

Schedule:
 Agreed to.
 Preamble and title:
 Agreed to.
 Bill reported, with an amendment.

ADJOURNMENT.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) moved that the House, at its rising, do adjourn until Tuesday afternoon, 13th November, at half-past four o'clock, and sit, if necessary, until half-past six o'clock p.m.; and, if requisite, from half-past seven o'clock p.m., onwards.

Question put and passed.

The House adjourned at 1:52 o'clock a.m. of Tuesday, 13th November.

Legislative Council,

Tuesday, 13th November, 1894.

Insect Pests Bill: second reading; committee; third reading—Police Act Amendment Bill: Legislative Assembly's Message—Loan Estimates 1894-5—Southern Cross—Coolgardie Railway Bill: first reading—Mullewa-Coo Railway Bill: first reading—Scab Act Amendment Bill: first reading—Adjournment.

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

PRAYERS.

INSECT PESTS BILL.

SECOND READING.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. S. H. Parker): As you are aware, sir, the Government has instituted an Agricultural Bureau, consisting of a number of gentlemen interested in agriculture, which has requested the Government to introduce this Bill. It provides that inspectors may be appointed from time to time by the Government on the recommendation of the Bureau, to inspect orchards, vineyards and nurseries. And these inspectors

are empowered, without notice, to enter, at any reasonable time of the day, any land where fruit trees or vines are grown, to ascertain whether such are infested with any pest or disease detrimental to their growth. And it is provided that such inspectors shall not be deemed trespassers. If an inspector, after he has made an investigation, is of opinion that a pest exists, he must report it to the Bureau, and the Bureau is empowered to order the proprietor of the vineyard or orchard to cure the disease in such a manner as they shall direct, and in any case, when it is reported that there is no chance of the disease being cured, they may order the vines or trees to be destroyed. There is a provision that the order made by the Bureau shall be subject to the direction of a Resident or Police Magistrate, and power is given to the proprietor of a vineyard or orchard to summon an inspector for the purpose of inquiring into the reason of the order being made, and a Police Magistrate or Resident Magistrate may then confirm the order or not. It is further provided that when the Bureau calls upon the proprietor to take measures to eradicate any disease, it shall do so in writing, and set forth the measures which are to be taken, and if the occupier does not carry them out, the Bureau is then empowered to do the work at the cost of the proprietor or occupier. These are, simply, the provisions of this Bill, and I now move it be now read a second time.

THE HON. D. K. CONGDON: I see provision is made for the appointment of inspectors, but I cannot see anything to show that they must carry documentary evidence of their appointments.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. S. H. Parker): They will be gazetted.

THE HON. D. K. CONGDON: I do not think that sufficient.

THE HON. R. W. HARDEY: I have looked carefully through this Bill, and I quite agree with the Hon. Mr. Congdon unless inspectors carry with them some documentary evidence, there is nothing to prevent men going round to people's orchards and pretending they are inspectors when really they are not. When we go into committee I shall move that these inspectors be compelled to produce written authority when called upon. I notice that the Bureau is to consist of

persons appointed by the Governor, but at the Conference which was held six or eight months ago, it was unanimously agreed that the Bureau should be an elective body, and I think the Government will do well to consider the matter.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. S. H. Parker): If no hon. member objects, I propose now to go into committee. This Bill does not affect the appointment of the Bureau, but if it is desired that these bodies shall be elective it would be well, I think, if a resolution were adopted by both Houses on the subject, and the necessary legislation carried through Parliament. I cannot but think, however, that at the present time it is better that the Governor should appoint these bodies. Perhaps, when they become more important, it will be well to have a different system. With reference to the amendment suggested by the Hon. Mr. Congdon, I might point out that there are many persons who exercise various vocations who do not carry about with them written authority; detectives, for instance; they do not usually show any authority in the performance of their duty. I do not think there is much to fear of men pretending they are inspectors, because in the first place they have nothing to gain by it, and in the second place they would be liable to the pains and penalties of trespassers. I move that you do now leave the chair.

Question put and passed.

IN COMMITTEE.

Clauses 1 and 2 passed.

Clause 3.—Appointment of Inspectors:

THE HON. R. W. HARDEY moved that the words "on producing his appointment in writing" be inserted between the words "may" and "without," in the fifth line.

THE HON. F. T. CROWDER: I consider this is a good amendment. It was only a few months ago that we had sham detectives going about, and in country places, and if there is not some authority to be shown we shall have all sorts of men going into orchards and vineyards, and, perhaps, doing considerable damage, under the pretext that they are inspectors.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. S. H. Parker): All the inspectors can do is to enter at reasonable hours in the day time, for the purpose of ascertaining whether the vines or trees are infected. I do not think it is probable any person would do this to gratify his own whims. However, if hon. members think the amendment desirable, I shall make no further opposition.

Amendment put and passed.

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 4.—Bureau on report of Inspectors may direct remedy to be used:

THE HON. R. W. HARDEY: I would ask the Hon. Colonial Secretary whether in the other colonies, when orchards are destroyed, some compensation is not allowed?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. S. H. Parker): I am unable to answer the question, but it seems to me that if an orchard or vineyard is in such a state that the Bureau finds it impossible to cure it, the owner deserves very little compensation.

Clause agreed to.

The remaining clauses were agreed to, and the Bill reported.

The Standing Orders were suspended.

THIRD READING.

The Bill was then read a third time, and *passed*.

POLICE ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY'S MESSAGE.

IN COMMITTEE.

THE HON. F. T. CROWDER: I move that this Council does not insist upon its amendment, with which the Legislative Assembly has disagreed.

Question put and passed.

LOAN ESTIMATES, 1894-5.

IN COMMITTEE.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. S. H. Parker): I find that the practice of this House with regard to Loan Estimates has been to move that they be agreed to as a whole. I may draw attention to the fact that during the 12 months ending the year 30th June, 1895, it is proposed to expend on public works in the colony £985,000. This money will be taken out of various Loan moneys,

commencing with a sum from the Loan of 1884. The details of the expenditure will be found on the Estimates before hon. members, and I do not think I need say very much about them. It will be observed that out of the Loan of 1884 there is still a sum of £385 4s. 11d. of the amount which was appropriated for public works at Geraldton; there is a balance of 3s. 4d. on account of construction of Eucla jetty, a small item which I hope will be got rid of this year. There is a balance of £45 on the construction of the railway, Bunbury to the timber ranges; £4 15s. on the item, Court House at Gascoyne; and £929 on the item Public Buildings at Pinjarrah. These buildings, for which the money has been provided over 10 years, have never been built; and I think the residents of that district have a just cause of complaint against the Government for not expending the money. I hope, however, that the matter will be remedied during the current financial year. Out of the same 1884 loan there is a balance of £372 for improvements to Fremantle Lunatic Asylum. The Government propose to spend considerably more than this during the present year to enlarge the asylum and build quarters for the resident Surgeon Superintendent. I may say the Government propose to relieve the present superintendent of his duties as Colonial Surgeon, so as to enable him to devote the whole of his time and attention to the patients in the asylum; and we trust that when the buildings are complete, the patients will be enabled in some measure to be classified—the curable from the incurable. It has been said that the Lunatic Asylum should be removed into the Darling Range, but the cost of constructing an asylum there is estimated at £30,000, a sum which the Government do not feel justified in expending at the present time. For my part, I think Fremantle is a most suitable place for the asylum; it is in a healthy and salubrious locality, and is easily accessible both by rail and sea. Out of the same loan there is a balance of £49 for water boring, which will be expended, as also the balance of £10 on the Kimberley telegraph construction. Of the loan of 1888 there is a balance of £637 for construction of new wing at the Colonial Hospital. I may say it is the

intention of the Government not only to spend this sum, but also an additional sum of £8,800 for additions to the present hospital. With this expenditure and the Act we have recently passed, the Government hope that the hospital will be placed on a sound and satisfactory footing. Of the 1891 loan, there are still large sums to credit. This loan was floated so recently, and the particulars of it are so well in the minds of hon. members, that I need not go through them in detail, but I may say that it is proposed to spend the balance on the works mentioned. With regard to item 17, £5,000 for immigration, I do not think we shall spend that money. For some time past the only money spent on immigration has been for domestic servants, and it has been thought advisable to cease that. The only money likely to be spent is on assisting persons at Home who have small capitals, and who are likely to engage in agricultural pursuits when they arrive in the colony. I imagine, in consequence of the attractions at our goldfields, that we shall not need further immigration, and that our supply of domestic servants will come from the colonies, especially when we bear in mind the great depression which exists there. The lighthouse at Cape Leeuwin the Government propose to build, at a cost of £9,696. Of the 1893 loan, £34,000 is available for the completion of the Yilgarn railway, £30,000 for the completion of the Mullewa railway, and £63,000 improvements to the gradients between Fremantle and Beverley. Of the 1894 loan, it is proposed to expend £86,000 on the Murchison railway, £75,000 on the Southern Cross railway and £21,950 on the Donnybrook-Bridgetown railway. This amount is made up of £1,950, salaries; £18,000, permanent way; and £2,000, construction. Hon. members will see from this that practically no construction will take place during this year; indeed, it cannot, until the Railway Bill is passed. For the railway to the Collie Coalfield only £600 is put down, which is the sum I promised hon. members the Government would not exceed; £60,650 is provided for rolling stock; £41,750 for additional improvements to opened railways; £55,400, harbour works at Fremantle; £10,000 for development of goldfields; £16,000, development of agri-

culture; £8,500, harbour works at Geraldton; £25,000, improvement of harbours and rivers generally; £10,850 for lighthouses; £10,850 for telegraphs, £31,600 for roads and bridges, and £30,000 for miscellaneous. With regard to the last item, which includes the charges and expenses of raising the loan, it may be that we shall have a large premium, so that we shall really not want this money if we fix the interest on the loan at 4 per cent. Personally, however, I cannot but think it would be wise to take advantage of our present position in the London market, and reduce the interest to $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. It would be better, in the interest of the colony, to reduce the interest than to obtain a premium on the loan. I now move that the Loan Estimates be agreed to. The practice in the other colonies is to take them as a whole. In some colonies, in South Australia for instance, the Loan Estimates are never submitted to the Upper House at all; but in these colonies, when they are submitted, they are dealt with as a whole. Mr. Kingston, Premier of South Australia, informs me that the Loan Estimates are not submitted to the Legislative Council there, but only to the Assembly. The Premier of Victoria says that their Loan Accounts are laid on the table of both Houses, but submitted only to the Assembly. In Queensland the Loan Estimates are placed in the Appropriation Act, and, of course, the Council only deals with them as a whole. In New South Wales, I learn from the present Premier, that the Loan Estimates are embodied in a Bill and sent up for the concurrence of the Council. The Council only once (in 1880) attempted to amend the Bill, and on its being returned the Speaker called attention to the interference, and the Bill was dropped. I now move that the Estimates be agreed to.

THE HON. F. T. CROWDER: I move that you, sir, put the items one by one.

THE CHAIRMAN (Hon. Sir G. Shenton): I think the more parliamentary procedure is to put the Estimates as a whole, and then, if the hon. member has any amendment, he can move it. We shall have to deal with these Estimates very much in the same way as we deal with the ordinary Estimates. I do not think it is in accordance with parliamentary practice to put the items separately.

THE HON. F. T. CROWDER: Then I withdraw my amendment.

THE HON. D. K. CONGDON: If any hon. gentleman has an amendment to propose, how will he make it?

THE CHAIRMAN (Hon. Sir G. Shenton): He can make it at any time, but I think we had better take amendments in the order of the items. If any hon. member has an amendment on Item 1, he should make it before an hon. member who has an amendment on Item 2.

THE HON. F. M. STONE: I beg to move, as an amendment, that all the words after "that" be struck out, and that the words "the committee sanctions" "the Loan Estimates for 1894-5, with the" "exception of Item 3, Railway Donnybrook" "towards Bridgetown (exclusive of rolling" "stock) £21,950," be inserted in lieu thereof. Hon. members are well aware that it was only a short time ago that the Loan Bill was before the House, and that we sent certain suggestions to the Assembly to omit this very railway from the schedule, and on which it is now proposed to make this expenditure. We were promised that a separate Bill should be sent up for the work, but it now seems that, in defiance of our wishes, the Government, backed up by the Assembly, are now asking us to vote money to be expended on a work which we have not yet authorised, and which we have already expressed our determination not to authorise. If we allow this item to pass, the result will be that when the Bill for the construction of the railway is brought in we shall be told that we must pass it because we have already voted £21,950 towards the construction. It is therefore absurd for us, after taking the stand we did, to sanction this expenditure. I hope hon. members will bear in mind what we have already done, and will not be led into a trap by passing this item. It may be asked, what power have we to deal with these Estimates? I think I shall be able to show hon. members that we have full power, and that the Government cannot expend this amount without the sanction of Parliament. I will just draw the attention of hon. members to the Audit Act of 1891, which provides that separate accounts shall be submitted to Parliament. What are they to be submitted

to Parliament for, except for their approval and sanction? Then, by the Privileges Act of 1893, it is provided that the Legislature of Western Australia shall be, and is hereby designated the Parliament of Western Australia. This shows, therefore, what the word "Parliament" in the Audit Act means. These Estimates are to be submitted to Parliament, and not to the Assembly only. I think, therefore, it is clear that this House has full power to deal with these Estimates; and I hope hon. members will exercise their power, and show the Government and the Assembly that they are not going to be played with fast and loose, and that after we intimate a certain course of action which we propose to take, we are not prepared to stultify ourselves in the manner which is suggested to us in these Estimates. I now ask hon. members to support the amendment I have proposed.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. S. H. Parker): I shall ask you, sir, to rule as to whether it is competent for the hon. member to make this amendment.

THE HON. F. M. STONE: I understand you to rule that the proper Parliamentary procedure is to put the Estimates as a whole, and that then hon. members can move amendments.

THE CHAIRMAN (Hon. Sir G. Shenton): That is what I said.

THE HON. F. T. CROWDER: I have much pleasure in seconding this amendment; and I cannot help thinking, from the turn things have taken, that this amount, £21,950, has been brought down to this Council in anticipation of the Bill for the construction of the railway being finally got through. Hon. members are aware that we passed the Loan Bill on the distinct understanding that separate Bills for the construction of the two items should be brought down. It was thoroughly understood that no expenditure on either of these railways should take place in the meantime, except a sum of £600 for the survey of the Collie Railway. Now we find the Government and Assembly, by a side-wind, trying to obtain Parliamentary sanction for these railways. So far as the Donnybrook railway is concerned, the Assembly knows our intentions. We have spoken as plainly as we could, and the Government have no right, under the circumstances,

to bring down these estimates with these items included. It seems to me the Government are doing all they can to create disturbance and friction between the two Houses. I hope hon. members, by their action to-night, will not stultify themselves.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. S. H. Parker): When the Loan Bill was before the House I pledged the Government not to expend more than £600 on the surveys of the Collie Railway, but I do not think I made any pledge in regard to the Donnybrook Railway.

THE HON. R. G. BURGESS: You said we should have each Bill separately.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. S. H. Parker): Yes. The railway, Donnybrook towards Bridgetown, cannot be commenced until the Bill authorising its construction is passed; but the Government, in putting this amount on the Estimates, anticipates that the Council will take a reasonable view of the position and will pass the Bill. It must be remembered that hon. members have already authorised the Government to raise the money for this railway, and it will be unreasonable to have the money lying idle at a bank. If this money is not expended on this railway, it will not be spent for any other purpose. But assuming that the House does refuse to pass the Bill, this money is only to be expended on rails and fastenings, which will be in the colony, and which will be available for any other railway that may be determined upon. One of the reasons which has led the Government to put this item in the schedule is, that it is better for the Government to buy all their rails and fastenings together, because they can get them so much cheaper. There is nothing unreasonable, although Parliament has not passed the Bills authorising the construction of these railways, in the Government preparing the plans in anticipation of the passing of the Bills. I may say, however, that so long as the present Government remain in office the £80,000, which we authorised them to raise for this railway, will not be devoted to any other work. Therefore, I ask hon. members whether they wish us to raise the money and let it lie idle in one of the banks. It seems to me that if the House was seriously opposed to these railways, it should never have authorised

the raising of the money. Having passed the Loan Bill, the Government were surely justified in coming to the conclusion that this House would make no serious opposition to the Bill for the construction of the railway when it came before us. The Government are not trying to set the House at defiance. We are only following the ordinary course where money is raised by loan. We are authorised to raise the money, and what are we to do with it when we have raised it, if we do not go on with the work it has been raised for? I cannot but think that, under the circumstances, the only reasonable course for hon. members is now to allow these Estimates to go through as a whole.

THE HON. F. M. STONE: I hope hon. members will not be hoodwinked by the Colonial Secretary; he tells us this money is going to be raised, and will be idle. Now, is it likely that the Government are going to raise the whole of the loan money at once? They will raise it in portions, and, according to their own showing, they only propose to expend, up to the end of June, 1895, £950,000. So that if the Government wish to raise the whole of the loan, which of course is absurd, they will have £300,000 or £400,000 lying at interest in the banks. I cannot think the Colonial Secretary is serious in what he says. He told us at one time that if we passed the amount in the Loan Bill and we did not authorise the railways, the money could be re-appropriated to some other object. I hope hon. members will not vote one way one day, and another way another day.

THE HON. J. W. HACKETT: In the very few remarks I shall make I desire to keep free from two aspects of the case: one the Constitutional question, and the other the merits of the railway to Bridgetown. As regards the latter, it has already been discussed pretty fully. Hon. members have given their opinions, and it is quite possible they may have another opportunity of discussing the question. I also desire to hold aloof from discussing the Constitutional question, because I do not think the matter is by any means clear. The Hon. Mr. Stone has quoted a clause of the Audit Act under which the Loan Estimates are spoken of as having to be prepared, and not sanctioned by

Parliament, but submitted to Parliament, which all hon. members will see is an entirely different matter. Then there is a difference between the annual Estimates and the Loan Estimates. The annual Estimates are drawn up and sent to the Assembly, and subsequently embodied in an Appropriation Act, which has to receive the sanction of both Houses. The Loan Estimates, however, only seem to be required to be submitted to Parliament.

THE HON. F. M. STONE: What is the use of submitting them if it is not meant that they should be passed?

THE HON. J. W. HACKETT: That is a point I am not going into at the present moment. I must say I do not understand the remarks of the Colonial Secretary, and he seems to me to somewhat contradict himself. He says that this money is to be devoted to the purchase of rails, but that it does not commit the House to vote for the railway. I do not take that view at all, because I believe it does commit the House, distinctly and irretrievably, to the construction of the railway. The points made by my hon. friend Mr. Stone carry much greater conviction to me, because it seems we shall be doing more than stultify ourselves if we go back, and thus admit that our resolutions have no validity. The Colonial Secretary tells us that the Government, if it does not spend the money on this railway, will not spend it at all. I cannot see how that coincides with the argument he also made use of, that if we passed the item, and allowed the rails and fastenings to be purchased, they might do for other lines, and his previous argument, that the money could be re-appropriated. I should like to point out, however, that the Hon. Mr. Stone is in error in saying that we informed the Assembly that if the Bill for the construction of this railway was sent up to us we should oppose it. I do not recollect any resolution which said anything of the kind. If hon. members will turn to the resolution we sent down, they will see that it conveyed no intimation of the kind. I thought the resolution we sent was only a careful way of saying this Council, having constitutionally expressed its views, we should not stand further in the way of the settlers in this district having their railway, and that we were prepared, when the time came, to pass the Bill.

THE HON. F. T. CROWDER: You said at the time that the resolution was a threat to the Assembly.

THE HON. J. W. HACKETT: I said "menace," which is a much nicer word, and which means less. There is nothing whatever in the resolution to show that we are determined to throw out the Bill. What I wish to point out is that having passed the Loan Bill we are, to use a legal phrase, "estopped" from further objecting. If hon. members were determined to throw out this item, they should have taken the right course, and objected to it in the Loan Bill. They did not do that, however, for when the Bill was returned from the Assembly they allowed it to pass.

THE HON. R. G. BURGESS: On certain conditions.

THE HON. J. W. HACKETT: But we cannot make conditions. By our action we led the other House and the country to believe that we had given way, and that we were prepared to agree to the appropriation of £80,000 for this railway. Now, to step forward and object to spending part of this money, seems to me to be like attempting to destroy finality in regard to any Act of Parliament. As far as I can see, we cannot go back. I feel I am bound, having passed the item in the Loan Bill, to assent to the expenditure of this money. There is a difference between the Collie and Bridgetown railways, because the Government, in the case of the Collie railway, agreed that it should be held in suspension. With regard to the Bridgetown railway, they stated that it was part of their policy and that they desired to go on with it. With regard to the Collie line, we have a free hand; but with regard to this railway, we are committed to it. I shall vote against the amendment.

THE HON. R. G. BURGESS: I think one thing my hon. friend has lost sight of is that the Hon. Mr. Wittenoom asked the Colonial Secretary whether he would give an assurance that the Government would bring in each of these Bills separately. We had that assurance given us. If we cannot place reliance upon the assurance of the Government, I should like to know what position we are in? The course which has been pursued will show us that in future we had better not trust the Government. As regards the argu-

ments of the Hon. Mr. Hackett, I think we must be careful how we accept them, because we must remember that he represents the district in which this railway is to be constructed. I think it is nearly time that hon. members of this House looked carefully into these matters, in order to prevent wasteful expenditure. I shall vote with the Hon. Mr. Stone.

THE HON. H. McKERNAN: I must say I was somewhat startled at the remarks of the Hon. Mr. Hackett, and in consequence my vote on this occasion will be somewhat pronounced. Like other hon. gentlemen, I have no intention of debating the constitutional question, and will only deal with a point which has not yet been dealt with by previous speakers. I should like to know whether, if this item is thrown out, the whole of the works provided for in this Loan Bill will be stopped, because I do not believe it is good enough for us to hold out, and have all the public works of the colony stopped on account of this one item?

THE HON. F. M. STONE: We agree to pass all the other items.

THE HON. H. McKERNAN: If we are to accept the remarks of the Hon. Mr. Hackett, we are committed to this item, but we shall certainly be going back on the vote, which was a distinct and deliberate one, given the other evening. I should like to have an explanation as to the effect of throwing out this particular item.

THE HON. D. K. CONGDON: I am certainly under the impression that the message we sent to the Legislative Assembly did not commit us to throw out this Bill. I am of opinion that if the necessary information were obtained and forthcoming by next session, hon. members would be prepared to consider the matter on its merits, and I therefore enter my protest against its being stated that we are committed to refuse to pass this item.

Question—That the words proposed to be struck out stand part of the resolution—put.

The committee divided.

Noes	9
Ayes	3
Majority			6

AYES.
The Hon. D. K. Congdon
The Hon. J. W. Hackett
The Hon. S. H. Parker
(Teller).

NOES.
The Hon. R. G. Burges
The Hon. F. T. Crowder
The Hon. E. W. Davies
The Hon. R. W. Hardey
The Hon. H. McKernan
The Hon. J. E. Richardson
The Hon. E. Robinson
The Hon. H. J. Saunders
The Hon. F. M. Stone
(Teller).

Question—That the words proposed to be inserted be so inserted—put and passed.

Resolution, as amended, agreed to and reported.

SOUTHERN CROSS AND COOLGARDIE RAILWAY BILL.

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

MULLEWA-CUE RAILWAY BILL.

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

SCAB ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

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

ADJOURNMENT.

The Council, at 9.45 o'clock p.m., adjourned until Thursday, 15th November, at 4.30 o'clock p.m.

Legislative Assembly,

Tuesday, 13th November, 1894.

Term of employment of officials in tropical districts—Pharmacy and Poisons Bill: recommitted—Appropriation Bill: second reading; in committee—Lands Resumption Bill: second reading; in committee—Droving Bill: Legislative Council's amendments—Elementary Education Act Amendment Bill: in committee—Insect Pests Bill: Message from the Legislative Council—Police Act Amendment Bill: Message from the Legislative Council—Adjournment.

THE SPEAKER took the chair at 4.30 p.m.

PRAYERS.

TERM OF EMPLOYMENT OF OFFICIALS IN TROPICAL DISTRICTS.

MR. WOOD, in accordance with notice, asked the Premier whether there was any limit to the term for which telegraph officers and other officials were employed in the tropical districts of the colony, where the severe climate had an injurious effect on the health of Europeans?

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) replied: There is no particular limit; but, as a rule, officers are not kept an undue time in the North. Whenever opportunities for promotions occur, the services of the whole of the officers in the department are considered; and, I believe, the system pursued works satisfactorily.

PHARMACY AND POISONS BILL.

On the Order of the Day for the third reading of this Bill,

MR. ILLINGWORTH, in accordance with notice, moved that the Bill be recommitted for the purpose of making certain amendments.

Question put and passed.

IN COMMITTEE.

Clause 39.—Persons qualified, and penalties:

MR. ILLINGWORTH moved that sub-clauses (b) and (c) of the clause be struck out, and that the following sub-clauses be inserted in lieu thereof:—

“(b.) A person carrying on, at the “date of the passing of this Act, the “business of a chemist and druggist or “of a pharmaceutical chemist, who “shall, on or before the first day of