James Gardiner: Can you at the present juncture issue them at  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent.?

The PREMIER: We can issue Treasury Bills up to 5 per cent., but we cannot issue stock although I have a Bill before the House to enable me to issue stock at 5 per cent. I would like to give members more detailed information in connection with our negotiations with the Federal Government, but I think it would be unwise while the negotiations are pending to say more than that it was felt by the States that during the war there should be only one borrower for the Commonwealth and the States on the markets of Australia and London. We thought the one borrower should rather be the Commonwealth than any of the States acting singly or together and, for this purpose, we were desirous of meeting the Federal Treasurer and trying to arrange with him to raise the moneys on behalf of the States as was done in connection with the loan of £3,100,000 we obtained last year. Unfortunately, the Federal Treasurer proposed conditions which were not acceptable to the States and, unless he is prepared to waive some of those conditions, I am afraid we shall not be able to raise the money or come to an arrangement to allow only one borrower to appear on the market.

Mr. James Gardiner: Could not you arrange that with the other States?

The PREMIER: In this connection Western Australia and Queensland are affected more than the other States for reasons which are obvious to all hon. members. Victoria and New South Wales and perhaps South Australia, though not to the same extent but more so than Queensland or Western Australia, have passed through the stage we in Western Australia are now passing through. We have about one-third of the Commonwealth to develop—a very large area with a very small population, and the population will not increase and the desired development cannot take place unless there is an expenditure of capital in the direction of extending the railway system and making provision for the extension of harbours to give facilities for our products to be placed on the markets of the world as

economically as possible. Unless money is available for such works as these, things must remain at they are and in view of this fact I contend that loan expenditure in Western Australia must considerably exceed per head of the population that of any other State of the Commonwealth, if Western Australia is going to make that progress which we all anticipate and hope for. Victoria has already passed through this stage. The Under Treasurer of Victoria informed me when I was in Melbourne last time that his State was passing through a stage similar to that which Western Australia was passing through. He stated that the loan expenditure was heavy, and, moreover, that in the extension of their railway system into out-lying districts for the purpose of encouraging development the railways were actually being operated at the loss of £1,000 a day for every day in the year. Under these circumstances I think we can congratulate ourselves that our own railway system, at least, is not being run at a very great loss, and that in normal seasons it is showing us a handsome profit, notwithstanding the fact that we are pushing forward our railways into districts which are but sparsely populated. This, I maintain, is creditable, alike to the Government and the Commissioner of Railways. The condition which the Federal Treasurer proposed to impose upon the State, if he is going to approach the money market as a borrower for the States, could not be acceptable to a State like Western Australia. I do not think I am betraying any confidence if I mention that the Federal Treasurer desires to impose a condition that he shall, if the States and the Commonwealth are acting together, be the final arbiter as to the amount which shall be expended by the States. It must be borne in mind, however, that he is not responsible to the citizens of the States, that he is not answerable to them. The State Governments are answerable to the citizens and should, therefore, take the responsibility of saying what amount of money is required for the purpose of carrying out necessary public

works. Further, the Federal Treasurer wishes to impose a condition upon the States that the expenditure shall not exceed a certain amount per head of the population. That cannot be the basis upon which loan raising should be fixed. I may point out that all the States do not raise money on the same basis. We in Western Australia raise money for the purpose of financing the Agricultural Bank, for the purpose of financing the settlers in times of stress, and in making advances to assist industries, such as advances against copper and the like; and we also have to make financial arrangements for the provision of harbours and water supply, while none of the other States find money for similar purposes. To restrict Western Australia to so much loan money per head of the population, based on what might be considered to be a fair proportion of expenditure in a State like Victoria, is unfair to Western Australia, where there is so much developmental work to be carried on, and unfair also to Australia, if this State is considered a part of it. Under these circumstances we are to-day up against difficulties which, I am very much afraid, we will not be able to surmount. Anticipating troubles in that direction, we have placed ourselves in communication—the States acting together—with the Agents General in London, who are consulting with the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and from whom we should be in receipt of some information in the very near future. In connection with the cash required, we have to take into account the fact that probably before the end of the calendar year, that is at the end of the first half of the financial year, on 31st December next, an additional £150,000 in cash will be required to meet the probable shortage of revenue. I estimate that we will probably go to the bad to the extent of £100,000 to £150,000 on the revenue account by the end of December. This money, however, will be recouped to us during the second half of the financial year when repayments are made on advances and the harvest proceeds are delivered; but the cash must be there to meet the shortage, and

that will have to be provided for from loan fund.

Mr. James Gardiner: That will bring it down to £150,000?

Mr. Taylor: That will be recouped during the next half year, I suppose?

The PREMIER: Yes. The usual information which is provided for the purpose of giving members information with regard to the progress made upon the different works, for which provision was made last year, and also information regarding the progress that is expected to be made during the current year, is attached to the Estimates. A summary is also attached of the unexpended balance of loan authorisations on the last Estimates, and the works provision under the Loan Bill. The Loan Bill, which will be introduced later, will make provision for the raising of funds where the loan authorisations already provided will not be sufficient to meet the estimated loan expenditure up to March, 1917. That is shown in the schedule attached at the rear of the Loan Estimates. Hon. members will find the amount I have mentioned in column 10 on page 31. The detailed information with regard to the loan expenditure and the Estimates for the current year will be supplied by the Ministers when dealing with their various departments. I do not think there is any further information which it is necessary I should give to members, except to say that the present outlook is not bright. At the same time, however, we are advised that subject to the approval of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, there is not likely to be very much difficulty in finding the necessary money for the purpose of carrying on the public works which are required during the ensuing year. All the States appreciate the fact that the war requirements must take precedence over the requirements of the States. We are prepared, when entering into negotiations with the Prime Minister of the Commonwealth, to allow him, first to meet the war expenditure even on the Australian market, and to agree not to approach the market until he has satisfied all his requirements in

connection with the war. After that, however, we consider that there should be no restriction upon the States in the way of borrowing money if the money is there, and that the States should be able to obtain it for the purpose of carrying on public works. We are told that if our requirements are not forthcoming in Australia, it is likely the money will be available in London, subject to the approval of the Chancellor of the Exchequer. I admit that we will have to reduce our expenditure. I do not consider that an excessive expenditure on public works has been provided on the Estimates, about which I have been speaking, when we take into consideration the tremendous State we are called upon to develop and the work which is essential, in view of the progress being made, particularly in the agricultural areas. If we are going to get our products to market we must provide railways, feeder roads, and harbour facilities to enable the people to market their produce, and to bring in the best possible return to those who are producing within the borders of our State.

*[The Speaker resumed the Chair.]*

Progress reported.

#### BILL—SUPPLEMENTARY LOAN, £1,300,000.

##### *Message.*

Message from the Governor received and read recommending the Bill.

##### *First Reading.*

Introduced by the Premier, and read a first time.

##### *Second Reading.*

The PREMIER (Hon. J. Scudlan—Brown Hill-Ivankoe) [11.9] in moving the second reading said: In introducing this Bill I may explain that the fact that we are asking for authority to raise an additional £1,300,000 is not to be taken as meaning that we have no loan authority available at the present time. As a matter of fact the Government had

on the 30th June last a balance under the previous Loan Act of £2,250,376 available for flotation. But against this sum £1,291,669 was earmarked to the balance of the Commonwealth loan, less £202,600 of Treasury bills being paid off; which leaves the Government with £1,361,000 available for further raising under authorised legislation. The necessity for the Bill is, therefore, with a few exceptions, more a matter of detail than of general finance. It would also be possible to ask for further reappropriations than those indicated, but such a course might lead to difficulties hereafter, and therefore the schedule of reappropriations is mostly confined to balances of unrequired items within the main headings of existing Acts, thus not affecting any general principle as between the bondholders and the State. I may also explain that this Loan Bill, in accordance with the usual custom, provides for the estimated requirements to March of 1917, while the Loan Estimates only provide for the estimated expenditure to June of 1916; that is to say, the Loan Bill covers a period extending nine months beyond the expiration of the current financial year. On reference to the returns which have been submitted, hon. members will see that there are practically no new items provided, and that the chief object of the Loan Bill is to obtain extension of authority previously granted, so as to allow of the completion of works authorised by previous Loan Acts. As hon. members are aware, a Loan Bill merely gives power to raise funds for the specific purposes set out in the schedule to the Bill; and the Loan Estimates on the other hand give power to spend the money when raised from time to time. It may be that we have obtained authority beyond what is necessary; and where we raise money under authority granted and it is not expended, the money is re-appropriated. I may state that the gross public debt of the State at the 30th June last was £37,022,622. A comparison of the public debt with the previous year's figures discloses that at the end of the financial year 1913-14

the total was £34,420,181 as against £37,022,622 at the close of 1914-15, while the sinking fund for the same period stood at £3,692,103 and £4,068,888 respectively; so that the net debt on the 30th June, 1914, was £30,728,078 and on the 30th June, 1915, £32,951,734. The public debt therefore increased during the year to the extent of £2,225,656, and the sinking fund by £376,785. During the past financial year local stock for £85,840 fell due, and of this sum £78,185 has been renewed for a further period, the difference having been found from the sinking fund. The net public debt per head of the population at the close of the financial year was £101 12s. 10d., but of this sum £11 16s. 1d. per head is represented by £2,675,611 raised for the Agricultural Bank, £602,110 for assistance to settlers, and £533,876 for workers' homes. This portion of the public debt is secured for repayment from advances to the respective individuals, and therefore should be viewed in a different category from money expended in the usual channels. It means, thus, a reduction of the debt per head of population to the extent of £11 16s. 1d. Although the people as a whole are responsible for repayment of this money, yet it does not represent national indebtedness in the same sense as does other expenditure. As I have already explained, the Loan Bill merely provides authorisation for works in hand and for works which will have to be taken in hand before March of 1917. I move—

*That the Bill be now read a second time.*

On motion by Hon. Frank Wilson debate adjourned.

#### MOTION — LIEUTENANT THROSS- SELL, VICTORIA CROSS, CON- GRATULATIONS.

The PREMIER (Hon. J. Scaddan—Brown Hill-Ivanhoe) [11.16]: Hon. members will have seen in the newspapers of Saturday, Sunday, and yesterday reports that Lieutenant Throssell, of Northam, has been awarded the Victoria Cross for conspicuous bravery at Gallipoli. I think it is due from hon. members of this



House to express their appreciation of the gallantry displayed by Lieutenant Throssell and so to make a public recognition of the fact that he is the first to obtain that high distinction among those who have left Western Australia to take part in the war. I therefore move—

(1.) *That this House desires to express its pleasure on learning that Lieutenant Hugo Victor Hope Throssell has been awarded the high distinction of the Victoria Cross, and at the same time to place on record its great appreciation of Lieutenant Throssell's merit and gallantry.* (2.) *That the foregoing resolution be forwarded by the Hon. the Speaker to Lieutenant Throssell and the Colonel of his regiment.*

I do not propose to enter into the details of Lieutenant Throssell's particular act of bravery. Hon. members will have read the accounts in the newspapers. I am sure every hon. member will join in this expression of appreciation, while at the same time recognising that there are many others who have done their utmost for the Empire. The granting of the Victoria Cross is evidence of the fact that Lieutenant Throssell's gallantry and conspicuous bravery came under notice. I am sure we are all proud of the fact that Lieutenant Throssell has secured a Victoria Cross for Western Australia. I have much pleasure in submitting the motion.

Hon. FRANK WILSON (Sussex) [11-18]: I have very much pleasure in seconding the Premier's motion. In addition to what the hon. gentleman has said, I wish to say that it must be a matter of great pride to all of us in Western Australia that the son of such a well known gentleman as the late Hon. George Throssell has won this distinction on the battlefield. It does not detract one iota from Lieutenant Throssell's bravery and gallantry, which have met with their due reward, that perhaps many others who have served from Western Australia have been equally brave but have not had the good fortune to have their conduct recorded. I wish to say for all the Australian troops, and especially for those from Western Australia because

we are more in touch with them than with the soldiers from the Eastern States, that they have left a record in this war which will go down to posterity through the ages—a record of which the British nation as a whole are proud to-day, and of which generation after generation of the British people will be proud as they read the history of the Empire's strenuous time. I am glad the Premier has brought forward this motion, because I think it is unique so far as Western Australia is concerned that one of her sons should gain the high distinction of the Victoria Cross.

Hon. H. B. Lefroy: We won a Victoria Cross in the Boer war.

The Premier: But this is the first Victoria Cross in the present war.

Hon. FRANK WILSON: It all goes to prove that the men who go from Australia are second to none, and that our men maintain the reputation Britishers have always borne through the ages for bravery and gallantry in war. I trust that Lieutenant Throssell will soon have fully recovered from the wounds he has received, and that he will live long to enjoy the honour and the distinction which have been conferred upon him.

Mr. JAMES GARDINER (Irwin) [11-20]: In the absence of the leader and the deputy leader of the Country party, I would like to support in every possible way the motion by this House of the recognition of the bravery of Lieutenant Throssell. Just as we sit here our minds and our hearts go back to the father of that boy, who for many years played an important part in the Legislative acts of this State. He used to be called the "Lion of Northam," and if the spirit of the father were hovering over this House to-night he would be glad to hear us say that the lion of Northam had cubs, and that one of his cubs had brought honour to this State and to the race from which he sprang, as well as to the father and mother who bore him.

Hon. J. MITCHELL (Northam) [11-22]: I am indeed glad that the Premier has mentioned the matter of Lieutenant Throssell's bravery to the Legislative Assembly. Coming from the birth-

place of Lieutenant Throssell, it is only fitting that I should say a few words. The last speaker referred to the father of Lieutenant Throssell, and I can bear out all he said. The late Mr. George Throssell was for many years a member of this Chamber, and he was also Premier of the State for a time, and my regret is that he is not in this world to join us in receiving with great satisfaction the news that his brave son has been honoured by the King. Lieutenant Throssell is now recovering from his wounds, and I hope when he is well again he will further distinguish himself. Probably the greatest honour which can come to a man in his lifetime is the honour which has been conferred on Lieutenant Throssell. The war is not going to end for a long time, and enlistment should be stimulated not only by the bravery of Lieutenant Throssell, but by the recognition of that bravery by His Majesty the King.

Question put and passed.

*House adjourned at 11.25 p.m.*

## Legislative Council,

*Wednesday, 20th October, 1915.*

	PAGE
Paper presented	1754
Bills: Industries Assistance Act Amendment, Com.	1754
Health Act Amendment, Com.	1755
Vermion Boards Act Amendment, Com.	1763
Select Committee: Retirement of C. F. Gale, to adopt report	1763

The PRESIDENT took the Chair at 4.30 p.m., and read prayers.

### PAPER PRESENTED.

By the Colonial Secretary: Annual report of Perth Public Hospital for the year ended 30th June, 1914.

## BILL—INDUSTRIES ASSISTANCE ACT AMENDMENT.

*In Committee.*

Resumed from the previous day; Hon. W. Kingsmill in the Chair, the Colonial Secretary in charge of the Bill.

[Hon. J. F. Cullen had moved—That the following be inserted to stand as a new clause:—"Any settler or other person, who has given to the board a mortgage or bill of sale under this Act, shall, at any time, on tendering to the board the full amount of balance due, with interest and costs, receive from the board a full discharge of such mortgage or bill of sale."]

Hon. J. F. CULLEN: I ask leave to withdraw the proposed new clause in favour of the amendment placed on the Notice Paper by the Colonial Secretary. I submitted the proposed new clause on a report which reached me that the board had informed certain borrowers that they could not pay off their liabilities, and I wished to remove all doubts. At the same time, I had no desire to open a door whereby any borrower could leave the board in the awkward position of being supposed to safeguard other interests and yet not do it. I had intended to move an addition to the proposed new clause—"provided the board may in its discretion first distribute any surplus moneys in its hands on account of the said settler." However, I have reliable advice that any borrower, on tendering the full amount, can claim his discharge, the board distributing any surplus in their hands on his account to his other creditors. I understand the Colonial Secretary's amendment is intended to make that perfectly clear.

Proposed new clause by leave withdrawn.

Bill reported with amendments.

### Recommittal.

On motion by the Colonial Secretary. Bill recommitted for the further consideration of Clause 5.

Clause 5—Amendment of Section 21: