

being late, he moved that progress be reported.

Progress reported, and leave given to sit again.

#### ADJOURNMENT.

The House adjourned at two minutes past 11 o'clock, until the next day.

## Legislative Assembly,

Thursday, 16th January, 1902.

Petition: Camels Importation—Papers presented—Question: Rabbit Invasion, particulars—Question: Tramways to State Forests—Motion: Government Business, Precedence—Annual Estimates, resumed in Committee of Supply; Treasury Votes, Miscellaneous Services to end; Colonial Secretary, Votes to page 68; progress—Adjournment.

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

#### PRAYERS.

#### PETITION—CAMELS IMPORTATION.

MR. T. F. QUINLAN presented a petition from Faiz Mahomet, praying the House to inquire into the prohibition of the importation of certain camels into this State.

Petition received, read, and ordered to be printed.

THE SPEAKER pointed out that the petition ought properly to have been presented before Notices of Motion were given.

MR. QUINLAN explained that he got up half a dozen times, but so many members rose in succession that he lost the opportunity.

#### PAPERS PRESENTED.

By THE TREASURER: Return showing Expenses in connection with the Royal Visit, on motion by Mr. Harper.

By THE PREMIER: Report of Registrar of Patents, Designs, and Trade Marks, for 1901.

Ordered to lie on the table.

#### QUESTION—RABBIT INVASION, PARTICULARS.

MR. A. E. THOMAS asked the Premier: Whether it is a fact that rabbits have been found west of the proposed line of fence which is now being constructed.

THE PREMIER (Hon. G. Leake) replied: Rabbits are reported to have been seen near Nannine, which is some 70 miles to the westward of the proposed route of the rabbit fence, but this report has not yet been confirmed by an officer of the Rabbit Department.]

#### QUESTION—TRAMWAYS TO STATE FORESTS.

MR. HASTIE asked the Premier: When he will lay on the table the regulations for the construction of tramways from the railway into the State forests.

THE PREMIER replied: No regulations have yet been created, but the matter is receiving the attention of the Government, and is now before the Crown Law Office.

#### MOTION—GOVERNMENT BUSINESS, PRECEDENCE.

Debate resumed from the previous day, on the motion proposed by the Premier, "That after this day, Government business take precedence of all other business during the remainder of the session."

THE TREASURER (Hon. F. Illingworth): To this motion he had an amendment, to which hon. members would probably agree. He moved:

That all words after "that" be struck out, and the following inserted in lieu: "for the purpose of expediting business, the House shall sit on Mondays at 4.30 p.m."

MR. H. DAGLISH (Subiaco): Instead of sitting on an extra day, the House should meet earlier on the present sitting days. That would better suit the country members. To meet two hours earlier than hitherto would be reasonable.

MR. G. TAYLOR: Sit on an extra day also.

MR. DAGLISH: First try his suggestion, and if it were found insufficient, have an extra day. The plan of meeting at 2.30 p.m. had been adopted in other States, and he would subsequently move an amendment with that object.

**THE PREMIER:** The Treasurer's amendment was the result of a discussion between him (the Premier) and one or two members in Opposition; and if it were carried, the proposal of the last speaker was not likely to meet with much opposition later on. But better give an extra day's sitting a trial before meeting earlier in the day. The chief objection to an earlier hour of assembling was that Ministers must attend to much administrative office work; and if the House met at 2:30, he must ask hon. members to refrain from introducing deputations, asking questions, and moving for returns. Perhaps in the long-run that would be more convenient to hon. members. If we sat from 4:30 till midnight, or till 2 or 3 in the morning—

**MR. HOPKINS:** Why not?

**MR. THOMAS:** Last night the Premier wished to adjourn at 9 o'clock.

**THE PREMIER:** That was to suit the convenience of other members. He would sit till midnight to-night, but let us give the extra day a trial, and if it were not satisfactory he would be prepared to consider an earlier hour of meeting. The amendment would not come into force till next Monday. It had been suggested that Friday should be the extra sitting day, but Monday had been fixed for the convenience of country members who desired to get home at week-ends.

**MR. A. E. THOMAS (Dundas)** supported the amendment, because it had been arrived at after consultation between both sides. But as the Premier had mentioned country members, it was fair to say such members had not received much consideration regarding sitting days and hours. During the past few months suggestions had occasionally been made to meet an hour or two earlier, but country members were met with the objection from a few members residing all the year in Perth and Fremantle that it would be inconvenient for the latter to come earlier to the House, they having their business to attend to.

**MR. DIAMOND:** Of such an incident he had no recollection.

**MR. THOMAS:** No. The hon. member had a most convenient memory; he could remember or forget exactly what suited him. Country members also, as well as Perth and Fremantle

representatives, had business to attend to. If business necessitated sitting longer than hitherto, then if the convenience of country members were to be studied the House would sit longer on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, instead of having an extra sitting day. He would support the amendment moved by the Treasurer, because a decision had been arrived at after consultation of members on both sides.

**MR. A. J. DIAMOND (South Fremantle):** In supporting the amendment, he desired to say that there was no reason for the fire and fury on the part of the hon. member (Mr. Thomas). Perth and Fremantle members had never been asked to do what the hon. member suggested, and if he had been asked he would have been prepared to sit earlier. Such statements were calculated to bring about strife between country and town members.

**MR. J. M. HOPKINS (Boulder):** It was needless to say he would support any proposal to increase the hours of sitting, or an extra sitting day. Country members should receive some consideration at the hands of the House. He thought it would be preferable to sit at half-past 2 until 6 o'clock, and then 7:30 onwards for the present three sitting days of the week; then on Monday the House might sit from 7:30 p.m. onwards, and on Friday the House could sit from 2:30 p.m. to 6:30. By adjourning on Fridays at half-past 6 o'clock that would enable country members to catch their trains on Friday night, and they could get back again to Perth on Monday morning. It would give members at least two days at home. No doubt Ministers would experience some difficulty in carrying on their departmental work, but it would be for only a short period. He would support the amendment, but if a farther amendment were moved to make the hours of sitting longer, and even add another day, he would support that also.

**MR. J. GARDINER (Albany):** It was not a question of town or country members. Every member going up for election considered what time he had to give up to Parliament; and it was clearly understood that the sittings of the House should start at half-past 4 p.m. Unlike the member for Dundas, he had not been

away from the House for a fortnight at a time: he had not been out of the House for two hours since the session had begun. He came to the House and was willing to go through with the business on those days on which members were asked to sit. As there was a desire on the part of Parliament to redeem itself, he was only too willing to assist and sit on Monday or any other day of the week to get the business through.

Amendment put and passed, and the motion as amended agreed to.

#### ANNUAL ESTIMATES.

##### IN COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY.

Resumed from the previous sitting.

**TREASURER'S DEPARTMENT** (Hon. F. Illingworth).

**THE TREASURER** (in explanation): Two items on page 37 had been referred to on the previous day—paymaster of Imperial accounts and clerk. The Imperial Government paid 3 per cent. on the amount handled, which had been more than sufficient to pay both of the officers up to the present time. As the amount grew less these officers would become a charge on the State, and when they did so the Government would have to consider the matter. At present the Imperial Government paid the whole of the salaries.

*Miscellaneous Services, £136,127 15s. 3d.:*

Item—Destruction of wild dogs, £1,000:

An amendment had been moved on the previous day to add, after "wild dogs," the words "and kangaroos."

**MR. S. C. PIGOTT:** At the previous sitting the member for Boulder (Mr. Hopkins) brought forward the question of the increase of kangaroos in East Kimberley. For some years past the squatters along the Fitzroy River, and in the district generally, were threatened to a great extent by the invasion of kangaroos. The squatters had done their best to destroy the animals, and had spent a great deal of money in that way. The kangaroos had increased enormously during the last few years, and many stations, which a few years ago carried 20,000 and even 30,000 sheep, to-day

could hardly carry half that number. The kangaroos ate up all the grass. The squatters had been doing what they could to kill this pest, but in consequence of the skins not being good just now, it would not pay any hunter to shoot kangaroos for their skins, and the squatters had to subsidise the hunters to go out and kill the pest. It would be well if the Treasurer could assist the squatters in this respect. The settlers did not ask the Government to pay the whole amount for the destruction of the kangaroos: the settlers were willing to pay their share. If a rate were struck, say 2d. or 3d. per head, the squatters would be willing to pay their fair proportion. The rate that had been paid lately was 3d. per scalp, but that did not pay while the skins were in a bad condition. If the Government devoted a portion of this item to helping the squatters in the district to kill off the kangaroos, it would be advisable. The item of £1,000 would not be sufficient to do this work; but, if the amendment were carried, a start could be made in the right direction, and before long the pest might be destroyed.

**THE TREASURER:** There was no objection to the alteration proposed, if the Committee desired it. The expenditure for the destruction of wild dogs last year did not reach the amount voted: possibly the Government would find themselves in the same position this year; then some provision could be made for the destruction of kangaroos.

**HON. F. H. PIESSE:** There was strong objection on his part to this amendment, although he had no objection to assisting the squatters in the destruction of kangaroos. This item had been well considered before it was put on the Estimates originally, and it had been passed for some years now. It would be better to have a new item introduced for the destruction of kangaroos.

**MR. HOPKINS:** How could that be done?

**HON. F. H. PIESSE:** A motion could have been brought forward earlier in the session recommending the Government to make provision for the destruction of kangaroos, and if proper representations had been made, no doubt the Government would have made provision for the purpose. It would be a mistake at this stage to add the words proposed; and

although the Treasurer saw no objection to finding the money to do this work, he might tell the Treasurer if the Government started to contribute to the destruction of kangaroos, the whole amount of the item for the destruction of wild dogs would be absorbed, and probably more, in that way. To interfere with the vote for the destruction of wild dogs would be detrimental to the interests of the pastoralists. The wild dog nuisance was a very difficult one to deal with in pastoral districts, and frequently the Government had been asked to increase the vote. Although the expenses of last year did not reach the sum provided, he had frequently advocated an increase in this vote. The sooner the wild dogs were destroyed and cleared out of the country, the sooner would this item disappear from the Estimates. If a business could be made of destroying wild dogs by professional dog catchers, we should soon see the wild dogs were exterminated. Therefore it would be a mistake to alter the item at this stage. All that could now be done was to draw the attention of the House and the Government to the fact that kangaroos were a nuisance in the North-West districts of the State. Some provision might be made in the direction desired next year; but the present financial year was so far advanced that the greater part of the amount of this item would be already absorbed. While kangaroo skins were hardly marketable in the North-West districts, they were, on the other hand, so profitable in the Southern districts that it had been found necessary to protect kangaroos in various portions of the country along the Great Southern Railway. During the three years when the trade in kangaroo skins was at its best, no less than 500,000 skins were sent away from that portion of the State. The matter might now be allowed to drop, on the understanding that the Government would give it consideration with a view of seeing what could be done next year.

MR. F. WALLACE: The observations of the member for the Williams (Hon. F. H. Piesse) were to a great extent sound. At this stage of the session and at this stage of the financial year, little or nothing could be done. The Treasurer might see his way to prepare during the recess a Bill on the lines of

the Queensland Marsupial Act. That Act contained a provision for levying on the pastoralists. The sooner the onus of exterminating wild dogs was thrown on those immediately concerned in their destruction, the sooner would the State be rid of the pest.

MR. NANSON: A good deal of the onus was already on the settlers.

MR. WALLACE: While certain persons paid an amount of money equal to that granted by the Government for the destruction of native dogs, and also provided poison and meat for the purpose, it was found that a number of pastoralists were either too indolent or too indifferent to assist in the work, the consequence being that the lands of those pastoralists became breeding ground for the pest. Unless a law were passed compelling pastoralists to lay poison and take other measures for the extermination of the native dogs, the effort to rid ourselves of the pest was only a farce.

MR. NANSON: All pastoralists running sheep did their utmost to destroy native dogs.

MR. WALLACE: Yes; but the cattle squatter had not nearly so much to fear from the dogs as the sheep squatter. On being requested some three years ago to ask the House to vote a sum for the destruction of marsupials, he had declined to move in the matter, because no action of that description could apply to the whole of the State. The member for the Williams (Hon. F. H. Piesse) had shown that the kangaroos afforded a profitable industry to some of the poorer settlers in our Southern districts. Undoubtedly efforts should be made to exterminate marsupials in the North-Western and Kimberley districts, and also in the Murchison district.

MR. NANSON: No; not in the Murchison district.

MR. WALLACE: Not in the Murchison electorate; but in what was called the Murchison district, which extended away to Mount Margaret. The pastoralists themselves should contribute if they wanted assistance from the Government. Many of them would not even contribute their energy, let alone their money. One of the clauses of the Queensland Marsupial Act of 1881 provided that the Governor-in-Council could declare any district within a radius of

five miles of any town or village exempt from the operation of the Act. That provision might be adopted here, and the radius might be extended. The Treasurer would now perhaps make a note of the matter, and during the recess prepare a Bill on lines similar to those of the Queensland Act. This Bill ought to be passed as early as possible next session. The amendment should not be supported.

MR. S. C. PIGOTT: After the remarks of the member for Mt. Magnet (Mr. Wallace) there was no need to push the matter farther. An assurance from the Government that something would be done next year was all that was wanted at this stage. No doubt the member for Boulder (Mr. Hopkins) would withdraw his amendment.

THE TREASURER: The importance of this matter had certainly not been brought to the attention of the Government before. The suggestion of the member for Mt. Magnet (Mr. Wallace) was an excellent one, and would receive due attention.

MR. J. M. HOPKINS: In moving last night the amendment now before the Committee, he had asked hon. members to refer to page 64 of the report of the Select Committee on Food Supply. The evidence of Mr. Joseph Blythe showed there was some justification for the amendment, which, however, might now be withdrawn. Mr. Blythe stated that in some districts of the North-West kangaroos had become such a nuisance that country which formerly could carry one sheep to the acre now could carry only one sheep to five acres. Had the amendment been carried, we should have been sure of a vote for the destruction of kangaroos next year.

SIR J. G. LEE STEERE: It was to be hoped the member for Boulder would not press the amendment. Hon. members connected with country districts would be aware that the amount set down was not more than would be needed for the destruction of native dogs. One of the reasons urged in favour of the amendment was that its adoption would mean an increase in the meat supply; but nothing would tend so much to that end as the destruction of native dogs. Nothing would be of greater assistance to the small settlers, who

now found themselves unable to keep sheep, than the extermination of native dogs. No doubt the Government would seriously consider, during the recess, the destruction of kangaroos. From what had been stated by the members for Boulder and West Kimberley, it was evident that some means would have to be taken to keep down kangaroos in the North-West. Last year was the first in which the vote on the Estimates for the destruction of native dogs showed an overdraft. The member for Boulder would, for the reason stated, act unwisely in pressing his amendment.

MR. HOPKINS: There was no intention to press the amendment.

MR. T. HAYWARD: It was to be hoped the Government would recognise the necessity for increasing the amount of this item next year. So anxious were the farmers to get rid of the wild dogs that at a late Agricultural Conference it was unanimously decided by those present to agree to pay a farther 10s. for the destruction of wild dogs, on the same system as obtained under the Scab Act, which provided for the levying of an additional 10s. by rate on the sheep owners. The matter was deserving of the careful consideration of the Government during recess.

THE CHAIRMAN: The amendment not having been put last night, there was no necessity to now ask the leave of the Committee to withdraw it.

#### Item—Incidental Expenses, £8,000 :

MR. W. J. BUTCHER: Some explanation of this heavy item was desirable. Included in the various votes already passed there had been many items of incidentals. The amounts under this heading were, indeed, pretty large throughout the Estimates. What was the reason for the appearance of another item of £8,000 under the same heading?

THE TREASURER: A full explanation of this item had been prepared, but was unfortunately mislaid. Speaking from memory, most of this amount was represented by recoups—moneys that had to be paid for the time being, but were recouped. Fuller information would be given at a later stage.

Item—Subsidy to municipalities, 15s. in the £ for rates collected to amount of

£20,000, above that amount 10s. in the £, £55,000:

MR. J. GARDINER: The wording of this item was not clear. Did it mean that on an amount up to £20,000 municipalities would get 15s. in the £, and that on the amount over that sum they would get 10s.?

MR. F. C. MONGER: It was desirable to have something more definite than the present wording.

THE TREASURER: The custom for many years had been to give municipalities £ for £; but in, he thought, 1898 the amount was reduced by Parliament to 15s. in the £. It was found, moreover, that the Government could only pay 10s. in the £ on all municipal rates collected. From that time onward the amount voted or paid year by year came to only 10s. It was his desire to restore the municipal grant to £ per £ if possible, because he held that the municipalities covered a large proportion of the taxpayers of the State, and were spending a considerable amount of money collected in the various municipalities, and they were the best persons to assist in this particular way in continuing to make better provision for the people in the various districts. The Government themselves could not tell where to locate and to help as well as the municipalities, so he considered it desirable to get back to the £ per £ grant, but he found when they came to make up the Estimates that it was impossible to give so large an amount. What was really intended was that in order that large municipalities should not swallow up the whole vote, 15s. in the £ would not be paid on more than £20,000. Say the city of Perth collected £30,000 in rates, they would get 15s. in the £ on £20,000, and 10s. in the £ on the remainder. All municipalities whose rates were less than £20,000 would get 15s. in the £.

MR. M. H. JACOBY: Now that municipalities were getting a larger amount than previously, he trusted the Treasurer would be firm enough, when the Perth and Fremantle councils came to him, as they were always doing, to refuse the special grants they were constantly asking for. It was about time we shut down a good bit on the large towns, and let the money go into the country. It was work

done in the country that kept the city going, yet people in the city, close on the spot and near the Treasurer, were able to exercise a considerable amount of influence on him in getting grants, and grants were being unduly given to large municipalities close to the centre of government. He hoped an endeavour would be made to make those two municipalities more self-supporting than they had been in the past.

THE TREASURER: The hon. member was under a wrong impression. He (the Treasurer) did not know what was done before he held office, but since he had been Treasurer he had not had a deputation from either Perth or Fremantle for any grant.

MR. A. J. DIAMOND: So far as he knew, for a long time Fremantle had not approached the Government for a grant.

MR. M. H. JACOBY: In addition to this grant there were other items, such as grants for cemeteries and fire brigades, also a special grant for Perth Park, and everything of that description, which more rightly ought to be helped by the municipalities themselves. By these indirect measures big municipalities had a large pull.

THE TREASURER: A reason for refusing special grants—not to Perth and Fremantle, because he had not any application, but to other municipalities—was that the Government were raising the municipal grant to 15s. in the £, and therefore municipalities must provide for themselves. He intended to carry that out.

MR. J. M. HOPKINS: It was to be regretted that the subsidy was not £ per £. The people paid £68,750 to induce the Government to give £55,000. With regard to roads boards this did not apply. We saw that £50,000 was provided for roads boards. In many instances roads boards did not tax themselves at all. In 1899 only 11 out of 85 roads boards struck a rate. He failed to see why territorial limits with regard to municipalities should be so small. The sooner municipalities were extended and the shire system introduced so that every one would pay his fair share towards the cost of local government, the better.

MR. F. WALLACE: It was agreed that everyone should contribute towards the cost of local government; but why,

if municipal councils were given the power to levy a rate, did not the Government insist on their collecting the rate? Thousands of pounds were written off by municipalities, which came to the Government asking for a special grant. If they collected the rate, there would not be so much necessity to appeal to the Government for grants. It was a common thing for big sums to be written off.

MR. HOPKINS: There was no right to write off the arrears.

MR. WALLACE agreed with that. Could we enforce conditions under which we should compel them, if they levied a rate, to go to the utmost of their power to collect it?

MR. HOPKINS: The Act compelled them to sell the land.

MR. WALLACE: But they did not do it. If we gave them the power, and they did not take advantage of it, he did not see why we should give them special grants.

HON. F. H. PIESSE: The member for Boulder (Mr. Hopkins), in referring to these grants, compared the way in which the roads boards were treated with the way in which municipalities were treated, and said roads boards did not tax themselves.

MR. HOPKINS: Not always.

HON. F. H. PIESSE: The hon. member said that in very few cases did they tax themselves. While admitting that in many instances they did not tax themselves, yet they had good reasons for not doing so. In some districts very sparsely populated it would be difficult to raise anything like a satisfactory sum by way of taxation. Until districts became more settled, and people were in a position to pay something in the way of taxation, they must receive more help than districts more largely settled. Doubtless, there had been complaints as to the way in which the money had been expended by various roads boards, and he had no excuse to offer for some of them, because the money was spent, perhaps, in a very extraordinary way at times. But the same complaints might also be made against municipalities. Take agricultural centres with a population of about 6,000, and three roads board districts stretching over a distance of 200 miles by 60, with roads leading from the various settlements to railway

stations. To make new roads where there were none before, needed a good deal of money. He knew an instance where the expenditure was economically carried out, and where good roads were made, but now that there was heavy traffic on them they would not stand the traffic as well as they did before. Some people were not able to contribute largely, but doubtless would do so as time went on. No roads board that desired to help itself, and to have the roads properly managed, had any objection to taxation; but the people who came upon the land had a difficulty for a time in living. For three, four, or five years it took a man all his time to find bread for his household: to tax a man to keep up roads for a district which had to be used by others than himself, would be to impose a burden that such man was not at present able to bear. A suggestion he made some time ago which he thought could be well applied, when the question of the Roads Act was being considered, was that taxation should commence after a man had resided five years on his land. No doubt some of the roads boards would not tax themselves unless compelled; but for some time to come the roads vote must be treated with consideration. Centres like Perth and Fremantle were supported by outlying districts on which everything depended; therefore populous towns should not complain if a little help were given to country districts. Municipal subsidies were not objectionable; but some municipalities were as much at fault as were certain roads boards.

MR. A. J. DIAMOND: The last speaker omitted the important point that many roads boards consisted not of agriculturists or other producers, but of mere speculative landholders, who would not let, sell, or work the land, but were continually applying to the State for road grants. The genuine agriculturist should have every consideration, even to the extent of holding his land for several years free of taxes; but something should be done to make speculators tax themselves, and bear a portion of the cost of roads which increased the value of their property.

MR. J. GARDINER protested against the multiplication of small roads boards and small municipalities. The more of

these, the greater the money wasted on administration. Speculative landholders could evade taxation by leasing their lands for nominal sums and refusing to sell except at prohibitive prices; and the Government should amend the section in the Roads Act by which this was rendered possible.

MR. J. M. HOPKINS: None sympathised more than he with the pioneer farmer; but the *Statistical Register* for 1899 disclosed that out of 85 roads boards only 11 had struck a rate. The rates were: Bayswater 9d., Claremont 3d., Coolgardie 1s., North-East Coolgardie 1s., Cottesloe 9d., Dundas 9d., Fremantle 9d., Tableland 1d., Yalgoo 6d. In the country districts, municipal boundaries should be extended so that farmers in the neighbourhood of towns such as Northam and York could be rated, as was done under the shire system in the Eastern States, so that every person should pay his fair share towards the cost of local government. People in remote districts such as the North-West might be exempt.

Item—Commission on interest paid by the Crown Agent and the London and Westminster Bank, £4,500:

MR. S. C. PIGOTT: Why this payment?

THE TREASURER: Interest and other charges in connection with State loans had to be paid at various times; and this was done through the London and Westminster Bank, which received this commission. Nearly £600,000 was paid out annually; and so far this had been done through the bank, under an agreement which had yet some two and a half years to run.

MR. PIGOTT: A very foolish agreement.

THE TREASURER: There was much labour attached to paying the interest, and it was doubtful whether the State could profitably employ a London staff for this purpose.

MR. PIGOTT: To write out a few cheques?

THE TREASURER: When dealing with 12 millions of money secured on £100 and £200 bonds, the matter was not so easy. The agreement could not immediately be rescinded; but the Com-

mittee could express an opinion on its renewal.

MR. A. J. DIAMOND: Similar trouble had arisen in South Australia. For many years this bank had levied tribute on the Australian colonies, including this State, and the arrangement should as soon as possible cease. The £4,500 meant 10 clerks at £450 each a year. In South Australia, Sir Thomas Playford, when Agent General, had solved the difficulty by abolishing this arrangement and opening a State office in London, under his control, which worked all the South Australian loan business. We should do likewise, and give notice to terminate this outrageous agreement.

MR. W. J. BUTCHER: Would the Treasurer give the Committee some idea of the rate of commission?

THE TREASURER: The agreement would be laid on the table of the House to-morrow.

Item—Perth Park, £3,000:

MR. DAGLISH: There was a board to which the money would be handed over, but that board did not give the amount of attention to the work intrusted to it which was necessary on the part of a board controlling so large an expenditure. When £3,000 was handed to a board, Parliament gave it an important trust. Last year, in addition to the £2,500 voted, a special grant for the construction of a new road was made to this body. During the past twelve months, the Perth Park Board had held four meetings, so that it appeared some other individual than the Perth Park Board had been controlling the money. Two members—Sir John Forrest and Hon. J. W. Hackett—attended all the meetings, another member attended one meeting, two members attended two meetings each, and the other member attended no meetings at all—in fact, this last mentioned member was absent from the State. The Committee was not warranted in intrusting the expenditure of such a large sum of money to a board which did its work in the manner in which the Perth Park Board did. He noticed by the *Government Gazette* that the members of the Perth Park Board had just been reappointed to their positions: he did not know the reason for this. He did not



think Sir John Forrest should be asked to do work of this sort when he was absent from the State, and could not fulfil the duty when in another State. The municipality of Subiaco should have some representation on this board. There was a population of three to four thousand persons in the municipality of Subiaco, and nearly half of the park was situate in that municipality; but not a penny of the money was spent by the board on that part of the park within the Subiaco radius. A wire-and-rail fence had been erected, and that was the total work done in Subiaco. A new road was constructed in the park from the original road, and the entrance was at the head of Brooking street. The second road came within 18 chains of the main entrance of the park in Subiaco, which was also the tram terminus in Rokeby road. The Subiaco council, for 12 months, had been endeavouring to get Rokeby road connected with the Perth Park road, and the length of road involved was 18 chains. It would cost about £400 to construct this portion of the road. Recently the Perth Park Board wrote to the Subiaco municipality stating that the board was willing to make this 18 chains of road if the council could get the money from the Government to do the work. The board would not spend a penny of the £3,000 which was now being granted to make this 18 chains of road. If the people of Subiaco wished to go to the river at Crawley, they had to go through 18 chains of sand, which was very uncomfortable, especially to women and children. As there were a large number of people living on the Subiaco side of the park, some of the money ought to be spent on that side, in addition to the making of the road. The Treasurer might make a stipulation that on handing over the money the 18 chains of road should be made. So that the Subiaco side of the park should not be neglected, a member of the Subiaco Municipal Council should be made a member of the board. If there was any way of carrying the motion to enforce his wishes, he would like to bring such a motion before the Committee.

**THE TREASURER:** Strong recommendations would be made to the board in the direction indicated, and the Government would take into consideration, when a vacancy occurred on the board, that the

interests of Subiaco should not be overlooked.

**MR. DAGLISH:** The number of the members of the board could be increased.

**MR. M. H. JACOBY:** Why had the vote been increased this year? A tremendous amount of work had been done for the money which had been expended in this park; but why should the amount be increased this year? We were going in for economy, and it was in such fancy things as this that we could economise best. We could put up for a while with the progress which had been made with the park.

**THE TREASURER:** The demand of the board was for £4,000, and the board said it could not meet its engagements and do the work necessary with anything less; but he had taken upon himself the responsibility of reducing the vote to £3,000, which very much disturbed the board.

**MR. J. M. HOPKINS:** The time had arrived when a balance-sheet showing the receipts and expenditure of this board should be published every half-year in the *Government Gazette*. He was at a loss to understand why Mr. Lovekin, who he believed was not in the country, had been reappointed a member of this board.

**MEMBER:** Mr. Lovekin had just come back.

**MR. HOPKINS:** It would not be an unreasonable thing if this park was now vested in the municipality of Perth. The Park was in good order, and there was no reason why the consolidated revenue should be robbed of £3,000 for the Perth Park. The citizens of Perth municipality should now provide for the upkeep.

**MR. H. DAGLISH:** Would an amendment be in order to add the words after Perth Park, "General purposes £2,500, road to connect Rokeby Road to circular drive, £500?" This would give a direction to the board of the manner in which the subsidy should be expended.

**THE CHAIRMAN:** Would the money then be expended within the park?

**MR. DAGLISH:** Yes; the road was within the Perth Park.

**THE CHAIRMAN:** Such amendment would not be out of order.

**MR. DAGLISH** moved as an amendment that after "Perth Park," the words "General purposes £2,500, and con-

struction of road to connect Rokeby Road with circular drive £500," be added.

Amendment put and passed.

Item—Glasgow Exhibition, £3,000:

DR. O'CONNOR: This was an item calling for explanation. It appeared that the representation of this State at the Glasgow Exhibition had cost over £7,000 last year, whilst the Paris Exhibition had cost the country £23,000. We should now do very well if we left the exhibition business alone. Was the cost of the thirty or forty free railway passes issued to exhibition commissioners included in the amount?

THE TREASURER: The present Government had given instructions that the passes should terminate on the 31st December last: therefore the passes were now non-existent. So far as the item itself was concerned, unfortunately the money was spent. The first Leake Government had been asked to take part in another exhibition, but had respectfully declined. Another Government had since reversed that decision, and it was now for the Committee to say whether the reversal should in turn be reversed.

MR. H. J. YELVERTON: As a commissioner for the Paris and Glasgow exhibitions, and as one who had for a short time enjoyed the benefit of a free pass, he wished to say that undoubtedly the money already spent had yielded a return of immense value to the country. He maintained this position although he agreed that Western Australia should not for the present be represented at farther exhibitions. The result of our representation at Paris and Glasgow had been to advertise the State widely and to great advantage. The timber trade alone had benefited immensely, receiving orders from most unexpected quarters. The Glasgow Exhibition, in particular, had had the effect of bringing capital into this State for mining development.

MR. R. HASTIE: The logic of the hon. member (Mr. Yelverton) was curious. If the result of spending money on exhibitions was so good, then by all means let us perpetually exhibit. The general experience would, however, hardly bear out the hon. member's contention; certainly not so far as the mining industry was concerned. The principal effect of

the representation of this State at the various exhibitions had been to allow some of the richest men in the country to travel free over the Government railways for the last two and a half years. The Treasurer had stated that the passes had expired on the 31st December; but there was good authority for saying that some, at any rate, of these passes were still in existence and were still being used. The Treasurer should give immediate and peremptory instructions that the holders of these passes should in future pay their fares. The stoppage of State expenditure for exhibition purposes would be highly satisfactory to all except the people who had secured fat billets in connection with that expenditure.

THE PREMIER: With regard to the free railway passes issued to members of the Paris and Glasgow Exhibition Commissions, it must be borne in mind that these gentlemen came from all parts of the State to transact the business committed to their care. The services being rendered gratuitously, the Government of the day thought the least that could be done was to allow these gentlemen to meet in Perth without asking them to pay railway fares. Hence these free passes. Not long ago application was made for a renewal of the passes. The Government had refused to renew them for a whole year, but by way of compromise had extended them for two or three months.

MR. YELVERTON: That was so.

THE PREMIER: The passes were renewed only for a short term.

MR. HASTIE: Why, then, were they still being used?

MR. YELVERTON: They were not being used now, having expired.

THE PREMIER: The term of the passes had almost expired. The Government had not felt justified, although strongly inclined to do so, in revoking the passes without notice; particularly as the work of the Glasgow Exhibition Commission had not been completed. It was necessary to add a few words to what the Treasurer had said with regard to the representation of this State at a forthcoming exhibition in London. In justice to the predecessors of the present Ministry, it should be said that although the first Leake Administration had refused to entertain proposals for the exhibition of our gold specimens in the London Royal

Exchange, yet an offer came from London to exhibit those specimens free of all expense to this State. The then Government, being desirous of having done with exhibitions altogether, gave instructions that the specimens should be sold and the whole business closed up. The Committee ought to understand, however, that a proposal came from London that the specimens should be exhibited without any expense whatever to this State.

MR. QUINLAN: That was correct.

THE PREMIER: The chief objection entertained by the first Leake Government to the representation of this State at the exhibition in the London Royal Exchange was the fear that this would make the exhibition business interminable. The intention of the Government had been to sell all the exhibits and recall the Special Commissioner and his staff, who were drawing salaries.

MR. HASTIE: Would the representation of the State at the London Exhibition cost anything?

THE PREMIER: The impression of the Government was that it would cost something, although there were on the file cablegrams declaring that there would be no expense whatever to this State. These remarks were necessary in fairness to the predecessors of the present Government.

MR. T. F. QUINLAN: Until the Treasurer made his speech, it had appeared as though the differences of the past were buried, the victory having been won and lost. It was a matter for regret that the Treasurer, in speaking on this item, could not display a little of that accuracy for which he was given credit. The hon. gentleman might well be satisfied to let the past rest, and certainly ought to refrain from making garbled statements which would only mislead the Committee. The Treasurer should not have left it to his colleague, the Premier, to state the case fairly. When the matter came before the Morgans Government, it was positively decided not to incur one farthing of expense. The Morgans Government were quite at one with the present Premier in his decision that there should be no more representation at exhibitions at the cost of the State. It was agreed, however, that if the representative of Western Australia received a guarantee from satisfactory persons for the safe return of the mineral and other

exhibits, these exhibits might be shown in London, since the only actual cost to Western Australia would be the interest on the capital value of those exhibits—a very small matter in comparison with the benefits likely to accrue from the publicity given to the resources of the State. The Premier deserved credit for his fairness, and the Treasurer ought to endeavour to be fair.

At 6:30, the CHAIRMAN left the Chair.

At 7:30, Chair resumed.

MR. R. HASTIE: The amount on the Estimates for the Glasgow Exhibition was over £10,000, and members had been discussing whether it was wise that the exhibits should go to another exhibition. It was said this would not cost any money. Nominally it probably would not, but it must be apparent to all that it would be a very considerable item. At the present time we had an executive commissioner and staff, who were paid as representatives of this country. They had been away a very considerable time, and if they had to remain at another exhibition, it would mean that we should have the commissioner living in London up till at least after the coronation ceremony. We had all their expenses besides a large number of other expenses, which would make the exhibition cost at the very least £2,000 or £3,000 more. He trusted the Government would not agree to continue this exhibition in London any farther. The exhibits there were very valuable. For instance, we found that several hundred pounds were donated by the country to the museum in Coolgardie. He made inquiries as to where that museum was situated, but no one in Coolgardie could tell him. He had recently been informed that the articles in that museum had been sent on to London. He was curious to see what they were like, and he hoped they would come back soon. That was only one item. There were a great many other things of value, and if we did not bring them back at the present moment, or at any rate cease exhibiting them, or, if necessary, sell them off, we should find it more difficult to bring these things to a stop. We had spent a very large amount of money in exhibitions, and it must be apparent to

almost everyone that they were not financial successes. He did not think even the member for Sussex (Mr. Yelverton) would say the Glasgow Exhibition had been more profitable to the country than would the £10,000 or £12,000 it had already cost. He hoped the Government would remain firm in their determination not to continue these exhibitions for any farther length of time. Several railway passes issued to commissioners for that exhibition were still alive, and his information, which was about the best he could possibly get, was that at least three commissioners were travelling at present free on the railways of the State. The Government might at least give an assurance that these passes would be immediately withdrawn. If in these two instances the Government would give the required assurance, we could very well pass this item.

MR. H. J. YELVERTON: Several places were mentioned in which the specimens could be exhibited in London without expense to this country beyond the interest on the cost of the purchase of these specimens. As had been explained, the Executive Commissioner and his staff had been recalled to this country, and they would be no farther expense to us. The exhibitions held had been of immense benefit to this country indirectly, for they had brought a large amount of capital to Western Australia and immense orders for timber. Up to the present time the expenditure had been fully justified. However, they had attained their object; they had advertised this country, and it was no longer necessary that we should expend money in that direction; but if we could, without farther expense, except on the item of interest, still have these mineral specimens on exhibition in London, he saw no reason why we should not do so, and still further advertise the mineral resources of this State.

MR. A. E. THOMAS: If one could have an assurance from the Government that it would not cost this country any money, he would like these specimens to be exhibited in London. He had it from the chairman of the mineral committee of that commission that such was the case. If the owners of the specimens lent to the Western Australian Government would consent, he would advocate that

the collection should, if possible, be kept intact, and have a home at, say, the South Kensington Museum, where it would be of some interest and some importance to us and the people in London at the same time. As to the railway passes, he had not been brought into contact with all the members of the commission, but with regard to one at least, the chairman of that mineral committee, a lot of most excellent work was done by him in the way of purchasing specimens for this Government, for which the Government would be able to realise a considerably enhanced price. That gentleman purchased a large quantity of gold at rates less than those for which the banks would buy; and the Government would reap the benefit. The expenditure on the Paris and Glasgow Exhibitions would do good. At Glasgow, in particular, the products of Western Australia, especially of her mines, were brought before some of the wealthiest speculators and investors to be found in the world.

MR. M. H. JACOBY: Apparently the member for Kanowna (Mr. Hastie) would be absolutely happy if we could prohibit the introduction of either capital or population into Western Australia. [LABOUR MEMBERS; Oh!] As the retention of those specimens in London would not cost anything—[MR. HASTIE: It would]—and admitting the great cost of the Paris and Glasgow Exhibitions, and that the same result could have been obtained for half the expenditure, the offer to exhibit the specimens free of cost in London should gladly be accepted.

THE PREMIER: The Government were not giving a pledge that such exhibition would be free of cost, but merely announced the receipt of a telegram from the gentlemen who had consented to take charge of the exhibits at the Royal Exchange, to the effect that this would not cost anything. There must of course be someone to protect specimens of such value. The present Government did not care to accept the offer, but the action of his predecessors was justified by the fact that they had this assurance from London as to the freedom from expense. The former Government had accepted the assurance: the present did not. Personally, he would prefer to close altogether the business of exhibiting, and

he from time to time had sent telegrams and made minutes to that effect. He was not defending himself at the expense of his predecessors, but thought we had had enough of these exhibitions, which must be directly or indirectly costly to the State, though there was an assurance from London that there would not be any cost.

MR. J. L. NANSON : If the business of the State were being conducted by American business men, they would undoubtedly increase instead of decreasing the advertising bill, and would tell us we were spending far too little instead of too much on this item. The haggling over the few pounds required to exhibit the specimens at the London Royal Exchange was in itself a bad advertisement for the country. Suppose such displays cost two or three thousand pounds, would not that be money well spent? Hon. members should have more faith in the country. He would prefer larger expenditure, and hoped the specimens would be kept in England and exhibited as a loan collection in the large cities of the kingdom. There was no better way of attracting capital and population to this country, even if it cost £10,000 a year, or double that sum.

MR. GARDINER : It was to advertising the Commissioner that objection was taken.

MR. H. DAGLISH : Apparently the exhibits of the State at Paris and Glasgow had been badly managed. A few persons had been given fat billets which they had attempted to make as permanent as possible; but we should not for that reason condemn exhibitions by which capital and people from home might be attracted to the country and made acquainted with our resources, provided we had a fair return for our expenditure. Such a return had not been obtained, owing to mismanagement and too much personal advertising. The question of the railway passes ought not to be overlooked. Members of the Commission should be afforded every facility for attending meetings; but why should a gentleman who two years ago collected specimens for the Paris Exhibition be still travelling free to-day? Let the Government take some steps to limit exhibition expenditure to what was necessary for efficient advertising, and

also to exercise strict control over the duration of free passes.

MR. YELVERTON : Such passes expired on the 31st December last.

MR. DAGLISH : They might still be in use.

MR. NANSON : That might be idle talk.

MR. DAGLISH : True.

MR. NANSON : Why not substantiate it before wasting the Committee's time.

MR. DAGLISH : The Government could deny or confirm the statement.

MR. TEESDALE SMITH : How?

MR. DAGLISH : Let there be an official statement from the Minister for Railways. Any outstanding passes should be at once recalled.

HON. J. J. HOLMES (Minister) : When Commissioner for Railways, he had been notified that these passes were about to expire; and he had minuted that his department would not renew them unless some other department were prepared to pay therefor, and also that no similar passes should be issued. Subsequently Mr. Moss, a member of the late Morgans Ministry, told him that he had seen the minute referred to, and that it had been decided by that Ministry to renew the passes for a short time.

MR. NANSON : Till when?

HON. J. J. HOLMES : That he did know.

MR. TEESDALE SMITH : It seemed strange that members who had no experience and had not seen the exhibitions arranged by the Hon. H. W. Venn, could say that Mr. Venn's remuneration had been out of proportion to the work done. Having visited the Paris Exhibition on several occasions, he (Mr. Smith) could tell the House that not a single foreign court at the Exhibition was better than or even equal to our own. For the last speaker to say he had curtailed these free passes was particularly narrow-minded. When the exhibition commissioners had given up from 12 to 18 months of their time to attending meetings, making collections of specimens, and arranging the business of the exhibition, the least the Government could do would have been to give them free passes. [MR. DAGLISH : For life?] For the time they were at that particular work. Regarding the transference of exhibits to London, nothing better could happen to the collection. In London one met hundreds of people

who desired to know why the West Australian Government did not use some room in which the exhibit could be permanently shown, giving people some idea of the products of this country. People desired to see the cereals, the wool, the kind of soil, the timber, and the gold of this country; and it was repeatedly asked, "Why did not the Agent General rent a room where people could see the products of this State?" Population was more necessary to this State than anything else, and it would be detrimental to the State to refuse to allow the collection of products of this State to be exhibited by the Commissioners in London.

MR. J. M. HOPKINS: Whilst agreeing that it was desirable to see a reasonable method of advertising the products of the country carried out, the time had gone by when to advertise the gold-mining of the country it was necessary to show a few specimens. The exhibition of specimens was not so much with the idea of advertising the country as to play into the hands of the "bulls" and "bears" of the London Stock Exchange. There was no doubt the Commissioner and his staff had been very largely advertised. The best advertisement the mineral resources of this country could have would be the gold yield and the dividends which the gold mines paid. This sort of advertising would make people consider what the resources of the country were. No doubt the exhibition of specimens would meet with the wishes of the persons who were anxious to have them placed in London. The use of railway passes by the Commissioners for two years was enough to cause consternation in the public mind. He was satisfied it was not wise to continue this expenditure. Long ago a proposition was made to present the specimens to the South Kensington Museum. The Leake Government refused to countenance such a transaction and he hoped the Government would continue the stand then taken. The railway passes which had not expired should be called up immediately and those persons travelling on the expired passes prosecuted.

MR. W. H. JAMES: No member desired to be informed in warm tones of the desirability of advertising. Although

some members had not had Press experience, still we knew in these days that we must "advertise or burst." But were these exhibitions the best and most effective means of advertising? Having regard to the money expended it was a most extravagant expenditure, and he expressed that view with all due deference to the opinion of the member for Wellington who saw the exhibition. It was not always the man who saw exhibitions who recognised the advertising value of them. A person who was treated with courtesy and kindness very often had a rosy view placed before him of the work done. Although a "sandgroper" he could form just as good an idea of the advertising value of the Paris Exhibition and the Glasgow Exhibition as the member who saw the Paris Exhibition but did not see the Glasgow Exhibition. The amount expended came as a shock to every individual in this State, and he would like to ask the Commissioners who were appointed to carry out the exhibition how it happened that they involved the country in an expense so much in excess of anticipations. There was a great deal of opposition to continuing the exhibition. A number of people had thought that if it was desirable to have an exhibition at Glasgow the Agent General could run it, and there was no necessity to have an expensive Commissioner and staff on the spot. Was there to be a permanent exhibition? Were we to be showing these exhibits for all time. If there were good reasons why these exhibits should be shown in London there was a much stronger reason why they should be shown in districts from which we hoped to obtain emigrants. How many men who thought of coming to West Australia, and who lived in the North of England, would think of going to see an exhibition in London? If we were going to make the exhibition a permanent one was it necessary to keep an expensive Commissioner and staff?

MR. JACOBY: No.

MR. JAMES: The Commissioner and staff could return to this State, and all that was necessary was a caretaker on the spot.

MR. JACOBY: An offer had been made to look after the exhibits.

MR. NANSON: There were local museums in every town of importance

which would be glad to have the loan of the specimens and guarantee them against any loss.

MR. JAMES: No doubt that was so. The idea of advertising in a museum in these days! We might just as well put our exhibits in a mortuary. We ought to check this expense at once. There was no reason why the Commissioner and staff should not be recalled, and there was no reason why the Commission of 50--there might as well have been 300 or 400, for the use they were—who were appointed for collecting the exhibits for the Paris Exhibition, having done all their collection, should be continued as a Commission. When was this going to be ended?

MR. NANSON: At once.

MR. JAMES: The previous Leake Government thought the benefits derived were altogether out of proportion to the money expended. Did the Morgans Government agree with that? It was very questionable whether any good advertising result accrued from exhibitions. When the Americans exhibited they showed what they had to sell, the manufactured product. What manufactured product did we exhibit? The Americans held what was practically a bazaar, not for the purpose of attracting population. It was not necessary to advertise the value of gold: we wanted to secure population, and we could do better advertising in other ways than by having costly exhibitions which were used for market purposes. Although all agreed that we must advertise, no member seriously thought that we got 20s. in the £ value for the cost of the exhibitions in Paris, Glasgow, and London.

MR. TEESDALE SMITH: It was regrettable that the member for East Perth did not have an opportunity of seeing the Paris Exhibition. If he had he would have been more enlightened. The hon. member complained because the Paris Exhibition cost us £30,000. There were scores of buildings at the Paris Exhibition which cost £100,000 to erect.

MR. HASTIE: According to the return furnished last year, there was voted for the Paris Exhibition £13,000; the cost altogether was £23,000. As regards the Glasgow Exhibition, the vote was £5,000 and the exhibition cost £10,000. There was not the slightest doubt that if

the specimens were allowed to remain altogether in the old country, the cost to us would be a vast amount of money. Some people appeared to think the exhibition of a few gold specimens would result in a large influx both of capital and population; but something more than a bare assertion was needed to prove that. If the question in connection with the forthcoming London Exhibition were one of advertising our timbers and other products, apart from gold, it might be worthy of consideration. The trend of this discussion had plainly shown that exhibitions, once started, had a tendency to become perpetual. The Americans, who were quite as tenacious of British capital as the West Australians, did not spend time and money in exhibiting gold specimens.

MR. NANSON: The hon. member was wrong. Gold specimens were shown at the Buffalo Exhibition.

MR. R. HASTIE: The 30 to 50 honorary commissioners in connection with these exhibitions performed all the work there was to do two and a half years ago, but continued to hold their passes until a few weeks back. It was surprising that the commissioners should have had the temerity to apply for fresh passes, when it was apparent that all the work they had to do had been done and paid for long ago. Had the applicants not been known as rich men, the Government would have laughed at the application. It was to be hoped that one result of this discussion would be that the gentlemen still retaining their passes would no longer travel at the expense of the State.

SIR JAMES G. LEE STEERE: It was desirable the Government should state whether our special commissioner and his staff of assistants would be notified that their services were no longer required. The country ought not to be put to any expense whatever in connection with the forthcoming exhibition in London. The exhibition of the gold specimens would be turned simply to the purposes of stock-jobbing, and would not be for the benefit of the industry in any way.

THE TREASURER: The former Government, he believed, agreed to notify Mr. Venn that he and his officers must return. Consequently there could be but

little expense attached to the exhibition of our gold specimens in London. The Government certainly did not intend to spend any more money on exhibitions. Much needless time and talk had been devoted to the railway free passes issued to the commissioners. Hon. members appeared to forget they had been informed that an application for three free passes had been made to the late Commissioner of Railways, who refused. The late Commissioner had stated that he considered the passes ought to be paid for. Thereupon, application was made to him as Treasurer to pay for three passes. This he refused to do, because he considered the work of the commissioners was completed. Any commissioners who were still travelling on the free passes issued to them in their official capacity were probably doing so because information that the passes were cancelled had not reached them; but they would now know that if they continued to travel on their free passes, they would be acting in opposition to the will of Parliament.

HON. F. H. PIESSE: The remarks of the member for Kanowna (Mr. Hastie) were regrettable, because the Paris and Glasgow Exhibitions had resulted in great advantage to this State. A near relative who had frequently visited the Glasgow Exhibition informed him that a great deal of attention was drawn to Australia, and especially to our State, by that exhibition. This remark applied not only to our mining industry, but also to our other industries. Since we were desirous of attracting population, the money devoted to these exhibitions had been well spent. As a result of the Paris Exhibition, the attention of French wine experts had been drawn to our wine industry. He had received communications from people in France interested in vine culture, and he hoped that this correspondence might lead to farther development.

MR. HASTIE: Might not the same results have been secured by less expensive means?

HON. F. H. PIESSE: The hon. member had deprecated exhibitions altogether. Certainly a greater degree of economy could have been practised, and a good deal of money could have been saved to the State in various directions. The Government, however, had not been alone

in spending money on these exhibitions. Many of the exhibits shown in Paris and Glasgow had been patriotically supplied by private persons and firms. No doubt, so far as the Government was concerned, the same result could have been obtained by the expenditure of far less money; and the present Administration were probably right in refusing to exhibit the gold specimens in London, if that course would entail farther expense. Yet we should not be too parsimonious in advertising our country. Certainly, private exhibitors had received less immediate return for their expenditure than the Government had received. We should not be too miserly. Advertising, which had been the secret of the success of the greatest business concerns in the world, might be advantageously used by this State. In justice to the exhibition commissioners, he wished to say that many of them had given of their money as well as of their time. While he personally had objected to the granting of the free passes, yet they were granted with a good object. Of course they might have been recalled somewhat sooner than they were. The Committee ought to bear in mind the desirability of bringing Western Australia prominently before the world.

MR. W. M. PURKISS: The question was whether we should vote a farther sum of £3,000 to the Glasgow Exhibition Commission.

SEVERAL MEMBERS: The money was already spent.

MR. PURKISS: If that was so, the exhibition commissioners had grossly exceeded their authority. There was a mandate to the commissioners that this State was prepared to expend £5,000 on its representation at the Glasgow Exhibition; and the commissioners had no right whatever to exceed that amount. The State had been going wrong for years past through permitting this kind of thing. He intended to vote against the item for this particular reason.

MR. A. E. THOMAS: The remarks of the member for Kanowna (Mr. Hastie) were not marked by that gentleman's usual good sense. Men who knew something about mining could, by looking at specimens exhibited, form some idea as to the value of the mine from which they came. It was the particular wish of the



mineral committee of the commission that the exhibition should be made apart from mere specimens and mere bits of gold for people to look at. Special pains were taken, by having competent men travelling throughout the fields of Western Australia, in collecting typical metallurgical specimens. He saw the exhibition day after day in Paris, and the collection was unique. No collection had ever been made in this world before to equal it, not only for its intrinsic value, but for its educational value. Any man having a knowledge of mining or any desire to acquire knowledge, could visit the exhibition in Paris or in Glasgow and acquire a vast amount of information by going through the Western Australian court, and students might do likewise. That was why he wanted these specimens to be sent, after the close of the exhibition at the Royal Exchange in London, to the South Kensington Museum, where hundreds of students were being turned out, who were going through the length and breadth of the world, and many of them would be attracted to this State, and would thus be conversant with what this country could produce.

Item—Honoraria to competitors for designs for new Houses of Parliament, £400 :

MR. F. WALLACE: Some time ago a joint select committee of both Houses of Parliament was appointed to inspect designs for new Parliament buildings. The conditions upon which the competitors' designs were invited were issued from the Public Works Office in December, 1900. In due course the services of an architect from New South Wales were sought. After a number of meetings, a report was presented, based, he presumed, on the evidence taken by the committee, and supported to a great degree by a report of Mr. W. L. Vernon, the Chief Government Architect of New South Wales. One of the conditions was that the estimated cost of the buildings must not exceed £100,000. Mr. Vernon in his report said that upon close investigation he found that the conditions with regard to the estimated cost had not been observed in any one instance worthy of consideration. He also said that as a result he was of opinion that the essential condition of

the competition had been broken by all who had competed, and consequently the Government were in no way responsible for payment, and were absolved from any farther action. Mr. Vernon recommended, however, that suitable recompense should be given to those who produced the three best designs. He (Mr. Wallace) desired to protest against the action of the committee in adopting that portion of Mr. Vernon's recommendation wherein he recommended that three competitors be given an honorarium amounting in the aggregate to £400. He believed that some of these competitors were in the Public Works Department. To that he took no exception at all. The conditions of the competition, however, were not adhered to, and the Chief Architect distinctly laid it down that the Government were in no way responsible for payment, and were absolved from any farther action. This was unfair to our local architects. If the Government had offered a very handsome premium for the best design, and if every competitor had known there would be an award for producing a design of the most palatial character, it would have been fair to them all; but not until the design had been placed in the hands of the committee was it discovered that there was to be an award for a design which did not comply with the conditions. It showed that if the State called for tenders the Government must make more than one stipulation—one stipulation being that the person complying with the conditions as set forth by the Public Works Department should receive an award, and that an award should also be given to the man who produced the most palatial design. It had been the object of members to set their faces against unauthorised expenditure. This was an item of £400 only, but the other night members, by a big majority, undertook to cut down the wage of a civil servant by £100. Here we had £400 of the State's money being given away. If that committee were going to overrule the report of the architect called in, it was unnecessary for the State to go to the expense of bringing over a practical man in any branch. The settlement of these matters might just as well be left to a joint select committee of both Houses, and then we should have untold

sums of money wasted. In order to test the feeling of the House he would move that the item be struck off the Estimates.

**SIR J. G. LEE STEERE:** The member who had just spoken had invited the Committee to pass a vote of censure on the Advisory Committee. As chairman of that committee, he (Sir James) thought he could make a very satisfactory explanation. One of the conditions suggested by the local architects in this colony was that when the committee were considering these designs they should be assisted by an architect of eminence from other colonies. The committee were willing indeed, and were glad the architects made that request, because it relieved the committee of a great deal of responsibility. Having heard that the Government Architect of New South Wales was considered very eminent in these colonies, they asked the Government of that colony to permit him to come here and advise the committee in judging these designs. The Government of New South Wales very courteously acceded to the request of the committee, the only condition they made being that we should pay Mr. Vernon's expenses in going to and from this State. Mr. Vernon, the Government Architect of New South Wales, advised the committee that the best thing he could do to assist them was to go through the designs and make a report upon them. This he did, having taken some considerable time about it, and he made a most excellent report to the committee. Mr. Vernon reported that none of the designs complied with the conditions, and that the committee were therefore absolved from accepting any; but that, in view of the laborious work involved and the skill and ability shown in their production, it was a matter for favourable consideration whether there should not be a suitable recompense to the authors of those designs which were first, second, and third in order of merit. The committee thought the suggestion reasonable, and recommended the Government to pay half the amounts originally intended to be given, the first successful candidate receiving £250 instead of £500, the second £100 instead of £200, and the third £50 instead of £100. There was therefore a considerable saving to the

State, for effecting which the hon. member should not find fault with the Advisory Committee.

**MR. WALLACE:** The designs were of no use.

**SIR J. G. LEE STEERE:** Yes; because they were placed at the disposal of the Government for several months, in compliance with one of the conditions. Parliament would surely agree to pay the competitors for their hard and meritorious work, although they did not quite comply with the condition that the building should not cost more than £100,000.

**MR. HOPKINS:** Were the plans of any service?

**SIR J. G. LEE STEERE:** They were, he believed.

**MR. WALLACE:** That had to be proved.

**MR. DAGLISH:** Had this remuneration been promised?

**SIR J. G. LEE STEERE:** Another saving had been effected by the Advisory Committee. According to the conditions, the successful competitor for the first design was to be allowed to prepare the working drawings for the buildings, for which he was to receive the sum of one per cent. of the total amount of the contract, such payment not to exceed £1,000. There had been no extravagance, but merely justice to the successful competitors.

**MR. WALLACE:** The designs were not in accordance with the conditions; consequently their authors were not entitled to any recognition.

**THE PREMIER:** In strictness, the hon. member (Mr. Wallace) was correct. The fee was to be paid only in the event of the plans complying with certain conditions. None of them did comply, but the work showed such merit that the Government Architect advised an honorarium, and it was stipulated that if such were accepted, the Government should have the use of the plans, and might act on any suggestions to be gathered therefrom. The hon. member objecting was in error in a particular on which the report was silent; for the plans which had been subsequently prepared and submitted to Parliament were based on the most successful of these competitive designs, so that the country had had full value for the money paid. Farther in the Estimates was a vote to enable the department to start the building. The

Government could not take advantage of a man's work without paying for it.

Amendment put and negatived.

Item—Ministerial and Parliamentary Visits, £300:

MR. M. H. JACOBY: How was this made up? Was the cost of trains included?

THE TREASURER: Probably not. At present, he had no information available other than that in the detailed report which had been laid on the table.

Item—Grant to Fire Brigades, £ for £, £2,000:

MR. HOPKINS: Did the item apply to all State brigades?

THE TREASURER: Yes.

Item—Purchase of 6,000 copies of the publication, "The Golden Gate of Australia," £350:

MR. S. C. PIGOTT moved that the item be struck out.

THE TREASURER: The money had been paid.

MR. A. E. THOMAS: The author of this work, who was present in the House, must be congratulated. He (Mr. Thomas) was about to write a similar book, called "Esperance, the left-out-in-the-cold port of W.A." He wished the Government to buy 6,000 copies of this work at 1s. 3d. per copy, and to let him advertise himself in the book, and have it distributed, if possible, at the proposed exhibition in London. Similar publications, of little value to the authors or the recipients, had been paid for to the loss of the State. There was, however, a work, "Twentieth Century Impressions of Western Australia," a costly book which had been prepared under the supervision of an honorary advisory committee of representative men to whom everything inserted in the book had been submitted. The Government might well arrange to secure copies for distribution to the leading libraries and the largest steamships in the world.

MR. HASTIE: Was the hon. member in order in advertising in this House his own publication?

MR. THOMAS: The publication which he wished to bring out had not yet been published. He wished the assurance of the Premier that if he printed a book the

Government would purchase 6,000 copies of it.

THE CHAIRMAN: The hon. member was travelling away from the item under discussion.

MR. THOMAS: There was no other item under which he could bring the matter forward. We were dealing with a publication which the Government had paid for, and he wished to speak of a book to be published.

THE CHAIRMAN: The hon. member could deal with it in some other way.

MR. THOMAS: It did not seem that there would be any opportunity on the Estimates to speak of this other work.

THE CHAIRMAN: The hon. member could bring it up by motion.

MR. THOMAS: The few remarks which had been made would indicate to the Government what he intended.

HON. F. H. PIESSE: The Committee did not seem to be satisfied with the advertising which had been carried out by the publication of this book. The work was persistently brought under the notice of the Forrest Ministry, and a great deal was expected from the gentleman who was to publish it. Sir John Forrest was told it was a work which would be of very great help and assistance to West Australia. He (Mr. Piesse) was in favour of advertising the State, and the Government were promised a work which would be a great help in this direction. We had seen the result of the labours of the publisher and editor, the book having been laid on the table. Most of the information given in the "Golden Gate" was obtained from the reports of the Engineer-in-Chief of the State, placed on the table of the House during the past few years. There was very little original matter in the book; and although a little time was given to the production of the work, a great deal of the matter consisted of what was termed "scissors and paste" production.

MR. DIAMOND: Absolutely untrue.

HON. F. H. PIESSE: The matter contained in the book was obtained from the reports of the Engineer-in-Chief and others, also periodicals of an official character brought out in the State; and if there was an item on the Estimates which should be expunged, it was this one. The publication did not justify the payment of £300. No doubt some good

reason was given at the time for the issue of such a publication; and as one who took exception to the payment for the work, he certainly had thought to see a better result. The book had a beautiful cover, with the Sturt Pea delineated on it, and other floral decorations, and that was the only interesting part of the work. The Government should go farther, and have the front page framed and handed round to members, as other interesting documents had been. The work did not do credit to the editor, and should not have been paid for. As Minister he had opposed the purchase of the work.

MR. G. TAYLOR: As the member who was the cause of this book being placed on the table of the House, he was sorry to see the attitude of members on the Opposition side in comparison with their attitude when the book was laid on the table. The member for Boulder at that time made an elaborate speech on the book, and members no doubt grasped what the member for Boulder then said. He was not going to oppose the item, as he supposed the work had been paid for.

MR. DAGLISH: The hon. member approved of it.

MR. TAYLOR: No. He disapproved of the action of members to-night, and disapproved of the work. He thought the purchase of the book was not justified, and had seen nothing since to alter his opinion. The position members occupied in the House altered their opinions.

MR. H. DAGLISH: It was regrettable to see members on the Opposition side not altogether a happy family. He was surprised at the attitude taken by the member for Mt. Margaret in attacking his leader: it was surprising his leader did not call the member to order. It was unfair on an item to attack a member of the House, as the member for the Williams had done. If any wrong had been done it occurred during the time the Government of which the member for the Williams was a member, or by the succeeding Government, of which the member for the Williams was a supporter—the Government led by the member for Northam.

HON. F. H. PIESSE: At the time this matter was agreed upon he was not in office.

MR. DAGLISH: The hon. member was supporting the Throssell Administration, and it was during the time that Government was in power that the work was consummated.

MR. DIAMOND: Oh no; a year before the election.

MR. DAGLISH: All knew the money had been spent: there was no use in criticising the item now. Members looked at this matter from a political point of view. He agreed that it was unwise to issue books until the Government were satisfied of the contents of the volumes by perusal. It had been the usual thing in the past when a person came along with a book about Western Australia, if that person was a friend of the party in power, the Government purchased the work and paid for it at the public expense. He hoped the action of the Government in purchasing this work would not be repeated. He was not expressing an opinion on the book: he did not know what it was worth.

MR. PIGOTT: After hearing what had been said, and understanding that the money had been spent, he asked leave to withdraw the amendment, but hoped the debate would be a warning to future Governments. It was not right for any Government to throw away the money of the country, without being sure that the book was worth the amount to be expended on it.

THE PREMIER: In justice to the member who was the author of the book, he must say that no arrangement had been made with the member since he had been elected to Parliament. The arrangement was made long before the member entered this House.

MR. DIAMOND: Twelve months before. Amendment by leave withdrawn.

Item—Expenses in connection with the visit of their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York, £27,000:

MR. G. TAYLOR: This item might well be reduced by £27,000. Certainly the amount seemed enormous when one bore in mind that the Colonial Treasurer had stated in answer to a question asked by the member for Kanowna (Mr. Hastie), that he thought the total expense of the royal visit might run into £5,000 or £7,000. How much more was this royal

visit business to cost the country? With all due loyalty, one must consider this expenditure grossly wasteful. A great deal of good might have been done if the amount had been devoted to ameliorating the hard conditions of life in the back country, or to the erecting an hospital in Perth. Certainly if hon. members had dreamt there was a chance of the expenditure for the Royal visit running into such figures, they would have taken precautions to prevent it.

**THE TREASURER:** A return laid on the table to-night at the request of the member for Beverley (Mr. Harper), showed that the total cost amounted to a little over £30,000. The Government now faithfully promised that this kind of thing should not occur again.

**MR. J. M. HOPKINS:** The most loyal member might be excused for considering that thirty odd thousand pounds was too large an amount for a population of 190,000 to 200,000 people to spend on the entertainment of royal visitors. There would not be so much reason for complaint if portion of the money had been spent in permanent adornment and improvement, such as statutory. At the coronation of Queen Victoria the Imperial Government spent only £200,000—a glaring contrast to our extravagance.

Item—Cost of Free Passes for Members of Parliament over Midland Railway line, £530:

**MR. A. E. THOMAS:** The amount paid to the Midland Railway Company in respect of the few members of Parliament who used the line was excessive. A better business arrangement would be to purchase season tickets for members regularly travelling over the line, and to refund their fares to any other members having occasion to travel on it.

Item—Amount required to recoup the Post Office Savings Bank for Loan to Coolgardie Municipal Council in connection with the Exhibition, and Interest to 30th September, 1901, £3,337 10s.:

**MR. R. HASTIE:** A considerable amount of money had been spent on the Coolgardie Exhibition by people who must be indeed fond of advertising. Did this item represent the last amount the country would have to pay on account of the Coolgardie Exhibition?

**THE TREASURER:** This was the final payment, he understood.

**MR. HASTIE:** The Treasurer understood! Could he inform the Committee what the total cost of the Exhibition had been to the country?

**THE TREASURER:** It was hard to say. There had been votes year after year. The circumstances in connection with this particular payment were that certain amounts were first of all voted by Parliament for the Coolgardie Exhibition, and that later the Savings Bank granted an advance on the security of the Exhibition property. This item represented the amount of that advance, together with interest. The Coolgardie Exhibition Commissioners, being unable to repay the amount, obtained from a former Government a promise that the liability would be taken over by the State.

**MR. HASTIE:** Would this be the last subsidy to the Coolgardie Exhibition?

**THE TREASURER:** Yes.

**MR. J. GARDINER:** It was a pity that the members who were so loud in commending the judicious expenditure of money in advertising were not here to defend the item. The member for Wellington (Mr. Teesdale Smith) in particular, if present, might be able to tell the Committee that he "had seen the Exhibition."

**MR. A. E. THOMAS:** The member for Coolgardie (Mr. Morgans) and his colleague the member for Mt. Burges (Mr. Reid) being absent, he as a Norseman man might be permitted to say something on behalf of the Coolgardie Exhibition, the expenditure on which had been fully warranted. At that Exhibition was formed the nucleus of that grand collection of minerals which was displayed at Paris and Glasgow. That alone was a sufficient justification of the expenditure; but the exhibition had performed another important work—it had been the means of showing the goldfields people what the agriculturists of this State could produce. The Agricultural Court had been the means of inducing many of the goldfields residents to take up agricultural land in this State. The public money spent on the exhibition had not been by way of subsidy; and the member for Kanowna (Mr. Hastie) had no right to say anything of the sort.

MR. DIAMOND rose to a point of order. Could a member speak on an item, unless on a motion introduced?

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes; certainly.

Item—Purchase of 10,000 copies of the *Review of Reviews*, £6 1s.:

MR. J. M. HOPKINS: This item was most objectionable. The usual course of publishers producing a book on Western Australia was to hunt up a few members of Parliament, write their biographies as dictated by themselves, and reproduce their photographs life-size. Then the members so advertised invited the Ministry of the day to put something on the next Estimates for the publication. The views of the member for Dundas (Mr. Thomas) with regard to such a production as the *Twentieth Century Impressions of Western Australia* did not meet with his acceptance. A stop should be put to this subsidising of publications.

MR. A. J. DIAMOND said he was sorry the member for the Williams (Hon. F. H. Piesse) was not present to give his opinion on the literary merits of this journal.

MR. A. E. THOMAS: The *Review of Reviews* had a fairly good name, as had also the editor, as a literary man. He had seen the article, and it was a very good one, although he was not a judge.

MR. M. H. JACOBY: Had the Government discontinued the grants to fire brigades?

THE TREASURER: The Government gave £ for £.

Vote put and passed.

Aborigines, £5,000—agreed to.

This completed the Treasury votes.

COLONIAL SECRETARY'S Department (Hon. F. Illingworth).

Office of Colonial Secretary, £2,245 9s. 3d.—agreed to.

Medical, £80,936 0s. 3d.:

MR. H. DAGLISH: Could the Colonial Secretary inform the Committee why the grant in aid of the Nannine hospital had been withdrawn? He asked this question on behalf of the member for North Murchison (Mr. Holman).

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: That statement had appeared in the Press on several occasions, but it was incorrect. The grant had not been withdrawn.

Items (Albany)—Quarantine Officer, £300; Caretaker, quarantine station, £85; matron ditto, £50; and Assistant ditto, £35:

MR. W. J. BUTCHER: Was it necessary to carry on this quarantine station and keep an expensive staff, as the mail steamers did not now go to Albany.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: Quite a number of steamers from the other States went there. We had large ocean steamers calling, and it had been quite necessary to have a quarantine station.

MR. J. M. HOPKINS: The quarantine station would soon pass to the Commonwealth.

MR. J. GARDINER: The number of vessels at Albany was, he thought, only three less than before the mail steamers ceased to call there.

Item—Bridgetown, district medical officer and quarantine officer, £250:

MR. S. C. PIGOTT: When this officer was appointed, he had, amongst other duties, to attend to the post-office officials free of charge. Since the Commonwealth had taken over our post-offices, a great injustice had been done to all post and telegraph office servants in this State, for the Commonwealth refused to sanction medical attendance, and consequently the officers had to pay for such attendance, although these men were appointed to their positions on the distinct understanding that they were to get free medical attendance. As we paid our medical officers the same salary now as before, it would be only fair that this State should authorise its medical officers to look after those people until arrangements had been made by the Commonwealth. Hundreds of complaints had come to the Deputy-Postmaster-General in Perth. He spoke to the Deputy-Postmaster-General on the subject to-day, and the Deputy-Postmaster-General told him he had been doing all he could to move in the matter, but he had not been able to accomplish anything. The Deputy-Postmaster-General considered that the action taken in the case of the men had been most unjust.

Items (Broome)—Orderly £90, and cook £60:

MR. J. M. HOPKINS: Was this orderly kept for the hospital, or for

blackening the boots of the medical officer?

**THE COLONIAL SECRETARY:** For the hospital.

**MR. HOPKINS:** That was all right.

**MR. W. D. JOHNSON:** Was this cook a Chinaman?

**THE COLONIAL SECRETARY:** To the best of his knowledge and belief, this cook was not a Chinaman. The only Chinaman the Government had in the service was dismissed last week.

Item — Coolgardie, District Medical Officer, £250:

**DR. O'CONNOR:** This officer received £500 a year altogether; yet Coolgardie was a place where a doctor might have a big practice, and probably this officer had a big private practice, whilst some medical man who had to go to Derby or Broome, or some unknown place, received only £150 without a practice. The same thing applied to Kalgoorlie and Menzies as to Coolgardie. The officer at Kalgoorlie received £600 a year, and the officer at Menzies £483. This was a matter that should be inquired into by the Colonial Secretary.

**MR. J. M. HOPKINS:** With regard to the salary paid to the district medical officer at Coolgardie, he presumed that there, as in the case of other Government hospitals, the officer got 25 per cent. of the fees collected in the hospital. He took exception to the payment of those fees. Why not give the medical officer a salary, and let us know what the amount was. Instead of that, we gave him a proportion of the fees collected in the hospital. One did not see any advantage in that. It would be preferable to stop the granting of refunds to the medical officers, and put the salary down in the first place.

**DR. O'CONNOR:** There should be an honorary staff attached to the hospitals at Coolgardie, Kalgoorlie, Menzies, and other places.

**THE COLONIAL SECRETARY:** Considering the short term of his Ministerial office, he was thankful for the suggestion, and would see what could be done.

**MR. HOPKINS:** On the eastern goldfields there had long been an agitation for advisory boards to hospitals.

The administration was not satisfactory.

**THE MINISTER FOR MINES (Hon. H. Gregory):** To pay medical officers a commission of 25 per cent. on the fees collected from patients, was not satisfactory; and the reason for the practice was the belief that as so few patients paid, this commission might result in more fees being collected.

Item—Superintending Medical Officer, Lunatic Asylum, Fremantle, £700:

**MR. GARDINER:** Why the increase from £321?

**THE PREMIER:** After the death of Dr. Barnett, Dr. Hope became medical officer, and drew a salary from another source; consequently he did not draw as much as the previous superintendent. Subsequently Dr. Montgomery, a specialist, was imported from England at a special salary, and he devoted the whole of his time to the work without private practice. Dr. Barnett for some time had had a practice, and afterwards held another office as well as that of superintendent.

**MR. J. GARDINER:** Had anything been done to give effect to the report of the select committee?

**THE COLONIAL SECRETARY:** The whole question was now receiving consideration, and necessarily too, in view of the overcrowding of the asylum. Valuable suggestions from Dr. Montgomery were receiving attention. Dr. Montgomery was paid a salary of £700, and was under a contract.

Item—District Medical Officer, Guildford, £150:

**MR. WALLACE:** Was it desirable the Government should subsidise one doctor in the busy township of Guildford, in which there were two other doctors? Abolish the subsidy and leave the field open. He moved that the item be struck out.

**THE MINISTER FOR PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. C. H. Rason):** As member for the district, he pointed out that the medical officer had to attend the Government hospital, which was always full, and must also attend the much larger hospital to be established at Midland Junction. By the abolition of the salary no saving would be effected, for

the hospital must then be abolished, and the patients from Smith's Mill and the Canning and Midland lines must come to the Perth hospital, where another house surgeon must be provided.

MR. QUINLAN : They came now.

THE MINISTER FOR PUBLIC WORKS : Yes; because the Guildford hospital was overcrowded, though there were probably 20 beds. This officer was the only medical man in Guildford, the other two mentioned being at Midland Junction; and none would be found to attend to the Guildford hospital without at least the small salary here provided.

MR. BUTCHER : To pass the amendment would mean closing the hospital, in which he had seen a dozen patients.

MR. TAYLOR : With no medical vote would he interfere; but could nothing be done on the Supplementary Estimates to provide for districts out back, such as North Murchison, where in November last a patient had had to be conveyed some 98 miles to the hospital at Cue?

MR. M. H. JACOBY : The item should be retained in face of the fact that at Midland Junction there would soon be a large number of people engaged in dangerous occupations. The medical officer at Guildford served a district in which there were a number of wood cutters who frequently met with serious accidents. The duties of the officer extended as far as Chittering, 40 miles away, and if he were removed those requiring medical aid could not obtain it in the district.

DR. O'CONNOR supported the item. When a new hospital was built, Dr. Elgee, one of the most competent medical men in the State, should also attend at the institution.

MR. WALLACE : After hearing the explanation of the member for Guildford, he would ask leave to withdraw the amendment. He did not know that this medical officer controlled the hospital, and in fact he had not known there was a hospital at Guildford. He did not think the State should subsidise one medical man who had to compete against another in the same district.

Amendment by leave withdrawn.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY : In item 157, "Secretary and Dispenser" there was a clerical error. The amount £258 should be £208, making a difference

of £50 in the total. [Item corrected accordingly.]

Item—District Medical Officer, Kalgoorlie, £250 :

MR. RESIDE : The object he had in drawing attention to this item was to protest against the system of payment by results. A medical officer should be paid a salary and not draw 25 per cent. of the hospital fees. Cases occurred in which poor men were sent out of the hospital before they were convalescent, while others who could afford to pay were allowed to remain. The system was a bad one. Was it right that medical officers should be allowed to make illegal levies on the mines? It was currently reported the medical officers were drawing as much from the mines as they received from the Government by these levies.

Item—District Medical Officer, Northampton, £200 :

MR. WALLACE : Members seemed generously inclined, and it did not appear to be much use moving to reduce items; however he moved that the item be struck out. This officer held the position of resident magistrate in the district. The appointment was unnecessary, the district was healthy and the population was not sufficient to warrant the retention of a medical officer there. The district was only 30 miles from the Government hospital at Geraldton, which had been built at great expense and was maintained at great cost. There was a train service from Geraldton to Northampton twice a week and a good road between the two places only 28 miles apart. If this item was allowed to remain, next year a request would be made to build a hospital at Northampton. In the past the people of Northampton had been satisfied with the medical officer at Geraldton visiting their town. Appointments were being made without consideration of their necessity. The larger portion of this district was sparsely populated, and many people lived nearer the Cue hospital than to Northampton. If the item were passed, he would at once make a request to the Government to appoint a medical officer for the district of Yalgoo. They wanted a casualty ward at Yalgoo for the purpose of placing patients in temporarily.



DR. O'CONNOR opposed the amendment. It seemed to him that medical men were not paid half enough. He did not know if the hon. member had ever been in Northampton, but there were 2,000 people there, and the nearest medical aid was 30 miles away, at Geraldton. This officer had been appointed at the request of the people of the district.

MR. J. L. NANSON: Within the last month or two the medical officer at Northampton had been the means of saving a larger sum of money than the medical officer's remuneration. The sergeant of police fell seriously ill and must inevitably have died if medical assistance was not available immediately. The police officer had been a long time in the service and if he had died the Government would have had to pay, in compassionate allowance to the widow, a sum more than the doctor's salary for 12 months. The doctor had been very busily employed recently, and during the time of the election he was called away 50 or 60 miles to attend a serious case, and in that instance life was saved. There was nothing the Government had done which had given greater satisfaction and had been of more advantage to the district than the appointment of a medical man there. Before this doctor was appointed, if any one fell seriously ill, a special train, at a prohibitive cost, had to be obtained and the medical officer brought from Geraldton. In nine cases out of ten the patients were too poor to pay such a heavy tax, and probably the sufferer would die before a doctor arrived on the spot. In addition to the cost of the train, a heavy fee had to be paid to the medical man. The Government could economise in the direction of the medical vote, in a way which would enable a medical officer to be given in every district where one was required. It could be done by economising in regard to the hospital vote. All over the country hospitals were being maintained with scarcely a patient, but with heavy staffs drawing salaries for doing next to nothing. If the Government tackled the hospital question and shut up half the hospitals in the country, thus carrying out the recommendations of their own principal medical officer, they would have plenty of money to provide medical aid

where required. It was no argument to say that because Yalgoo wanted a doctor and could not get one, Northampton should be deprived of the services of a medical man. If Northampton got a doctor and Yalgoo made out an equally good case, Yalgoo would get one also. The Committee should bear in mind that if the back country were starved in this respect, settlement would be greatly retarded. People would not, if they could help it, settle in places which lacked reasonable facilities for obtaining medical aid. The sum of £300 represented a very small retaining fee. In no other part of the State had the Government been able to make a better bargain. The holder of the office was an excellent doctor. His ability was so well recognised that other districts had endeavoured to secure his services. The appointment was only £300 a year, without a house, and with no allowance except £12 per annum for drugs. It was to be hoped that the Committee would not strike this item off the Estimates, because such an action would be regarded, not only in Northampton but throughout the country districts, as indicating a disposition on the part of Parliament to retard settlement of the outlying portions of the State. It was preposterous to say the State could not afford to pay a retaining fee of £300 a year for a doctor at Northampton when such an amount as £30,000 was spent on entertaining the Duke and Duchess of York. There should not be any haggling over the small sum asked for, which would mean the salvation of life in many instances. The doctor at Northampton had already saved a number of lives, and, moreover, brought consolations into many homes when he was not able to save the life of the patient. All of us, even in the case of hopeless illness, liked to feel that everything possible had been done to preserve a valued life. It was incomprehensible how the representative of a back country district like Mt. Magnet could object to an item of this sort.

HON. F. H. PIESSE: The amendment should not be supported. On the score of humanity the Committee should favourably regard the retention of items such as this. The member for the Murchison showed clearly the difficulty under which settlers in outlying districts laboured

so far as obtaining medical assistance was concerned. One had to live in the remote districts to appreciate the difficulty. It was a benefit and a boon to residents at a distance from the centres of population to be able to obtain the services of a medical man. Every life saved was extremely valuable, even from a statistical point of view alone. Let members consider how great a loss was involved in the death of the head of a family. From the humanitarian aspect it was proper that State aid should be granted to outlying places until they became large enough to support a medical man without extraneous assistance.

MR. G. TAYLOR: The member for the Murchison (Mr. Nanson) had not put the Committee in full possession of the facts. If the medical officer whose salary was in question had only Northampton to look after, there would be no need for his services. The fact was, however, that the doctor would be in charge of the whole of the very large electorate represented by the hon. member. Northampton being but a small place, the Committee might consider £200 or £250 spent in retaining a doctor for it alone as money wasted, or not spent to the best advantage, in view of the fact that many goldfields districts with populations of 1,000 to 1,500 lacked the services of a medical man. To a goldfields representative it seemed somewhat unfair that members representing settled districts should demand medical aid for people in the healthy portions of the State, when outlying goldfields districts, where the people were more subject to illness than on the coast, were without doctors. That consideration, of course, afforded no argument for refusing Northampton its doctor.

MR. H. DAGLISH: This item should be retained. The principle of providing resident medical officers in sparsely populated districts was a good one, if not carried too far. At the same time it appeared that £150 a year was sufficient to retain the services of a medical officer for Northampton.

MR. NANSON: No. That amount had been allocated but never spent, because no doctor could be induced to accept it.

MR. DAGLISH: A sum of £45 6s. 8d. had been drawn out of the £150.

MR. NANSON: That was for occasional visits by the doctor from Geraldton.

MR. DAGLISH: The member for Murchison had referred to a population of 2,000 souls. Surely that population should be adequate to support a medical officer without Government aid.

MR. NANSON: The population was scattered over an immense area.

MR. DAGLISH: The area over which the population was scattered did not make its medical requirements any less, nor did it lighten the purses of the inhabitants. In fact, the population of some of those scattered districts was far wealthier than that of cities and large towns. Two hundred pounds should be a sufficient retainer to give to a doctor who had a population of 2,000 souls to work on. The average population per doctor in Perth would not work out at anything like 2,000. On that basis, there should be only about 15 doctors in Perth and its suburbs.

MR. JACOBY: The case was different when one had to travel 50 miles for medical assistance.

MR. DAGLISH: Perth doctors did not receive large fees for travelling, such as were paid to medical men in country districts.

MR. TAYLOR: The rate was £1 per mile.

MR. DAGLISH: If the member for Mt. Magnet would move an amendment that the item be reduced by £100, he would receive some support. A resident magistrate at Northampton was the merest farce. Perhaps the member for the district would be surprised to learn that the criminal statistics of Northampton bore out that statement.

MR. W. J. BUTCHER: It was hard to understand why members who, in the early stages of the Estimates, passed items of £4,000 and £5,000 to be expended in the metropolis for the mere amusement of its inhabitants, should haggle at small items representing matters of life and death to people scattered in remote corners of the State. Hon. members should not hesitate for a moment to spend a couple of hundreds a year where human life was concerned. Their conduct was in the last degree inconsistent. "Straining at a gnat and swallowing a camel" was too mild an expression. The course taken by the member for Mt. Magnet, himself the representative of an outlying district, was inexplicable.

It was impossible to appoint doctors on a population basis. When members considered this matter calmly they would not support the amendment, and he would rather see an increase than a decrease in the amount. Whilst he was in the House he would not support any attempt to cut down the salaries of medical officers in the outlying districts.

**MR. J. M. HOPKINS:** Patchwork was a thing he did not care for. If we were going to reorganise the department, that would be a different thing, and he would be only too pleased to see it done. As to what saving could be effected regarding Government hospitals he only spoke of hospitals he knew—those on the gold-fields. He did not think that much economy could be effected there, for the staff was considerably overworked and underpaid. At Kalgoorlie the nurses worked 12 hours a day.

**MR. WALLACE:** Some members endeavoured to make the committee believe it was his desire to attack this particular place because of this appointment. He, however, was attacking the principle. He would like to know why the appointment was made, and he would move later on to get the papers. On what ground was the Premier satisfied that there was a necessity for a medical officer at Northampton? The appointment made was an absurd and unnecessary one. During the last 15 years there had not been enough sickness to warrant a doctor living there.

**MR. NANSON:** People were dying in many cases because they could not get a doctor to go there.

**MR. WALLACE:** A doctor could attend once a month if necessary.

**MR. JACOBY:** Could it be arranged that people would be ill only once a month?

**MR. WALLACE:** A doctor at Geraldton had an arrangement to visit Northampton once a month, and it was shown that there was no necessity for a medical officer there, consequently only £45 was absorbed in one year for visits to Northampton. A statement was made by the Premier that it would be a shame to deprive a community of medical attendance. Let us appeal to the Government to give the same consideration to people in the legitimate backblocks who were hundreds of miles away from a medical man, people who were not within

30 miles of a railway and who had not a good road. He asked the member for Subiaco to move the amendment he had mentioned and he (Mr. Wallace) would support it.

**THE PREMIER:** The hon. member (Mr. Wallace) appealed to him. He thought he made himself clear last night when discussing the salary of this officer as a magistrate. He pointed out then that it was more in his capacity as a medical man than as a magistrate that this officer was required, and we were only following out a well established principle of combining the offices of resident magistrate and doctor wherever possible. It had been represented to him that there had been a great deal of fresh settlement in the district of late years, more particularly on the Upper Chapman, and a medical man was required. An officer in Geraldton had been accustomed to go up there very infrequently; a member said once a month. That was not sufficient medical protection, so to speak, for the inhabitants of that district. There was not a good road between Northampton and Geraldton. Representations were made to him some months ago, and he put this amount on the Estimates. He should regret exceedingly if the House struck the item out. A medical officer from Geraldton could only wait a short time, and could not go beyond Northampton, the terminus of the railway, so that the patients had to come to him instead of his going to the patients. The unfortunate people living at Northampton could not afford to pay the expense of a doctor at Geraldton, and, moreover, the services of a doctor at Geraldton were not always available. In these outlying districts a doctor was wanted within reach, and the retaining fee of £300 a year was very little under the circumstances, because the chances were that he could not augment his income very much; if he doubled it, he was fairly lucky. We ought not to deprive a worthy lot of settlers of the protection which such an appointment as this afforded them and their families. He appealed to the humanity of the House not to interfere with the vote.

**MR. WALLACE:** The arguments brought forward to-night could always be adduced in a case like this, but there

had not been a sound one advanced. A doctor would not make anything above the £200 a year the Government gave him because of the healthy state of the district.

MR. NANSON: What about births? People had children?

MR. JACOBY: What about the poor women?

MR. WALLACE: Let this matter go to a vote. He wanted to enter his protest against the principle of appointing an officer where one was not required and giving him an extra £100 a year so as to keep him in office. If there was a district which had an exorbitant number of justices, it was the Murchison.

Amendment put and negatived.

Item—Perth District Medical Officer, £250:

DR. O'CONNOR: Some years ago the whole of this work was done by the principal medical officer, who was allowed private practice as well, but during the last year or two he was not allowed private practice, and was only paid £500 a year. He suggested that Dr. Lovegrove should be paid another £100 a year and should do this work.

Item—Nurse, Southern Cross, £60:

MR. J. RESIDE: Was there any intention of shortening the hours of goldfields nurses, or of giving them the eight hours?

MR. J. M. HOPKINS: On the Notice Paper he had a motion that eight hours should be extended to hospital nurses, but it had been understood that a motion of the member for Toodyay (Mr. Quinlan) would cover the point.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: The question was under consideration, and the Government hoped to be able to do something—not, perhaps, to give the eight hours, as the work of nurses was intermittent, but to improve the working conditions.

Item—Principal Medical Officer, forage, £50:

MR. J. M. HOPKINS: Why did this officer, who lived in the city, require forage allowance?

DR. O'CONNOR: He looked after the whole of the medical department throughout the country.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: This officer supervised the medical staff of the State, and his emoluments totalled £800 a year, not nearly enough for the work done. An increase had been applied for, and with good reason; but it had to be refused, owing to the determination not to increase the higher salaries. The doctor must either keep or hire a horse, and his position now was worse than in the past.

MR. DAGLISH: Dr. Lovegrove, when holding this office, used to charge fees for the examination of candidates for the police force, perhaps also candidates for other public employment. He knew that was the practice.

Item—District Medical Officer, Albany, house, £50:

MR. O'CONNOR: Why this allowance to one officer, and not to certain others?

MR. TAYLOR: Perhaps the others did not live in houses.

Item—Bunbury, District Medical Officer, house, £50:

MR. H. J. YELVERTON: This officer had a house allowance and no forage allowance, though the district was large.

MR. GARDINER: Only one of the district medical officers was allowed forage.

Items—Travelling Expenses, £600; Incidental Expenses, £400:

MR. W. J. BUTCHER: What were these expenses?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: Officers must travel through the country, and their expenses were allowed according to a scale. Last year £900 had been voted, and only £682 expended. The incidentals were in connection with inquests, etc., to which doctors had to be sent.

Item—Perth Public Hospital, £9,000:

MR. JACOBY: Was anything likely to be done towards putting this hospital on a new basis? Recently two men employed by him had been in the hospital, but nothing could induce them to go back. There had been considerable dissatisfaction amongst patients. One man had been left for three weeks without medical assistance.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: No.

MR. JACOBY: Dr. Tratman was supposed to attend him, but did not do so, being under the impression that another doctor was looking after the man. The hospital had a thoroughly bad name. These were facts.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: No.

MR. JACOBY: On a day which was not a visiting day he had wished to visit a patient, one of his workmen, but had the greatest difficulty in gaining admission. Why should that be?

THE PREMIER: Because of the disturbance to other patients.

MR. JACOBY: Even the man's wife was not allowed to see him, except on the ordinary visiting days.

MR. G. TAYLOR: Since he had been in Perth, several people from his district had been in the hospital, and had seen him after their discharge. They said nothing of the hospital, save what was satisfactory; and if there was one-twentieth of the alleged bad management, those men would have complained to him. Some time ago he tried to visit a friend, but was refused admittance because the patient was delirious. The doctor, however, consented to strain a point to admit him if that were possible. He had heard complaints from the servants of the hospital, but not from patients.

DR. O'CONNOR: When the select committee on the Perth hospital met to make their inquiry, the hospital board wrote asking to be allowed to send a member of the board to be examined; but the committee refused. All the evidence was from one side, therefore the report was prejudiced.

MR. JACOBY: The report had not been read by him. He was unprejudiced.

DR. O'CONNOR: The trouble was to keep empty beds in the hospital. The hon. member had said he was pleased with the Guildford hospital; he understood that the building was an old winery, and perhaps there was something in the cellar. It was impossible to say that a patient did not see a doctor for two weeks, because there were two house surgeons at the Perth hospital, and 20 or 30 patients were in each ward. Was the case to which the hon. member referred a surgical or a medical one?

MR. JACOBY: A surgical one.

DR. O'CONNOR: Then there were 20 patients in the surgical ward, and

if one was neglected, all must have been neglected. As to visiting the hospital, if persons were allowed to see patients when they liked, the nurses would never be able to attend to their duties; and visitors upset the patients, especially in delirious cases of typhoid.

Item—Yarloop Hospital, Grant in aid, £150:

MR. J. M. HOPKINS: Was this a new institution?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: A new hospital had been established, and this was a subsidy in its aid.

Vote (as reduced by amendment) put and passed.

Gaols, £26,695 12s. 6d.:

Item—Inspector of Prisons, £150:

MR. H. DAGLISH moved that the item be reduced by £1. It was absolutely necessary to have an officer in charge of the prison department who could devote the whole of his time to the control of prisons. There should be an officer who was thoroughly skilled in the latest development of criminology. This was an important science, and it was not creditable to us that absolutely no attention had been devoted to the subject. It was impossible for an inspector to attend to the prisons in his spare time. This officer was also the Sheriff and Controller of Electoral Rolls; therefore only a small portion of his time could be devoted to looking after the prisons. He urged the Government to appoint some officer, Mr. Burt, or someone else, who could devote his time to the control of prisons and put them on a thoroughly efficient basis. At Fremantle there was any amount of room for improvement, and the gaols in the country were notorious for the number of prisoners who left without consulting the authorities. There should be a separate officer to control the prisons, preferably someone who had devoted his time, or would devote his time, to the study of criminology, so that the latest development of the science could be applied in our prisons. By getting an assurance from the Government he would not press the amendment.

THE PREMIER: Everybody would admit that there was room for improvement in regard to the management of our prisons. It would be within the recol-

lection of members that a commission reported on this matter twelve months or so ago, and many requirements were suggested, but one of the greatest difficulties to contend with was the nature of the building at Fremantle. The first improvement that was essential was altogether a new building. The gaol at Fremantle was an old establishment built on an obsolete principle and lacked accommodation. There was no means, unfortunately, for the management to separate or classify the prisoners, which was one of the first essentials in regard to prison discipline. It was a great pity that this could not be done, because everybody admitted that crime and offences differed so much in degree, and it was lamentable to think that criminals of the blackest type had to associate with what one might call the casual offenders. Our prisons had sometimes been termed hot beds or schools for criminals rather than places of correction.

MR. DAGLISH: Manufactories.

THE PREMIER: That was the term. The Government realised the difficulties they had to contend with, and if the Committee were prepared to vote a sufficient salary for a highly skilled officer, the Government would be glad to appoint such an officer. Possibly we would have to go outside the limits of the State to get a man so well skilled in criminology as to approach the ideal suggested. There were not many complaints concerning the officer now holding the position of Inspector of Prisons.

MR. HASTIE: Had that officer any duties?

THE PREMIER: Plenty of duties. It was the Sheriff who discharged the duties of Inspector of Prisons. If we imported a prison expert, a much higher salary would be needed. The matter was one which must engage the attention of any Administration. The first essential to reform was the construction of another building. The prison now used had been erected 50 or 60 years ago, and afforded no opportunity for carrying out an effective system of classification. While admitting the fairness of the criticisms passed by the member for Subiaco (Mr. Daglish), it must be remembered that at the present time there was not much hope of effecting radical reforms. A member of the Government who had sat on the Penal Commission took great

interest in the question under discussion; and no doubt that gentleman's advice would be eminently useful to the Cabinet when they came to consider what were admittedly urgent and necessary reforms.

MR. DAGLISH: In now asking leave to withdraw his amendment, he still desired to impress on the Premier that a new building was not the only essential. An expert in the latest scientific treatment of prisoners was needed. Through the work of such an officer we should save far more than the salary of the best criminologist obtainable. Such an officer would effect a reduction in the number of prisoners by reforming many coming for the first time under the control of the warders. An important State department like the prisons could not be done justice to by an officer devoting to it only so small a portion of his time as a remuneration of £150 per annum represented.

Amendment by leave withdrawn.

Item—Surgeon, £250:

MR. R. HASTIE: It appeared that the gaol surgeon was receiving an increase of £100, which seemed too large an advance to be granted in a single year.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: The explanation, as indicated by a footnote, was that the £100 included £72 formerly paid for dispensing medicine.

Items—Chaplain, Church of England £175; chaplain, Roman Catholic Church £125:

DR. O'CONNOR: In order that prisoners might be reformed, it was necessary to introduce a little religion into the gaols. Both these items ought to be increased, especially the first. The chaplain of the Church of England, who was a married man, was inadequately remunerated at £175 a year.

MR. F. McDONALD: The Church of England chaplain held an additional appointment; for he preached on Sundays in the Fremantle Church of England. The reverend gentleman was, therefore, doing pretty well.

DR. O'CONNOR: The outside engagement did not amount to very much.

Item—Tropical Allowance to Gaoler, Broome, £30:

MR. J. M. HOPKINS: The tropical allowances granted to gaolers and

police were considerably lower than those allowed to post and telegraph officials. Two post and telegraph officials received a tropical allowance of £60, 21 received an allowance of £50, 45 an allowance of £40, and one an allowance of £30. Gaolers, on the other hand, received allowances of only £30—some, indeed, only £25. These allowances were not sufficient in the tropical portions of the State. There was no difference between the two classes of men, and there should be no difference between their respective allowances.

**THE COLONIAL SECRETARY:** The explanation of the apparent anomaly was, probably, that the gaolers were in receipt of other allowances in lieu of rations and quarters, and that so matters were equalised. The subject would be looked into.

**MR S. C. PIGOTT:** Most of the gaolers referred to as receiving a tropical allowance received also an allowance in lieu of lodgings.

Item—Provisions, etc., for Prisoners in charge of Police, £2,000:

**MR. J. GARDINER:** Why was this item reduced by £1,200, when the cost of living had been materially increased?

**THE COLONIAL SECRETARY:** The responsible officers appeared to consider the amount sufficient. The amount had not been reduced by the Government.

**THE PREMIER:** The explanation of the reduction probably was that, owing to increased railway facilities, prisoners were conveyed more quickly, and therefore at less expense, to the gaols. Supposing a constable captured a prisoner at a distance of 50 miles from a prison and with no railway communication available, he had to walk that prisoner down, or get him a horse to ride down, and to feed him on the way. The conveyance of prisoners by train was naturally not so expensive.

**MR. H. DAGLISH:** On page 32 there was an item, "Provisions to unsentenced prisoners in charge of police, £1,600," with a note, "previously paid from gaol votes." That really accounted for the difference which had been referred to. These beautiful explanations of the Premier simply showed what the legal mind

could do with absolutely no material to work on.

Other items agreed to, and the vote passed.

*Rottnest Establishment, £2,809 9s.:*

Item—Superintendent, £400:

**MR. F. McDONALD:** The amount would not be attacked by him, but he would like to hear from the Colonial Secretary what the intentions of the Government were. He believed that 15 years ago there were 150 prisoners at Rottnest, with eight warders. At present there were 32 native prisoners, and the staff was larger than 15 or 20 years ago.

**THE PREMIER** said he had a strong opinion that this establishment could be considerably reduced. There were few prisoners now, and not the same necessity to maintain the establishment as there used to be, because there were not so many prisoners from the central settled districts. Most of them came from the North-West and so forth, where there were gaols. His idea was they could utilise the gaols of Broome and Roebourne and make them safe.

**MR. TAYLOR:** They would want a lot of making.

**THE PREMIER:** There had been some little mistakes up there recently, but he thought the natives ought not to be taken farther from their run than necessary. Recently the Boys' Reformatory at the island had been closed, and he was of opinion that the island might be made a health resort.

**MR. TAYLOR:** It would be necessary to change the name.

**THE PREMIER:** No. The Dutch gave it that name, which meant "rats' nest." He would like to see a portion of the island cut up so that people could build summer residences there. The climate was delightful, with a temperature of ten or fifteen degrees lower than that of Perth, and it was a pity not to use the island for some other purpose than that for which it was used at present. The matter was now engaging attention, and he would use his best endeavours.

**MR. TAYLOR:** Was one to understand that only native prisoners were there?

**THE PREMIER:** One or two good-conduct men were, he thought, sent there as orderlies. It used to be so.

MR. G. TAYLOR: Was difficulty experienced in regard to North-West prisoners, who came from a tropical climate? Would it not affect their health to bring them down to Rottnest, where the temperature was 10 or 15 degrees lower than in Perth? Having lived in the tropics of Queensland, he knew the effect it had, and to fetch people from a tropical climate and bring one to a place 15 degrees cooler than Perth meant death, unless he was a very sound healthy man.

THE PREMIER: The natives were clothed and housed. On a hot day in Perth when there was a land wind, there was a breeze at Rottnest. He admitted that natives had been attacked by epidemics, and that influenced him in his desire to keep within the tropics those natives who belonged to the tropics.

Item—Clerk and superintendent of salt works, medical dispenser, and heliographist, £200:

MR. DAGLISH: Why was one salary paid for these several offices, when some officers with much smaller titles had half a dozen salaries in this State?

Item—Pig food, £110:

MR. J. GARDINER called attention to this item.

THE PREMIER: There were a great many pigs at Rottnest. They were fed on rye, and the stuff was grown on the island.

MR. A. E. THOMAS: What revenue did we get from these pigs?

Other items agreed to, and the vote passed.

On motion by the COLONIAL SECRETARY, progress reported and leave given to sit again.

#### ADJOURNMENT.

The House adjourned at 11:30 o'clock, until the next Monday afternoon.

## Legislative Assembly,

Monday, 20th January, 1902.

Question: Wanneroo Railway Project—Question: Imported Labour Registry Act, Administration—Question: Water Supply and Drainage, Elective Boards—Public Service Act Repeal Bill, first reading—Motion: Land Fertilisers, to Recommend—Paper presented—R.C. Church Lands Amendment Bill (Private), second reading, in Committee, reported—Trading Stamps Abolition Bill, amendment on report—Public Notaries Bill, in Committee, reported—Roads and Streets Closure Bill, in Committee, reported—Permanent Reserves Act Amendment Bill, second reading, in Committee, reported—Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Bill, in Committee, Clauses 1 to 108 (Government employees), progress—Adjournment.

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

#### PRAYERS.

#### QUESTION—WANNEROO RAILWAY PROJECT.

MR. M. H. JACOBY asked the Minister for Works: 1, Whether an inspection of the Wanneroo district has been made in connection with the proposed railway thereto. 2, If so, whether the report is available for members.

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS replied: No inspection had been made of the Wanneroo district in connection with any suggested railway thereto.

#### QUESTION—IMPORTED LABOUR REGISTRY ACT, ADMINISTRATION.

MR. H. DAGLISH asked the Colonial Secretary: Whether he has had inquiry made into the inefficient administration of the Imported Labour Registry Act, to which attention was drawn in this House some time ago; and, if so, what was the result of such inquiry.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY replied: Since the reply given on October 2nd in regard to Asiatics supposed to be illegally at large, the Northern magistrates were communicated with on the subject, and from the replies received it would appear that there is little doubt that those who had not been returned to their country have been re-engaged under the Act.

#### QUESTION—WATER SUPPLY AND DRAINAGE, ELECTIVE BOARD.

MR. H. DAGLISH asked the Premier: Whether the Government has considered