

with storekeepers who made bad debts. He would vote against the clause.

**HON. W. KINGSMILL:** This was not a question of fortnightly or of monthly payments, but of what tribunal should decide as to times of payment. Why was mining singled out for this beneficent legislation? Why not stipulate that public servants should be paid fortnightly? These, like miners, were indebted to storekeepers. The Government was not a proper tribunal to decide such questions while we had an Arbitration Court to settle industrial matters. Amend the Arbitration Act so as to give that court the necessary jurisdiction.

**THE MINISTER:** The clause had been passed purely in the interests of the business public, and was moved by the ex-Minister for Mines (Mr. H. Gregory). The clause did not appear in the Bill as first presented to Parliament. There was some security if a civil servant would not pay his debts, because he could be dismissed. Business people could not appeal to the Arbitration Court, but by the adoption of this clause we would provide a means by which they could appeal to the Minister, and probably with success. On the Murchison Gold-fields business people asked persistently for some provision such as this to give them protection.

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

Ayes	...	...	...	16
Noes	...	...	...	7

Majority for ... 9

**Ayes.**  
 Hon. E. M. Clarke  
 Hon. J. M. Drew  
 Hon. J. W. Hackett  
 Hon. S. J. Haynes  
 Hon. W. T. Lorton  
 Hon. E. McLarty  
 Hon. R. D. McKenzie  
 Hon. M. L. Moss  
 Hon. W. Oats  
 Hon. W. Patrick  
 Hon. C. A. Piesse  
 Hon. G. Randell  
 Hon. C. Sommers  
 Hon. F. M. Stone  
 Hon. J. A. Thomson  
 Hon. J. D. Connolly  
 (Teller).

**Noes.**  
 Hon. C. E. Dempster  
 Hon. W. Kingsmill  
 Hon. Z. Lane  
 Hon. J. W. Langeford  
 Hon. R. F. Sholl  
 Hon. J. W. Wright  
 Hon. V. Hamersley  
 (Teller).

Question thus passed, and the Council's amendment not insisted on.

Resolution reported, and the report adopted.

**PRIVATE BILL, FIRST READING**  
**KALGOORLIE AND BOULDER RACING CLUBS**, received from the Legislative Assembly.

#### ADJOURNMENT.

The House adjourned at four minutes to 6 o'clock, until the next afternoon.

### Legislative Assembly,

Tuesday, 15th November, 1904.

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**THE SPEAKER** took the Chair at 3-30 o'clock, p.m.

#### PRAYERS.

#### PAPERS PRESENTED.

By the **COLONIAL SECRETARY**: Papers relating to the resignation of Police Constable Casserley, moved for by Mr. Watts.

#### QUESTION—SUNDAY BAND CONCERTS, WHY PROHIBITED.

**MR. NELSON** asked the Colonial Secretary: 1, Is it true, as reported in the Press, that he has given instructions for the prohibition of Sunday band concerts in Kalgoorlie and Boulder? 2, Is it fair and reasonable, in the absence of the normal means of recreation, to deprive the people of these districts of the pleasure and benefit of listening to good music?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY replied: 1, Sunday entertainments are prohibited by Section 9 of the Police Act (2 Edwd. VII., No. 31). 2, It is my duty to administer the law as it exists.

QUESTIONS (2)—MINING EXEMPTIONS.

MR. BATH asked the Minister for Mines: 1, How many leaseholders have obtained exemption from the labour conditions under Section 93 of the Mining Act from the time it came into operation up to the end of October? 2, How many applications for such exemption have been received during the same term?

THE MINISTER FOR MINES replied: 1, Individual lessees, 35; mining companies, 32—total, 67. 2, 72, including a number of applications made under Section 91, but granted under Section 93.

MR. HEITMANN asked the Minister for Mines: 1, Is it true that certain mining companies have applied for or been granted a whole year's exemption on leases held by them, as stated in the mining column of the *Daily News* of November 3rd and 5th? 2, Is it true that these companies are entitled to such exemption on account of past expenditure? 3, Is it true that such companies can become entitled to this exemption by counting in their expenditure on stores, machinery, or mining requisites, whether such expenditure has been made either locally or in England? 4, Will the Government take immediate action to repeal or amend the Act or Regulations giving such exemption privileges?

THE MINISTER FOR MINES replied: 1, Yes. Six mining companies. 2, Yes. 3, In granting such exemptions money spent, whether on labour, mining machinery, or mining requisites, is only considered if it is laid out on the leases the subject of application for exemption. 4, There is not sufficient evidence before the Government that lessees have obtained exemption under Section 93 which would not, on account of work done and money expended, have been granted under Section 91 to justify immediate action to repeal the section in question, more especially as mines exempted under this section are subject to such conditions as to tribute as the Minister may prescribe, except in such parts of the mine as the Minister may consider main workings.

QUESTION—RAILWAY SIDINGS, GERALDTON LINE.

MR. NANSON asked the Minister for Railways: 1, Why was the siding at Wiley's, on the Walkaway-Geraldton Railway, removed to Bradley's? 2, What revenue was received from Wiley's Siding for the twelve months previous to the date when it was removed? 3, What revenue was received from Bradley's Siding for the first twelve months since it was opened? 4, What reply did the Commissioner of Railways give to the petition received by him on 11th September, 1903, against the removal of the siding from Wiley's? 5, Were the residents concerned informed of the intention to remove the siding before the work was begun? 6, How long has there been a siding at Wiley's? 7, In view of the repeated requests to visiting Ministers of the Crown, will the Commissioner of Railways re-open the siding?

THE MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS replied: 1, At the request of a large and representative deputation from the Greenough Farmers' Association, it was decided to remove the siding from Wiley's to Bradley's, which was stated to be the most central and convenient site to the majority of settlers, and the principal business centre of the district, and more convenient for railway working. 2, Passengers and parcels, £40 8s. 6d.; livestock, etc., £323 7s. 7d. 3, Passengers and parcels, £37 8s. 3d.; livestock, etc., £127 16s. 1d. 4, The petition was received in August, 1903, and a reply was sent to Mr. P. Stone, M.L.A. 5, Yes; at the deputation referred to in No. 1, and also through Mr. P. Stone. 6, No record. It is assumed that it was put in under more lax conditions than are essential and obtain now. 7, No; Mr. Nanson had the whole of the papers before him, and returned same on the 21st April, 1904.

QUESTION—TIMBER LEASES. PARTICULARS.

MR. F. F. WILSON asked the Premier: 1, How many timber leases have been issued under the provisions of the Land Act, 1898? 2, If any, to whom and when were they issued?

THE MINISTER FOR MINES (for the Premier) replied: 1, 14. 2, Timber

Corporation, Ltd., 14-5-01; Bank of Australia, 6-5-03; George Baxter, 6-5-03; Imperial Jarrah Wood Corporation, Ltd., 27-9-01; George Baxter, 6-5-03; the Timber Corporation, Ltd., 14-5-01; J. M. Ferguson, Ltd., 2-3-03; J. M. Ferguson, Ltd., 2-3-03; George Baxter, 6-5-03; J. M. Ferguson, Ltd., 2-3-03; George Baxter, 6-5-03; George Baxter, 6-5-03; Williams, R., Cook, E., and Logue, J. H., 11-3-02; W. J. Connell, 9-1-04. —NOTE: In addition to the foregoing, 51 applications for leases have been approved, but the lease instruments have not yet been issued.

#### QUESTION—COAL MINING LEASES, FORFEITURE.

MR. NEEDHAM (for Mr. Henshaw) asked the Minister for Mines: 1, Have the coal-mining leases at West Collie, numbered 106 to 113, been forfeited? 2, If so, have application for same been received and granted?

THE MINISTER FOR MINES replied: 1, Yes. 2, No.

#### BILLS, FIRST READING.

NAVIGATION, introduced by the Colonial Secretary.

BUSH FIRES ACT AMENDMENT, introduced by the Minister for Railways.

THE MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS: It was intended to move for the suspension of the Standing Orders to enable the Bush Fires Act Amendment Bill to be carried through at one sitting, because the matter was urgent; but although prints of the Bill had left the Government Printing Office, they had not arrived at the House. Could the Bill be gone on with?

THE SPEAKER: The Minister could submit a motion. He (the Speaker) was not able to instruct the hon. member on the point.

On motion by the MINISTER, the second reading made an order for the next day.

#### MUNICIPAL INSTITUTIONS ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

##### IN COMMITTEE.

Resumed from the previous Thursday; MR. BATH in the Chair, HON. W. C. ANGWIN (honorary Minister) in charge of the Bill.

New Clause—Repeal of Section 106 (voting in absence):

HON. W. C. ANGWIN moved that the following be added to the Bill as Clause 11:—

Section one hundred and six and the Eighth Schedule of the principal Act are hereby repealed.

Clause 12 had been struck out with a view of bringing forward a system of recording absent votes.

MR. FOULKES: Section 106 should be read, so that members could understand what was being done.

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS: It was not necessary to read the section, which was a particularly long one.

MR. FOULKES: Would the Minister give the gist of it?

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS: Already the Committee had discussed the question of absent voting. The desire was to repeal Section 106 so as to introduce a new method of recording absent votes.

MR. FOULKES was still in the dark as to what Section 106 dealt with.

HON. W. C. ANGWIN: The section dealt with voting in absence. It was necessary to have a new provision if we repealed Section 106.

MR. RASON: Clause 12 of the original Bill repealed Section 106 and the Eighth Schedule. The amendment now was to reinsert Clause 12.

HON. W. C. ANGWIN: Clause 12 was struck out. If it were reinserted, Section 106 and the Eighth Schedule would be repealed.

MR. FOULKES: Was this the right system to adopt? The Committee had decided that the clause should be struck out; now an amendment was moved to reinsert the clause to stand as Clause 11.

THE CHAIRMAN: In regard to the amendment before the Committee he had informed the Minister that the proper way was to move the amendment as a new clause.

Clause passed, and added to the Bill.

New Clause—Absent voters:

HON. W. C. ANGWIN moved that a new clause be inserted to stand as Clause 12 (as on Notice Paper). The clause was provided in accordance with wishes expressed by members when the repeal of Section 106 was previously discussed. The Committee had already agreed to a

clause for voting in absence by owners in regard to loans: the clause provided for voting in absence for persons qualified to vote at municipal elections. It was necessary that every person should go before a returning officer, get a ballot paper, and record his vote in the presence of the returning officer, between nomination day and election day. That would get over the difficulty of voting by post, and avoid many abuses which were alleged to exist. The clause would give greater satisfaction than the present provision and would be better understood.

MR. RASON: The proposal was that the voter should strike out the names of all persons on such ballot paper except that of the person for whom he voted. We wanted one uniform system regarding votes both for municipal elections and parliamentary elections. A great deal of confusion arose at the last parliamentary election because previously people had been in the habit of striking out the names of those for whom they did not wish to vote; and we had made a new departure, following he believed the Commonwealth principle, by having a cross placed in a square against the name of the person for whom the voter wished to vote. Now in the municipal elections we were going back to the old system again, which would be likely to make the confusion exist longer, if we had one style of voting at municipal elections and another at parliamentary elections. Why could not the same system be carried out in municipal elections as in parliamentary elections? Then people would become used to the system. Moreover, difficulty might come in the way of an absent voter, because here it was provided that a ballot paper should be handed to him; but the returning officer up to a few days before the election might not have ballot papers, and a person wishing to vote might find there were no ballot papers available. The forms now in use might come in for almost any elections, and were always available; but if only printed ballot papers could be used, very often they would apparently not be available until two or three days before the election.

MR. A. J. WILSON: A man entitled to exercise the franchise might be leaving his place of residence temporarily at a period subsequent to the nomination but

prior to the printing of the ballot papers. The most simple way to carry out absent voting would be to adopt the system in regard to postal voting which obtained in the ordinary parliamentary elections, where the name of the person one desired to vote for was put on the ballot paper.

MR. NEEDHAM agreed with the leader of the Opposition that a certain amount of confusion would occur owing to the difference in the systems of voting at parliamentary and municipal elections. With regard to municipal elections we ought to have, as far as postal voting was concerned, the same system as that in vogue in parliamentary elections. If we were to have a uniform system of voting throughout, he would prefer the striking out of the name.

MR. GREGORY: In these elections we should try to conform as far as possible to the one system. He moved an amendment:

That the whole of paragraph (a) of Sub-clause (3) of the proposed new clause be struck out, and the following inserted in lieu: "Write on the ballot paper the name of the candidate, or if more than one candidate is to be elected, the names of the candidates for whom he votes."

That would be far better than having the clause as it stood, because under the clause as it now stood if a man went immediately after the nominations had closed and said "I want a ballot paper; I desire to record my vote now as I am going away," the returning officer would say, "There are no ballot papers printed; the nominations only closed within the last half-hour, and we have not had an opportunity of having them printed," that man might lose his vote. If we adopted the same system as existed in our Electoral Act, and allowed the voter to write on the paper the name of the candidate or candidates for whom he desired to vote, the effect would be equally good, and there would be no chance of any mistake occurring through the ballot papers not being printed. That would conform more to our electoral law.

THE MINISTER FOR MINES: Had that proved satisfactory?

MR. GREGORY thought so; and more especially would it be satisfactory if we added that a mistake in spelling or any other slight error should not make the vote invalid. Such a provision as that existed in the Electoral Act.

**THE COLONIAL SECRETARY:** There was only one vote at parliamentary elections.

**MR. GREGORY:** A voter could write the name of the candidate or candidates.

**THE COLONIAL SECRETARY:** A man might have a number of votes.

**MR. GREGORY:** If a man had four votes, he would get one ballot paper, and the number of votes would be marked.

**THE MINISTER FOR MINES:** There might be a little difficulty in dealing with the various candidates and the number of votes a person held. In some instances it might be advisable, or a person might think it advisable, to divide his votes. Under such circumstances he might perhaps prefer to have the ballot papers served out to him. As to striking out the names, which had been urged against this clause, Section 102 of the Municipal Act provided that electors must strike through the names of the persons they did not intend to vote for. This clause for absent voting did not interfere with that, but did away with a system of postal voting in regard to municipal elections. It provided that every person must go before a returning officer to be able to record his vote, and he (the Minister) believed this would give greater satisfaction than the system of postal voting which existed at present, either in a parliamentary or any other election. He was surprised to hear advocated that the system of voting which existed in regard to parliamentary elections should be embodied in this measure, particularly as the section dealing with postal voting had previously been condemned very strongly. As to writing the name on the ballot paper, nominations closed at four o'clock, and almost every municipality had the ballot papers on the following day. He would not offer serious objection to allowing the names to be written in, but was of opinion that the clause provided for all the requirements in regard to municipal elections.

**THE MINISTER FOR WORKS:** It would be very unwise for the Committee to make the alteration suggested by the member for Menzies. There was a vast difference between parliamentary elections and municipal elections. In the one case, after nominations were closed ballot papers would have to be printed and sent some hundreds of miles in various directions, consequently it would be an utter

impossibility in some instances to get them out in less than a week or two. But a municipal electorate was a very small area. Nominations closed at four o'clock in the evening, and there was no difficulty in getting the ballot papers printed the same evening. They could be ready the very next morning.

**MR. GREGORY:** The present municipal system was to write the name of the candidate.

**THE MINISTER FOR WORKS:** Yes; but the Government thought—and he hoped the Committee would look at it in this way—that it was far simpler to have the ballot paper ready, and not to ask people, especially where they had as many as four votes, to write the names. If we adopted the system of writing the names there would be a big possibility of people getting mixed in connection with their votes, especially where persons had four votes and desired to distribute them. The method proposed was simple, safe, and not liable to lead to informal votes.

**MR. GREGORY:** One would have expected the Government to welcome an attempt to unify the method of voting at all elections in the State. The new clause must have been copied from some Act of the dark ages. We had always fought for a secret ballot; yet it was proposed that the voter must sign his name on the envelope containing his ballot paper, and that on opening the envelope the returning officer should be able to ascertain the candidate voted for.

**THE MINISTER FOR WORKS:** Read Subclause 5.

**MR. GREGORY:** True, the returning officer must, without unfolding a paper, place it in the ballot-box; but why the need for indorsing the envelope? The clause dealing with ordinary voting ought to be amended. The cross system was preferable to striking out the names of those not voted for.

**THE MINISTER FOR WORKS:** The Electoral Act left that optional.

**MR. GREGORY:** A vote should not be declared invalid so long as the intention of the voter was clearly apparent.

**THE MINISTER FOR WORKS:** Members would see that it was hardly fair to move such an amendment on recommitment. Withdraw the amendment.

and the Government would reconsider the matter with a view to amending the clause, if necessary, in another place.

Amendment withdrawn, and the clause added to the Bill.

New Clause—Rating of persons residing on mining leases:

HON. W. C. ANGWIN moved that the following be added as Clause 25:—

Any person in occupation of any portion of the surface of a mining tenement within the meaning of "The Mining Act 1904" shall be deemed an occupier and be liable to be rated in respect of such occupation, notwithstanding any want of title to occupy the same.

The clause was provided to meet the wish of the Committee expressed in a recent debate; but "mining tenement" was substituted for "lease," as being more comprehensive. Every occupier in the municipality, whether residing on freehold or on leasehold, should be rated. A similar clause appeared in the Roads Act.

MR. NELSON opposed the new clause. Squatters on mining leases occupied an invidious position. Some had tried in vain to get a proper title, such as a title under the "free area" provisions; yet it was now sought to compel them to pay rates. The clause meant that those persons should be rated, or should be liable to pay rates.

THE MINISTER FOR MINES: No; only those within a municipal boundary.

MR. NELSON: Yet although they did not reside within a municipal boundary they would be called on, according to this clause, to pay the same rates as persons who did reside within and enjoy all the advantages of a municipality. It was unfair to compel such persons to pay the same rates as those within a municipality.

MR. GREGORY: While not objecting strongly to the clause, which he did not quite like, there was a danger that persons squatting on land and made liable in this way to pay municipal rates might claim a prior right at a future time, on the plea of having paid rates for a particular piece of ground. The clause was now made to apply to a water right or a machinery area within a municipality, and on that ground he did not object, for in fact such areas were liable to be rated under the existing Act. Could a municipal council rate two

persons for the same area, namely the lessee of a mining area of 24 acres and one or more squatters who might be living on that area? If that area were eventually required for the purposes of settlement, the squatters on it might claim a preferential right to the exclusion of all others, on the plea that they had been paying rates for the particular piece of ground on which their habitations stood. Such instances would occur in places where a mining area was taken up after the municipal boundaries had been declared, and it would be difficult in such cases to rate the lessee and also to rate any persons squatting on his lease; for if the persons squatting failed to pay the rates levied on them, the lessee would become liable, and that was a difficulty he foresaw. Still, if the Government strongly desired this clause, he had no particular objection to it.

THE MINISTER FOR MINES: The objections just stated were not very serious. A person who had been squatting on a mining area might, at a future time when that area was required for settlement, put in a claim for prior title on the plea that he had been paying rates. Such claims were made frequently under present conditions, and they could be dealt with when they arose. It was true, of course, that such claimants had their prior right recognised in nearly all cases up to the present. Objectors to the clause seemed desirous particularly of pleasing that lower section which wanted to escape the payment of rates while enjoying the benefits of municipal government in the way of streets, lighting, and other conveniences. The member for Hannans had stated that the people at Golden Gate could not get a title. The Government Geologist, one other State Government Geologist, the State Mining Engineer, and several others had stated that the ground on which these men were squatting should be reserved for mining purposes. If that ground were thrown open for settlement it would be very closely settled, as it was one of the most valuable parts of the Golden Mile, and if thrown open for settlement would retard prospecting. If the ground were more closely settled it would be necessary to take steps to eject the people settled there so long as it was believed the ground should be kept for

mining purposes. The people at Bendigo who resided on leases by virtue of their miners' rights had no title, and could be called upon to move at any time. Yet that class of occupier within a town paid municipal rates. It was to be hoped the amendment would be passed. Those who lived in any tenement within a municipality should contribute something towards the cost of the improvements by which they benefited.

MR. HOPKINS : The clause was very undesirable. If it should happen that the land held under a mining tenement was surrendered to the Crown ultimately, what object would be gained by ejecting one man to put another on the land? The men who had been in occupation for some time had a pre-emptive right. It was pointed out that the liability of paying the tax might ultimately fall on the leaseholder. But why should it not? If the rate was not paid by the person in occupation it was proper that the person who held the title in continuity should pay the tax. It was a pity the members of the Government had not always held the views which they held to-day.

MR. J. SCADDAN : The Minister for Mines and Justice posed as an authority on mining tenements in Victoria, particularly in Bendigo. If a man had to remove after once settling by virtue of a miner's right on a mining lease in Bendigo that miner had to be compensated. Men could only settle when the ground was not required for mining purposes. If land on which a man had settled was required for mining purposes and the man had a substantial dwelling on the land, he must be compensated. In this State there were many persons living on leases and mining reserves in tents, and these persons would have to pay the same rates as residents living in the town. Persons residing on leases might to-morrow be required by the Mines Department to move, and they should be allowed to go where they could establish comfortable homes. On the goldfields there were many leases practically abandoned between the municipality and the mines, and these might be set apart for residence purposes. It was grossly unfair to expect people to go a long way from their work, and it was hard to eject people from leases without

giving them some place near to their work where they could live.

MR. W. NELSON : There was a fundamental difference between the ordinary ratepayer living in a town and a squatter, even when squatting within a municipality. People living within a town had all the benefits of streets, lighting, and sanitation ; while the people to whom he referred did not receive this benefit. The people living on the leases wished to obtain a title to their land which would justify the construction of streets and privileges which other ratepayers enjoyed. Although not enjoying these privileges, the Bill would compel squatters to pay rates similar to ordinary residents in a municipality. It was the essence of injustice that people should be compelled to pay for something they did not get. The Government should institute a conditional tenure, with some such provision as compensation for eviction.

MR. J. P. LYNCH : The clause was not seriously unjust, in view of the fact that the squatters did not object to a health rate. The proposed rate should not be more than sufficient to compensate the municipality for use of highways by the squatters. If a road were made in front of one of these camps, the value of the land was not increased one farthing, the camper having no title. The rate should, however, be nominal—5s. at the most. Would not mining lease squatters within municipalities be taxed, while those in road board districts escaped?

THE MINISTER FOR MINES : No. The Roads Act contained a similar clause. Whether the lessee or the squatter was responsible for the roads board rate had not been decided.

MR. LYNCH : Then if the rate were not imposed by road boards, it ought not to be imposed by municipalities. People living on Crown lands within a municipality should also be rated. The Local Court held that squatters on Crown lands in the Paddington and Broad Arrow municipalities were exempt from rating.

THE MINISTER FOR MINES : We could not fix in the clause the rate to be struck. While many squatters lived in tents, several occupied houses worth £200 or £300 ; and to levy the same rate on each would be unfair, if the rate were on the present basis. Squatters on Crown lands should also be rated. True, there

might be difficulty in collecting these rates; but municipalities now experienced similar difficulties with some of their largest ratepayers. Two years ago, in the Goldfields Water Supply Act, and since in the Roads Act, somewhat similar clauses were inserted. He disagreed with the member for Boulder's view that leaseholders ought to be liable for rates not paid by the squatters. If this were law, the leaseholder, if responsible for the rates of many squatters, might evict them. Though permanent homes were desirable, there would always be on the goldfields a tent and camp dwelling population who did not desire permanency. The clause did not make the leaseholder responsible for the camper's rates.

MR. HOPKINS: Then what was the security?

THE MINISTER FOR MINES: The camp itself would always be worth two or three years' rates. In Scotland and certain other countries even weekly tenants of houses were liable to pay rates, and the landlords were not liable. The member for Ivanhoe feared that the Mines Department might eject squatters. Since he (the Minister) took control of the department not one squatter had been ejected by the department.

MR. HOPKINS: Were they not usually ejected through a process in the warden's court?

THE MINISTER FOR MINES: The department never ejected them. True, departmental attention had been called to businesses conducted on mining leases; and the mine manager was then notified that such businesses must not be carried on save at the request of the manager and with the approval of the Minister. Such approval was never withheld. The department would not eject squatters unless they were interfering with prospecting.

MR. HOPKINS: Since the Minister's explanation, the clause did not appear in so favourable a light. The Minister said the squatter's camp would be worth two or three years' rates; and that if the squatter did not pay the rates, the holder of the mining tenement should not be responsible. The ordinary landlord was not responsible for the rates of his tenant. If one thought the Ministry were putting this clause into the Bill for the purpose of ejecting squatters he would not sup-

port it; but one could hardly understand the members of the Government introducing a clause to evict squatters, seeing that there was a time when some of the members of the Government were themselves squatters on leases. The Minister rightly said the men should be allowed to live near their work; but the member for Ivanhoe (Mr. Scaddan) said there was no land available except beyond the Boulder racecourse. That statement was wrong. There was land available to the north and south and west of Boulder, and to the north and south and west of Kalgoorlie, the land on the eastern side of the two cities being held entirely for mineral purposes. Also the member for Hannans (Mr. Nelson) was wrong in saying that the squatters had no advantages from roads and other municipal arrangements. People living on the leases had a sanitary system even when they would not pay the health rate, and main roads, equipped with tramways and electric light, ran to the centre of the mines from Boulder and Kalgoorlie without one sixpence being contributed to the cost by the people whose wishes the hon. member was supposed to represent. The hon. member's statement was glaringly incorrect. The leaseholder would be responsible for the rates, and not the tent of the squatter.

MR. F. F. WILSON supported the clause. People should pay for the use of ground they occupied. At Menzies recently a person living on a lease informed him (Mr. Wilson) that he had no interest in a municipal election then in progress, saying, "We have no votes; we are residents on gold mining leases, and consequently have no municipal taxes to pay." The man also said there was no advantage in this, and that he would prefer a slight tax in order to have an interest in municipal government. If squatters on leases were taxed, being in considerable numbers they would have a considerable influence on the municipal government of a town. Municipalities would not overrate them, and the squatters would simply pay a small sum per annum to have all the rights and privileges of municipal government. Judging by the interest these squatters took in political matters, they would take a deep interest in municipal matters. People settled close to a town had all the



advantages of municipal services, and derived advantage from the bands playing on Sundays. This was a good clause and would not meet with opposition from the people whom it concerned.

**MR. LYNCH:** Was it intended to include dwellings on Crown lands in the neighbourhood of municipalities? If not, he would need to move an amendment to the clause.

**THE MINISTER FOR MINES:** The Bill only dealt with areas covered by municipalities, and only gave power to tax within municipal boundaries. In several cases taxation was levied by municipalities on people outside their boundaries; but a point recently arose in connection with some people living between Paddington and Broad Arrow refusing to pay a municipal tax, and it was held by a court that payment could not be enforced. The point raised by the hon. member would be considered, and if not dealt with on recommitment would be dealt with in another place, if necessary. It was only fair that municipalities should tax people living on Crown lands. The hon. member should be content with this assurance in the meantime.

Clause passed, and added to the Bill.

**MR. F. F. WILSON:** Would the Bill be again recommitted?

**THE CHAIRMAN:** The hon. member, who had an amendment on the Notice Paper dealing with the schedule, could move to have the Bill recommitted on the third reading; but it was customary to consult the Minister in charge of the Bill. The amendment of the hon. member could only be moved on farther recommitment, as the time for moving it had been when the schedule was being considered and before new clauses were brought forward. The same remarks applied to the amendments of which the member for Perth had given notice. The Premier's amendment with reference to brackets need not be moved, being consequential.

Bill reported with farther amendments.

#### LEGAL PRACTITIONERS ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

##### SECOND READING.

Debate resumed from the previous Thursday.

**MR. C. H. RASON (Guildford):** I am rather surprised that the Government

should have brought down this measure. There are many things of a great deal more importance we might well be considering instead of measures such as this. It seems to me the correct title of this Bill would be "An Act to render it possible for some five or six managing clerks to be admitted as legal practitioners." That is practically all it amounts to, and I do not see why we should strive to introduce legislation such as that into Western Australia; and I know of no other country where a similar enactment exists. The Minister for Justice, in moving the second reading, said that the same system existed in England. I regret to say he was not correct in making that statement. There is no provision in the English Solicitors Act whereby managing clerks or gentlemen who have served for a term of years in a practising attorney's office must therefore be admitted as legal practitioners after passing an examination. But I am told—at least the Minister told us so—that there is a similar Act in force in New South Wales. I know there is some legislation bearing on the subject in force in New Zealand. I should like to take this opportunity of saying that in that respect members of this House are somewhat under a difficulty. It is suggested that similar legislation exists elsewhere. Members who take trouble in these matters naturally try to hunt up those Acts. In the first place, they have to find out the dates. That is very often a matter of some trouble. Then, having found out the date of the Act, we very often find that the copy of that particular Act is not obtainable in the House. That is the case in regard to the New Zealand Act. Speaking from my own experience I hasten to say it is not the fault of the officers of the House, who at all times are the most courteous gentlemen, but it is the fault of someone who takes these Acts of Parliament away from the precincts of Parliament House; and I know of nothing more annoying, and I think disappointing, to a member, after he has spent perhaps an hour or an hour and a-half in endeavouring to trace an Act, than to find that the copy of the Act has been taken away from the House. Under these circumstances I have been unable to see what relation the legislation in New Zealand has to this matter, and I

have also been unable to find out the practice in New South Wales, but certainly the practice existing in England is not as set out, inadvertently no doubt, by the Minister for Justice, and is certainly not as set out in this Bill. Let us bear in mind a moment what are the relations existing between managing clerks in lawyers' offices to-day and the principals of a firm. I venture to say a great deal of confidence exists between the one and the other, and that is what we wish to maintain. But if a Bill of this sort is to become law I think that mutual confidence which exists now will not exist very much longer. I can hardly think members would wish a position of this sort to arise, that a man who is managing a business may be all the time undermining his employer's interests in the hope that in a few years he will start in that very business on his own account. [Interjection.] Where conditions of that kind exist they are safeguarded against as much as possible.

THE MINISTER: Where?

MR. RASON: If the Minister will have a little patience, I will endeavour to tell him where. Where a man engaged in a profession has reason to suspect any of his employees may ultimately start in business on their own account in opposition to him, he generally takes the precaution of binding them down not to oppose him for a certain term of years, at all events in the district in which he is then practising.

THE MINISTER: How can he do that?

MR. RASON: It is part of the agreement of service. If the Minister knows nothing of conditions such as that, he is more ignorant than I thought. The subject was debated in 1902 in this House on a Bill by the then member for Perth (Mr. Purkiss), and very strong objection was taken to it by many of the legal members of the House. It was pointed out then, and rightly so, that we could hardly maintain such a Bill, even on principle, because if examination and fitness in character are to be the only qualification, why limit it to managing clerks? If managing clerks are to be admitted as legal practitioners after examination and upon certification as to fitness of character, why not other people also? But evidently this Bill—I cannot help saying so—has for its object the

admission as legal practitioners of some managing clerks in existence to-day. We have had similar legislation with the same object. In Victoria Bills have been introduced for the express purpose of allowing certain people only to become members of the legal profession. It cannot be argued here in Western Australia there is any dearth of members of the legal profession. If I may be allowed to say so with respect, I should say there are far too many here already; not in this House unfortunately, but outside of it. It certainly can never be argued that it is absolutely necessary to increase the number of lawyers. There are plenty of all kinds already, and too many of one kind. We cannot, I think, too rigidly safeguard that profession as well as others. Members of the legal profession have opportunities of inflicting penalties upon their clients such as are not given to members of the other professions.

MEMBER: How about doctors?

MR. RASON: Their clients do not generally live to make any objection, so it does not affect them very much. I hold that neither in the interests of the public nor in the interests of the managing clerks of the future is it wise to have this Bill. Depend upon it, if once this Bill is passed any reputable firm will see either that they have no managing clerks in name, or else that those managing clerks, if they have them in name, are bound down under certain conditions which will prevent them from commencing business in opposition to their present employers.

THE MINISTER: How can they do that?

MR. RASON: Really the Minister sets problems to me in regard to which, if he has not the ability to understand what is going on in the world, he must not expect me to supply the information. If the hon. gentleman will only take the trouble to read the debate of 1902 he will see a good many reasons there given to which I commend his attention. There was one advanced by the then Attorney General, the Hon. Walter James, perhaps not a legal luminary equal to the Minister for Justice, but still a gentleman whose legal opinion is entitled to some respect. The Attorney General said:—

There is one objection—perhaps it is a question of detail—in connection with this Bill,

that there is no definition, either by law or practice, of what a managing clerk is. A solicitor may open an office to-morrow and employ an office-boy at 10s. a week, and that boy is for the time being his managing clerk. There are several persons in this State who have managing clerks, but I do not suppose this House intends that a clerk who has been employed, even for ten years, fixing stamps to letters and closing envelopes should be entitled to be admitted under the Bill.

I do not wish to labour this question. As I stated at the outset, I think the time of this House had much better be occupied in subjects of far greater importance than this. There can be no haste for a Bill of this kind. Indeed I do not think that any Bill of the kind is justified, and under these circumstances I have no option but to move as an amendment:

That the word "now" be struck out, and "this day six months" inserted in lieu.

MR. H. GREGORY: I second the amendment.

DR. ELLIS (Coolgardie): I differ from the last speaker, for I do not think the Bill goes far enough. It seems to me to be somewhat inconsistent in one of the main positions it takes up; that is under the Bill any practitioner practising in Queensland will be allowed to practise in Western Australia. This being the case, naturally we should look round to see under what conditions a legal practitioner can get admission to the Queensland bar; and we find that in Queensland a legal practitioner can get in by examination only. Consequently we find ourselves in this curious and interesting position, that we will admit a man who comes from Queensland to practise here, but we will not allow him to secure the same facilities if resident in Western Australia. Supposing I were to desire to enter the bar here, I might go to Queensland and probably in a little over a year I could come back a fully-fledged barrister and apply for admission to the bar of this State. I have before me now the Queensland regulations on the matter, and they make no specific statement as to time. I understand that Mr. Rutledge did become a barrister in Queensland in the short space of one year. I do not mean a solicitor, but I mean a barrister. In Queensland he can become qualified in a year's time, and under the Bill he can practise at the bar in this State. There-

fore I fail to see why we should not introduce the same conditions here as exist in Queensland, so that we can make our own barristers within the State; or why we should drive to Queensland those in this State who wish to become barristers in this State. The Queensland Law Almanac sets forth the regulations on the subject, and under it there is nothing required but examination to become a barrister there. I think that is a good arrangement, and I do not see why persons here who wish to practise at the bar should practically be prevented from doing so or be compelled to go to Queensland because our arrangements are less liberal than those in Queensland. In Queensland anyone having been admitted to the bar as a barrister, under examination, has only to practise his profession for three years and then he can apply and pass an examination, and become a solicitor then, and has not to serve under articles or anything of that sort. This being the position in Queensland and the system having done good work there, having admitted two notable persons under it to my knowledge, I fail to see why such a system should not be adopted in this State. I fail to see why we should rush a Bill like this through for the benefit of a few special persons instead of passing a proper measure. I look on this question of admitting persons to the bar as I look on the practice in other States in regard to the medical profession, where persons can become qualified if it is a great advantage to the State by reason of the knowledge they acquire in passing the necessary examination, even if they do not practise the particular profession. Indeed it is a very fine form of education for a person to pass an examination in medicine or in law, whether he intends to practise or not. We know that in England many persons study for the bar as a form of education, and it appears to be a wise and good arrangement; and I think it is a curious position that some barristers who are already in practice show alarm in regard to other barristers coming in to share that practice with them. Surely men who are practising at the bar at present in this State have brains to hold their own against those who may come in later; or, if they have not, the sooner the present barristers retire from that profes-

sion the better. A tried man has always superior opportunities and sufficient attractions in the fact that he is known in the profession, and should naturally be better able to secure a following than a person entering into the profession later. Why the present barristers should be frightened to admit others to the bar who are incapable of carrying on a case or why the new aspirant should be prevented from entering to practise before the courts, because there are already sufficient, seems to me absurd. There are many persons here who would, as is done in the old country, learn to become barristers and then not use the profession, but simply study to pass the examination as a form of education. In politics there is an enormous number of men in the old country who have been called to the bar but have never practised, and as I have said it is one of the standard methods of acquiring an education at home; and it is well known that the examinations at home are not sufficiently difficult to deter any reasonably-educated man from passing them with facility. The fact that they do so is a great advantage to the State, by securing a large number of persons who have a knowledge of law though not practising at the bar, men who are very useful in public affairs. If this were so here we in this House should not be suffering from the terrible deficiency of legal members to assist in debating Bills, especially those of a legal character. We know there are many men in this Chamber who have ability sufficient to enable them to become barristers. [MEMBER: Who are they?] I should say, for instance, the present Minister for Justice (Hon. R. Hastie) has ability sufficient to enable him to practise at the bar. I fail to see what good we will do by admitting men from Queensland to the bar in this State when we deny the same privileges to persons who have obtained a knowledge and training in this State. Let us take the most liberal conditions existing in Australia and put them into a Bill for this purpose, for I believe that the sooner we can get more men here under a university system of education to acquire a knowledge of medicine and a knowledge of law, the better it will be for the State generally. I have no doubt that the same improve-

ment would follow in the bar if proper opportunities were given to those who desire to practise there; and when this Bill is in Committee, I shall move to introduce into it some regulations whereby persons desiring it may be able to practise at the bar under regulations similar to those in Queensland, so that any person qualified by his class of practice or his class of work, or by his ability coupled with the necessary knowledge, shall not be prevented from earning a living by practising in the courts. Nobody need to employ such person unless there is a desire to do so; and providing he has the requisite knowledge with the State guarantee secured by examination, that should be sufficient. Every man should have a right to see whether he can rise to higher positions as other men admitted to the bar in Queensland have done already.

MR. W. NELSON (Hannans): I do not know whether I am in order, but I intend, if possible, to secure an effective alteration of the Bill which, while its ultimate intentions are good, utterly fails to deal drastically and successfully with the subject. I am of opinion that the right to practise law in this or in any other civilised community should depend on the possession of two qualifications; first a thorough knowledge of law, and second a capacity to convey that knowledge effectively in the English tongue. My opinion is that the present system is a remnant of a day that is dead, at any rate in the eyes of the intellectual world. I am of opinion that those at present seeking admission to the legal profession are surrounded by absurd barriers, which not only prevent men of capacity from entering that profession, but unfortunately invite to the entry of that profession men who have no real capacity for it. For example the scholastic attainments which are necessary in order to pass the examination are of a character which do not in the least degree prove the legal capacity of the person passing that examination, with the result that we have in Perth, in Kalgoorlie, and in every city of this continent a large number of persons who have a certain degree of educational attainments, but are notoriously utterly unfitted for the work they profess to perform. The present

test is not so much a test of knowledge of law as a test of education, and not so much a test of education as a test of the financial position of the person passing the examination. We all know that many men are lawyers just as many men are doctors, not because nature has endowed them with legal or medical ability, but because their parents have been in a position to give to those unfortunate persons a greater amount of scholastic education than the ordinary son of the ordinary working man is able to obtain. It is remarkable that in connection with journalism, which is a profession fortunately not surrounded by those absurd barriers, nearly all the greatest journalists have been men who have grown into journalism, who have acquired their positions as journalists not because of any special training, but rather because of special gifts and fitness for the work. [MR. RASON: A good many of them were barristers.] Yes; and had utterly failed as barristers, yet became successful journalists; proving that the mere passing of certain examinations, while it may show the possession of scholastic attainments, does not prove fitness for those professions which the particular persons seek to enter. I have been amazed when I have gone into the courts of law occasionally, to hear men plead who were utterly incapable of doing so. I have heard men who had something of a reputation plead cases so badly that they were doing, unconsciously I admit, a great injustice to their clients. I say it is a notorious fact that a lawyer is a man who frequently cannot convey his thoughts in decent English, just as the ordinary preacher is a man who cannot preach, and the reason in journalism that this seldom happens is because there is no educational test. The one condition that enables a man to succeed in journalism is that he can write well. If he cannot write well, then all the educational attainments in the world count for nothing. It is a remarkable fact that some of the men who have been most distinguished in journalism, as I have already hinted, and even who have been most distinguished in the parliamentary arena, have been men who have had no special scholastic attainments. We know Hugh Miller was a great writer, but he had few such attainments.

Robert Burns was a master of the English tongue as well as of the Scotch dialect; and yet he had imperfect scholastic attainments. William Shakespeare himself, a man so great that the greatest of the children of men could walk under his legs without stooping, that great and mighty man whose works will be an eternal possession of the English people, even the immortal Shakespeare left school when he was fourteen years of age. We are forced to recognise that genius is so independent of such considerations that even an imperfectly educated Shakespeare can become the greatest man of his native land. Yet people are led by the foolish contention and the foolish past to insist in placing restrictions on the right of a man of capacity exercising a profession for which nature may have specially fitted him. This measure does not go far enough. I would wipe out entirely its absurd restrictions. I should say if nature has endowed a man with intellectual capacity, and if he has a fair command of the English tongue, and if he thoroughly understands law, then that man and no other man should be a lawyer. We are all under the impression that, simply because some of us do not know any better, education consists in a knowledge of words. No delusion could be more serious. True education consists of a knowledge of things. He is not a wise or a learned man who can talk nonsense in twenty languages. He is a wise man who can talk sense, if he can talk only it in one. There was a time undoubtedly when scholastic education was necessary. There was a time when all the great intellectual wealth of the world was locked up in the dead tongues. There was a time when the great writers were the writers of Greece and ancient Rome, and at that time scholastic training was necessary because it constituted the golden key that unlocked the great libraries of the past; but this is no longer. We have now great libraries of our own. We have masters who stand on a level with the greatest masters of ancient Greece and Rome. I submit therefore that the time has come when we should no longer insist upon scholastic attainments as a condition to entering a profession. It should not be the acquirement of education outside the proper

exercise of the profession, but a knowledge of the profession the subject matter of which a man is called on to exercise. I have no desire to talk lengthily on this subject. I do not know if it will be my right or not, but I hope it will, when the Bill is in Committee to move an amendment to the effect that all the words after "who" in Clause 2 be deleted and that the following words be inserted: "That every person shall be entitled to practise law who shall have passed an examination in law of such a character as to prove his thorough acquaintance with the subject; and secondly who shall have passed an examination proving his capacity to convey his knowledge fittingly in the English tongue." I desire to say that I understand the Minister for Justice is of the opinion that experience should count for something. He is willing, I take it, to agree that a knowledge of law and a fitness to speak the English language should be two of the essential conditions of a right to practise law. But he also thinks it is necessary that a man should have some kind of experience. I want to say that I do not attach the importance to experience that the Minister appears to do. A man who is utterly unfitted for the profession of law may have a whole life's experience and yet be a bad lawyer; just as we frequently find among members of Parliament those who all their life have been imperfect members. Experience by itself counts for nothing. All it may represent is simply the wasted efforts of a lifetime. The Minister for Justice may, if he takes it into his head, decide to become a poet. He may retire from Parliament—I hope somebody may leave him sufficient money to enable him to live comfortably—and he may make up his mind to become a poet and may write doggerel until all the hair he has left is grey, and at the end of that time he may only be capable of inflicting misery on those people who read his verse; proving that experience without the necessary capacity to utilise that experience counts for absolutely nothing. Take one example from among others, an example which should have some weight in this House, take the example of statesmanship. Possibly there is no career in life which demands, and which requires for its successful exercise,

qualities of a higher and more complex character than that of statesmanship. If in any subject experience should be deemed necessary, we should think it would be deemed necessary in regard to statesmanship; yet we find from facts which are beyond all dispute, that some of England's greatest statesmen have been successful not because of their long careers of bungling, but because nature endowed them with qualities of true greatness. Let me give one example. William Pitt when comparatively a mere boy went into the House of Commons, and after being a year or so in Parliament became England's Prime Minister. And while I am far from thinking that William Pitt was perfect, while I recognise that even in his great career there were blemishes, I venture to say in spite of that lack of experience, which the Minister for Justice deems so necessary, it is notorious that William Pitt was one of the greatest statesmen England ever produced. I submit then that this experience to which the Minister clings with such tenacity is not so important after all. His own career is a proof against his own contention. He has only been Minister for Justice for about two or three months, yet when I contrast the good work he has done as Minister with the exceedingly incapable performance of the men on the Opposition side of the House, when I contrast the careful, intelligent, persevering, loyal service to the State with the kind of work that used to be done by the men now on the Opposition side of the House, I am led to the conclusion that the Minister himself in his own person is a refutation of his own argument.

MR. RASON: When you attempt that, you attempt the impossible.

MR. NELSON: As I said before, it is not my intention and never is, whatever my practice may be, to make long speeches. Members laugh, but I would like to remind members that there are two reasons why a man does not speak. One reason is excessive modesty, and the other reason why a man does not speak is that it is difficult for him to convey to others the knowledge which he does not happen to possess himself. What I desire to say before sitting down is that I deeply regret that in this matter the

Government have not manifested more courage. I can see they mean well, but they are in a difficult position. They possess office without possessing power, with the result—it is quite natural, I would do the same very likely if I were in a similar position myself—that instead of grappling with this great subject courageously, they are so arranging matters that they calculate to get a little support from this side and a good deal of support from the other. It would have been wiser as well as better if the Government had made up their minds to introduce a measure which would settle once and for ever one of the most difficult questions with which a Government can grapple, a question which profoundly affects the wellbeing of the country. We have too many fellows in the legal profession of what we call the English Johnnie type; men who are very nice fellows, who can make very nice speeches, who are fairly well educated, but who are not in the true sense of the word capable lawyers; who practise in law, not because nature has dowered them with special fitness for that vocation, but simply because their parents have been fairly well to do people, and have put them into this profession because it is a profession which is fairly respectable and does not demand in their opinion the possession of a great amount of ability. Just as in the old days people used to send their stupid sons into the church, so it appears they are beginning now to send their stupid sons into the law. [Interjection.] I want to say right here that I think the old remnant of scholastic stupidity attaches even to the medical profession. Professor Huxley, for example, who was a profound student of biology as well as a thorough student of the art of medicine, over and over again during his life expressed the opinion that many men after scrambling through their examinations take up the profession of medicine, not as students inquiring into the law of nature that they may apply their knowledge to alleviating the sufferings of mankind, but as ornamental gentlemen who can talk nicely to the ladies, and who become wealthy not by doing real work, but by pretending to do it. As the leader of the Opposition said, they can do this with impunity because if they do their work well and thoroughly

kill their clients, the clients do not enter a protest. We want to get rid of scholasticism. We are living in a practical country and a practical age. We have only to look at the great republic of America to find that the reason that the men of America are wiping out the rest of the industrial world is simply because America has broken with old traditions, and in that country where there is a man of undoubted capacity, whether born in a slum or in a palace, his ability is used in some great industry. We should apply the same practical principle to the great profession of law. We want above all to break down the barriers. I know these educational attainments have very largely in the past been a matter of distinction. I know of men born in the class to which I belong, who are infinitely superior to people in the professions who have wealth and affluence. I want to break down those barriers, so that wherever we find medical ability, legal ability, political ability, or ability of any kind, that ability will be utilised for the benefit of mankind. No wiser step, no more important step, can be taken in that direction than by breaking down those absurd barriers, and by so amending this measure that if a man of capacity with a knowledge of the law is about, that man shall be free to walk into the legal profession, and to give his fellow citizens the benefit of his knowledge and experience.

MR. J. C. G. FOULKES (Claremont): I rise with a great deal of trepidation to speak on this subject, owing to the unhappy position I occupy in being the only legal practitioner in the House. I also have to apologise to the House for the fact that I have not the good fortune to be a journalist. It seems from the eloquent speech we have just listened to that there is only one perfect man, a man of full knowledge who knows everything, and that is the journalist.

MR. NELSON: No.

MR. FOULKES: It happens by a curious coincidence that the speaker himself is a journalist. We also had a most interesting dissertation about the splendid qualities of Shakespeare, William Pitt—and Bobby Burns I believe was mentioned. All those great men, of whom the British nation is always proud, were mentioned by

the hon. member with great pride; and it has had a great effect upon me. But unfortunately, coupled with those eminent men is the name of Robert Hastie, the Minister for Justice. The hon. member seemed to class the Minister for Justice with them. He said the Minister had no experience. We all know that; but he seemed to think that mentioning the fact of the Minister for Justice not having had any experience was putting the Minister on the same level with Burns, with Shakespeare, and with Hugh Miller. The member for Coolgardie (Dr. Ellis) has also given us a very eloquent speech on the subject, and of course as he is a medical practitioner, anything that comes from a member of a sister profession naturally would have great weight with a member of another profession. It may interest the House to know how the members of his own profession have treated other members of society who are not duly qualified medical practitioners. In Great Britain six or seven years ago we had a large number of men acting as assistants to medical men. Those assistants in a number of cases had passed all their lives in acting as assistants to medical practitioners throughout the whole of Great Britain and Ireland. In a great number of cases they had acquired a very large and extended experience, and in many cases they knew far more than the men by whom they were employed. But the medical practitioners of Great Britain some six or eight years ago passed a law or an ordinance of some kind to prevent these men from practising as legal practitioners. Members can understand, therefore, with what great surprise I heard the remarks made. The hon. member gave us a great deal of general language, very eloquent language, in regard to our duty at all events of allowing anybody to join the legal profession; but when it comes to his own profession we find that very profession has barred and prevented men from qualifying as medical practitioners although they have spent their whole lives in acting as medical practitioners. That is a well known fact now. The way they prohibited them was this: they got a law passed that no assistant to medical practitioners should give death certificates unless he was a duly qualified

medical practitioner; and the result of the passing of that enactment or ordinance has been practically that no unqualified practitioner, however capable and however great his experience of medicine may be, is able to practise as a medical practitioner in Great Britain or Ireland. It appears to me that the main principle this House should consider is the safety of the general public. I believe that the main principle pervading all the restrictions has been that the general public should be protected against unqualified men. I am using the word unqualified, meaning the men who have not sufficient knowledge of their profession to practise it. Therefore, I am at one with a great number anxious that our profession should be open to every member of society. I can assure members of this House that the legal profession does not wish to prevent any member of society from becoming a lawyer. It must be borne in mind that some of the greatest lawyers Great Britain has ever produced have been men who started life without any means. I could give a great number of instances here in our own State where some of the leading lawyers have acquired a knowledge of law without having really much private means. Some speakers here this evening have tried to convince the House that this profession is practically closed to anybody unless he has rich parents. It is only about a week or two ago that I assisted in arrangements for the legal education of a boy in this State whose parents had no means whatever. There are plenty of avenues here, if a man likes to take the trouble to find out what they are. There are many means by which a man can become articulated without going to any expense. So far, in Great Britain and some of the other colonies the legal profession has been divided into two branches. Remarks by some of the speakers, including the member for Hannans, would lead the House to believe there is only one branch; that barristers and lawyers are practically the same. But in England and Victoria—I am not sure about New South Wales—the profession is divided into two classes of men; one consisting of the barristers, whose sole work is devoted to the conduct of cases in the respective courts, whilst the other branch consists of solicitors, who



do not take cases in the Supreme Court, but are occupied wholly with office work and with conveyancing matters, equity matters, and the practical preparation of cases for the Supreme Court. The qualities necessary for the making of a barrister are not the same as those for the making of a successful solicitor. It often happens that some of the best lawyers in the country are not men who are able to plead, or who have eloquence of the kind possessed by the member for Hannans. If he will excuse my saying so, from what I have seen and from his eloquence I have listened to, I should say he is eminently fitted to become a most leading barrister, but would be hopelessly unfitted to become a solicitor. And the reason is this, that the qualities necessary for the two different branches of the profession are quite different.

MR. DIAMOND: One has the brain and the other the jaw.

MR. FOULKES: I would like members to bear in mind what I say, and that is the reason why in England these two professions are practically kept quite distinct. In regard to one branch of the profession, the barristers, it is quite true that in most cases their knowledge of the law is gained, as the member for Hannans said, from scholastic study, and not from actual experience of office work. They trust in a great measure to their eloquence and their capacity to state a case clearly before the Judges. But with regard to the other branch of the profession, there they have to trust not to their capacity for putting a case clearly, but to a thorough general all-round knowledge of the law. Therefore, any provisions we may make with regard to the admission of legal practitioners will have to be framed to meet those two particular sets of requirements—one set of requirements for the barristers and the other for the solicitors. I think it was the Minister for Justice who said the passing of examinations was not in itself sufficient proof that a man was competent to practise as a solicitor. The member for Hannans seems to think that so long as a man has genius and ability, these enable him practically to become anything; that he is quite capable of becoming a member of any profession. I do not agree with him there. Of course we all admire genius, but genius without

thorough knowledge and experience of a particular subject is not of much avail. I quite admit that in the British dominions the restrictions with regard to the admission of solicitors have been particularly strict; but the reason of that is that it has always been felt, in Great Britain anyway, that it is absolutely necessary for a man who wishes to practise as a solicitor to have a thorough knowledge of law.

At 6.31, the SPEAKER left the Chair.

At 7.30, Chair resumed.

MR. FOULKES (continuing): I should have liked an opportunity of speaking at greater length; but I am aware that the Premier has set apart this evening for his Budget Speech, and I cannot close my eyes to the fact that this Bill is of no importance whatever, while the Budget Speech is of great importance to the country. I shall therefore discontinue my remarks, but shall seek another opportunity, later in the session, of speaking at full length on the subject.

On motion by MR. GILL, debate adjourned.

## FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

### ANNUAL ESTIMATES.

Message from the Governor received and read, transmitting the Annual Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for the Financial Year 1904-5, and recommending appropriations.

The House resolved into Committee of Supply; Mr. T. H. BATH in the Chair.

THE PREMIER AND TREASURER (Hon. H. Daglish) said: Mr. Bath, in presenting to this House the first Budget Statement it has fallen to my lot to submit, I ask with all confidence for that indulgence invariably extended to any member upon whom this heavy task has devolved. Realising my own inexperience in the capacity of Treasurer, I am the more fully seized of the necessity that such indulgence shall be extended to me. This is the fifteenth occasion on which the annual Financial Statement has been presented to the Parliament of Western Australia.

*Prosperity of the State.*

It is well at the outset to assert that the prosperity of this State to-day rests upon a firm foundation. Our principal industries are extending steadily, and land settlement proceeds apace, whilst from month to month our population increases. Our last year's mining and farming operations alike resulted in a record production, and there is no reason to doubt the issue of this year's work. It is gratifying indeed, when contemplating our own progress, to be able likewise to rejoice with some of our sister States in the marked signs of a more pronounced prosperity, both industrial and commercial, than has been experienced by them in the years recently passed. Following the plan adopted by Mr. Gardiner when acting as Colonial Treasurer, I am submitting for the information of members returns similar to those which accompanied the Estimates of last year. I find it impossible for me to improve on the method then adopted.

*Receipts and Expenditure, past year.*

It will be seen by Return No. 1 that the Treasurer's estimates of receipts for the year ending 30th June, 1904, was £3,613,200, while the actual revenue received amounted to £3,550,016, showing a total net over-estimate of £63,183. The principal over-estimates were net Commonwealth revenue £69,755, and railway receipts £18,606. The total over-estimates were £112,257. Against these were under-estimates amounting to £49,073, the principal items being dividend duties £15,071, and harbour dues £10,047. Deducting the total under-estimates from the over-estimates, we get a net over-estimate of £63,183. I may state that throughout my speech I intend to omit all references to shillings and pence. Turning to the expenditure for the last financial year, we find by Return No. 2 that the Treasurer estimated this at £3,843,347, but the actual expenditure was £3,698,312; hence there was an over-estimate in expenditure of £145,035. The over-estimates of expenditure amounted in all to £163,779, the item Minister for Works and Railways contributing to the total no less than £156,503. The under-estimates of expenditure reached £23,743, the largest item being Colonial Treasurer £16,218.

Deducting from the over-estimate of expenditure £145,035, the over-estimate of revenue, £63,183, we have the sum of £81,851, which, added to the surplus estimated to be in hand at the end of the year £1,511, gives an actual surplus on the 30th June last of £83,363. The Consolidated Revenue for the year 1903-4 was £3,550,016, to which we must add the surplus brought forward from the previous year, £231,659, making a total available for expenditure during 1903-4 of £3,781,675, out of which was expended the sum of £3,698,312, giving the surplus already stated of £83,363. Return No. 3 is a synopsis of the State balance-sheet for 1903-4. On the debit side it shows the balance on the year of £83,363; sinking fund, £861,299; London and Westminster Bank, £60,000; Savings Bank, £2,087,674; trust and deposit accounts, £840,874—a total of £3,933,212. On the credit side we have general loan fund, £142,558; advances to be recovered, £32,597; investments and sinking fund, £3,076,549; stores on hand, £307,299. In addition to these there was cash on hand made up as follows:—Agricultural Bank advance and redemption account, £8,641; current accounts, £22,452; Eastern States loan proceeds, £31,931; municipalities sinking fund, £87; State Savings Bank, £162,367; cash in London, £1,533; remittances and drafts *in transitu*, £146,461; Treasury, £683; and fixed deposits, £50; making a total of £3,933,212.

*Sinking Fund.*

It will be observed that the Sinking Fund grew during the year from £655,069 to £861,299, showing an increase of £206,230. The Savings Bank deposits increased from £1,990,862 to £2,087,674, or a total increase of £96,811. The London and Westminster Bank, £60,000, represents the extent to which our account in London was overdrawn at the close of the last financial year. The bank had given authority for an overdraft to the extent of £250,000 at current bank rates, with a minimum of  $3\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. Owing to the deficiency on the General Loan Vote, and the fact that the surplus on Consolidated Revenue Account was insufficient to provide stores and advances, this overdraft had been used to the extent indicated. The first

item on the credit side shows the deficiency on the General Loan Fund, on the 30th June, as £142,558. Against this it should be stated that we had available for subscription a balance of £145,410 from the last loan of £500,000, offered in February last.

#### *Investments.*

Investments and Sinking Fund include the following items: Saving Bank funds invested, £1,910,026; State sinking fund, £861,299; Municipal loan sinking funds, £66,292; Life Assurance Companies' deposits, £167,743; Agricultural Bank Act advances, redemption, investments, £16,200; Agricultural Lands Purchase Act investments, £15,325; Assurance Fund investments, £11,934; Midland Railway Company moneys investments, £13,673; Police Benefit Fund investments, £6,500; Trustees Goldfields Water Supply Board Sinking Fund investments, £1,055; W.A. Trustee, Executor, and Agency Company securities, £5,000.

#### *Cash on Hand.*

Under the heading of Cash on Hand it will be noted that the cash available to meet deposits in the Savings Bank was £162,367, the balance of the money being invested in order that it might earn interest to pay depositors. The amount of cash available has risen since that date to a sum of over £200,000. At the close of the financial year, on the 30th June last, the Savings Bank deposits amounted to £2,087,674, since which date they have increased farther to the amount of £2,151,485.

#### *Loans and Indebtedness, 1903-4.*

Return No. 4 shows a statement of our loans as they were on 30th June, 1904. The total authorisations to the 30th June, 1903, amounted to £15,941,253. During the financial year an additional authorisation of £1,582,000 was provided, which made the total authorisations up to the 30th June last £17,523,253. Of this amount there is yet to be raised £3,551,650, of which sum, however, the Savings Bank, municipalities, and locally-inscribed stock have provided £2,304,385, leaving the actual balance available for flotation at £1,247,265. Loans floated up to 30th June, 1903, amounted to £15,807,698. We received by local

flotations during the year £468,290, which, with the balance available for flotation, made £17,523,253. Our actual loan indebtedness is made up of the amount floated to the 30th June, 1904, £16,275,988; less accumulated Sinking Fund, £864,751, and debentures redeemed, £185,700—making a total of £1,050,451, and leaving our actual indebtedness on the 30th June, 1904, at £15,225,536. Our actual loan indebtedness on 30th June, 1903, was £14,972,229. We received on loan during the year £468,290, making a total of £15,440,519. Deducting Sinking Fund and redemptions effected during the year, £214,982, we again arrive at the actual loan indebtedness on the 30th June, 1904, of £15,225,536. Our population on the 30th June, 1903, was 221,992, and our loan indebtedness then was £14,972,229, or a net indebtedness per head of £67 8s. 11d. at the end of the financial year 1902-3. Our population on the 30th June last had increased to 238,003, and at the loan indebtedness of £15,225,536 this represents the actual net indebtedness per head on the 30th June last of £63 19s. 5d., a decrease during the year of £3 9s. 6d. per head.

#### *Public Debt and Reproductive Works.*

The gross Public Debt of Western Australia on the 30th June last was £16,090,288, which, by deducting Sinking Fund accumulations and redemptions, is reduced to an actual debt of £15,225,536. The average interest paid upon our debt is 3·4 per cent., the lowest in Australasia, New South Wales coming next with 3·55 per cent. Our gross debt per head of population on the 30th June last was £67 12s. 1d.; Queensland with £79 11s. 5d., South Australia with £77 9s. 1d., and New Zealand with £68 11s. 3d., having a larger debt per head. But critics too often lose sight of the fact that population is not the only important factor to be considered when dealing with State indebtedness. The resources of a country are not created, though they have to be developed, by population. The earning power of the money borrowed must be taken into account. This, of course, depends upon the degree of wisdom displayed in the expenditure of funds as indicated by reproductiveness. Another important element is the State

revenue. The following particulars relating to the gross debt and revenue per head of the different States of Australia may be interesting:—New South Wales, with a gross debt per head of £55 7s. 2d., has a revenue per head of £7 17s. 2d. Victoria, with £42 19s. 4d. per head gross debt, returns a revenue of £6 1s. per head. Queensland, with a gross debt of £79 11s. 5d. per head, has a revenue of £6 18s. 1d. per head. South Australia, with a gross debt of £77 9s. 1d. per head, has a revenue of £6 19s. 6d. per head. Western Australia, with a gross debt of £67 12s. 1d. per head, has a revenue of £15 12s. 7d. per head. Tasmania, with a gross debt of £51 18s. 4d. per head, has a revenue of £4 16s. 1d. per head. New Zealand, with a gross debt of £68 11s. 3d. per head, returns a revenue of £8 12s. 7d. per head. It will be seen from these figures that the actual annual revenue per head in Western Australia amounts to close upon one-fourth of the gross indebtedness per head of the State, whilst of the other States quoted there is not one in which the proportion of revenue per head to debt is more than one-seventh. Another important consideration is the railway mileage per head of population; and here again Western Australia is far in advance of any of the other States, having no less than 1,755 miles of State-owned railways to a population of 238,000, equal to one mile to every 135 inhabitants. But this State, although it has by far the largest railway mileage compared with population, is likewise obtaining the best return in the shape of interest on capital invested in railway construction; the figures showing for the last financial year a return in the shape of interest amounting to 4·56 per cent., the second State on the list being South Australia, which earns (independent of the Northern Territory) 3·59 per cent., New Zealand and Victoria coming next with 3·58 per cent. and 3·43 per cent. respectively. New South Wales, Queensland, and Tasmania each earn less than 3 per cent. Our railways, it will be noted, earned therefore, taking as a basis for the calculation of interest the average cost of borrowed money, no less than 1·16 per cent. more than was required to pay interest on capital expenditure. Our loans may be said to be all ex-

pendent upon reproductive works, and the revenue derivable from them is an annually increasing one. In the railways, full provision is made for maintenance, and a fund has been established to replace obsolete rolling-stock. Under all the foregoing circumstances Western Australian stocks should command a far higher price than those of any State in which loan money has been expended upon works which do not earn revenue, or upon railways which return a smaller net profit, or those of a State which does not maintain a Sinking Fund for all loans. The price of stocks may however be regarded with some degree of indifference at any time, except when the State desires to increase its borrowing. If the Sinking Fund be wisely utilised, a fall in the price of stock represents always an opportunity for redemption at a cheaper rate. Up to date, one small loan has been redeemed by the operation of the Sinking Fund, and another matures on the 1st January. To redeem the latter £17,600 will be required; but no less than £50,093 is available in the Sinking Fund for that purpose.

#### *Stocks, their Fluctuating Value.*

It is difficult to understand reasons which govern the price of Western Australian stocks in London. A few years ago, when so many persons regarded the future of the State as dependent entirely upon the permanence of the gold-mining industry and when the extent of our mineral wealth was problematical, there was reasonable ground assignable why our stocks should be somewhat lower than those of the sister States. Now, however, with the agricultural industry on an assured basis, representing as it does a source of permanent wealth, with the richness of our gold and other mineral deposits demonstrated beyond doubt, and with a reasonable certainty that the gold production should be maintained for decades yet to come, our security is so substantial that one is at a loss to discover any explanation which seems satisfactory. Mining transactions of a dubious nature, for which the State is not responsible, should not have more than a temporary effect in this direction. Changes of Government seem not to operate, although interested persons sometimes seek political capital by a contrary asser-

tion. I was careful to watch the market operations in Western Australian stocks in August last for the purpose of settling that question; and the result of my observations was to show that no variation occurred. From a return prepared by my department showing the London Stock Exchange quotations for Australian Government stocks for the month of June of the years 1899 to 1904 respectively, I learnt that our 3 per cents. fell during these six years from £96 to £86; those of New South Wales from £100 to £87; Victoria's only quotation was in June last, when her 3 per cents. stood at £88; Queensland's fell from £96 to £86; New Zealand's from £97 to £89; South Australia's from £94 to £87. A corresponding fall took place in  $3\frac{1}{2}$  per cents. and 4 per cents. Nor was the decline in values confined to the earlier portion of this period which was virtually introduced by the South African war, for between the 1st July, 1902, the date of the James Government taking office, and the 10th August, 1904, when the present Government was formed, there was a fall of about 5 per cent. in the value of our stocks. This temporary rebuff from the British financial world has not, however, been without its advantages. It has at least served, I hope, to convince the people of this State that new loan works must be undertaken only after thorough inquiry and mature consideration.

#### *Securities for Loans.*

When the British investor realises that Western Australia's financial position as a unit in the Commonwealth is exceptional, inasmuch as only an insignificant portion of our loan expenditure has been incurred in carrying out unproductive public works; that nine-sixteenths of it represents outlay on railways, one-eighth on harbour works, one-sixth on water supply, and a million and a quarter of the residue of our public debt has been expended on the development of our goldfields and our agricultural lands; that our Railways are paying working expenses and interest on capital; that the Goldfields Water Scheme for the half-year ended 30th June last, although still in an incomplete state, had, after paying working expenses, a balance of £42,442 available for meeting the

half-yearly capital charge of £42,492 for interest; that the Fremantle Harbour Works, after paying all working expenses, handed over to the State £47,000 for last year, representing about  $3\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. on the capital sunk in the work; that the rate of interest paid on our loans last year was only £3 8s. per cent., the lowest in Australasia; that every loan has a sinking fund ranging from 1 to 3 per cent. provided for its final extinction; that the low price of our stocks in the London market is utilised to the best advantage by investing our sinking funds in their purchase at a net gain of from 5 per cent. to 15 per cent.; that our public debt per head is decreasing—when these facts and others which tell of our sound financial position and of our progress on every side are brought home to the investing public in Great Britain, we cannot but expect a reasonable discrimination to be shown which must operate to our advantage.

#### *Loans, how expended.*

Return No. 5 shows how our loans have been expended; the first column indicating the total amount floated as a charge against the public works, and the second column the actual cash expended, or the net cost of carrying out the work. Railways and Tramways have involved flotations amounting to £9,191,677; Harbour and River Improvements, £2,104,034; Coolgardie Water Scheme absorbed £2,908,154; Development of Goldfields and Mineral Resources £880,502; Development of Agriculture £394,808. The total amount of flotations as charged to these various works reaches £16,275,988, the cost of raising which amounted to £467,503. Return No. 6 indicates the actual indebtedness of loan works on the 30th June, 1904, as follows:—Railways and tramways, £9,069,764; telegraphs, £245,076; harbour and river improvements, £2,084,596; public buildings, £62,876; Coolgardie Water Scheme, £2,908,154; water supply generally and sewerage, £218,350; development of goldfields and mineral resources, £880,502; roads and bridges, £134,530; development of agriculture, £394,808; immigration, £28,268; miscellaneous, £63,359, making a total of £16,090,288. The indebtedness of these works therefore

appears at £16,090,288, plus debentures redeemed £185,700, bringing out the total amount debited to them at £16,275,988.

*Revenue Estimate for 1904-5.*

Return No. 7 brings us to the estimated revenue for the year ending 30th June, 1905, and likewise shows the actual revenue received during the last financial year. Dealing with the items *seriatim*, licenses show actual revenue for last year £31,946 against estimated revenue for this year £32,875; dividend duties last year £125,072, estimated £115,000; stamp revenue last year, £55,768, estimated £57,000; probate duties, £21,759 last year, estimated £15,000; land last year £169,192, estimated £190,200; mining £44,027 last year, estimated £43,550; railways and tramways last year £1,612,608, estimated this year £1,622,500; State batteries last year £56,769, estimated £64,000; smelting works, a new item, estimated £75,000; water supply last year £78,259, estimated £109,900; harbour dues last year £64,047, estimated £65,000; Royal Mint last year £37,545, estimated £29,000; other public works and services last year £17,406, estimated £19,800; reimbursements in aid last year £79,340, estimated £111,525; fees of public officers £42,772, estimated £42,830; law courts last year £21,187, estimated £23,000; miscellaneous £27,165 last year, estimated for this year £25,300; net Commonwealth revenue for last year £1,065,244, estimated for this year £1,036,259.

MR. MORAN: What estimate is that last, the Commonwealth?

THE TREASURER: It is based on Sir George Turner's statement. These items make a total of actual revenue received for 1903-4 of £3,550,016, and the estimated revenue for the current financial year 1904-5 of £3,677,739. Bringing forward the surplus from the last financial year £83,364 this will make available for expenditure during the present year £3,761,103. The principal increases in revenue anticipated this year are smelting works £75,000.

MR. MORAN: Where is that coming from?

THE TREASURER: From the smelting works which started operations at Phillips River.

MR. MORAN: I hope you may get it.

THE TREASURER: Lands, £21,000; water supply, £31,000; reimbursements in aid, £32,000, of which £22,000 is expected from a recoup of expenditure on water supply. The principal decrease anticipated is in net Commonwealth revenue £29,000, due to the operation of the sliding scale, modified to some extent by anticipated increases in the postal revenue. A decrease of £10,000 in dividend duties is expected by reason of the large amount of arrears collected last year, which go to make last year's figures appear considerably higher than those estimated for the current financial year.

*Expenditure Estimate for 1904-5.*

Return No. 8 shows the actual expenditure for 1903-4, and the estimated expenditure for 1904-5 as follows:—Special Acts last year £785,067, estimated £835,158; His Excellency the Governor, £1,482, estimated £1,488; Executive Council, £110 last year and this; Legislative Council, £2,007 last year, £2,097 estimated; Legislative Assembly, £5,414 last year against an estimate of £5,916; joint Houses of Parliament, £4,992 against an estimate of £5,607; Colonial Treasurer, £236,414 against an estimate of £228,185; Minister for Education, £133,337 to an estimate of £153,400; Minister for Mines £198,157, estimated this year £281,307; Minister for Justice, last year £62,160, this year £62,228; Minister for Lands, £169,114 against £205,323; Minister for Works, £518,109 to £387,857; Colonial Secretary, £350,299 against £353,309; Minister for Railways, £1,228,235 against £1,286,509; Minister for Labour, £3,415 to £5,330; making a total actual expenditure for 1903-4 of £3,698,312, and a total estimated expenditure for the present year of £3,813,824, or an estimated deficit of £52,721, which deducted from the estimated expenditure leaves the sum of £3,761,103, being the total estimated amount available for expenditure. It will be observed that the estimated expenditure under special Acts is £51,165 in excess of the estimate for last year. This is accounted for principally by an increased provision for sinking fund and interest on our various loan moneys. The only other increases are on pensions and

retiring allowances, provision for the Public Service Commissioner, and extra provision for the Auditor General. In regard to the departmental expenditure it will be found that decreases are shown on a number of votes—these are His Excellency the Governor, the Legislative Council, the Minister for Justice, the Minister for Works, and the Minister for Railways, that is comparing last year's estimates with the current year's estimates; whilst increases appear in regard to the Legislative Assembly £5,700, increased to £5,916; joint Houses of Parliament £4,510, increased to £5,607; Colonial Treasurer £220,196, increased to £228,185; Minister for Education, £136,230. [Interjection.] I am quoting the estimate of last year as against the estimate of this year. I have already quoted the estimate of this year as against the expenditure of last year.

MR. MORAN: The expenditure is the better guide, too.

THE TREASURER: I am dealing with both comparisons. Minister for Education £136,230, increased to £153,400; Minister for Mines £191,756, increased to £281,307; Minister for Lands £174,928, increased to £205,323; Colonial Secretary £351,080, increased to £353,339; Minister for Labour £4,550, increased to £5,330.

*Departmental Expenditure, a Comparison.*

The total increases in departmental expenditure amount to £200,592, whilst the total decreases appear at £230,116, leaving a net decrease of £29,524. From this it is obvious that in spite of the expansion of several of our departments, there has been a careful check upon the proposed expenditure. The only departments in which a substantial increase of expenditure is provided for are those of Lands and Mines, in both of which curtailment would be impossible without actual diminution of their revenue-producing powers, together with interference with the development of the important industries affected. Especially is this the case in regard to the Mines Department, where the proposed increase of expenditure of £89,551 is counterbalanced by an estimated increase in revenue from State batteries and smelting works of £83,000; whilst the votes for water supply for Cue, Day Dawn, and Nannine, amounting

together to £19,160, are expected to be returned to the Treasury when the works have been completed. In the Lands Department the increase of £30,395 in expenditure is compensated for by an estimated increase of territorial revenue, amounting to £25,200, and by a farther small increase in revenue from the Agricultural Department and Agricultural Bank.

*Administrative, Recurring, and Revenue-producing Expenditure.*

Return No. 9 shows the estimated expenditure on administration, as well as recurring and revenue-producing expenditure, for the year ending 30th June, 1905. Under special Acts an expenditure of £52,383 is anticipated, an increase of £1,983 on last year's expenditure. The increases are—Auditor General, £400; pensions and retiring allowances, £1,000; Public Service Commissioner, £583. The increase in the provision for the Auditor General is due to the fact that only half a year's salary was provided on last year's Estimates. Outside the special Acts the total estimated expenditure is £724,654, bringing the total administration and recurring expenditure to £977,037, as against £868,390 for last year, or an increase of £108,647. The principal increases in these items are—Aborigines, £2,500; last year the amount voted being £1,465 less than the sum required; and this year the estimated expenditure is farther increased in order to provide for the expenditure incurred by Dr. Roth's appointment as Commissioner to inquire into the condition and treatment of the aborigines. There is an increase of £1,257 on the votes for the two Houses of Parliament, owing principally to the larger premises which have involved the provision of additional attendance, increased charges for lighting, etc. The Audit Department shows an estimated additional expenditure of £1,669, due to necessary changes in the staff, which have already resulted in a considerable increase of efficiency in the work of the department. There is an estimated increase in the Printing Office of £2,592; but as the vote for last year was exceeded by £3,304, it is anticipated that this year's expenditure will be somewhat under that of the preceding term. Royal Commissions show an estimated

increase of £1,425. This is due mainly to the large number of Commissions which have been or are engaged at the present time in investigating various important matters. The London Agency shows an estimated increase of £978, due to the appointment of an inspecting engineer and assistant attached to that agency, whose services will, however, have a tendency to reduce the cost of the inspection work performed in London, and it is hoped render it more efficient than it has been under former arrangements.

#### *Education Estimate, 1904-5.*

The increase to the Education vote is estimated at £17,170, and is due to the growth and size of our existing schools and the necessity for providing new schools in districts which have in the past been unsupplied. Very satisfactory progress was made by our Education Department during 1903-4. The primary schools increased from 255 to 273, the teachers from 719 to 795, scholars enrolled from 24,172 to 25,757, and the average attendance from 19,959 to 21,562. The manual training and technical classes have been increased considerably, and the number of teachers qualified to give instruction in manual training has been steadily growing. It is pleasing to observe that our schools, according to the latest statistics published, had a better average attendance in proportion to the number of scholars enrolled than had those of any other State. It will surprise many persons to learn that the public expenditure per head of population upon education, omitting buildings, is lower here than in New South Wales and Queensland, despite the many local disadvantages. The cost of primary schools must always be comparatively large where the facilities for instruction require to be provided in the large number of sparsely populated districts that obtain in this State. The handsome endowment granted at the instance of the late Premier for University purposes was vested in trustees during 1903-4, and thus the first step was taken towards the construction of a fitting apex to our educational system.

*Estimates for Lands, Rabbits, Agriculture, etc.*  
Lands and Surveys account for an additional estimated expenditure of

£36,741, due solely to the great growth of land settlement, and the heavy demands consequently made upon that department. Under the heading of rabbits an additional provision of £12,329 is made, owing to necessary increases of staff, on account of the larger extent of country to be covered by inspectors and others. Agriculture has demanded an increase of £3,266, which is fully justified by the natural expansion of the department. The Agricultural Bank shows an increase of £645, which again represents the regular expansion in the business of that department. The Gaols vote is £4,069 in excess of the estimate of last year, but only £1,705 above the actual expenditure for the period. The increase in the cost of the Labour department arises principally from the provision made for the appointment of factory inspectors. Revenue producing expenditure embraces the Royal Mint £20,000, Post Office Savings Bank £14,440, Gwalia Hotel £5,000, State batteries £63,530, water supply £35,208, smelting works £38,000, refrigerating works £3,410, railways and tramways £1,207,178, or a total of £1,386,766; making a total administration and recurring expenditure for the State of £2,363,803, to which must be added the Commonwealth £364,028, making a grand total including the Commonwealth of £2,727,831.

#### *General Expenditure Estimate.*

Return No. 10 shows the estimated general expenditure for the year ending 30th June, 1905—Interest on public debt £570,281, sinking fund £192,494, or a total of £762,775; public works total £319,674; public buildings, £134,289; subsidies to municipalities, £70,450; immigration, £2,500. Charitable and other grants reach a total of £160,333. Total for the State on general expenditure, £1,450,021, to which must be added Commonwealth expenditure of £50,411, making a total on general revenue by State and Commonwealth within the State of £1,500,432, against £1,685,124 provided last year. There has been an endeavour by the Government to provide as liberally for roads boards and municipalities as it has been customary to do in the past. It is recognised that, so long as the money voted to these public bodies is wisely used, it serves a useful



purpose in our State development. While, therefore, in many directions a curtailment of expenditure has been made, these items remain practically untouched. Under the head of buildings, reductions of a more or less substantial nature have been made in the majority of items compared with last year, but in two or three items small increases appear. The total estimated expenditure for public buildings amounts to £134,289, against £211,985 provided last year.

*Charitable and other Grants.*

The total votes under this head provided for 1903-4 amounted to £167,722, whilst on the Estimates under review the sum recommended amounts to £160,333, a reduction of £7,389. The provision for hospitals, which include asylums for the insane, is raised from £95,352 in 1903-4 to £96,591 for 1904-5. Charities, Indoor and Outdoor Relief, and Assistance to Orphanages have increased from £23,210 to £24,500. Marsupials, Wild Dogs, etcetera, shows an increase from £1,700 to £2,500, and Benevolent Grants £4,710 to £5,186. All the other items represent reductions, the most substantial being Recreation Reserves £8,156, as against £14,300 for 1903-4. It was plainly indicated by Mr. Gardiner, when the last Budget Speech was delivered, that members could not expect this vote to be maintained for any length of time at the figure then provided. The Committee will probably recognise the justice of this reduction, and will, I hope, admit that the amount specified in this year's Estimates, in view of all the circumstances, should be considered as a very handsome grant indeed for that purpose.

*Deficit for 1904-5, how Estimated.*

It is always unpleasant for a Treasurer to submit Estimates which show a deficit. The discontent of the Minister is naturally increased when, as in the present case, it is his first Budget and his term of office has been of the shortest. My feelings on the subject are considerably modified by the conviction that this deficit on paper need never become a reality. There is every reason for the belief that with the exercise of judicious economy in administration for the balance

of the financial year, our outgoings can be so reduced as to be kept at as low a figure as our income. The question may be raised, "Why then is it necessary that a deficit should be shown?" The reason is that in the time at the disposal of Ministers while Parliament is sitting and the daily preparations for its work require to be made, there is not the opportunity to make into the management of departments that close examination which must be the preliminary to a reduction of expenses. There may be many members who would urge that the estimated deficit could be met only by the imposition of fresh taxation. If there were any necessity to close the year with a deficit, there might be some force in that contention; but if my view be correct that the exercise of economy, while not impairing the successful working of any departments, will enable me to wind up with a small credit balance, it would be injudicious in the extreme to submit at the present juncture proposals for new taxation. The people of the State are entitled to demand that before farther demands are made upon their pockets it shall be indisputably demonstrated that the best possible use is made of the revenue already collected. In the last financial year expenditure exceeded revenue by £148,296; and it was only by reason of the fact that a surplus of £231,659 had been brought forward from 1902-3 that we had at the end of June a surplus of £83,363. Even if the estimated deficit were realised this year, the excess of expenditure over revenue would be less than it was during the last financial year. A large surplus is not an unmixed blessing. It encourages extravagant demands on the public purse, and renders apparently unnecessary that close criticism which is so healthy prior to the approval of financial applications. The Estimates as presented by me to-night have since they first came before me been reduced by about a quarter of a million pounds. It will readily be conceived, therefore, that a farther reduction of £53,000 might easily be possible of achievement when Ministers have the opportunity of making that purpose their chief aim. Meantime I wish to state, and state emphatically, my unabated confidence in the future of Western Australia, now the home land of us all. Every industry is thriving. The popu-

lation is steadily growing. The proportion of females to males has increased in three years by three per cent.—a very important indication that the population that we are receiving now is a permanent not a migratory one. On every hand there are inducements which should attract new citizens to our shores; and there exists no valid reason why the Western portion of this continent should not maintain a population as great as that to be found in the Eastern.

#### *Salaries of Public Servants.*

Coming to the salaries of public servants, it is to me a cause of regret that I have been unable to provide on the Estimates for increases to the salaries of the large number of public servants who, by their diligence, attention, and good conduct, have fully earned them. This is one of the many circumstances that combine to render the Treasurer's position unpleasant in the days when economy is essential. Officers drawing salaries of less than £200 per annum have been granted an increase of £10; but in the case of salaries of or above that amount no increases have been allowed, except in cases where there was an obligation on the Government to provide one. It is hoped that before the next Estimates are submitted the whole of the public service will have been classified by the Commissioner. For this reason it would have been injudicious, if not impossible, for the Government to attempt to deal with any of the numerous anomalies which have been alleged to exist in public servants' salaries. The subject of retrospective increases is one of considerable interest to public servants, and one which received a great deal of attention from our predecessors, and I believe was dealt with finally by them. I have therefore realised that it would be impossible for me, without causing endless trouble or perhaps doing some injustice, to re-open that question. So far as my experience as a Minister is concerned, I have great pleasure in testifying to the loyalty and devotion to duty displayed by most of the officers of the public service who have come under my personal notice.

#### *State and Commonwealth.*

Return No. 11 is only a summary of the estimated State and Commonwealth

expenditure in the State for the year ending 30th June next, embracing the figures given in the two preceding returns. Administration — State, £2,363,803; Commonwealth, £364,028; making a total administration expenditure of £2,727,831. General expenditure—State, £1,450,021; Commonwealth, £50,411; making a total of £1,500,432 general expenditure, and a grand total of £4,228,263.

#### *State Trading Concerns.*

Return No. 12 shows the net result for 1903-4 of the working of the State's chief trading concerns. Unfortunately it is somewhat incomplete, by reason of the circumstance that the Coolgardie Water Scheme was not in full operation for the first six months of the financial year to which the return relates. The return, as members will perceive, shows the capital cost from loan and other sources of our various trading concerns, including the Railways, the Goldfields Water Supply, the Fremantle Harbour Works, and the State Batteries. It shows likewise the year's charge on revenue and the direct revenue produced, as well as the net profit or the loss after deducting working expenses and interest on capital; and on these various works it will be observed that for the period covered by this return a net profit, after paying working expenses and interest, of £30,051 is shown. This again fully warrants the remarks I have already made in regard to the sound and business-like manner in which our loan moneys have been expended.

#### *Gold Mining Industry.*

Our great gold industry, for the continued development of which liberal provision is made on these Estimates, is in a highly satisfactory condition, and is by far the largest in Australasia. Up to the 31st October the production of gold in Western Australia reached the magnificent total of 12,587,366 fine ounces, of the total value of £53,467,734. In 1903, for the first time in our history, the gold output exceeded 2,000,000 ounces, or, to be precise, amounted to 2,064,801 ounces, a yield which it is fully expected that the output this year will at least equal. For the ten months ending the 31st October of the current calendar year, 1,654,225 fine ounces have been produced.

Last year the gold production of this State represented more than one-half the output of the Commonwealth, and no less than 48 per cent. of the total yield for Australasia. The dividends paid by registered gold-mining companies in this State amount to date to £11,245,838, or about 21 per cent. of the total value of the gold produced. The dividends of last year reached the sum of £2,024,152, being an increase of 42 per cent. on the previous year, and a return of 26 per cent. on the nominal capital of the dividend-paying mines; while for the ten months of this year £1,724,182 represented the value of declared dividends, equalling nearly one-quarter of the value of the gold produced in the same period. These dividends, of course, do not include any portion of the large sums divided amongst members of syndicates and co-operative parties, of which there are many in the State. There are no returns which enable me to obtain precise information as to the amount of profits thus accounted for. During the year 1903 no less than 17,329 men were employed in gold mining alone, representing nearly 8 per cent. of the total population of the State. Mining machinery to the value of  $4\frac{1}{2}$  millions sterling has been erected on the various fields, and we have in the State the most up-to-date gold mining machinery to be found in Australasia. The average amount of gold produced for every man employed above and below the ground in the mines increased from 117 ounces in 1902 to 133 ounces in 1903, representing a value of £479 for every man employed. Since the last Budget was presented, the permanent belt of auriferous country known as the Black Range has sprung into prominence. In 1899 this area produced only  $86\frac{1}{2}$  ounces, and up to the end of 1903 only 1,364 ounces. Since the latter date, however, it has steadily developed from an alluvial into a reefing field; and for the first nine months of this year its production reached 7,228 ounces of fine gold valued at £30,702.

*Copper, Tin, Coal, Silver.*

Minerals other than gold exist from end to end of this vast State, though their development does not receive anything like the same attention as that devoted to gold. The total production of these

minerals up to the end of October reached a value of £1,440,222. Those principally worked are copper, tin, and coal; copper principally in the Phillips River goldfield, tin in Greenbushes and in the Pilbarra field, where some very promising deposits exist. The total mineral output for 1903 reached a value of £8,791,937. Our export of silver produced in the State doubled, increasing from 83,000 to 168,000 ounces. Coal production has been confined to the Collie field, and it is to be regretted that no extensive developments in the trade have taken place during the past year. There is good reason to believe that valuable coal deposits exist in other parts of the State, but at present definite knowledge on the subject is lacking.

*State Batteries, Cyanide Plants.*

The State Battery system has been farther developed during the year. In September, 1903, 14 batteries, one Huntington mill, one tin-dressing plant, and seven cyanide plants were working; while at the present time 22 batteries and one Huntington mill, representing 215 stamps, and one tin-dressing plant are in operation, in addition to 13 cyanide plants. Four batteries are in course of erection, representing 40 head of stamps, and six additional cyanide plants are being equipped. The capacity of these batteries under ordinary conditions is equal to 10,000 tons per month, while the cyanide plants are capable of treating in the same period 8,000 tons. Close on £1,000,000 worth of gold has been obtained through the State batteries since their inception, and £220,000 worth of gold has been extracted by them during the first nine months of 1904. The aim of the Government is to extend the State battery system as far as possible, and to maintain the charges for crushing at the lowest standard which will pay working expenses. A liberal provision has been made on the present Estimates for the erection of new plants; and it is proposed to supplement this by farther expenditure from loan funds. The total amount expended from the Consolidated Fund during the last financial year on account of batteries was over £95,000, while the direct revenue accruing amounted to £56,000. It is of course impossible to assess the

actual revenue derivable from expenditure of this description, as so much of it goes through indirect channels. At Phillip's River, the quantities and grade of copper ore brought to the State sampling works led to the decision, early in the year, that a Government smelter should be erected; and just recently the erection was completed, and the smelter started working. A large amount of good-grade ore is already available, and present indications justify the conviction that the supply will be maintained for a considerable time. It is fully believed that the establishment of the smelting works will contribute to make the Phillips River field prosperous and progressive. The district has great advantages in the character of its climate and soil, and there is room there for the agriculturist as well as the miner. The smelter has been in operation for about three weeks and has produced copper matte and blister copper valued at about £4,000. This is assumed to give a profit to the State of about £200. This being the first lot and largely experimental, the costs were much heavier than they are expected to be in future treatment.

#### *Gold Mining Leases.*

The area of land held under gold mining lease continues to grow. On July 10th, 1903, 2,026 leases were working, embracing 27,044 acres, while on the corresponding date of this year 2,146 leases existed, comprising an area of 28,350 acres. Since July the number of leases in existence has increased to 2,304, or a farther increase of 158 since June. It is pleasing to find that the agricultural capabilities of the soil of our goldfields are being tested, for though the results may not be so satisfactory as those obtained in more favoured districts where the annual rainfall is greater, the establishment of holdings of this description must add to the comfort of our goldfields residents.

#### *Mining Scandals.*

There can be no question that the mining scandals which have recently occurred with regard to West Australian mines have not only affected the investors in our mines, but likewise the value in the money markets of our State securities. If legislation can be devised to prevent or minimise the evil thus caused, and to

give adequate protection to *bona fide* investors, it will secure adoption by the Government, and will doubtless receive the unqualified support of Parliament. There can be no question that company shareholders can themselves do much to safeguard their own interests by discarding as directors or managers men whose reputations have been sullied by participation in the profits made by transactions which, though nefarious, cannot be punished by the criminal law.

#### *School of Mines.*

During the past year, a school of mines has been opened at Kalgoorlie. It is equipped with all necessary conveniences for students, and its usefulness will be enhanced in the immediate future by the erection of an electrical laboratory and a museum. Situated in the largest and most progressive and important mining centre in Australasia, where students have access to the most modern ore-reducing processes, there is every reason to believe that this institution will become the foremost of its kind in Australasia.

#### *Mines Water Supply.*

This branch is charged with the work of water supply outside the fields served by the Goldfields Water Supply Scheme, and has done good work during the past year. A pipe connection for the conveyance of water from the Norseman tank to the towns of Norseman and Princess Royal has been made. A similar scheme for the supply of water to the town of Menzies, and a pumping scheme for the supply of salt water to the mines near Menzies, have been established. Arrangements for the supply of fresh water to Cue and Day Dawn townsites have been made, and the work is nearly completed. It provides for the pumping of 40,000 gallons per day of eight hours, and the partial reticulation of the towns has been provided for.

#### *Land Settlement, Increase and Prospects.*

I may here state that the progress made in the important work of settling our lands during 1903-4 showed a remarkable increase over previous years. Conditional purchases approved last year numbered 3,569, representing 685,397 acres, compared with 2,543 comprising 398,542 acres, in 1902-3. The area selected under this

head was more than three times the size of that taken up in 1901-2. Homestead farms granted in 1903-4 were 1,589, with an area of 245,815 acres, as against 1,118 in 1902-3, covering 176,354 acres. Here the number approved last year was nearly four times as large as that for 1901-2. Of grazing leases 479 were issued in 1903-4, comprising 340,900 acres, as against 260 in 1902-3, representing 253,698 acres. Pastoral leases, embracing an area of 34,955,379 acres, were approved last year, compared with 29,535,831 acres in 1902-3. It is highly gratifying to observe that, while the country is expending a large sum annually in various ways for the purpose of securing the occupation of its unused lands, such a practical recognition of the value of those lands is being afforded. A few years ago the possibilities of agricultural development in this State were ridiculed by many of our citizens, as well as by the dwellers in other parts of Australia. To-day we find that the value of our landed industries is so thoroughly demonstrated that we are gaining accessions to our farming population continually from outside the State, while many of the dwellers in our towns are taking up selections and making themselves tillers of the soil instead of continuing to follow town employments.

MR. BURGESS: It is a pity you do not spend more money on it.

THE TREASURER: The Government are already making provision to do so.

#### *Agricultural Production, a Comparison.*

That the policy of the State has resulted in the encouragement of genuine settlement our agricultural statistics infallibly prove. The last harvest resulted in a wheat production of 1,876,000 bushels, nearly double that of 1903 (985,000 bushels). Hay amounting to 122,000 tons was produced this year, as against 94,000 tons in 1903. The last wheat yield, owing to improved methods and a splendid season, averaged two bushels per acre more than that of any other season during the past eight years. The regular rainfall giving immunity from drought, and the admirable climate enjoyed by this State, have placed it in the front of the other Australian States in the uniform excellence of its wheat

yields. During the ten years ending 1897, Western Australia and New South Wales both averaged 11 bushels per acre, being considerably above the other States; while for the five years ending 1902 this State averaged 10·82 bushels per acre, whilst New South Wales, which was second on the list, had an average of less than eight bushels. While we may reasonably rejoice in the marked progress that has been made in agricultural development, much yet remains to be done. In 1903, though we produced 25,000 tons of wheat, we imported 28,000 tons of milling products. We produced 161,000 bushels of oats, but imported nearly four times as much. We imported likewise three and a half million pounds of bacon and ham, five and three-quarter million pounds of butter, over one million pounds of cheese, nearly four and a half million pounds of condensed milk, one and a half million dozens of eggs, one and a half million pounds of frozen meat, over 8,800 head of cattle and 62,000 sheep for slaughter. These imports represent a total cash value of one and a quarter million pounds sterling, which would be available for circulation in the State if our settlers were able to completely supply the requirements of the home market. [MR. BURGESS: They will do so yet.] We look forward with confidence to the day when this State will, so far as foodstuffs are concerned, be entirely self-supporting. We have the land, and we possess all the machinery to assist in placing thereon and helping when there those adventurous workers who may make their way hither from less friendly shores.

#### *Agricultural Bank.*

The Agricultural Bank continued its useful work during the last year. Up to the 30th of June last, the total amount advanced to settlers amounted to £205,000; whilst advances authorised, but not then paid over, represented an additional sum of £105,650. Altogether, therefore, the provision made for the financial assistance of our farmers reaches the sum of £310,650. By this aid improvements have been effected in the shape of clearing 110,281 acres, cultivating 76,493 acres, ringbarking 97,273 acres, fencing 51,919 chains, together with drainage, erection of buildings, etc.,

aggregating £377,080; and improvements are now in progress which are estimated to cost a farther sum of £129,887. There have also been advances made to pay off liabilities and to assist in the purchase of stock, plant, and fertilisers, the total amount thus provided being £29,122. There can be no doubt that the establishment of this Bank has rendered, under the careful control of its manager, most valuable aid to the farmers at a moderate rate which is sufficient, however, to make it self-supporting.

#### *Immigration.*

The necessity of encouraging immigrants of suitable class to come hither is recognised by every person who gives any thought to public questions. It is only by means of large accessions of population from outside that the immense resources of this State can be adequately developed. With an area approximating one million square miles, containing rich mineral fields, enormous areas suitable for agricultural, pastoral, and viticultural pursuits, and with that variety of climate essential to the utmost variety of production, we have but the meagre population of 242,000. Our net increase of population last financial year was 16,011, the larger proportion of immigrants coming from the Eastern States. In ten years, from 1892 to 1901, Western Australia increased its population by 123,280 from the excess of arrivals over departures, while Australia as a whole only gained an increase of 3,090. In the years 1902 and 1903 the Commonwealth suffered a net loss of 4,965 persons by excess of departures over arrivals, although during that period this State gained an accession of 25,723. It is obvious, therefore, that the gravest necessity exists for endeavouring to encourage immigration from the older countries in the interest of all the Commonwealth. Although hundreds of thousands of immigrants are leaving Europe each year, the geographical position of Australia makes it necessary that special efforts should be made to divert a reasonable proportion of these people towards our shores, if we desire to secure them as colonists. The energetic immigration work done by Canada, added to its proximity and the similarity of its climate to that of Northern

Europe, is a heavy handicap to any attempt made to obtain new colonists for Australia. An additional handicap is found in the number of immigrants from Europe who have friends and relatives in Canada and the United States. To a great proportion of the population of Great Britain—much more so of other countries—Australia is still a *terra incognita*; and this is particularly the case so far as the rural population is concerned. Yet it is from this source that the immigrants we desire should be recruited. For eight months ending 31st August last, so far as European immigration is concerned we suffered a net loss of 83. Mr. Walter James, our new Agent General and Commercial Agent, has arrived in England fully convinced of the desirability of adopting some new method of seeking new settlers from the farming populations of the old world. It is hoped that after inquiry he will be prepared to bring forward some valuable suggestions. For this year the provision made for immigration shows an increase of £500 over last year's vote. The sum available, £2,500, would be quite inadequate to meet the expense of any thorough system, but I am confident that Parliament would readily agree to supplement it to any necessary extent. The new Agent General and Commercial Agent devoted considerable time before leaving Perth to the special work of adding to his already large knowledge of the State by the acquirement of detailed information on all subjects likely to come under his attention; so that he is liberally equipped for the duty of advertising the State's requirements and resources. Arrangements have been made to keep him supplied with details of new developments which may occur, and if it be found necessary Parliament will be asked to authorise the establishment of a Bureau of Information, so that this work will be more efficiently performed.

#### *Trade, Imports and Exports.*

The total value of our trade imports for 1903 amounted to £6,769,922, or £30 14s. 9d. per head, as compared with £34 16s. 11d. in 1902, representing a decrease of £4 2s. 2d. per head. Our exports for last year were £10,324,732, or £46 17s. 7d. per head, as against £43 13s. 11d. in 1902, showing an increase

per head in exports of £3 3s. 8d. The total value of our trade per head is no less than £77 12s. 4d. The diminution in the value of our imports and the increase of our exports alike serve to indicate the steady progress of our development. It is interesting to note in this connection that our principal port, Fremantle, ranks as the third port in Australia according to the value of trade. There are no export statistics available in regard to inter-State trade since December last; but it is satisfactory to know that the export trade in timber for the first six months of this year amounted to £332,000, being an increase of £41,000 over the corresponding period of last year. The import statistics for the half-year ending in June show a farther encouraging decline of £23,000.

#### *State Savings Bank Extensions.*

The opening of separate Savings Bank agencies at the larger centres has necessarily involved a large expenditure, which, however, has been fully justified by the returns. The profit on the Bank operations carried to revenue for the year ended in June last amounted to nearly £8,000. Separate agencies are now in existence at Fremantle, Kalgoorlie, Boulder, Coolgardie, and Geraldton. A new and commodious building has been erected in Fremantle for the transaction of Savings Bank business. In some localities the existing Government accommodation has been availed of for this purpose. At Kalgoorlie and Boulder it is proposed to erect suitable premises. In Perth the late Legislative Assembly Chamber is being transformed into a suitable banking hall, which will be the headquarters of the State's Savings Bank system. The Savings Bank estimates for this year include a large sum as proportion of salaries of district postmasters employed in Savings Bank work. This money is payable to the Commonwealth, which has only lately made a claim on us; hence the accumulation of several years' liabilities on this account burdens our Estimates. The Savings Bank transactions may be taken as a fair index of the financial position of the people. During the year 1903-4 the progress was substantial. The number of accounts increased during the year by 6,865, the proportion of depositors to the

total population increased by 1·65 per cent., and the grand total of deposits by over £90,000. The utility of the institution to the depositor is demonstrated by the extent to which it is availed of. While substantial interest is guaranteed him, its payment and the repayment of the principal is backed by the credit of the State. The value of the Savings Bank to the State is shown by the fact that over £900,000 of its funds had been to the 30th June last utilised in carrying out our public works policy, over £400,000 in purchasing and developing the metropolitan waterworks, £212,000 in making advances to settlers under the Agricultural Bank Act, £72,000 in purchasing agricultural estates for subdivision and sale to small settlers, and £145,000 in the final works carried out in connection with the Goldfields Water Scheme.

#### *State Railways, comparative Results.*

The State Railways are working very satisfactorily. The gross earnings per train mile run during the year increased from 80·85 pence to 82·96 pence, while the working expenses decreased from 64·95 pence to 61·62 pence, the result being an increase of net earnings per mile from 15·9 to 21·34 pence during the year. This is very encouraging, and indicates that great care is being exercised in the management of the railways. The increase of railway revenue for the year as compared with that for 1902-3 was £14,000; but this was practically augmented by a decrease of expenditure, as compared with the previous year, of £47,000. After paying working expenses, also £24,000 for new works and improvements, and £34,000 for replacing obsolete rolling-stock, there was a surplus returned to the revenue on the year's transactions of our working railways of £308,588, which is nearly £56,000 in excess of our actual interest bill for the year on the capital cost of the railways. The gross earnings for the last financial year were £1,588,084, an increase of £34,599 over the previous year, whilst the working expenses were £1,179,624, a decrease of £68,249 on the year 1902-3. The revenue from traffic showed an increase in all items but "miscellaneous," in which a decrease of £33,481 occurred, owing to the wharves and jetties having

been handed over to the Harbour Trust Commissioners. Six months' revenue from that source was included in the 1902-3 returns, but nothing in 1903-4. There is every reason to anticipate a large increase in railway revenue during the current year. It is anticipated that the harvest will result in a substantial increase over that of last season, and this must of itself result in a heavy addition to the railway receipts. In the direct revenue and indirect advantages the State will gain more from the enlarged production than it will lose by the operation of the sliding scale of inter-State duties.

*Goldfields Water Supply, Use of Surplus.*

Turning to the Goldfields Water Supply, although this scheme is not at present fully remunerative, the area of its usefulness has been considerably extended. Recently arrangements have been made for the sole supply of water to mines and batteries at Southern Cross to be obtained from this source, and a considerable increase of revenue is expected during the current year. During the past two winters millions of gallons of splendid water have run to waste from the weir at Mundaring, while residents within a few miles of its site have been in need of a proper supply. The Government are now busy preparing plans for the supply of Midland Junction and Guildford from the Mundaring Weir; and the desirability of laying down a flume sufficient to ultimately extend the supply towards Perth, or indeed to partly provide the metropolis itself from that source, is now receiving the attention of the departmental engineers. The Government desire to provide an efficient supply for the metropolis without having recourse to artesian sources. It is recognised that the supply available is far more than is necessary to meet the present requirements of the goldfields, and the advantage to be gained by the sale of the surplus is obvious. When the Loan Estimates are brought forward the proposal for meeting the requirements of Midland Junction and Guildford will be embodied in them. Apart from the need to make reasonable provision for the people in those towns, there is a pressing necessity to supply water in sufficient quantities for railway purposes at the former place. In

any scheme submitted due care will be taken to conserve for goldfields use an adequate supply for all requirements. It is very essential that special efforts should be put forward to so utilise the splendid supply at our disposal as to make the scheme self supporting.

*Public Works Expenditure, past year.*

The estimated expenditure of the Public Works Department for the present financial year is £387,857, a considerable reduction upon the estimates and upon the expenditure for last year. It has been impossible to consider the construction of revenue-earning works from Consolidated Funds, but the discrepancy between the vote for this year and the annual expenditure is not so great as it may appear at first sight. For 1903-4, £602,978 was provided, but the underdrafts amounted to £176,340, and the overdrafts reached £11,958; or a net underdraft on works of £164,382. The expenditure of the department is shown to have been £518,109; but this included two large items not embraced in the estimate of £602,978, namely purchase of land at Fremantle £47,370, and construction of rabbit proof fences £26,784, or a total of £74,104. Deducting this from the expenditure of £518,109, it shows that of the £602,978 only £444,005 was expended on the works authorised. There were other small sums spent similarly which need not be specified. Over £79,000 was spent upon railway construction, which brings the balance of expenditure on public works items similar to those provided for this year to about £365,000—a smaller sum than that available for expenditure this financial year. In 1902-3, £519,162 was provided on the Public Works Estimates, but the expenditure for that year was £157,966 less; hence the sum actually expended was £361,196, or £26,661 less than that proposed for the current year. Seeing that 1902-3 closed with a surplus of £231,659, it may surely be urged that if £361,196 was an adequate sum to expend through the Public Works Department in that year, £387,857 is all that we are justified in spending in 1904-5. Every effort will be made by the Government to utilise within the year the full amount of the vote granted.



*Revenue and Taxation.*

The words "revenue" and "taxation" are frequently used by persons dealing with Australian public finance as if they were synonymous. This is far from being the case, more particularly in Western Australia. From a revenue of £3,550,016 received last year it will be observed that the following items represented the earnings of public works or services, quite distinct from any form of taxation:—Land revenue, £169,192; mining, £44,027.

MR. MORAN: Land revenue is not revenue at all. It is from the purchase of land, is it not?

THE TREASURER: Portion of it is from the sale of land, but it represents a value given in exchange for the money received. State batteries, £56,679; railways, £1,610,394; tramways, £2,214; water supply, £78,259; Mint, £37,545; other public works and services, £17,406; reimbursements in aid, £79,340; total, £2,095,056. Portions of several other items could be added, but this alone reduces the taxation imposed by the State and Commonwealth to £1,454,960, and indicates how utterly misleading is the practice frequently adopted of dividing the gross revenue by the total population for the purpose of discovering our taxation per head.

*Loan Works and Policy.*

I wish to repeat and emphasise the words uttered by Mr. James Gardiner last year, when delivering his Budget speech. He said:—

It seems to me that the present is a fitting opportunity to strike a strong blow at the generally accepted idea which had practically become a faith, that Australia can only prosper by huge borrowings. Too frequently huge borrowing leads to that prosperity which we know is unstable, and carries with it the strongest possible germs of corresponding depression, which in turn has to be relieved by farther borrowing.

Assuming the money market to be favourable, it seems to me that Western Australia cannot afford, without ultimate danger to her own prosperity, to borrow large sums annually. Apart from moneys available from Consolidated Fund for the construction of works calculated to assist in development, small borrowings should suffice to insure legitimate progress. There has grown up in the minds of

many British investors the idea that all Australian States have over-borrowed. The best way to destroy that impression is by the States themselves setting a strict limit to their applications for money. The object of borrowing should be strictly borne in mind when discussing loan proposals. Loan moneys should be expended solely on such works as tend to open up the country or assist in the development of industries. As far as practicable the money borrowed should be made to earn interest, and if possible sinking fund. It is bad policy to pledge the credit of the State for work of purely local character which can be financed without resort to State aid.

MR. MORAN: Why do you not quote Sir John Forrest, for a change?

THE TREASURER: Most critical examination is required by each proposal for loan expenditure recommended to Parliament before it is finally adopted. This is more particularly the case so far as railway propositions are concerned, because the clamour and persistence of the persons interested may lead to the adoption of the least advantageous proposition. When the general purpose for which a railway is urged has been approved, and its construction resolved upon, there frequently arises some doubt as to the precise line of route. Here, again, success may be attained by those advocating a route which will serve the largest private interests, but may not conduce in the fullest degree to the fartherance of State purposes.

*Non-political Railway Board, a proposal.*

It seems to me desirable, for the purpose of giving to the public the most complete assurance possible that money devoted to railway construction shall be wisely expended, that a non-political board should be constituted to report upon the general question of either agricultural railways or railways likely to farther mining development; and to report specifically upon any individual railway project that may be referred to it. Such board, consisting of experts in railway construction, railway traffic, and either land settlement or mining, according to the nature of the country to be traversed by the proposed railways, would not relieve Parliament of its duty to thoroughly investigate the probable results before

authorising expenditure, but would enable members to acquire facts and figures they could accept with certainty, instead of leaving them no alternative but the acceptance of those statements which, in a conflict of evidence, seem most probable. It is the intention of the Government to submit without delay a Bill to authorise the establishment of a board similar to that indicated, with the object of obtaining the reports necessary on such railway schemes as may seem to justify inquiry.

MR. GREGORY: A parliamentary board?

THE TREASURER: Not a parliamentary board, but a non-political board.

#### *Loan Raising.*

On the question of loan raising, I cannot agree with the view that the Australian money market can supply this State with such funds as it may desire to borrow. It may be possible during the course of any given year to obtain half a million pounds; but if the money reaches us in comparatively small amounts, month by month, its value is considerably discounted by the uncertainty under which we labour. We have heavy payments to meet in London each year in providing sinking fund and interest, in addition to any amounts that may be required to pay for goods indented through the Agent General. It must be more advantageous to find in England the money to meet our engagements there if it is obtainable on anything like as favourable terms as we can procure it in Australia, because the cost of remittance alone represents on the average a loss of 1 per cent. There is a farther consideration affecting local loans which has an important bearing, that is the question whether the use for Government purposes of local funds does not prejudicially affect development by diverting into that channel a large amount of capital, some portion of which might otherwise find investment in enterprises which would assist in the establishment or growth of some of our industries. There is a strong opinion held by some of our financial authorities to this effect, and it supplies a farther reason for hesitating to utilise the local money market unless the most urgent reasons exist for doing so.

#### *Works in Progress.*

Turning from the question of loans to that of loan works, I may briefly refer to works at present in progress, and one of the most important of these is the construction and completion of the Midland Workshops. On these shops Parliament authorised an expenditure of about £455,000; as the work progressed it was found that a saving of about 10 per cent. on the estimated cost could be made. This saving, however, has been almost absorbed by extensive additions to buildings and plant. The £91,000 provided on this year's Loan Estimates will complete the work, and it is anticipated that the shops will be handed over to the Working Railways department in December.

#### *Mt. Malcolm to Laverton Railway.*

With this work good progress is being made, and through delays which were caused by the non-arrival of permanent way material, an extension of four weeks' time has been allowed the contractor within which to complete his work. This means that the Working Railways will take control on or about 1st February next year. The expenditure this year will amount to £53,000, which will include £20,000 for a water-supply tank. The line when completed will have cost the sum of £197,000.

#### *Rabbit-proof Fence.*

The rabbit-proof fence is now well in hand. There are eight construction parties and three survey parties out, employing at the present time 429 men. There are 865 miles erected, and there remain 1,005 miles to be erected. The total estimated cost to complete the fence is £300,000. The estimated expenditure for this financial year is £100,000. The total expenditure up to date, including the amount originally spent by the Lands Department, is £109,000.

#### *Fremantle Harbour.*

In regard to the Fremantle Harbour, the work now in progress includes the erection of two more large transit sheds, with the necessary substructure and the raising and strengthening of the wharf, the estimated cost of which is about £30,000. When this work is completed it is anticipated that the harbour will have sufficient shipping and storage

accommodation to meet the requirements for several years to come.

*Foreshore Reclamation, Perth.*

In connection with the foreshore reclamation on the river Swan at Perth, to complete one portion of this work, which includes the necessary squaring up of the reclamation and the construction of the Barrack Street wharf, it is necessary to expend £14,000. In the complete scheme it is proposed to greatly increase and improve the accommodation at and around the William Street jetty, but the Government do not propose to start this portion during the present financial year.

*New Works Proposed—Fremantle Dock.*

Under the head of new works, I may deal first with the proposed Fremantle Dock. Although a considerable amount of information has been obtained in connection with this work, the Government are not yet in a position to make a definite decision as to the type of dock, or to arrive at an estimate of its probable cost. These difficulties will, however, be speedily overcome when Mr. Palmer, the late Engineer-in-Chief, completes the investigations he is making in England. Cables have been sent to him urging expedition, as the Government desire to be in a position to place their recommendation on this subject before Parliament when introducing the Loan Estimates. Recognising the importance of our shipping trade and the necessity that exists for the provision of a dock as well as the probability of this work proving remunerative, the Government desire, as soon as the needful data are forthcoming, to obtain authority to put the work in hand.

*Collie-Narrogin and Jandakot Railways, Metropolitan Water Supply.*

In connection with the Collie-Narrogin Railway, the rails and fastenings for this line are now on order, and it is intended to hasten construction of about 25 miles, starting at Narrogin, with the least possible delay. This will meet the demand for the line upon the ground of its necessity as a means of opening up the valuable agricultural country there, and will facilitate the settlement of land in that district. The final survey of the Jandakot Railway is being completed, and the rails and fastenings having been ordered, the

Government anticipate making an early start with the construction of this line, which is estimated to cost £26,000. The reticulation of Midland Junction and Guildford with water drawn from Mundaring Weir will likewise be recommended to Parliament when the Loan Estimates are submitted.

*Loan Moneys received since June.*

There is doubtless some desire on the part of this Committee to know precisely the amount of subscriptions in connection with the last loan received during the present financial year. The figures for each expired month are as follow:—July, inscribed stock issued £34,500, debentures nil, total £34,500; August, inscribed stock £13,915, debentures £15,250, total £29,165.

MR. MORAN: Is that on that prospectus loan?

THE TREASURER: Yes.

MR. MORAN: It is fizzling out by degrees, then.

THE TREASURER: The complete issue is very nearly made. There is a small balance available for subscription at the present moment. September, inscribed stock £16,345, debentures £2,000, total £18,345; October, inscribed stock £39,035, debentures £1,200, total £40,235; making a total of inscribed stock issued for the four months £103,795, debentures £18,450, and a complete total of £122,245. It will be observed that the receipts on this account for October exceeded by a considerable amount those of any other month for this year; an indication, it may be hoped, that money is becoming more plentiful than it has been in the immediately preceding period.

*Loan Expenditure since June.*

The expenditure charged to Loan Fund during the four months just expired was as follows: July £21,168, August £63,553, September £33,842, October £29,739, making a total of £148,303. It will, therefore, be seen that for the four months ending October our expenditure from loan exceeded the receipts by a little over £26,000.

*Financial Arrangements, 1904-5.*

Taking control of the Treasury at a time when there was a substantial debit balance on the General

Loan Account, I made prompt inquiries regarding the possibilities of immediately issuing a new loan. I found the Agent General already armed with the needful authority, but our financial advisers concurred with him in regarding the time as inopportune. I have been in constant communication with our London representative since my term of office began. Hon. members are already aware that the London and Westminster Bank had allowed us to overdraw to the extent of £250,000, on payment of current bank rates, with a minimum charge of  $3\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. To protect this State against a continued stringency in the money market I arranged for the increase of this overdraft to £500,000 if required, on condition that Treasury bills for that amount should be available, not to be issued before the 1st February next, if the conditions were still unfavourable to placing a loan; only one-half of the Treasury bills to be issued then, and this to be subject to the approval of the Agent General; the bills to bear interest at 4 per cent., and to have a currency of three years, but the overdraft, pending their issue, to be charged for at the existing rate. In addition to this I have arranged through the Agent General for the issue of Treasury bills to the amount of £500,000 as from the 1st January next, to bear interest at 4 per cent., and to have a currency of four years; the net price realised by the State, free of all charges, being £97 7s. 6d. In view of the fact that stock or debentures issued locally at par are worth to us when the proceeds have reached London £98 or a little less, and that the amounts raised thus have for some time past been insufficient to meet loan expenditure, I feel that the terms arranged are highly satisfactory. The possibility of a European war in which Great Britain might be involved, which has several times lately seemed even a probability, rendered it essential that if practicable the State should have funds available to enable it to carry on works already in hand or authorised, independent of all contingencies. The following facts warrant me, apart from this consideration, in feeling gratification at the terms arranged. In August last the New Zealand Government sold in London Treasury bills at 4 per cent., to the value of £320,000.

The accruing interest paid upon them was  $1\frac{3}{4}$  per cent., the currency of the bills being  $4\frac{1}{2}$  years. The total cost of issue was, I am advised, about  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent., representing a net amount receivable of nearly £2 per cent. less than that arranged for by this State. In New South Wales, again, the Government in 1899 issued about £4,000,000 worth of Treasury bills, half bearing interest at  $3\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. and half at 4 per cent. In order to provide for redemption of those bills, authority has been obtained for a farther issue, the new bills to have a currency of five years, and to bear interest at not more than 5 per cent.

#### *Concluding Remarks.*

I have to thank members for the manner in which they have borne with my delivery of this Budget Speech; a delivery that I feel satisfied must have been considerably irksome to them, owing to the very extensive use of notes essential in order accurately to explain the position as it appeared to me. I wish, in conclusion, to point out that we are the fortunate possessors of a State enormous in extent, rich in every description of mineral wealth, blessed with large tracts of fertile land ready to produce rich harvests for the tiller of the soil, with magnificent stretches of pastoral country capable of carrying herds of cattle many times exceeding the requirements of our people; great timber areas, many of them still thickly covered with the best hardwoods known; with our own pearl beds in the ocean near our coasts. Favoured by a bountiful Providence with these many varied gifts, can anyone doubt our future prosperity as a State? Our destiny is in our own hands. If as a people we combine righteousness with energy, and as legislators wisdom with care, there may be built up here a State great in wealth, in knowledge, and in the happiness of its members. I beg leave to move the first item on the Estimates, "His Excellency the Governor."

On motion by MR. RASON, debate adjourned until the next Tuesday.

Progress reported, and leave given to sit again.

At 21 minutes to 10 o'clock, the House adjourned until the next afternoon.

**APPENDIX—RETURNS Nos. 1 to 12, referred to in the  
Treasurer's Financial Statement.**

**Return No. 1.****RECEIPTS, 1903-4.**

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
The Treasurer's estimate for the year ending						
30th June, 1904, was ... ..	3,613,200	0	0			
The actual amount received was ... ..	3,550,016	0	7			
Or a total net over-estimate of ... ..				£63,183	19	5

*The over-estimates were—*

Net Commonwealth Revenue ... ..	69,755	11	1			
Mining Revenue ... ..	1,738	0	0			
Licenses ... ..	2,484	9	1			
Fees of Public Offices ... ..	1,872	7	5			
Rottnest Establishment ... ..	564	6	7			
Railway Receipts ... ..	18,606	5	5			
Tramway Receipts ... ..	285	18	10			
Stamp Revenue ... ..	7,231	18	5			
Interest ... ..	7,277	15	5			
Water Receipts ... ..	2,440	15	9			
				112,257	8	0

*The under-estimates were—*

Harbour Dues ... ..	10,047	7	9			
Land Revenue ... ..	6,237	17	0			
Fines, Forfeitures, and Fees of Court ... ..	7,945	18	4			
Reimbursements-in-aid ... ..	3,208	6	9			
Educational Receipts ... ..	502	12	9			
Dividend Duties ... ..	15,071	7	10			
Miscellaneous Receipts ... ..	6,059	18	2			
				49,073	8	7
				£63,183	19	5

**Return No. 2.****EXPENDITURE, 1903-4.**

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
The Treasurer's estimate for the year ending						
1903-4 was ... ..	3,843,347	16	2			
The actual expenditure was ... ..	3,698,312	0	6			
Or an over-estimate of expenditure of ... ..				£145,035	15	8

RETURN NO. 2.—EXPENDITURE, 1903-4—continued.

<i>The over-estimates were—</i>					£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
His Excellency the Governor	...	...	...	...	241	8	10			
Executive Council	...	...	...	...	0	1	3			
Attorney General	...	...	...	...	2,267	15	5			
Colonial Secretary and Minister for Education	...	...	...	...	3,952	3	7			
Minister for Lands	...	...	...	...	5,813	16	10			
Minister for Works and Railways	...	...	...	...	156,503	19	10			
					<hr/>			168,779	5	9
<i>The under-estimates were—</i>										
Special Acts	...	...	...	...	1,073	15	8			
Legislative Council	...	...	...	...	26	15	8			
Legislative Assembly	...	...	...	...	22	17	1			
Minister for Mines	...	...	...	...	6,401	8	7			
Colonial Treasurer	...	...	...	...	16,218	13	1			
					<hr/>			23,743	10	1
								<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
								£145,035	15	8
 Over-estimate of Expenditure					...	...	...	145,035	15	8
Do. of Revenue					...	...	...	63,183	19	5
					<hr/>			£81,851	16	3
Surplus estimated to be in hand at end of year								1,511	16	6
					<hr/>			£83,363	12	9

**CONSOLIDATED REVENUE.**

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Revenue ... ..	3,550,016	0	7			
Add surplus from 1902-3	231,659	12	8			
	<hr/>					
	3,781,675	13	3			
Expenditure ... ..	3,698,312	0	6			
	<hr/>					
Surplus as above	...			£83,363	12	9

## Return No. 3.

### SYNOPSIS OF BALANCE SHEET 1903-4.

Dr.		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Balance on year	... ..	83,363	12	9			
Sinking Fund	... ..	861,299	10	0			
London and Westminster Bank	... ..	60,000	0	0			
Savings Bank	... ..	2,087,674	13	4			
Trust and Deposit Accounts	... ..	840,874	8	11			
					£3,983,212	5	0



Return No. 5.

HOW LOANS EXPENDED UP TO 30TH JUNE, 1904.

Public Works.	Total Flotations as charged to Public Works.	Actual Cash Spent.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Railways and Tramways ... ..	9,191,677 2 8	9,050,706 14 11
Telegraphs ... ..	276,726 13 1	269,807 13 5
Harbour and River Improvements ... ..	2,104,034 0 2	2,057,778 4 3
Public Buildings ... ..	65,564 19 1	63,876 4 8
Coolgardie Water Scheme ... ..	2,908,154 4 7	2,686,019 6 3
Water Supply generally, and Sewerage ... ..	218,548 13 4	187,222 0 8
Development of Goldfields and Mineral Resources ... ..	880,502 17 4	864,713 15 10
Roads and Bridges ... ..	144,343 6 0	142,537 14 11
Development of Agriculture ... ..	394,808 19 3	394,886 5 9
Immigration ... ..	28,268 2 9	28,083 0 0
Miscellaneous ... ..	63,359 9 0	63,351 19 11
Cost of raising, etc. £610,061 11 10		
Less Cash overdrawn 142,558 5 2		
	...	467,503 6 8
	£16,275,988 7 3	£16,275,988 7 3

Return No. 6.

ACTUAL INDEBTEDNESS OF LOAN WORKS ON 30TH JUNE, 1904.

	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Railways and Tramways ... ..	9,069,764 18 9	
Telegraphs ... ..	245,076 19 5	
Harbour and River Improvements ... ..	2,084,596 2 0	
Public Buildings ... ..	62,876 0 1	
Coolgardie Water Scheme ... ..	2,908,154 4 7	
Water Supply Generally and Sewerage ... ..	218,350 13 6	
Development of Goldfields and Mineral Re- sources ... ..	880,502 17 4	
Roads and Bridges ... ..	134,530 0 7	
Development of Agriculture ... ..	394,808 19 3	
Immigration ... ..	28,268 2 9	
Miscellaneous ... ..	63,359 9 0	
		£16,090,288 7 3
Actual Indebtedness ... ..	16,090,288 7 3	
Debentures redeemed ... ..	185,700 0 0	
Balancing to Total Flotations ... ..	£16,275,988 7 3	



**Return No. 7.****ESTIMATED REVENUE FOR YEAR ENDING 30TH JUNE, 1905.**

	Actual Revenue, 1903-4.	Estimated Revenue, 1904-5.
	£	£
Licenses ... ..	31,946	32,875
Dividend Duties ... ..	125,072	115,000
Stamp Revenue ... ..	55,768	57,000
Probate Duty ... ..	21,759	15,000
Land ... ..	169,192	190,200
Mining ... ..	44,027	43,550
Railways and Tramways ... ..	1,612,608	1,622,500
State Batteries ... ..	56,679	64,000
Smelting Works ... ..	...	75,000
Water Supply ... ..	78,259	109,900
Harbour Dues ... ..	64,047	65,000
Royal Mint ... ..	37,545	29,000
Other Public Works and Services ... ..	17,406	19,800
Reimbursements-in-Aid ... ..	79,340	111,525
Fees of Public Offices ... ..	42,772	42,830
Law Courts ... ..	21,187	23,000
Miscellaneous ... ..	27,165	25,300
Commonwealth ... ..	1,065,244	1,036,259
	3,550,016	3,677,739
Surplus from 1903-4 ... ..	...	83,364
		£3,761,103

**Return No. 8.****ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE, YEAR ENDING 30TH JUNE, 1905.**

	Actual Expenditure, 1903-4.	Estimated Expenditure, 1904-5.
	£	£
Expenditure provided by Special Acts ...	785,067	835,158
His Excellency the Governor ... ..	1,482	1,488
The Executive Council ... ..	110	110
The Legislative Council ... ..	2,007	2,097
The Legislative Assembly ... ..	5,414	5,916
The Joint Houses of Parliament ... ..	4,992	5,607
The Colonial Treasurer ... ..	236,414	228,185
The Minister for Education ... ..	133,337	153,400
The Minister for Mines ... ..	198,157	281,307
The Minister for Justice ... ..	62,160	62,228
The Minister for Lands ... ..	169,114	205,323
The Minister for Works ... ..	518,109	387,857
The Colonial Secretary ... ..	350,295	353,309
The Minister for Railways ... ..	1,228,235	1,286,509
The Minister for Labour ... ..	3,415	5,330
	3,698,312	3,813,824
Estimated Deficit ... ..	...	52,721
	£	3,761,103

## Return No. 9.

ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE ON ADMINISTRATION; ALSO RECURRING AND  
REVENUE-PRODUCING EXPENDITURE FOR YEAR ENDING 30TH JUNE, 1905.

SPECIAL ACTS—					£	£
H.E. the Governor, Ministers' Salaries, etc.	...	...	...	...	11,400	
Aborigines	...	...	...	...	5,000	
Auditor General	...	...	...	...	800	
Annuities	...	...	...	...	400	
Commissioner of Railways	...	...	...	...	1,500	
High School	...	...	...	...	1,000	
Judges	...	...	...	...	7,100	
Judges' Pensions	...	...	...	...	850	
Payment of Members	...	...	...	...	14,000	
Pensions and Retiring Allowances	...	...	...	...	9,750	
Public Service Commissioner	...	...	...	...	583	
						52,383
Aborigines	...	...	...	...	9,000	
Government House	...	...	...	...	1,488	
Executive Council	...	...	...	...	110	
Legislative Council	...	...	...	...	2,097	
Legislative Assembly	...	...	...	...	5,916	
Joint Houses	...	...	...	...	5,607	
Treasury	...	...	...	...	12,524	
Audit Department	...	...	...	...	9,230	
Compassionate Allowances	...	...	...	...	1,262	
General Stores Department	...	...	...	...	1,906	
London Agency	...	...	...	...	5,946	
Photo-Lithographic	...	...	...	...	5,099	
Printing	...	...	...	...	34,030	
Refunds	...	...	...	...	2,000	
Parliamentary Expenses	...	...	...	...	1,030	
Royal Commissions	...	...	...	...	4,575	
Law Costs	...	...	...	...	4,000	
London and Westminster Bank Commission	...	...	...	...	4,200	
Mailboat Subsidy, Geraldton	...	...	...	...	5,500	
Cost of Government Gazette	...	...	...	...	2,300	
Interest	...	...	...	...	3,000	
Incidentals	...	...	...	...	11,701	
Education	...	...	...	...	153,400	
Mines	...	...	...	...	61,192	
Geological Survey	...	...	...	...	5,890	
Explosives	...	...	...	...	4,505	
Crown Law Department	...	...	...	...	6,355	
Land Titles	...	...	...	...	10,340	
Stipendiary Magistracy	...	...	...	...	28,480	
Supreme Court	...	...	...	...	16,253	
Trade Marks	...	...	...	...	800	
Lands and Surveys	...	...	...	...	143,461	
Woods and Forests	...	...	...	...	4,798	
Agriculture	...	...	...	...	20,259	
Rabbits	...	...	...	...	17,964	
Carried forward					606,218	52,383

RETURN NO. 9.—ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE ON ADMINISTRATION, ETC—*continued.*

	£	£
Brought forward ... ..	606,218	52,383
Stock ... ..	7,446	
Agricultural Bank ... ..	2,685	
Public Works and Buildings ... ..	83,707	
Colonial Secretary ... ..	2,973	
Charities ... ..	8,047	
Electoral ... ..	8,265	
Fisheries ... ..	3,560	
Gaols ... ..	30,953	
Government Gardens ... ..	3,102	
Harbour and Light ... ..	15,320	
Observatory ... ..	3,623	
Police ... ..	126,732	
Public Health ... ..	6,968	
Registry ... ..	8,430	
Rottneſt Eſtabliſhment ... ..	1,295	
Labour ... ..	5,330	
		924,654
Administration and Recurring Expenditure ...	...	977,037
REVENUE PRODUCING EXPENDITURE :		
Royal Mint ... ..	20,000	
Post Office Savings Bank ... ..	14,440	
Gwalia Hotel ... ..	5,000	
State Batteries ... ..	63,530	
Water Supply ... ..	35,208	
Smelting Works ... ..	38,000	
Refrigerating Works ... ..	3,410	
Railways and Tramways ... ..	1,207,178	
		1,386,766
Total Administration and Recurring Expenditure (State) ... ..	...	2,363,803
Add Commonwealth ... ..	...	364,028
Total Administration (including Commonwealth) ...	...	£2,727,831

Return No. 10.

ESTIMATED GENERAL EXPENDITURE FOR YEAR ENDING 30TH JUNE, 1905.

	£	£
Interest on Public Debt ... ..	570,281	
Sinking Fund ... ..	192,494	
		762,775
<b>PUBLIC WORKS—</b>		
Water Supply ... ..	20,470	
Grants to Road Boards ... ..	65,000	
Roads, Revotes ... ..	9,334	
Do. New ... ..	24,340	
Bridges, Revotes ... ..	15,886	
Do. New ... ..	5,540	
Harbours and Rivers, Revotes ... ..	18,956	
Erection of State Batteries ... ..	30,000	
Do. Smelting Works ... ..	6,650	
Purchase of Copper Ore ... ..	30,000	
Development of Mining ... ..	7,000	
New Railway Works and Improvements ... ..	32,167	
Vacuum Train Pipes to complete Trucks ... ..	14,000	
Replacing obsolete Rolling Stock ... ..	40,331	
		319,674
<b>PUBLIC BUILDINGS—</b>		
Court Houses, etc. ... ..	17,568	
Hospitals ... ..	32,485	
Gaols and Quarters ... ..	9,940	
Industrial Schools ... ..	290	
Police Stations and Quarters ... ..	12,022	
Government House ... ..	236	
Mint ... ..	440	
Schools ... ..	41,671	
Mines ... ..	2,819	
Lands ... ..	3,100	
Generally ... ..	13,718	
		134,289
Subsidy to Municipalities ... ..	...	70,450
Immigration ... ..	...	2,500
Carried forward ... ..	...	1,289,688

RETURN NO. 10.—ESTIMATED GENERAL EXPENDITURE, ETC.—*continued.*

	£	£
Brought forward ... ..	...	1,289,688
<b>CHARITABLE AND OTHER GRANTS—</b>		
Hospitals, etc. ... ..	96,591	
Charities: In-door and Out-door Relief, and Assistance to Orphanages, etc. ...	24,450	
Agricultural Societies ... ..	2,800	
Sanitation Grants to Local Boards ...	1,500	
Mechanics' Institutes ... ..	4,500	
Marsupials, Wild Dogs, etc. ... ..	2,500	
Literary and Scientific ... ..	12,175	
Fire Brigades ... ..	1,575	
Recreation Reserves ... ..	8,156	
Benevolent Grants ... ..	5,186	
Cemeteries ... ..	700	
National Grants ... ..	200	
		160,333
Total State ... ..	...	1,450,021
Add Commonwealth ... ..	...	50,411
Total General Expenditure in State by State and Commonwealth ... ..	...	£1,500,432

## Return No. 11.

## TOTAL EXPENDITURE THIS YEAR.

*Summary of Estimated State and Commonwealth Expenditure (in the State) for the Year ending 30th June, 1905.*

	£	£
<b>Administration, etc.—</b>		
State ... ..	2,363,803	
Commonwealth ... ..	364,028	
		2,727,831
<b>General Expenditure—</b>		
State ... ..	1,450,021	
Commonwealth ... ..	50,411	
		1,500,432
<b>TOTAL ... ..</b>	...	£4,228,263

## Return No. 12.

## STATEMENT SHOWING NET RESULT FOR 1903-4 OF WORKING THE STATE'S CHIEF TRADING CONCERNS, CAPITAL OF WHICH HAS BEEN MAINLY SUPPLIED BY LOANS.

Trading Concern.	Capital Cost.		The Year's Charge on Revenue.				Direct Revenue produced.		Net Profit or Loss after deducting working expenses and interest on capital.	
	Loans.	Other.	Interest on Capital.		Working Expenses.	Total.	Gross.	After paying Working Expenses.	Profit.	Loss.
			Loans.	Other.						
Railways ... ..	£ 9,050,707 <i>a</i>	£ 482,303	£ 308,588	£ 19,495	£ 1,226,391 <i>b</i>	£ 1,554,474	£ 1,610,394	£ ...	£ 55,920	£ ...
C.W. Supply Scheme <i>c</i> ...	2,689,173	145,000	44,912	2,537	...	47,449	...	39,000	...	8,449
Fremantle Harbour Works <i>d</i>	1,350,000	...	47,250	...	...	47,250	...	48,206	956	...
State Batteries ... ..	125,584	43,272	4,470	1,200	62,384	68,054	56,678	...	...	11,376
Total ... ..	13,215,414 <i>e</i>	670,575	405,220	23,232	1,288,775	1,717,227	1,667,072	87,206	56,876	19,825
Net Profit ... ..									...	37,051
									£ 56,876	56,876

*a.* Includes cost of Railways not taken over by Railway Department. *b.* This expenditure includes £33,787 for replacing obsolete rolling stock and £24,582 for New Works and Improvements. *c.* The revenue and expenditure for the C.W. Scheme are for the half year ended 30th June, 1904. For the first half of the year the Scheme was not in complete working order. *d.* Capital expenditure not yet fixed. The figures stated in the Return may probably be regarded as approximating the total Loan and Revenue Capital which will be agreed on as applicable to the works taken over by the Trust. The Loan Capital Expenditure on "Fremantle Harbour Works" is in excess of this amount. *e.* The total loan cash Expenditure to 30th June, 1904, on Works and Services was £15,808,485.