

Message accordingly transmitted to the Legislative Assembly.

ADJOURNMENT.

The House adjourned at 10.20 o'clock, until the next Monday evening.

Legislative Assembly,

Thursday, 29th November, 1900.

Question: Federal Parliament, Opening—Question: Loan Flotation—New Houses of Parliament, Building: Joint Committee of Advice—Appropriation Messages: Late Commissioner of Police—Collie Coalfield, Reward for Discovery: Select Committee's Report—Railways Amendment Bill, third reading—Criminal Law Amendment Bill, third reading—Commercial and Business Holidays Bill, discharge of order—Boulder Health Rates Validation Bill, second reading, etc.—Cattle Removal Restrictions Inquiry, Select Committee's Report—Motion: Prospecting, vote to encourage; Speaker's Ruling—Discharge of Orders (4): Furniture Stamping Bill, Trades Union Bill, Government Printing Office and Minimum Wage, Railway Employees' Associations—Motion: North Perth Board of Health; Amendment passed—Motion: Dredging at Albany; Amendment passed—Discharge of Orders (3): Legal Practitioners Act Amendment Bill, Supreme Court Bill, Administration Bill—Council's Resolution: Public Service, to grade and classify; Amendment passed—Motion: Gold Export Duty (withdrawn)—Adjournment.

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

PRAYERS.

QUESTION—FEDERAL PARLIAMENT OPENING.

MR. ILLINGWORTH, without notice, asked the Premier, Is it the intention of the Government to have this colony represented at the opening of the Federal Parliament by a contingent of volunteers?

THE PREMIER replied:—The matter is under consideration. An invitation has been received from the Premier of New South Wales, asking if it is desired that this colony shall be represented by troops at the opening of the Federal Parliament, and expressing a wish that Western Australia shall be so repre-

sented. I have replied, asking some questions (to which I expect to receive an answer shortly), as to whether, if this colony send troops, horses and outfit can be provided for them, suitable for one hundred men. If we are to be represented at all, it will better to be represented by mounted troops rather than by infantry, because my experience in London at the time of the Queen's Jubilee celebration was that mounted men make a far better and more imposing show, especially when the numbers are small. I think we will have to be represented at the opening of the Federal Parliament. We are trying to ascertain what the other colonies are doing, and we are inclined to consider the idea favourably.

MR. A. FORREST: What would be the cost?

THE PREMIER: The cost would be about £2,000.

QUESTION—LOAN FLOTATION.

MR. ILLINGWORTH, without notice, asked: Has the Premier anything to communicate with regard to the flotation of the loan of £880,000, which was reported in the public Press to have been placed on the London market a few days ago?

THE PREMIER replied:—I was informed this morning, by cable message from the Agent General, that the loan has been successfully floated, and that it has been issued in full.

SEVERAL MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

NEW HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT, BUILDING.

JOINT COMMITTEE OF ADVICE.

THE PREMIER (Right Hon. Sir J. Forrest): I beg to move, by leave and without notice:

That a joint committee of both Houses of Parliament, consisting of three members of the Legislative Council and three members of the Legislative Assembly, be appointed to advise the Government during the progress of the work connected with the erection of new Houses of Parliament; also to advise on any new questions which may arise during the progress of the work, such as internal arrangements and decorations.

I think there will be no controversy about the appointment of this committee, and that we may pass the motion and

forward it to the Legislative Council immediately. It merely proposes that there shall be a committee of advice, consisting of members of both Houses, for assisting the Government during the progress of building the new Houses of Parliament. It is especially desirable that the Government should have this assistance in regard to the accommodation to be provided. I have consulted with Mr. Speaker, who is of opinion that this course is very desirable; and in fact it was he who brought it under my notice in the first instance.

MR. ILLINGWORTH (Central Murchison): I have much pleasure in supporting this motion. This was the course pursued in other colonies in regard to the building of new Houses of Parliament. In the case of the Parliament House in Melbourne, there was a standing committee during the whole time the building was proceeding; and I think it is desirable that an advisory committee should be appointed in connection with the building of new Houses of Parliament in this colony, in order that they may make suggestions as to the accommodation that will be suitable for the members of both Houses.

Question put and passed.

On further motion by the **PREMIER**, three members to represent the Legislative Assembly on the committee were appointed, namely the Premier, the leader of the Opposition, and the Speaker of the House, for the time being.

Resolution transmitted to the Legislative Council, with a request for their concurrence by the appointment of three members to represent the Council on the committee.

APPROPRIATION MESSAGES—LATE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE.

THE PREMIER presented a Message from the Administrator, recommending an appropriation of £500 for the widow and family of the late Colonel Phillips, Commissioner of Police.

Message read and considered.

IN COMMITTEE.

THE PREMIER (Right Hon. Sir J. Forrest): It was with regret that he submitted this motion, but he was assured that it was necessary that something should be done in the direction indicated.

The difficulty of dealing with cases of this sort was that any provision the House could make was very small, and might not be of much use unless the persons benefited by it could live on a very small allowance. The late Commissioner of Police, Colonel Phillips, was entitled to about £500 a year by way of pension if he had lived; and he had reached an age which made him eligible for retirement, so that under ordinary conditions he might have lived for ten years or more, and if so the cost of the country in payment of pension would have been £5,000 or £6,000. The colony would have been only too glad to have given this pension to such an old and excellent officer. He was taken away suddenly; and having made practically no provision for his family, they were left with scarcely anything. All that we could do now was to make a small gratuity of £500. There was no precedent in which more than £500 had been granted in this colony; and there was no case in which Parliament had granted an annuity to the widow of a deceased officer, except that of the widow of the late Postmaster General, Mrs. Helmrich, a very aged lady, to whom Parliament granted £50 a year. There were two other exceptional cases, those of Lady Barlee and Lady Broome, who were granted (by special Act) pensions of £150 a year each. Outside of these cases, there was no instance in which more than £500 had been granted as a gratuity to the survivors of a deceased officer of the Government. If £500 were invested at 6 per cent. it would bring in only £30 a year, and that was a very small sum in such a case. He felt indeed that the amount would be insignificant in this case; but he could not find any precedent for proposing a large gratuity. In regard to precedents, there were those of the late Captain Smith, the late Resident Magistrate at Fremantle, the late Dr. Barnett (medical officer at the Lunatic Asylum), and the case of Captain Butcher, of Albany, who died recently. In these cases the amount granted was £500; and in cases where officers had been receiving smaller salaries for lower positions, the amount granted was £250 or £300. In considering the present case the Government were in a difficulty, because they could not find any prece-

dent for granting a larger sum than was now proposed.

MR. PLESSE (Williams): No doubt the Government had good reasons for limiting the amount to £500; but the amount seemed very small to pay to the widow of an officer who had served this country so well for many years. In most instances, even where men had died in the railway service and other public departments, they had received a year's salary. Although there were no precedents for granting more than £500 to the survivors of a deceased officer, still this was a case in which a year's salary ought to be paid. The late Colonel Phillips would have been entitled to a pension for life, and he could have retired from the service. If a gratuity equal to a year's salary were proposed in this case, amounting to £750, one felt confident this House would agree to it. The late Colonel Phillips was the oldest officer in the public service, and had served the country well; and it was only during the last few years of his life that his salary had been increased to an amount commensurate with the responsible position he held. Therefore the amount of one year's salary would be small and insufficient, but it would be a reasonable sum to grant in this case.

MR. A. FORREST (West Kimberley): Having previously made a request in this House that the Government should take into consideration the case of the widow and family of the late Colonel Phillips, he was glad this Message had been brought in; but the least this House should grant was one year's salary, as the widow and family were left very poorly off. He appealed to the Premier to recommend to His Excellency that the amount of the gratuity be increased to £750. Hon. members should recognise that a man who had served the country for forty years in a responsible position, receiving only a small salary during all that time until within the last few years of his life, should have more than ordinary consideration when his widow and family were found to have been left unprovided for. The late Commissioner of Police was rather free with his money, and he saved nothing.

MR. LOCKE (Sussex) supported the suggestion for increasing the amount to £750. Having known the late Com-

missioner of Police, he could bear out all that had been said by hon. members. It would be well to grant a bonus of £100 a year in this case. The least gratuity should be one year's salary.

MR. DOHERTY (North Fremantle): The best course would be to grant a bonus of £100 a year to the widow, and withdraw the present recommendation. The country could easily bear the burden of £100 a year, having had the advantage of the services of an excellent officer.

MR. ILLINGWORTH (Central Murchison): While disposed to support the proposal for withdrawing the present recommendation and increasing the amount to £750, he would not support the suggestion for a pension, for the reason that it would be establishing a precedent in connection with cases of this kind. He hoped that when the new Civil Service Bill came into operation, some steps would be taken to induce members of the civil service to insure a provision for their families. He would rather support the suggestion of £100 than vote for a gratuity of £500, if the particular case were the only one that had to be considered; but to take this course would be establishing a precedent which it would be undesirable to follow. Having provided a pension for those who retired at a certain age and after a certain service, if we added also a pension for the family of each deceased officer, it would become a serious matter for the country. The Government might well withdraw the present Message and increase the amount, or the House might pass this Message with an assurance the Government would provide a further sum of £250 on next year's Estimates, so as to make up £750 altogether.

THE PREMIER: After the expressions of opinion by hon. members, he felt that the best course was to report progress, with a view to bringing in another Message making the gratuity £750. He moved that progress be reported.

Progress reported, and leave given to sit again.

At a later stage:

Further Message from the Administrator presented and read, recommending increase of the appropriation to £750.

In Committee, on further motion by the Premier, resolution passed that the amount of gratuity be £750.

Resolution reported, and the report adopted.

COLLIE COALFIELD—REWARD FOR DISCOVERY.

SELECT COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

MR. LOCKE brought up the report of the select committee which had inquired into the question of paying or apportioning the reward for the discovery of coal in the colony.

Report received, read, and ordered to be printed.

RAILWAYS ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Read a third time, and transmitted to the Legislative Council.

CRIMINAL LAW AMENDMENT BILL.

Read a third time, and transmitted to the Legislative Council.

COMMERCIAL AND BUSINESS HOLIDAYS BILL.

DISCHARGE OF ORDER.

MR. HIGHAM (in charge of Bill): In moving that this Bill be discharged from the Notice Paper, he did not admit that it was a bad measure; but recent events, especially the arrival of the mail steamers at Fremantle on Mondays, rendered it undesirable that this particular day of the week should be sacrificed as a public holiday. It would be necessary to amend the Bank Holidays Act for the same reason, so far as it affected Fremantle and Perth; and time was also necessary to permit of some general agreement as to holidays being arrived at among business people.

Motion put and passed, and the order discharged.

BOULDER HEALTH RATES VALIDATION BILL.

SECOND READING.

MR. RASON (for Mr. Moran), in moving the second reading, said: Hardly any comment on this measure is necessary. The Bill is of purely local application, and explains itself. It is required to put beyond doubt the validity of certain rates struck by the Boulder Local Board of Health, regarding which

it would appear that some formalities have not been fully complied with. I move that the Bill be read a second time.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

IN COMMITTEE, ETC.

Bill passed through Committee without debate, reported without amendment, and the report adopted.

Read a third time, and transmitted to the Legislative Council.

CATTLE REMOVAL RESTRICTIONS INQUIRY.

SELECT COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

MR. HARPER, who had previously brought up the report of the select committee, moved that the report be adopted.

MR. A. FORREST: In regard to East Kimberley cattle, paragraph 5 recommended that steamers from Wyndham, delivering cattle at Owen's Anchorage, be allowed to call at other ports such as Geraldton, the Gascovne, Roebourne, Cossack, and Port Hedland, to which tick had never found its way. Cattle-owners in those localities would most strongly object to any steamer from Wyndham calling at their ports. Personally he had no fear of tick; but as the members representing those coastal districts were not present, he asked the Committee to pause before adopting paragraph 5, which was unnecessary and would cause a great outcry in the towns affected. Steamers were allowed to bring cattle from Melbourne to Fremantle, but not to take cattle from Fremantle to Melbourne.

MR. DOHERTY: Nothing more was desired in paragraph 5.

MR. A. FORREST: A great deal more was asked for. He moved that paragraph 5 be struck out.

MR. CONNOR: This was the most useful paragraph of the report; and the select committee, consisting of experts, were to be commended for its inclusion. Of the very steamers now prohibited from calling at the immediate ports mentioned, one was at present in Melbourne and the other in Sydney; therefore, so long as the boats were thoroughly disinfected, why forbid their calling at North-West ports? To strike out the paragraph would simply encourage monopoly, and

the goldfields people would suffer. These boats traded direct to the other colonies, and no objection was made.

MR. A. FORREST: Suppose they landed goods at North-West ports?

MR. CONNOR: Suppose they landed goods in Sydney or Melbourne?

THE PREMIER: Which boats were referred to?

MR. CONNOR: The "Tangier," for instance, was now alongside the wharf at Melbourne. The action taken in this matter had been neither straight nor honest; and if the committee wished to perpetuate an injustice against the interests of the colony and of working people, let the paragraph be struck out.

THE PREMIER: Some exception must be taken to the hon. member's remarks. If ever the House had acted fairly and in the interests of the people, that was done in regard to tick. All possible consideration had been shown to settlers in East Kimberley; in fact, the desire to protect their interests had been stronger in the minds of hon. members than the wish for a more plentiful meat supply.

MR. CONNOR (in explanation): The Premier had misunderstood him. He had made no charge against the House or the Government. He had referred to a clique in the House. The conduct of the Government as a whole had been fair. He thanked the Premier for the action the right hon. member had taken.

THE PREMIER: Some allowance, too, must be made for other hon. members who had interests in the North-West. No doubt these might be actuated by selfish motives, like everyone engaged in trade. At the same time, it had been a serious question whether the tick would be propagated in the colony, and it had not been known what injury the pest would do. Fortunately, it had not done much harm on the western side of Australia as compared with the eastern coast, the reason being, doubtless, the difference in climate. Regarding paragraph 5 of the report, was it necessary that cattle steamers from Wyndham should call at the northern ports on the way to Fremantle with cattle on board? As a rule, a steamer full of cattle would not require to call at any port *en route*, unless carrying mails and passengers also.

MR. A. FORREST: Cattle ships seldom carried passengers.

THE PREMIER: Though it was clear the tick would not flourish in the colony, no unnecessary risk must be taken. Doubtless the select committee had well considered the subject, and if it were clearly stated that ships laden with cattle from Wyndham should not call at intermediate ports, there could be no great objection to the report. On the way back, when the steamers were empty, there would be no danger in their calling.

MR. HIGHAM: Paragraph 5 said:

Your committee are of opinion that steamers in this trade might with safety be permitted to carry stock from other ports than Wyndham for delivery at Owen's Anchorage, provided that the stock so carried be treated in all respects as cattle from Wyndham; and provided furthermore that the vessel, prior to visiting such other ports, be thoroughly disinfected under the supervision of an officer of the Stock Department.

Those who remembered Mr. Hancock's evidence before the first select committee on tick would recollect that, after disinfection, Queensland steamers from infected ports were allowed to carry cargo on their return, and to call at all intermediate ports, the only restriction being that they were not allowed to carry stock again for two months. For steamers trading between Wyndham and Owen's Anchorage, sufficient employment could not, at certain times, be provided; and it was necessary to send them to other ports to supplement the supplies required for the southern market, hence the insertion of paragraph 5, which made every provision for the safety of intermediate ports of call.

MR. HARPER: One of the great objects sought was to enable stockowners to bring cattle to market as cheaply as possible. At present one or two companies had a monopoly of shipping from northern ports, and people had thus been prevented from bringing their stock to market. The paragraph, if adopted, would enable steamers which traded with Kimberley to take "off trips."

THE PREMIER: Would not they be engaged by the monopolists?

MR. HARPER: No; they were owned by other persons, and the two sets of owners were in competition.

MR. KINGSMILL: The only competition on the West Australian coast.

MR. HARPER: True. At present the shipping trade was the absolute monopoly of one or two firms, and one reason for the insertion of the paragraph was to allow independent boats to trade with independent people.

THE PREMIER: There would then be two independent firms instead of one.

MR. HARPER: That would be competition. Some months ago he wrote to Dalgety & Company, asking if they could arrange for a small shipment of sheep from a northern port, and stating the rate and the month; but the reply was that it would be absolutely impossible to fix any time, as they had shipping engagements for months ahead. That was why it was desirable to give further openings for supplying the market with sheep. A remarkable point in connection with this subject was that none of those persons who were interested had made any protest against the adoption of this report, although the report itself had been on the table of the House for months past. The member for West Kimberley (Mr. A. Forrest), who had spoken on this question, represented those who had had ample opportunity of objecting if they wished to do so; but these persons had not said a word; therefore the House should not give much attention to what the hon. member now said in opposition to one part of the report.

MR. KINGSMILL supported the report as it stood, especially for the reasons given by the member for Beverley. He would support anything to bring competition into the coastal trade in the northern portion of this colony, which had been suffering greatly through apparent combination in the coastal carrying trade.

Question put and passed.

MOTION—PROSPECTING, VOTE TO ENCOURAGE.

DEBATE—SPEAKER'S RULING.

Debate resumed from 10th October, on the motion of Mr. Vosper, "That it is desirable that provision be made on the Estimates for a vote for the encouragement of prospecting."

MR. GREGORY (North Coolgardie) : It was late in the session to deal with this question, seeing that the Estimates for

the year had been passed. With regard to the kind of encouragement to be given to prospectors, he did not ask the Government to equip parties to go out prospecting, but any help to be given in this direction should be on the same lines as help was given to cultivators through the Agricultural Bank; in other words, the Government should assist prospectors according to the amount of development actually done. Among the various ways in which prospecting could be encouraged, the Government might grant leases free of rent to prospectors for the first six months; and although this would be a large loss of revenue to the Mines Department, still the greater extent of country which would be taken up should compensate the colony indirectly by the larger number of men who would find profitable employment on prospecting leases. Further, the Government should go more into the system of granting reward claims. If a man found a new line of reef five or six miles from any known workings, he should get the lease free of rent for fifteen years, subject to the condition of maintaining two men on the ground for the first three years. If the find were 25 miles from any known workings, then the applicant for the leases should get a reward claim free of rent for fifteen years, and should not be called on to comply with the labour conditions during the first five years, except as to employing two men on the ground. It would not be wise for the Government to assist parties going out prospecting; but as to sending geologists and bushmen into the back country to report as to its auriferous character, that would be another matter. The class of men who should be assisted were the working prospectors, for he had known many instances in which prospectors, after battling for months and having found something good, had not been able to take up a lease because of the rent and the survey fees, the latter especially. He knew too many cases in which the fruits of their labour had gone to someone who came in with money to enable prospectors to take up the property. The Government should also continue the public battery system; not putting up large batteries, but providing facilities for crushing in many parts of the country.

THE SPEAKER expressed regret that he had overlooked the wording of this motion, or he could not have allowed it to be moved in its present form, because it proposed a direct sum to be placed on the Estimates, and it was not in the power of any private member to bring forward such a motion as that.

MR. VOSPER (mover of the motion): This was merely a suggestion to the Government that the course indicated in the motion should be adopted. It had been ruled by the Speaker, on previous occasions, that an abstract motion for the expenditure of money was in order.

THE SPEAKER: But this was proposing that a particular sum should be placed on the Estimates, and the motion could not be carried out.

THE PREMIER: This was sailing too close to the wind. If the motion were carried, it would be a direction to the Government to place a sum of money on the Estimates.

THE SPEAKER: That was so.

MR. ILLINGWORTH (Central Murchison): The Speaker was perfectly correct. The mover having raised this discussion should be satisfied, and might endeavour to make it effective by bringing it before the next Parliament, as the hon. member would doubtless be elected to it, and there would be more representatives from the goldfields. Something should be done for the encouragement of prospecting, because there were large tracts of country which had not yet been prospected, and probably as good fields would be found on them in future as any that had been explored hitherto. Any encouragement that could be given in this direction would be money spent in the best possible way. Notwithstanding the technical difficulty as to the motion not being in order, the general feeling of the House would be with the mover; and the Government might give some assurance that they would endeavour to give effect to the intention expressed in the motion.

MR. CONNOR (East Kimberley), in supporting the motion, said if he were returned to the next Parliament and this question came before it, he would support an expenditure of money for encouraging prospecting. There were always some members of a deserving class, even amongst prospectors, who would take too

much advantage of the sympathy to which that class was properly entitled; but his idea would be to grant to prospectors who found payable gold at a considerable distance from any present workings, a very large area of freehold land, and grant them other assistance also. A future Parliament dealing with this question should endeavour to give a better tenure to men who went into the wilderness and found gold.

MR. VOSPER: Would it not be possible to amend the motion in such a way as to open the question to discussion? If allowed to do so, he would move the motion in an amended form, as follows:

That, in the opinion of this House, special encouragement should be given to prospecting by the Government.

THE SPEAKER: That was the kind of wording which ought to have been adopted in the first instance. He blamed himself for not having spoken to the hon. member about it.

MR. VOSPER, by leave of the House, moved his motion in the amended form he had suggested.

THE PREMIER: How was it to be carried out? It meant nothing at all.

MR. VOSPER: The Government could give a meaning to it, if they liked.

THE PREMIER (Right Hon. Sir J. Forrest): The motion might be passed, so far as he was concerned; but he did not think it would be of much use. There had been many motions passed by hon. members which were not particularly useful, and he could not see what was to be done with this motion if passed. What was meant by "special encouragement?" That expression was as good as the expression which some members derided when used by the Government, that a matter would "receive consideration." If enterprising people were willing to go out prospecting, and if the Government assisted them even to the extent of £5, the hon. member (Mr. Vosper) would be the first to call it a "job," as he had done in a previous case when assistance was given to the extent of £100 (Dunn syndicate), which amount was returned to the Treasury when the party discovered gold. Still we had heard about it time after time from the hon. member, and from many others, who regarded it as a "job." Was this "encouragement," as the motion stated, to be given to some persons who

would go into the bush and do nothing? Was it intended to provide money for prospectors to knock about the bush? If not, what was it that the Government were to do by way of encouraging prospecting?

MR. CONNOR: Give them a freehold.

THE PREMIER: An Act of Parliament would be necessary to enable that to be done. The Government, with the approval of Parliament, had been trying to assist prospecting by granting bonuses for deep-sinking; but the Government had not fitted out parties to go about the bush prospecting, and if that was desired, he hoped hon. members would say so. To send out three or four men in charge of experienced persons to prospect would be one way to encourage prospecting. Was it intended to give to a prospecting party pound for pound, or ten shillings in the pound, according to the amount contributed, for making expeditions all over the country? He could understand encouragement to prospectors by boring for alluvial.

MR. VOSPER: We carried a motion to that effect, but the Government had done nothing.

THE MINISTER OF MINES: Yes; the Government had been boring for alluvial, and were boring at Kanowna now.

THE PREMIER: Assistance had been given to bore for coal at Albany, also. Indeed, the Government were doing everything they could to assist prospecting. These motions were brought forward as if they were original, as if the idea had never occurred to anybody else before; and the Government were told that they ought to encourage prospecting, when they had been encouraging it for the last twenty years, more or less. If the motion were passed, nothing more could be done than was being done by the Mines Department at present, in searching for alluvial by boring, and by assisting deep-sinking at several places, particularly Kimberley and Southern Cross.

MR. KINGSMILL (Pilbarra): The Premier had shown some fire on this question, which was something like his old form. He had been severe on the mover; but if the motion would do no good, it would certainly do no harm. There were other ways of encouraging

prospecting besides paying men to go into the bush.

THE PREMIER: Buy a machine, perhaps, and pay someone to ride behind it?

MR. KINGSMILL: If the Government would consider the system of miners having to pay survey fees for leases, they might devise some means of relief in that direction; for besides paying for the lease which a prospector took up, he had also to pay the survey fees, in advance; whereas in the case of a cultivator taking up agricultural land, he could pay a nominal rent and have the survey made for him.

THE MINISTER OF MINES: A lease must be surveyed, or a title to it could not be granted.

MR. KINGSMILL: This motion, if given effect to, would be a distinct encouragement to prospecting, and the Mines Department could keep surveyors to do this work as well as the Lands Department could keep surveyors.

THE MINISTER OF MINES: The hon. member said it would cost the Government nothing; but if the fees were not charged, the cost of surveying would have to be defrayed by the Government.

MR. KINGSMILL: If the Government would consider the survey fees, it would be an encouragement to prospectors; for to have to pay the cost of survey of a lease in addition to the rental was an absolute deterrent. As to subsidising prospecting parties, it was not a good thing to do; but the Government should offer some payment by results. In Queensland some years ago a very useful provision was in operation, by which the Government paid men for any discovery of gold which was sufficient to induce men to work it during six months or twelve months following the discovery; therefore, any find of gold that was good enough to sustain a certain number of men for either of those periods would entitle the finder to substantial assistance. The Government in this colony might do something in that direction, and they would not lose by it, because the number of men who would be attracted on to the land would be a benefit to the colony, and would compensate for any reward that might be paid for the discovery of gold. The greatest incentive to immigration was the fresh discovery of gold. The prospecting class was prac-

tically dying out of this country, and still there were vast unknown areas which ought to be prospected. Very rarely had expensively-fitted parties discovered anything worth having, but the discoveries were made really by men who were working on their own account. If the Government would adopt a system of paying men by results for prospecting the country, they would be acting wisely.

MR. VOSPER: The Premier had said that the motion was too indefinite. The right hon. gentleman was difficult to place. He told us now the motion was meaningless, and that if passed the Government would be at a loss to know what to do with it. The interpretation of a resolution passed by this House depended really on what the Government liked to do with it. It was for the Government to fix the meaning of the motion if it were carried, and the Government would be rewarded if the meaning were successfully interpreted and the desire of the House carried out. The Premier had stated that he (Mr. Vosper) would be the first to accuse the Government of perpetrating a "job" if assistance were given to prospectors, and had referred to the Dunn party who discovered the "Wealth of Nations," in which connection the Government had been accused of a "job" for granting £100 to the prospectors which was afterwards refunded. The cause of such accusation had been the injudicious action of the Government; for the shareholders in the syndicate had been the Premier, Mr. A. Forrest, and other prominent politicians; and the public, noticing that this was the only prospecting party to which the Government ever lent money, drew their own conclusion. This bit of ancient history would not have been revived had it not been for the Premier. The Ministry might take into serious consideration the various suggestions made to-night by hon. members. Amongst others was a suggestion that the rent be reduced or remitted during the first six months of the existence of a lease. That might be objectionable; but it was peculiarly hard that in the Southern Districts, by paying £1 and carrying out certain conditions no more rigid or difficult than those imposed on prospectors, an applicant for agricultural land might obtain the freehold of 160 acres of

valuable land, while the mining prospector taking up land was confronted with extortionate survey and other fees, a rental of £1 per acre payable in advance, and stringent labour conditions. Except in regard to the areas granted, something should be done to encourage that industry which could alone make agriculture profitable by giving the agriculturist a market for his goods. The fees were extortionate, and placed the miner in the hands of syndicates, making him willing to dispose of his ground to the first bidder, and therefore giving him an altogether inadequate reward for his labour. One of the reasons for the rapid diminution in the number of prospectors was that Parliament, by various Acts, had rendered the miner's right almost valueless. Mining was being placed more and more in the hands of capitalists, and the prospector made a mere cat's paw of the foreign investor. The more we encouraged local investment the better for the colony. Every ounce of gold which went abroad to pay dividends to foreign companies was more or less a loss to the colony, and every ounce extracted by our own people and paid into the pockets of our own commercial classes was a distinct gain, because it involved the release of wealth previously locked up; but there was little gained by releasing wealth and sending it out of the country. In Queensland there were salutary reward regulations, but though rewards had once been offered in this colony, few had been paid. But it was of little use offering a reward for the discovery of a new field, considering the enormous areas of our goldfields. In the other colonies goldfields were of comparatively limited areas, and a man finding a fresh field was entitled to a reward; but no such discovery could be made here. The North Coolgardie goldfield extended from Ullaring to the South Australian border.

THE MINISTER OF MINES: Certainly not.

MR. VOSPER: Pilbarra and the East Murchison were other examples. In the old Murchison field there were 80,000 square miles; and the area of North-East Coolgardie was 24,000.

MR. ILLINGWORTH: And a miserable £100 had been offered to a man discovering such areas.

MR. VOSPER: A goldfield should be a piece of ground known to contain gold; or a reward should be offered for any discovery within a proclaimed area which led to the settlement of population within a given time at some stated distance from the nearest gold mine. In reply to the Premier's challenge, hon. members had shown him a sufficiency of methods by which the motion might be made useful, and the Government should set to work to devise ways and means of encouraging prospecting, for the plans suggested were feasible.

THE MINISTER OF MINES (Hon. H. B. Lefroy): The size of goldfields proclaimed had little to do with the question. The motion might have been better discussed in a friendly spirit. Mining members knew he had given this subject great consideration. He had come to the conclusion that he could encourage prospecting with a very small expenditure. A regulation had been passed some months ago, providing that a reward lease could be granted to any discoverer of gold more than five miles from any present gold-mining lease or holding other than an alluvial claim, that there should be no rent or survey fee payable for the first year; but should the miner dispose of his claim during the first year for valuable consideration, the rent must be paid.

MR. KINGSMILL: That was going far enough.

MR. ILLINGWORTH: Hear, hear.

THE MINISTER OF MINES: It was pleasant to know some members were satisfied. To equip prospectors was undesirable, and simply meant sending out picnic parties, which produced no practical result. Some time ago he had drafted a scheme like that suggested by the member for Pilbarra (Mr. Kingsmill), providing that if a person reported the discovery of a new goldfield centre, then after a certain population had collected round that centre the discoverer should have a certain reward, but that no reward should be granted for prospecting until some result had been obtained. In that way, much might be done to encourage prospecting. In New South Wales, some £25,000 had been granted annually, for years past, to encourage the prospector, not by equip-

ping prospecting parties, but by distributing money through a board travelling about the country, and assisting miners in proportion to the developments shown on their claims as the work proceeded. In this colony such a system was hardly required as yet, but it was desirable to encourage people to look for new mining centres and auriferous country. Survey fees were undoubtedly a hardship to the prospector, who, on finding a reef, had also to pay £1 per acre rent. As nearly all prospectors were poor, they had to give perhaps half the value of the claim in exchange for financial assistance, and that was most undesirable. Of course if the Government had to carry out a survey, presumably hon. members meant the Government should pay for it; and, although that was not done anywhere in Australia, that was no reason why we should not make an innovation here. But no reward must be given except upon results. Something had already been done by granting these reward leases within five miles of any lease already held, and by increasing the area if more than 50 miles distant from existing leases. It was well that hon. members opposite were opposed to equipping these picnic parties; and after this expression of opinion, anything he could do to legitimately further the hon. member's object, without throwing away the money of the State, he would be only too happy to attempt.

MR. ILLINGWORTH (Central Murchison): The Minister deserved thanks for his cordial reception of the motion, which had not been intended to reflect upon what the Government had already done, but to encourage them in going further in the direction they had marked out for themselves. The proposals sketched by the Minister would be quite in harmony with the general opinion on the goldfields. Rents and survey fees were great hindrances to prospecting, throwing the prospector into the hands of the storekeeper and publican; in fact, for the mere loan of the amount of the survey fee a miner often parted with one-quarter of his interest. He (Mr. Illingworth) supported the motion as amended, which would doubtless be carried unanimously.

Motion (Mr. Vosper's amended form) put and passed.

FURNITURE STAMPING BILL.

DISCHARGE OF ORDER.

On motion by Mr. ILLINGWORTH, the order for second reading of the Bill was discharged.

TRADE UNIONS BILL.

DISCHARGE OF ORDER.

On motion by Mr. ILLINGWORTH, the order for second reading of the Bill was discharged.

MOTION—GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE, MINIMUM WAGE.

DISCHARGE OF ORDER.

On motion by Mr. ILLINGWORTH, the order for resuming debate on Mr. Vosper's motion was discharged.

MOTION—RAILWAY EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATIONS.

DISCHARGE OF ORDER.

On motion by the PREMIER, the order for resuming debate on Mr. Higham's motion, to recognise the employees' railway associations, was discharged.

MOTION—NORTH PERTH BOARD OF HEALTH.

Debate resumed from 26th September, on motion by Mr. Illingworth, "That the resolution of August 30, 1899 (see *Hansard*, page 1065), granting the prayer of a petition from the residents of North Perth for the creation of a board of health (within six months from that date) be no longer delayed."

MR. HALL (Perth): Some 18 months ago the House agreed that within six months' time there should be granted to the inhabitants of North Perth a local board of health. The six months' delay had been agreed to because the Perth City Council had in North Perth their sanitary pumping station, which had been guaranteed by the former City Engineer to be a distinct success, but had since proved to be a failure and a menace to the health of the inhabitants of Leederville, Woodville, and North Perth generally. He (Mr. Hall) was at that time a member of the City Council, and had agreed to that motion provided the council were given six months to remove the pumping station. But the pumping station still existed, and naturally the people of

North Perth were much aggrieved. The Inspector of the Central Board of Health had denounced this pumping station as being detrimental to the health of the inhabitants, and had stated that unless a local Board of Health were granted to North Perth, there was a likelihood of that district and Leederville becoming a veritable fever bed, because the North Perth people had no control over local sanitary arrangements, and such a state of affairs was a menace to the health, not only of the locality in question, but of the whole metropolis. Since the erection of the pumping station, there had been numerous fever cases in that district. After the adjournment, he would read the report of the Central Board Inspector, and hon. members would doubtless agree that in the interests of the city this depôt must be removed.

At 6:30, the SPEAKER left the Chair.

At 7:30, Chair resumed.

MR. HALL (continuing): The inspector of the Central Board of Health had written a report on this sanitary site, which report showed the necessity for creating a local board of health at North Perth. The Central Board of Health were greatly in favour of having the pumping station removed, and had made every effort to induce the City Council to remove it, but the City Council would not take any steps in the matter. Application was made some two years ago for the establishment of a local board of health for North Perth, consequent on the large and continuing increase of population. The roads board in that district made certain regulations, but could not enforce them in regard to health, there being no power to form a health board. He would now read the report of the inspector of the Central Board of Health. [Report read, as quoted in previous portion of debate, 26th September, p. 637, *Hansard*.]

MR. A. FORREST: Did the hon. member believe that report.

MR. HALL said he certainly believed it. This was a report by one who had been for many years previously an inspector for the City Council, in which position he was held in esteem, and there was no reason whatever why this inspector's

report on the sanitary site should be doubted. The City Council in 1890 were granted the use of Location 884, which was now the sanitary site. They afterwards obtained another location three miles further out, consisting of some hundreds of acres; but the Council continued to use the old site by forming it into a pumping station. That scheme originated with the late engineer to the City Council.

MR. A. FORREST: It was a great success.

MR. HALL: Any person going there now might not notice much smell in the day-time, but in the night-hours the smell was intolerable, and people living in that neighbourhood, and even on that side of the city, were obliged to close their doors and windows in the evening to keep out the offensive smells coming from the pumping station at the sanitary site. Government owned location 884, and the City Council had no title to it. This site, consisting of 60 acres, had been promised by the Commissioner of Crown Lands to the Leederville and North Perth people for recreation purposes, to be used as soon as the pumping machinery belonging to the City Council was removed. In August, 1899, this House passed a resolution to allow the City Council six months within which to find another sanitary site.

MR. ILLINGWORTH: They promised to do it, too.

MR. HALL: The mayor, now a member of this House, said they would agree to a local board of health being formed for North Perth, if the City Council did nothing towards providing a fresh sanitary site during the six months. Nothing had been done, although a much longer time than six months had now elapsed. The people of West Perth, Leederville, and North Perth now asked that there should be some finality to this matter. They did not want to hamper the City Council, and would be only too willing to allow the Council more time to find another site, if more time was required. The people surrounding this plague-spot had been fairly reasonable and patient.

MR. A. FORREST: They had been unreasonable.

MR. HALL: It now behoved the City Council to take steps to bring the matter to an issue. At the recent elections the

mayor-elect (Mr. Brookman) expressed a positive opinion that the sanitary site ought to be removed.

MR. A. FORREST: That was only natural for him.

MR. HALL: Every other candidate before the electors expressed the opinion that the sanitary site at North Perth was dangerous to the health not only of people in that locality, but to the city of Perth generally. If the roads board at North Perth had no power to control the sanitary affairs of that district, the health of the district must suffer, and naturally the health of Perth generally must suffer. The Hon. J. W. Hackett, a member of the Legislative Council, had recently visited the site, and said it was likely to become a plague-spot. The Governor-in-Council had power to appoint a local board of health, if the people neglected to do so; and this provision was made so that in cases where miners or navvies congregated in a body and created unhealthy sanitary conditions, whilst also neglecting to make proper sanitary provisions, the Governor-in-Council might step in and exercise this power by appointing a local board of health. Why therefore should the people of North Perth be in a position less advantageous in that respect than any collection of miners or navvies? The North Perth people were asking only for what was their right, and they did not desire to cause any inconvenience to the Perth Council, but they did desire that there should be some finality in this matter. The City Council had possession of the sanitary site, but they had no title to the ground.

MR. A. FORREST: The City Council had been in possession some fifteen years, at any rate.

MR. HALL: The Government should step in and compel the City Council to recognise that there were other interests besides those of the central portion of the city; that people in a suburb of a city were also entitled to be considered. There had been various schemes for overcoming this difficulty during the past twelve months, but the City Council had not apparently considered the matter at all during that time, and this House ought now to affirm that the resolution passed here 15 months ago should be carried out without further unnecessary delay. If the House thought another six months should

be allowed, the people of North Perth were willing to accede to that; but there must be some finality, and if this House would grant to these people the right to protect their own interests by allowing them to form a health board, they would guarantee that the pumping station at the sanitary site, and the pipes conveying the matter to a location some three miles distant, should not be interfered with during the next 12 months. This was a fair offer, and the North Perth Roads Board would guarantee it. They wanted the right to form a local board of health, and this House should have no objection in the circumstances. The pipes conveying the matter from the first of the two sanitary sites were constantly breaking, and at these breakages the matter could be seen oozing out, the smell being very offensive. The engineer to the City Council had explained that these breakages were caused by people using sand in the closets. The fact remained that the matter kept oozing out at the breakages. He appealed to the House to grant this right to the people of North Perth, in order that they might protect the health of the neighbourhood.

MR. A. FORREST (West Kimberley): It was refreshing to find the member representing Perth taking such a stand on this question in regard to the North Perth suburb.

MR. HALL: In the interests of the city as well as of North Perth.

MR. A. FORREST: In June, 1899, when the hon. member sat in the City Council, he expressed opinions very different from those he had put before the House to-night. The City Council were fully alive to the facts, and as soon as they could make a change they would do so; but they were unable to do it at once, because the expense would be very great, in view of the fact that the council had already expended about £4,000 in the pumping scheme. The nightsoil was carted to the sanitary site at North Perth, and from there was pumped through pipes some $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles distant to another sanitary site; and anyone visiting the locality would find there was no smell whatever.

MR. ILLINGWORTH: Would the hon. member insure their lives before they went?

MR. A. FORREST: Having been there himself scores of times, he could assure

the House that he felt no ill effect from it. The sanitary site had been used by the city of Perth during the last thirty years, and the hon. member had told the House that the City Council had no title to the land. Having used the site so long, he considered this a very good title; and when the hon. member also told us that the people at North Perth were trying to obtain this sanitary site for a recreation ground the place could not be bad, or they would not think of using it for recreation purposes. The hon. member went rather too far in making that statement. The City Council had tried to meet the members of the roads board and make some reasonable arrangement; but they could not make terms, because the City Council found that the roads board would concede nothing, and that the council must take nightsoil from the city through a certain street not yet made, that they must not take it through another street in North Perth, because people objected to have the stuff carted over the road there. The City Council had tried to meet the North Perth people in every way, and in 1899 had agreed to see what could be done within six months' time. During that period the pumping station was erected to pump the nightsoil a distance of about $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles further on, a tramway having proved a failure; and all the Perth councillors, except those representing the North Ward, were unanimous that the pumping scheme was the best that was practicable. On the 30th of August, 1899, the member for Perth (Mr. Hall) said in the House:

Population had gathered round the reserve, and if the site of the dépôt were changed, populat on would doubtless follow. He, with a large party, had passed the reserve on Sunday last, on his way to the North Beach. There was no smell whatever, and some of the party even asked what the buildings were for.

MR. HALL: At that time the pumping station had not been erected.

MR. A. FORREST: The hon. member could not ask the House to believe there was a worse smell now than then. The speech went on:

The nature of the dépôt could not be detected by the sense of smell. The council had a scheme for pumping the sewage from the sanitary site to a reserve some four miles to the north, but it was not obvious whether it would be better for people living in the

neighbourhood to have the night-carts passing through that locality, than to have the arrangement now proposed. That would be just as big a nuisance as the scheme proposed by the petitioners. He had visited the present sanitary depôt in company with several doctors, amongst whom was Dr. Thurstan, and all those gentlemen reported most favourably as to the site. The depôt was as clean as it was possible to make it, although naturally there was sure to be some objection to any place used for the purpose.

Yet to-night, the hon. member made most objectionable statements about the neighbourhood! The hon. member had further said:—

When in Melbourne, some 18 months ago, he visited the sanitary site at Flemington, where the dessorator was at work, and where the population was 20 times larger than that in Leederville or West Perth; and there was no objection raised at all to that site, and the suburb was a healthy one. The City Council, who were endeavouring as far as possible to do away with any nuisance at the depôt, and would change the site as soon as possible, would have no objection to the prayer of the petition being granted in six months' time.

The Council had faced the position; and not being able to find a new site, had established the pumping station; and yet the hon. member representing the City of Perth asked the ratepayers to spend thousands of pounds to cart the nightsoil a distance of three miles, which the abolition of the pumping station would involve.

MR. HALL: Nothing of the kind had been suggested by him. The nightsoil ought not to go there at all. It should be taken by rail to the commonage.

THE PREMIER: What about the cattle drinking water at Smith's lake?

MR. A. FORREST: The City Council could not help that. The nightsoil was pumped a distance of $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles from the station, and was buried in the sand. As Mayor of the city, he had tried his best to meet the wishes of the North Perth residents; but they were the most impracticable people in the world, and if they were granted this local board of health, no nightsoil cart would ever get outside the city boundary, in that direction. Again and again the Colonial Secretary had offered them a local board of health, if they would exempt the sanitary site and the pipe-track from the jurisdiction of such board; but the North Perth people would not consent to such exemption. In these circumstances the

City Council were quite capable of looking after their own interests, and did not want parliamentary interference, for if the proposed health board were granted without reservation, every man in Perth must bury his own nightsoil, for the refuse could not go through Subiaco, nor would it be carried on the Government railways. In 1899, during the debate on this question, some hon. members had objected to its going through Subiaco; and others to its being taken on the South-Western railway; and the only plan left was to use the present site. If the House would grant the City Council £10,000 to make a road to some remote site to which the nightsoil might be carted and deposited, he would agree to the motion; otherwise the present arrangement must continue, pending the inauguration of a sewage scheme.

MR. ILLINGWORTH (Central Murchison): The House should look at this question altogether apart from that of the sanitary station of which the hon. member had been speaking. If that station were of the unobjectionable character described, the North Perth Health Board, when formed, would not be likely to interfere with it or attempt its abolition.

MR. A. FORREST: The people of the district declared its abolition to be their object in demanding a health board.

MR. ILLINGWORTH: If the pumping station were a menace to the health of the people, the City Council would have to comply with the health board regulations. Was the whole district of North Perth to be denied a health board because the Perth council were afraid such board would prevent their using the pumping station? Smith's Lake was a menace to the public health, and was not under any official control. Its waters, which were drunk by cattle, had been analysed and declared to be unfit for consumption by man or beast.

MR. A. FORREST: It was a stagnant lake.

MR. ILLINGWORTH: Therefore a board of health was wanted to look after it.

MR. A. FORREST: The City Council would agree to a health board, if the sanitary site were exempted.

MR. ILLINGWORTH: Was the pumping station in such a condition that

the health board would be likely to attack it?

MR. A. FORREST: The board would attack it.

MR. ILLINGWORTH: If in the condition described, the board neither could or would attack it, but they would attack the conditions condemned by the health officer, Mr. Lockwood; and yet the Mayor of Perth (Mr. A. Forrest) threw doubt upon the carefully-prepared report of that officer, who had at one time been employed by the City Council.

MR. A. FORREST: That officer was prone to find fault.

THE PREMIER: Such officers always made a scare.

MR. ILLINGWORTH: When asked for, health boards had been granted in the mining districts. If there were a plague in North Perth, it would not stop at the city boundary.

THE PREMIER: How would the plague arise? The nightsoil was removed every night.

MR. ILLINGWORTH: Apart from the sanitary station, the district was a menace to the public health, and was lessening the value of property in the adjoining municipalities.

THE PREMIER: That was because of the pumping station.

MR. ILLINGWORTH: Not so; but from other causes. Why did the City Council persistently oppose this demand?

THE PREMIER: The North Perth people had been offered a health board times out of number, and they would not take it except on their own terms.

MR. ILLINGWORTH: That could hardly be correct.

MR. A. FORREST: The Colonial Secretary had many times made the offer.

THE PREMIER: A health board would be created to-morrow, subject to the depôt and the roads to it being excluded from the jurisdiction.

MR. ILLINGWORTH: The resolution passed 18 months ago should be given effect to now.

MR. A. FORREST: If the pumping station and the pipe track were excluded, the City Council would have no objection.

MR. HALL: Was it intended by the council to keep that pumping station there for ever?

MR. A. FORREST: Until the inauguration of a deep sewage scheme.

MR. HALL: The North Perth people were quite prepared to give the City Council 12 or 18 months to find another site.

MR. A. FORREST: No other site could be found.

THE PREMIER (Right Hon. Sir J. Forrest): The Government were quite as anxious to assist the people of North Perth as hon. members who supported the motion. All recognised that such a pumping station was undesirable in any neighbourhood; but the present depôt was not unhealthy, though doubtless very unpleasant.

MR. HALL: There were many fever cases in the neighbourhood.

THE PREMIER: There was fever everywhere. Mr. Lockwood was not an expert in disease. Inspectors generally exaggerated, for they found that, when they wrote strongly, their recommendations were attended to. That fact did not minimise the value of the report, but it must be borne in mind that the motto of inspectors was to "lay it on thick."

MR. ILLINGWORTH: Except inspectors of public houses.

THE PREMIER: They were doubtless influenced by some other consideration. The leader of the Opposition (Mr. Illingworth) was altogether off the track in his argument. The North Perth people had not any grievance in being denied a health board, for they could, if they wished, have a health board to-morrow. Their grievance was that this depôt existed in their locality, and they wished it removed from their midst. The whole question was: should that depôt be removed? They could have the health board to-morrow if the piece of land occupied by the depôt were not included in the district, and the roads also omitted by which the City Council could reach the site. Again, the whole of the district might be included in the Perth Health Board area; but some 180 householders in North Perth wanted the depôt removed, and therefore the hon. member was absolutely wrong and away from the point in the speech he had made.

MR. ILLINGWORTH: No.

MR. HALL: The inhabitants were willing to give a reasonable time.

THE PREMIER: That only confirmed what he said. The Government had built a tramway for the City Council,

which after completion had not been used.

MR. HALL: The Council condemned the tram line before it was built.

THE PREMIER: It was quite good enough for horse power, but a locomotive had been demanded. The pumping station had been successful. Some pipes had burst; but this had not happened recently. Though it was complained the pipes were leaking and breaking, the pipes were underground, and could not be seen.

MR. VOSPER: They could be smelt.

THE PREMIER: There was certainly no smell, and if there were a leakage, it could be stopped. Where was the dépôt to be located? In whichever direction they tried to move, the City Council would be blocked—in Subiaco, Leederville, or Victoria Park. Something might be done by the use of septic tanks, as was suggested in connection with the pollution of the river.

MR. ILLINGWORTH: Adopt the Lournur system of sanitation.

THE PREMIER: Whatever system was adopted, there must be something unpleasant in the neighbourhood of the destructor or receptacle. He had visited this dépôt between 11 and 11:30 a.m., accompanied by the Colonial Secretary and others. When he arrived, the whole of the work had been finished; and, although the weather was damp and unfavourable to the appearance of the works, he had been struck with the cleanliness of the building and the completeness of the arrangements, and had felt sure it was not so much any really offensive smell or nuisance that the people objected to, as to the idea of the dépôt being in the district, and to the noise of the carts at night. We ought to get rid of it, but how soon was another matter. We must be reasonable, because the City Council could not be expected to use the sanitary site for this purpose very long.

MR. HALL: Were not fifteen months a reasonable time?

THE PREMIER: The authorities should meet and try to come to some mutual arrangement. What struck him, too, was that the member for Perth was the principal mover in this matter. One would have thought he would have been

fighting for the city of Perth, which he represented in this House.

MR. HALL: The member for Central Murchison (Mr. Illingworth) was the mover. The Government would have to take the responsibility if fever broke out.

THE PREMIER: If there was anything dangerous to life in carrying refuse to a site for pumping the stuff away or destroying it in incinerators, or to be used on sewage farms around which people were living in considerable numbers, and where the atmosphere was very objectionable at times, we might be sure that some danger would arise in such cases; but with regard to the sewage farm near Adelaide, the great workshops were within half a mile of that splendid sewage farm; and he could assure hon. members, having visited the place, that the effluvia noticeable at the workshops as coming from the sewage farm was very objectionable, though people working there seemed to have got used to it. He noticed it immediately he went there, but the workmen did not seem to mind it: they certainly had not struck against it.

MR. ILLINGWORTH: They got used to it.

THE PREMIER: It was really not the smell which people objected to in these cases, but it was the idea of having a sanitary site near one's dwelling or in the neighbourhood. He advised the House to be reasonable in dealing with this question, for it was really a trouble to the city of Perth, and had been for a long time. While we desired to do what was right, he appealed to hon. members and to the leader of the Opposition to be reasonable in the matter.

MR. WILSON: What did the Premier propose?

THE PREMIER: To give effect to his opinion, he would move an amendment:

That the words "no longer be delayed," at the end of the resolution, be struck out, and that the words "carried out as soon as possible" be inserted in lieu thereof.

This amendment, if accepted by the House, would be an expression of opinion for the guidance of the City Council.

MR. ILLINGWORTH said he would accept the amendment.

Amendment put and passed.

MOTION: DREDGING AT ALBANY.

Debate resumed on the motion of Mr. J. F. T. Hassell: "That it is desirable

that a dredger should be forthwith sent to Albany for the purpose of dredging the harbour to a greater depth and providing accommodation for the White Star liners and other vessels of deep draft, which now pass Albany in consequence of not being able to come into Princess Royal Harbour."

MR. J. F. T. HASSELL (in reply as mover): This motion was to endeavour to get a steam dredge for dredging the Princess Royal Harbour. The Albany people had been trying for some time past to get a dredge for this purpose, and they had asked him to bring this motion before the House, so as to get some time definitely fixed when the dredge which had been promised might be expected. There was a sum of £3,000 on the annual Estimates for improvements at Albany, but he was not sure whether a great deal of that amount had not already been expended on the jetty there. [THE PREMIER: No.] He was pleased to have that assurance. He did not wish to stop any necessary work at Fremantle by taking away a dredge that was required there, but all he asked was to have some time definitely fixed when a dredge would be sent to Albany. The town of Albany was losing trade at the present time, because unless the large White Star liners could enter the Princess Royal Harbour, they would not go there on account of the large expense of coaling outside.

MR. PIESSE (Williams): Provision had been made for sending a dredge to Albany, and no doubt a statement would be made by the Premier on this occasion that this would be done at an early date. Frequent applications had been made by the Albany people for a dredge to be sent to deepen the entrance to the Princess Royal Harbour, and to provide greater accommodation for shipping there. At all times this request had had his sympathy, and he was anxious to see something done at that port. To complete the harbour at Fremantle necessitated the retention of the dredges there in order to accommodate mail steamers calling at that port; therefore until one of the dredges could be made available, it would be difficult to do anything at Albany in the way of dredging. There was now a prospect of the work at Albany being undertaken by

the Government at an early date; and, when commenced, the people of Albany would see that it was the intention of the Government to continue this necessary work until completed. He understood that since the royal mail steamers had changed their port of call, the importance of Albany as a shipping port had been somewhat reduced; but that port would always be in evidence by its geographical position, and must continue to be a good port for coaling and for other shipping purposes. He had often said to the people of Albany, and to those residing along the Great Southern Railway, that notwithstanding the mail steamers had left that port, and although Albany might suffer some loss, still Albany had many resources at its back, for it had the Great Southern Railway and the vast area of good land along it, which was being occupied and developed, so that Albany must always be an important harbour. In view of the great development in the country connected with Albany by railway, he believed that Albany would be more than compensated by the substantial increase resulting from the increase of settlement and trade.

THE PREMIER (Right Hon. Sir J. Forrest) said he would be glad to assist the hon. member in passing this motion, if a little amendment were made in it. It was not necessary to go into such details as were contained in the motion, referring to the White Star liners and so on, because even when we had finished the work at Albany he expected that some of the White Star liners would not go there. He noticed that when the "Medic" was there at the time of our sending away a military contingent, that steamer was drawing 30 feet, and it would require that the Princess Royal harbour should be made much deeper than the Government now proposed to make it, in order to accommodate steamers of such deep draught. The harbour would in fact have to be deepened to about 30 feet.

MR. J. F. T. HASSELL: It would not take much to dredge that out.

THE PREMIER: It would take years to dredge the harbour to that depth, and if that harbour were deepened to 30 feet, the same as the harbour at Fremantle, the people of Albany ought to be satisfied. The anchorage in Princess Royal harbour at Albany was 27 feet,

and the anchorage area was not very large. What he would recommend was to deepen the anchorage to 30 feet and extend the dredging up to the town jetty, so that any steamer coming to the anchorage might be able to go to the town jetty, if desired. He did not think there was any necessity at the present time to make the harbour deeper than 30 feet; and as the tide there would be one or two feet nominally, this would make the total depth 31 feet; so that there would be more water in Princess Royal harbour available for shipping purposes than in the entrance to Fremantle harbour. Of course there was only 27 feet in the anchorage ground of Princess Royal harbour, as shown on the chart. He proposed to amend the motion thus:—

That the word "forthwith," in line 1, be struck out; that the words "Princess Royal" be inserted before the word "Harbour," in line 2; and that all the words after the word "depth," in line 2, be struck out, and the following inserted in lieu thereof, "as soon as possible."

He had already informed the House of the opinion of the Engineer-in-Chief as to the time when a dredge could be spared to go to Albany, that being about the end of the year. He believed someone pressed for an earlier date to be mentioned, and the Engineer-in-Chief then said, as the result of that further pressure, that the time would be a little later.

MR. J. F. T. HASSELL: When Mr. Leake brought the matter forward, it was promised that a dredge should be sent by the end of this year. Then Mr. Maley asked a question in the Legislative Council, and the reply was that the Engineer-in-Chief did not expect to have a dredge available before the end of March.

THE PREMIER: It might be some relief to the hon. member to be informed that there was no necessity to send a dredge to Bunbury, and that fact might ease his mind. During his (the Premier's) recent visit to Bunbury, he inspected the charts of the harbour there, which were made monthly to show the depth of water; and this was done with particular care so as to show any variation in the sounding at any particular spot, the contours being put on the charts, so that at a glance one could see exactly what accumulation of sand, if any, was taking place from time to time. He was glad to

inform the House that there had been no accumulation during the last seven months. The engineer informed him of this, and gave his theory as to the reason why it was so. According to the Engineer-in-Chief, it seemed that the silt had obtained its proper angle of repose, and there was no new accumulation. This was a most gratifying fact, and the accumulation which had previously taken place was so little that it had not interfered in the slightest degree with the harbour. Seeing there had been no accumulation during the last seven months, but a little less if anything, we might be satisfied that we should not want a dredger there for a long time, so this would make one place less to deal with in dredging. It was gratifying to find that what we were so much afraid of formerly seemed now to have been overcome by natural causes; and instead of our having to send a dredge to Bunbury, it would be wise to wait for a time and watch the effect of these natural causes. One theory was that the stone structure, which he had at first thought to be an unwise thing to put at the foot of the jetty, might have had an influence on the rush of the tide outward, and might have in some way turned the sand-travel round the end of the mole. All that the hon. member wanted to know was whether it was the intention of this House that a dredge should be sent to Albany as soon as possible.

Amendment (the Premier's) put and passed.

MR. ILLINGWORTH moved, as a further amendment, that at the end of the third line there be inserted the words "Princess Royal" after "the."

Further amendment put and passed.

MR. GREGORY (North Coolgardie): The Government ought to do what they could to give some assistance to Albany; and he trusted that some provision would be made by the Government at the first opportunity, not only to send a dredge to Albany, but to assist that place in other ways.

Motion as amended agreed to.

LEGAL PRACTITIONERS ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

DISCHARGE OF ORDER.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL moved that the order be discharged. The

member who was in charge of it did not now wish to proceed with it, as his main contention had been conceded by the Barristers' Board admitting ladies to practise.

MR. ILLINGWORTH objected to the order being discharged. The amendment proposed in this Bill was of great importance to a few people, and he hoped the Government would take steps to amend the small difficulty in the existing law.

Question put and passed, and the order discharged.

SUPREME COURT BILL.

DISCHARGE OF ORDER.

On motion by the ATTORNEY GENERAL, order for second reading of the Bill discharged.

ADMINISTRATION BILL.

DISCHARGE OF ORDER.

On motion by the ATTORNEY GENERAL, order for Committee stage (progress) discharged.

COUNCIL'S RESOLUTION—PUBLIC SERVICE, TO GRADE AND CLASSIFY.

The Legislative Council having passed a resolution affirming that a royal commission should be appointed to grade and classify the members of the Public Service, the same was now considered.

IN COMMITTEE.

MR. ILLINGWORTH (Central Murchison): There was no necessity at this stage to discuss at length the principle involved in this resolution, which came to us from the Legislative Council with a request for our concurrence. The whole subject had been discussed when the Civil Service Bill was before this House, and everyone agreed then that it was necessary to have some classification of the civil servants. The resolution asked that a royal commission should be appointed for this purpose. The Public Service Bill, which had passed through both Houses of Parliament, could hardly be effective in its working, unless some classification of public servants was undertaken; therefore he hoped the Government would not oppose the resolution.

He moved that the resolution of the Legislative Council be agreed in.

THE PREMIER (Right Hon. Sir J. Forrest): The best course to take for giving effect to this motion would be to appoint a departmental commission. These high-sounding names of "royal commission," and so on, led to the difficulty that we could not well obtain suitable men to undertake the work. We had not in this colony a leisured class, able and willing to give time and ability to inquiries of this character. Some years ago a royal commission was appointed to inquire into the working of the civil service; that commission was composed of members of Parliament, and after a protracted inquiry it produced a voluminous report. Notwithstanding all the time given to that inquiry, the commission got only as far as the Railway Department. The report was very lengthy, and few persons, if any, had read through it. That commission achieved one object, for it got some departments, or heads of departments, at loggerheads, and they continued so until now, in some cases. We could not get persons to devote the necessary time for inquiring into the grading and classifying of the whole civil service of the colony; for what would be the use of asking ordinary business-men to undertake a work like that? If they would undertake it, Parliament might get some practical hints to deal with the subject in a future session; but the better and shorter way would be to appoint the whole of the Under Secretaries to go through the several departments, and make a report to Parliament. He believed that more would be got, of a practical nature, in this way than by the other mode of inquiry, because Under Secretaries would know their own departments thoroughly, and would be able to assist each other as to the practical details of the departments as a whole.

MR. ILLINGWORTH: Strike out the word "royal."

THE PREMIER: This idea of having a commission of Under Secretaries to do this work had been considered by him for some time; and he thought if there were any weak spots in the public service, these would be the men to find them out.

MR. ILLINGWORTH: Strike out "royal," and appoint any kind of commission.

THE PREMIER: We might call it a "board." To carry out the suggestion, he moved as an amendment:

That the words "royal commission" be struck out of the resolution, and the word "board" inserted in lieu thereof.

MR. WILSON (Canning): In the Postal Department, which would be handed over to the Commonwealth, classification was especially necessary, and it was pleasing to see the Premier was now in accord with the motion. It was to be hoped the proposed board would be appointed promptly, and would complete their labours as soon as possible, certainly before June next, so that, at any rate, the departments to be handed over to the Commonwealth would have the benefit of classification and grading.

MR. PIESSE (Williams): If the Civil Service Bill just passed were to be brought into operation, the report of the board must be in the hands of the Government long before June. A board composed of under-secretaries, assisted by two or three outside persons of known administrative capacity, could do everything necessary. In South Australia, a Bill had been brought in for the classification of the public service, and classification was urgently needed in this colony, for no uniform attempt at such regulation had ever been made. He hoped the result of the labours of the board would be a classification acceptable to the Government.

Amendment put and passed, and the Council's resolution as amended agreed to.

Resolution reported, the report adopted, and a Message accordingly transmitted to the Council.

MOTION—GOLD EXPORT DUTY.

MR. RASON (South Murchison), moved:

That, in the opinion of this House, the time has arrived when it is advisable to place an export duty on unminted gold.

This motion did not seek to inflict a burden on the mining community. The cost of the Perth branch of the Royal Mint was—buildings £37,719 17s. 1d., machinery £10,713 9s., furniture £808 3s. 10d.—a total of £49,241 9s. 11d., or roughly £50,000 as the initial cost. The yearly contribution of the colony was

£20,000. In July, 1899, after many complaints as to delay, the Mint was opened; and he had then expressed a fear that a great part of the gold won in the colony would not pass through the Mint, but that this might be remedied by an export duty on unminted gold. The locally-produced gold which found its way to the Perth Mint could be and was treated at a cost considerably lower than anywhere else in the world; the charges, expressed in pence per ounce, being in three instances as follow:—1oz. to 500oz., Perth 2½d., Sydney 6d., Melbourne 2d.; to 1,000oz., Perth 2d., Sydney 4d., Melbourne 2d.; over 5,000oz., Perth 1½d., Sydney 2d., Melbourne 1½d. Moreover, there was in this colony a reduction of 25 per cent. on railage of gold sent to the Perth Mint; therefore the mining community evidently paid an extra charge on gold exported for minting; nevertheless, only about half the gold won in the colony was locally minted. In the half-year ending 30th June last there was exported 518,867ozs.; and at the Mint 239,438ozs. was treated. In October last 84,562ozs. was exported, and there was treated at the Perth Mint 48,724ozs. The financial result of the Mint's operations from July, 1899, to end of June, 1900, showed the receipt of £20,000 from the Government; paid to the Colonial Treasurer, £8,345; bringing the net cost to £11,655, in addition to the initial outlay. That was an unreasonable loss inflicted on the colony. The Mint was of sufficient capacity, its machinery was up to date, and the work could be done as expeditiously here as elsewhere, and much more cheaply. Moreover, gold of the worst quality was sent to our Mint. The value of the gold exported was underestimated at £3 16s. per ounce; whereas the average value of the gold which found its way to the Mint was £3 12s. per ounce. The greatest loss arose from the fact that a large quantity was sent to London for treatment. The lowest charge in London for refining only was 2½d. per ounce; whereas the Perth charge for that was a fraction over ½d. If the leader of the Opposition (Mr. Illingworth) said that was a question of exchange, he (Mr. Rason) would point out that before gold could be made a medium of exchange it must be given a standard value.

MR. ILLINGWORTH: Not at all. It could be bullion.

MR. RASON: Even if bar gold, it must have an assay value stamped on it, and that stamp could be affixed at the Perth Mint at a less cost than elsewhere. The House would, therefore, be doing its duty if, to prevent this unreasonable loss to the revenue, a small export duty were placed on unminted gold.

MR. KINGSMILL (Pilbarra) seconded the motion.

MR. ILLINGWORTH (Central Murchison): No doubt the hon. member's object was most desirable. The colony had spent much money on the Mint, and had increased the institution's possible output; and now a large quantity of gold was leaving the country unminted. On a previous occasion he had pointed out that no country could profitably coin more gold than it could circulate. In 1898, the total value of the gold, silver, and bronze imported to this colony was £135,800; in 1899, the total value of coins imported was £5,245. This proved that our gold was not going away to be coined in other countries; because, if it were, the export, which was over five million odd pounds worth of gold, would show that fact; whereas there was no appreciable import of gold last year, proving there had been no export of gold to be minted. Therefore the question of the relative charges in the mints at Melbourne, Sydney, and even London, did not affect the point in dispute. There were constant exchanges of gold between the Bank of England and other centres. These were not exchanges of English sovereigns, for such coins could not be profitably exported to foreign countries. When the rate of exchange was against London, it paid to coin sovereigns into Continental circulation. This was a question which could be studied in *Ricardo* or in any other authority on political economy; but the only work the Mint could profitably do after having coined sufficient gold for local requirements was to mint the gold in bars, giving them a stamped value. That was a possibility; but the reason why gold left the country uncoined was not that suggested by the hon. member. It was not a question of the cheapness of the minting or the expense of carriage, but because Australian sovereigns were not the form

of gold required for ordinary exchanges, and the mining companies found it paid them better to assay their gold as well as possible on the mines, and send the bars to England to be refined.

THE PREMIER: What about the millions of sovereigns that went away to the other colonies?

MR. ILLINGWORTH: They were sent away to pay for goods, and had been included by him when speaking of gold coined in our mint for local use.

MR. MORAN: Why did the hon. member say we could not coin more gold than we could circulate?

MR. ILLINGWORTH: The hon. member would find an explanation in *Ricardo*. The question was too intricate to discuss at length in the House. The point was, whether an export duty would lead to gold passing through the Mint. Evidently it would not do so. This was one of the most debatable questions which could possibly be faced. Just as iron was the basis of manufactures, gold lay at the root of exchange; and yet the hon. member proposed to deal with this question in a dead Parliament. That would be a huge mistake. It was doubtful whether any duty on the export of gold would cause the companies to pass their gold through the Mint here for the sake of getting it marked as to value. If the duty were to be sufficiently high it would have that effect, but the effect would be obtained at the cost of a great deal of ill-feeling towards this country, and that should be avoided. As a Parliament, we were not in a position to deal with a large question like this. There was scarcely any subject that was more complicated or more difficult to deal with than this; and we ought not to deal with it until additional representatives from the goldfields came into the House with the new Parliament. He asked the hon. member not to insist on his motion.

MR. A. FORREST (West Kimberley): With the concluding portion of the speech just made he could agree. As to not exporting sovereigns as well as exporting bullion, he could see no reason for exporting bullion, except to benefit the banks. He believed it only required pressure from the Government to inform the banks that this country would not much longer consent to see more than

half the gold being sent out of the country without passing through the local Mint. The charges for minting were less here than elsewhere, and the time had arrived when this colony should pay a tax on raw gold exported, and not allow the banks here to rule the country by exporting the raw material when we had a Mint that could coin it into sovereigns.

MR. ILLINGWORTH: It paid the banks a lot better to send sovereigns rather than bullion.

MR. A. FORREST: Those connected with the banks stated that the little profit they made out of it would be taken away if an export duty were put on raw gold; but still this country ought to insist on the gold being coined in the local Mint rather than to be sent away in bullion.

MR. ILLINGWORTH: That idea could not be carried out.

MR. A. FORREST: The Federal Parliament intended, as he understood, to shut up this Mint—so it was stated by persons who professed to know; and this would be one of the fruits of federation. If so, he hoped the Federal Parliament would pay back to this colony what it had expended in building the Mint. He could not understand how any member of this House could advocate that we should not coin all the gold we produced in the country. While holding this opinion, however, he agreed with the member for Central Murchison (Mr. Illingworth) that this question should be left to the new Parliament, and he hoped members of that Parliament would be of opinion that the big companies should not be allowed to send all the gold away in the raw. Only the large companies interested in gold mines in this colony, round the Boulder especially, were sending their gold to London, while all the companies in the outside portion of the goldfields sent their gold to the local Mint.

MR. ILLINGWORTH: The large companies sent it away for the same reason that water ran down hill.

MR. A. FORREST: If the mover of this motion did not bring it forward in the new Parliament, in the event of his being a member of it, then he (Mr. A. Forrest) would do so. What did we build the Mint for but to encourage expenditure in our own country? Better

to have 50 or 100 men working at the Mint, receiving wages and spending them in the place, than continue the present system of allowing the big companies to send the raw gold to London. It would be better at this stage of the session for the motion to be withdrawn.

MR. MORAN (East Coolgardie): It was amusing to hear that hon. members ought not to deal with this question of putting an export duty on gold, but that we should leave it to the next Parliament; forgetting that the next Parliament would not have power to deal with the question at all, because now that we were federated as part of the Australian Commonwealth, the power of dealing with the question of exporting gold must necessarily pass to the Federal Parliament. For the present Parliament to attempt, at the end of its last session, to pass a resolution of this kind was too big a question. He had no sympathy with any gold-mining corporation that did not send its gold to the local Mint; and when he was standing for election, everyone on the goldfields urged him to do what he could to compel the mining companies to have their gold minted in the colony. There would be no injustice in compelling companies to send to the local Mint all the gold they raised in the country, because the gold could be minted locally at a less charge than elsewhere: therefore, where would be the injustice? We should not consent to suffer any loss from running a Mint in Western Australia, and without a large turnover the local Mint could not pay. Seeing that the local Mint could coin sovereigns and refine gold at a less charge than elsewhere, there must be some other influences to cause the gold to be sent out of the country by the large companies. This Parliament, being practically dead, could not deal with this question; and when the next Parliament was born it would not be able to deal with the question, because it would not have the power.

MR. VOSPER (North-East Coolgardie): As had been pointed out by the last speaker, a good deal of the demand for the erection of a local Mint came from the goldfields; but he (Mr. Vosper) must say that, as a candidate, he was not in favour at that time of the erection of a Mint in Western Australia, for this among other reasons, that gold was minted

at a loss. It must be so. The object of gold-mining in this country was to produce a profit; and if this colony minted gold at a loss, it must follow that the more gold was minted here the greater would be the loss to the country.

SEVERAL MEMBERS: No, no.

MR. VOSPER: Not proportionately, but nevertheless there was a loss. If we were to keep within the country all the gold that was produced here, what would be the result? It would mean universal ruin and disaster to every industry in the colony: it would cheapen the gold, and appreciate the value of all other commodities. The history of Spain and Portugal was instructive on this point, for those countries formerly had practically a monopoly of gold and silver mining, and the Legislature of those countries being anxious to retain the gold, because they imagined that gold was wealth, prohibited the exportation of gold and silver. What was the consequence? Trade and commerce fell off, and people ceased to import there. All the commerce of those two countries was actually killed by that legislation. Gold was the one thing that bore its face value, and paper money was issued to represent gold. By coining gold here, we were making a present of the cost of coinage to those countries which were largely importing gold, especially India and China. The export of gold from this colony would continue, in spite of anything the Government might do. The motion to put an export duty on gold was based on economic fallacies of the grossest kind. It had been a mistake to build the Mint, in the first instance, and it was a mistake to maintain it; therefore it would be an excellent thing if, as a result of federation, this colony were relieved of the burden of the Mint, because it could never in our economic conditions be anything but an incubus.

THE PREMIER (Right Hon. Sir J. Forrest): The hon. member's remarks were extraordinary, and especially coming from a goldfields member and a representative of the poor man. Poor men on the fields had got an advantage in having their gold coined at the local Mint, and getting the highest value for it in sovereigns; therefore it could not be bad for everyone in the country that we had

built this Mint, and were carrying it on. The only reason why the Mint did not pay was that the large companies interested in gold mines around Kalgoorlie did not send their gold to the local Mint. If the amount minted in a year were equal to three millions sterling in value, that amount would pay at the present rates. The rates had been made low in order to induce the gold-producers to send their gold to the Mint, and everything had been done by way of making concessions to induce the large mining companies to support the local Mint. The reason why those companies did not send their gold to the Mint was not that the coinage of the gold was dearer here than elsewhere; but the interests of refiners in London and elsewhere, and the interests of other people who got a good deal out of gold by refining it, prevented the gold from being sent to this Mint. Some of those persons were probably large shareholders in these companies, and their influence was sufficient to induce the companies to send the gold to London rather than have it minted here. It was bad policy on the part of the large mining companies to treat the Mint in this colony in the way they were doing. The Mint was established in the interests of the gold-mining industry, in order that those who produced gold in the country might get the full value for it, and get it as quickly as possible, and at a cheap rate. The large mining companies were very prone to address this House when they had a grievance, and they seemed to think they should control the legislation of this colony. While himself desiring that capitalists who invested in this country should have fair play, yet the fact that they did not go out of their way in the slightest to assist such an institution as the Mint here seemed to show they were more eager for their own interests, and had very little regard for the interests of this colony. Instead of their complaining of the legislation which we thought desirable in the interests of this colony, they should show some practical sympathy by making use of this local institution, established for their benefit, and they would thereby show that they took a real interest in what was going on within the colony outside of their own particular mines. For statistical and other reasons

it would be valuable to us if the whole of the gold raised in this colony were to pass through the local Mint, as we should then know how much gold was produced here, and have more accurate statistics than we could obtain at the present time. There was no reason why gold should not be exported in sovereigns just as well as in its crude state in bars. The gold could be refined here, and converted into sovereigns as cheaply as elsewhere, or probably more cheaply.

MR. KINGSMILL: Had the local Mint power to refine gold and issue it in bars?

THE PREMIER: The local Mint could do it, but the Imperial Mint authorities had not yet issued instructions for the refining of gold in bars. That was because of the objection of those who were interested in the present plan being continued. When gold was first discovered in Kimberley there was a duty of half-a-crown an ounce put on it for revenue purposes, and the banks which then exported the gold paid that duty. Now the idea of the mover of this motion (Mr. Rason) was not to tax anyone, but to prevent the gold from being sent away in its raw state; and he (the Premier) had no doubt that if a duty were put on it would have the desired effect; but for all that we did not desire to do these things, because it would be drastic legislation. Therefore the hon. member, having moved his motion, might be content to withdraw it.

MR. KINGSMILL (Pilbarra): By this motion, the hon. member had done good service. It was undoubtedly wrong that the large exporters of gold, in consequence of whose clamour the Mint had been built, should be sending their bullion unminted out of the colony; but the difficulty lay in the Perth Mint not having the necessary authority to issue bar gold. If that authority were given, surely the mining companies, in their own defence, would pay the very moderate charges for refining. It was hardly credible that London financiers could exercise influence over all these companies. Was there any chance of the necessary authority for minting bar gold being granted?

THE PREMIER: The London financiers advised against it.

MR. KINGSMILL: Then they did so for their own private ends; and surely

the Royal Mint authorities would not sacrifice the equitable rights of Western Australia to the private interests of a few financiers. With this authority, the Perth Mint could easily obtain nearly as much work as it could cope with.

MR. RASON (in reply): It was unnecessary to give a dissertation on political economy.

MR. ILLINGWORTH: The motion had done good service.

MR. RASON: Suffice it to say that, to be a medium of exchange, gold must be given a recognised value, and that value could be placed on the gold at a lower cost in Perth than elsewhere. In moving the motion, he had believed bar gold could be minted here. Though he now found that impression was fallacious; still in order to encourage the mining industry alone, this colony had spent £50,000 on a Mint. It had been urged at the time that the colony would not suffer a loss; yet there had been a loss last year of nearly £12,000, not to speak of interest on cost of construction. That state of affairs should not be allowed to continue, and probably the motion would act as a warning to those mineowners who exported unminted gold. He asked leave to withdraw the motion.

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

ADJOURNMENT.

The House adjourned at five minutes past 10 o'clock, until the next Monday evening.