

it was not under this section at all. Payment under Section 186 was not what the hon. member was alluding to. It would be readily seen that when a local authority made an estimate at the beginning of the year for the performance of this service it took into consideration the number of tenants in assessing the annual charge, the result had been that Fremantle up to date had been sadly out in their reckoning on account of the difficulty Subsection 2 placed them in to prove that the pan had been used. It might be correctly said that probably there was not one place in the district represented by Mr. Cullen that worked under Section 186.

Hon. E. McLARTY: One was inclined to agree with Mr. Cullen. From his experience of property in the town Mr. Moss mentioned a charge had been made when there had been no removal. He had paid sanitary rates for two or three years until he protested when it was found the council had been collecting the rate illegally. It was quite sufficient to pay when the service was rendered.

Progress reported.

House adjourned at 9.37 p.m.

Legislative Assembly,

Wednesday, 13th December, 1911.

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The SPEAKER took the Chair at 2.30 p.m., and read prayers.

PAPERS PRESENTED.

By the Minister for Works: 1, Map showing centre line of proposed Hotham-Crossman Railway; 2, Map showing centre line and limits of deviation of proposed railway from Yilliminning to Kondinin; 3, Papers in connection with Wickepin-Merriden Railway (asked for by Mr. Monger).

By the Minister for Lands: 1, Report of Fisheries Department on Fisheries and Oyster Hatcheries at Shark Bay; 2, Third annual report of Commissioner of Taxation; 3, Report of Surveyor General for the year ended 30th June, 1911.

By the Minister for Mines: Mineral leases at Phillips River, return (ordered on motion by Mr. Hudson); 2, Caloriffe values of coals, return (asked for by Mr. O'Loughlen).

By the Attorney General: Papers relating to appointment of University Organiser.

QUESTION — UNIVERSITY ORGANISER.

Mr. HEITMANN asked the Minister for Education: 1, Who selected Mr. Gunn as organiser of the proposed University? 2, Who authorised them to do the selecting? 3, Are there not provisions in the University Act for the organisation and management of the University? 4, Was the appointment of Mr. Gunn made under the provisions of the University Act? 5, Why was the position not advertised in Australia? 6, What special qualification has Mr. Gunn to make up for his lack of knowledge of Australian conditions, ideas, and requirements, in regard to higher education? 7, In view of the fact that our University is to be run on lines suited for Australia, not following closed the older universities of England, and that we have many brilliant university men in Australia, whose knowledge of Australian conditions and ideals is beyond question, will the Minister explain what advantages there are in appointing Mr. Gunn with no Australian knowledge? 8, Is it not a fact that prior to this appointment Mr. Gunn was out of employment for a considerable time?

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION replied: The Government have no official knowledge or papers bearing upon the eight questions asked by the hon. member, but in response to inquiries I have received the following statement from Sir Winthrop Hackett, the Chairman of the Royal Commission appointed to inquire into the question of the establishment of a West Australian University:—

The selection of Mr. Gunn in London as organiser and adviser to the proposed University of Western Australia was officially made by the Hon. Frank Wilson, the Minister charged with the administration of the University, and who was also Premier of the State. In this case he took the course he did after summoning in conference all those individuals whom he could collect in London, who had directly interested themselves in the foundation of the new University. Besides the Hon. Frank Wilson, who took the chair and drafted the resolution authorising the

appointment, there were present the Agent General (in whose office the meeting was held), who had issued the original Royal Commission to examine into the proposed University Sir Winthrop Hackett, the chairman of the Royal Commission, the Right Rev. Dr. Riley, Bishop of Perth, deputy chairman of the Royal Commission, Mr. Cecil Andrews, one of its members, and Mr. Cyril Jackson, formerly Inspector General of Schools in Western Australia. The Hon. Frank Wilson accepts the responsibility of the step though the Act was not completely operative. The provisions of the University Act contemplate the appointment of a vice-chancellor as the chief executive and organising officer of the University, but the permanent selection of such an officer implies a possibly long search for the right man—on whom the success of the University must so largely depend—probably prolonged inquiries and full advertising. The University statute under which he would act has not been passed, there being no senate to bring it into operation, and in this statute the terms of the vice-chancellor's tenure of office, stipend, powers and duties will have to be prescribed. Under these circumstances the appointment of Mr. Gunn for a period of two years probably hastens the establishment of the University by the most part of that period. The suggestion to appoint him for a period (and it was his own wish that it should be for two years) commended itself to the entire conference. He is a graduate of one of the most up-to-date Universities in the British Dominions—that of Edinburgh—and he has had a precisely similar experience in organising a University foundation in South Africa. It was felt by the conference that it was of the utmost importance that full reports should be obtained at once on the modern universities of the United Kingdom—a task for which Mr. Gunn's qualifications distinctly fit him. He was accordingly given instructions to visit and obtain full information as to the working of such universities as, among

others, Liverpool, Birmingham, Bristol and Reading. Mr. Gunn may be expected in Western Australia in the course of a few weeks. He will then be required to dispose of the great mass of essential preliminaries which are needed to put the institution in running order, for the drafting of statutes, and indeed, general organising, undertaking, if called upon, the registrar's work, and generally carrying out the instructions of the senate of the University. The appointment of Mr. Gunn for two years will leave plenty of time to make inquiries in view of those permanent appointments, which will require so much care and thought in selecting. Moreover, it will avoid those complications which would be almost inevitable in case of temporary appointments made in Australia where claims would be put forward which might be difficult to set aside. Attached are copies of the testimonials and recommendations under which Mr. Gunn was appointed. That appointment will have to be ratified by the senate of the new University, but the conference entertained no doubt that this will be done. All particulars with regard to Mr. Gunn's appointment were given in the *West Australian* of 30th September, 1911.

This statement has been countersigned by the Hon. Frank Wilson, the ex-Premier, and one who was present at the meeting in London referred to. Mr. Battye, the Secretary of the Royal Commission, has also informed the Government that he has no knowledge of the appointment referred to beyond what he learned from the columns of the *West Australian* newspaper of 30th September last. I propose to lay the document on the Table.

QUESTION—FORESTRY CONFERENCE.

Mr. McDOWALL (for Mr. O'Loughlen) asked the Minister for Lands: Is he in favour of summoning a conference in the new year of the field officers in the Forestry Department to consider—(a) the best means to make passing at the stump

a success; (b) the best method to adopt in order to reproduce our forests; (c) the classification of our timber areas generally?

The MINISTER FOR LANDS replied: The matters proposed to be submitted to the suggested conference are already receiving attention.

QUESTION—RAILWAY COAL SUPPLIES.

Mr. McDOWALL (for Mr. O'Loughlen) asked the Minister for Railways: 1, What are the calorific values of coals supplied from each local colliery to the Government railways since 1st January, 1911? 2, What prices are being paid to each colliery for same?

The MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS replied: I have a return which I shall lay on the Table.

QUESTION—MINING BATTERY, GOLDEN VALLEY.

Mr. HUDSON asked the Minister for Mines: 1, Is the battery at Golden Valley, managed by Mr. S. C. Lang, subsidised by the Government? 2, If so, what is the amount of such subsidy? 3, Are the owners of such battery, by arrangement with the department or otherwise, under any obligation to crush for the public? 4, If so, on what terms?

The MINISTER FOR MINES replied: 1, In February, 1910, Mr. S. C. Lang was granted freight on 50 tons of machinery from Malcolm to Southern Cross, amounting to £119 5s. 2d., conditionally that he crushed for the public at 1s. per ton in advance of Government rates. No fixed period in each month was set apart for public crushing, and at the expiration of 12 months from the commencement of crushing operations the amount expended in freight was to be granted as a subsidy, provided the department was satisfied that he had fairly and equitably carried out his contract to provide crushing facilities for Golden Valley for a period of 12 months. He was required to purchase sands (not slimes) in accordance with the

State battery regulations, but had power to reject any sands not amenable to treatment. 2, No subsidy per ton for public crushing has been asked for or granted to Mr. Lang. 3, The only obligation to crush for the public was that expressed in the answer to question 1. 4, Answered by No. 3.

QUESTION—SCHOOLS IN AGRICULTURAL SETTLEMENTS.

Mr. MOORE asked the Minister for Education: When is it proposed to open the following schools in new agricultural settlements:—Morawa, Merkanooka, Morawa No. 2, as they have been promised for some time?

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION replied: Tenders for school buildings at Morawa and Morawa No. 2 will be called for as soon as the Estimates are passed. The department has not received any application for the establishment of a school at Merkanooka.

QUESTION—EIGHT-HOURS SYSTEM IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS.

Mr. CARPENTER asked the Premier: Is it the intention of the Government to apply the eight-hours system to hospital, gaol, and asylum employees, including nurses?

The MINISTER FOR LANDS (for the Premier) replied: The Government are giving the matter consideration, but it will be impossible to do anything in the direction indicated during the current financial year.

QUESTION—ROTTNEST ISLAND, LANDING FACILITIES.

Mr. CARPENTER asked the Minister for Works: 1, Have plans and estimates been prepared for the construction of a jetty at Rottneest island? 2, If so, what is the length of the proposed jetty, and the estimated cost of same? 3, In view of the increasing number of people visiting Rottneest island, and of the inconvenience and danger of the present method of

landing passengers and goods; is it the intention of the Government to proceed with the construction of the jetty?

The MINISTER FOR WORKS replied: 1, Yes. 2, (a) Extension of existing jetty 100 feet; estimated cost £1,100; no increased depth of water was obtained by the proposed extension, which has therefore not been adopted. (b) Alternative proposal to extend jetty 600 feet; estimated cost £2,000; depth of water between 9 and 10 feet; considered too expensive. 3, This matter is under consideration.

QUESTION—RAILWAY RESUMPTIONS, WEST PERTH.

Mr. ALLEN asked the Minister for Works: 1, Is it the intention of the Government to widen that part of Wellington street between Melbourne-road and about a chain west of Love-lane, in the area recently resumed for railway purposes? 2, Is it the intention of the Government to widen Railway-parade between Dyer-street and Thomas-street, West Perth? 3, Is it the intention of the Government to resume land for the purpose of making a road from the West Perth subway in a north-easterly direction to Sutherland-street?

The MINISTER FOR WORKS replied: 1, It is proposed to widen by 26 feet that portion of Wellington-street lying between Melbourne-road and Marquis-street, provided the council undertakes to regrade that portion of Wellington-street to conform to the new levels required by the extension of the goods yard. 2 and 3, The matter has not been considered.

QUESTION—RAILWAY PLATFORM EXTENSIONS.

Mr. LEWIS asked the Minister for Railways: In view of Mr. Roe's comments regarding the inadequate platform accommodation at Burswood railway station, will the Minister take early steps to have the platforms lengthened on South-West line between Burswood and Armadale?

The MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS replied: Mr. Roe's remarks have been noted, but the department does not concur with same, in view of Section 40 of the Railway Act, which frees the Commissioner from liability in such cases. Owing to the increased population and extension of the train service, many of the platforms on the South-Western and other sections are not sufficiently long to take the whole of the train; it is intended to lengthen these in their order of urgency as funds are available.

QUESTION — IMMIGRANTS EMPLOYED BY RAILWAY DEPARTMENT.

Mr. LEWIS asked the Minister for Railways: 1, How many immigrants were employed by the Railway Department during the past six months? 2, How many casuals were dispensed with in order to give preference to immigrants? 3, Does the Minister approve of such action?

The MINISTER FOR MINES replied: This information will take some time to prepare. I should be glad if the hon. member would move for a return to be presented.

Mr. Lewis: I shall do so.

STANDING ORDERS SUSPENSION.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS (Hon. T. H. Bath) moved—

That for the remainder of the session the Standing Orders be suspended so far as to enable Bills to be passed through all their stages in one day, and Messages from the Legislative Council to be taken into consideration on the day on which they are received; also, so far as to admit of the reporting and adopting of the resolutions of the Committees of Supply and of Ways and Means on the same day on which they shall have passed those Committees.

This was a motion which it was necessary to pass in order to facilitate business during the remainder of the session. It was the customary practice. Although the

Government had good intentions with regard to avoiding this course in the future, they saw no alternative but to ask the House to consent to the motion at the present juncture.

Mr. FRANK WILSON (Sussex): Though having no objection to this time honoured custom being observed during this session, he would like to know whether it was the intention of the Government to finish the session before Christmas, or whether it was proposed to adjourn over the Christmas holidays and meet after the New Year. The House had been in session something like two months, but had not sat very long each day. The House had been adjourning at tea-time without having done much work and now it was noticed that many important measures were being introduced in addition to those that were already on the Notice Paper.

Mr. Gill: Also a time-honoured custom.

Mr. FRANK WILSON: Not five days before the termination of the session, if the session was to be terminated before Christmas. There were half a dozen Bills notice of which had been given and he supposed others would come along, while the Budget had yet to be delivered and the Estimates to be considered, and there were only five or six days in which to complete the work. One motion alone, that dealing with the construction of the Esperance Railway, would require a considerable amount of discussion. It could not be understood why some of the railway Bills had not been brought down a month earlier. Members could then have thrashed out the question of the Esperance railway. It seemed that these Bills were brought down at the last minute in order to enable the Government to say that they had been introduced. Perhaps the Minister for Lands would give the House some information as to whether it was intended to sit after the New Year or whether it was hoped to finish at the end of next week.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS (Hon. T. H. Bath): It was the intention of the Government to do their utmost to conclude the session before Christmas and for that purpose it was intended to have

extra sittings. With regard to the amount of business and the time taken hitherto, in connection with its disposal, he would point out to the leader of the Opposition that the House had done a great deal of work and had passed some very important measures during the time it had been sitting. No one should understand better than the leader of the Opposition the difficulty in getting business before the House in view of the very short time in which Ministers had been in their offices. It was a remarkable fact that an election should take place so late in the year and all members would agree in any proposals to avoid the election again falling at a similar period. However, the Government were faced with the position and had used as much expedition as possible in getting Bills before the House. It had been a matter of impossibility to submit the Bills earlier. With regard to the particular railway the leader of the Opposition had referred to, no one would have been stronger in their opposition than members opposite if the Government had sought to place before members of the Assembly any measure without the preparation of full information and without supplying all the details necessary in order to enable members to record their votes intelligently. Under the exceptional circumstances the Government were justified in asking for some consideration from members and he was glad to hear that the leader of the Opposition had no intention of opposing the motion.

Question put and passed.

BILL (5)—FIRST READING.

- 1, Public Service Act Amendment.
- 2, Municipal Corporations Act Amendment.
- 3, Public Works Act Amendment.
- 4, Norseman-Esperance Railway.
- 5, Goldfields Water Supply Act Amendment.

Introduced by the Minister for Works.

BILL—UPPER DARLING RANGE RAILWAY EXTENSION.

First Reading.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS (Hon. W. D. Johnson) moved—

That the Bill be read a first time.

Mr. FRANK WILSON (Sussex): Would the Minister for Works distribute all the railway Bills at once and not wait until the second reading stage, so that members might have an opportunity of perusing them and becoming conversant with the different proposals? That would save a considerable amount of time. The Minister might also have plans placed on the walls of the Chamber showing the routes of the proposed new railways.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: In connection with two of the railways the plans had already been laid on the Table of the House.

Mr. Frank Wilson: Can they not be placed on the wall of the Chamber?

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: Additional lithos. could be prepared and these would be displayed on the wall.

Mr. Frank Wilson: And you will circulate the Bills?

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: Yes. Question put and passed.

Bill read a first time.

RETURN—MILK SUPPLY, METROPOLITAN DISTRICTS.

Mr. LANDER (East Perth) moved—

That there be laid upon the Table of the House a return showing:—1, The number of fraudulent milk vendors who have been fined in the Perth, Fremantle, and Midland Junction Police Courts, during the past two years, for selling adulterated milk. 2, The names and the amount they were each fined.

In submitting this motion he would appeal to the Government to have a much closer inspection of the milk supply which was coming to Perth than had been carried out in the past. The genuine dairymen had never had a fair chance with regard to this question and many of them

were keeping a great number of cows. Last year an inspection was made at the direction of the late Government after an announcement in the City council that some of the dairies were dirty. That inspection was carried out in a peculiar way. On the Wednesday after the announcement was made, someone connected with the Stock Department and someone from the Police Department visited some of the dairies and the police constable lost the representative of the Stock Department near Gwelup Lake. Records of this occurrence can easily be found. On the Thursday following, the then Minister for Lands in his usual straightforward manner of doing business sent a Press reporter with an inspector from the department to some of the dairies after the inspector had been out to see that they were cleaned up. The House should take some interest in this matter in the future and by so doing protect the genuine dairyman against the stuff which was being sold as milk and which was practically only a mixture. These people who sold such stuff ought to be brought to justice. In conversation with a man a little while ago this man said "I put some stuff in the milk and I was caught, but there was no prosecution." In conversation with another milk vendor, a man who was one of the largest vendors of milk, he learned that this person had sold some four gallons of milk to another milkman and immediately afterwards the man who had bought it tipped four gallons of water into it. The dairyman who sold the milk told this person that he would not have sold the milk to him if he had known what was going to be done with it. The reply that came from the man who adulterated it was, "It is good enough for the Dagos." At Leederville recently a dairyman delivered milk to another man and he saw that other man take it into the bathroom and there proceed to prepare a mixture in a wash basin. When this man was asked what he was going to do the reply was that there was some sand in the milk and he was washing it out. While such things were going on how could we expect to get anything like a pure milk supply? This was a matter which required the closest

attention of the Government because we knew what serious harm followed from the distribution of impure milk. Everyone knew how necessary pure milk was in case of sickness such as typhoid fever, and how important it was to supply pure milk to children. Why should we have to pay high fees to medical men and to private hospitals when it was possible to avoid this kind of thing by taking drastic action to improve the milk supply? It was well known that tuberculosis milk was being sold in Perth. The dairy herd which the Government imported to this State some time ago were to a great extent responsible for this state of affairs. In what condition were the dairy cows which the Government imported? They were rotten with disease and pus was oozing from their teats. In all parts of the world this question had been dealt with in a drastic way because its seriousness was realised. Hon. members opposite were laughing but he assured them that it was not a laughing matter. The impure milk supply of Perth was killing 66 per cent. more people than any other disease known to the British race. Yet this question was made a laughing matter in the House. It was a scandal to laugh at such a serious thing as this. In other parts of the world every effort was being made to check the white plague, but the late Government had expended energy in bringing in diseased cows to roam all over the State. It was well known, too, that cancerous cows had been sold in and around Perth, as would be seen by reference to the records of the local court. It was common knowledge that there was not sufficient milk to supply Perth during January and February, notwithstanding which everybody got so-called milk, and there were very few prosecutions for adulteration. Up at Northam, where the ex-Minister for Lands came from, things were so serious that the municipal council had had to take up the question themselves; and so too at Fremantle. Yet hon. members laughed at the whole question. It was to be hoped the Government would do something to stamp out tuberculosis, by taking the first step of stamping out polluted and adulterated milk.

Mr. MITCHELL (Northam): It was not at the question that hon. members had been laughing although, perhaps, the figure the hon. member cut had caused some merriment on both sides of the House. In referring to surprise visits paid to the dairies by officers of the department the hon. member had made a number of inaccurate statements. On that occasion the hon. member had been as usual, crying "Wolf"! in the city council, and in consequence the Press were asked to send representatives to accompany officers of the department on surprise visits. The result of those visits had been to prove that the hon. member was quite wrong in the statements he had made.

Mr. Lander: You got that statement up at Wyndham.

Mr. MITCHELL: It might almost be said that he had never had a statement from the hon. member which proved to be true. He believed the dairy herds in Perth were very well kept indeed. In Melbourne when really pure milk was required people paid about three times as much as they did for ordinary milk, with the result that milk of the very purest was obtained; but the hon. member would like exceptional work done without having to pay an exceptional price for it. Our dairy herds were well kept, and our cows were just as free from tuberculosis as were the cows of the Eastern States. The cows we had obtained from the Eastern States were the very best obtainable there; they were far above our local average and had done a power of good in the State. However, he had no objection to the motion, for he thought that the man who sold impure milk should be prosecuted ruthlessly. Just the same the milk suppliers of Perth did not deserve half of what had been said about them by the hon. member to-day and on many other occasions.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS (Hon. T. H. Bath): No objection could be offered to the furnishing of the return asked for. Primarily the questions of inspection of dairies and the protection of the public against contaminated milk were matters for the local authorities, under the supervision of the Commissioner of Pub-

lic Health. One could appreciate the desire of the hon. member that the milk supply of Perth should be absolutely pure. In this particular it was undeniable that the Department of Health, as constituted under the Act of last year, had ample power to ensure the protection of the consuming public. It was important that the children and the community generally should have a pure milk supply, and doubly important that sick persons should be protected in this regard. The Government had under consideration a proposal for supplying milk, to hospitals at least, from cows tested and proved to be absolutely free from tuberculosis; but at the present time the hospitals had unexpired contracts, and so the proposal of the Government could not yet be put into practice. Still it was desired that the matter should be attended to, and he could assure the hon. member that through the Department of Health the Government would exercise their supervisory powers in order to see that the local authorities were properly carrying out the duties entrusted to them.

Mr. UNDERWOOD (Pilbara): It was the duty of the Government to see that the public were not poisoned by any substitute for milk. He was not satisfied that the statements made by the mover of the motion were altogether correct, but it was to be admitted that the hon. member, who had had considerable experience of this question, was not likely to make statements of the sort without having some grounds for them. The Minister for Lands had made a certain statement in regard to contracts. It was to be hoped the Minister did not mean that those contracts were to be retained whether or not the milk being supplied was pure.

The Minister for Lands: Oh, no.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: It was reassuring to have that remark from the Minister. For his part he would support the motion.

Mr. HELTMANN (Cue): The member for Northam had declared that the late Government had done everything possible in the direction of obtaining a pure milk supply. If the result of the prosecutions could be taken as a criterion not nearly

so much had been done as might have been done. Prosecutions for milk adulteration were common, and on one occasion a man who was being prosecuted for the fifth or sixth time was fined something like £5. The great importance of a pure milk supply to the people of the country should be impressed upon hon. members. It was significant that in Perth we had a higher rate of infantile mortality than had any other city in Australia, and it was well known that the staple food of infants was cow's milk. There were more infantile deaths resulting from unsuitable feeding and bad milk than from any other cause. It was the duty of the Government to use their influence with the local authorities and, if possible, with the magistrates, to ensure that a man convicted of dealing in adulterated milk should be sent to prison, the only fit punishment for such an individual. Case after case had been brought forward and treated very lightly by those gentlemen who occupied positions on the bench. During the term of the late Government the administration of the milk inspection had been transferred from the Health Department to the Stock Department, and if any one could tell him that there would be better administration by the Stock Department than by the Health Department then he did not know much about the administration of an affair of this kind. The local bodies and the Health Department should be impressed with the necessity of waking up. He knew that in part of the State there was no inspection of dairies, no tests of milk, and no supervision of any kind. Milk could be sold to the consumer in the most filthy condition, and yet, unless the consumer himself took precautions, he had no other remedy, because the Health Department and the local bodies paid very little attention to the question. He trusted that the Health Department would begin to realise their responsibility. It seemed as if the same old thing was going on from week to week and from year to year. The Minister for Lands had pointed out that the Government had every power under the Health Act to deal with the question, but he ventured to say that, although those almost

unlimited powers were in existence, nothing new had been done in Western Australia since the Act had been brought into force.

Mr. Lander: Hear hear; that is right.

Mr. HEITMANN: Last year Mr. Collier had moved an amendment to provide a very severe punishment for offenders in that direction. That hon. member had desired, and the House had desired, that when a dairyman, or a supplier of any other food, was found guilty of the offence, a notice should be posted on his cart or place of business. But to show the interest which the then Government had in the matter, when the Bill came back from the Legislative Council with that provision struck out, the Minister in charge had said that punishment of that kind was a relic of the olden times. It did not matter how many children were concerned, or what harm was done, so long as we did not interfere with vested interests. He hoped that the time would come when a man who had been proved positively to have adulterated milk, would be placed in gaol for that offence. There was hardly any excuse for a man neglecting to take every possible precaution in regard to cleanliness, but there was no excuse at all for a man being guilty of adulterating milk, and any man who was found to have committed that offence should be posted and prevented in future from supplying milk.

Mr. THOMAS (Bunbury): The member for East Perth was correct in saying that this was an exceptionally important question, and it was regrettable if some members had been guilty at first of treating the matter with some little levity. He realised how difficult it was for the House to do anything effective in connection with this evil. The member for Cue had spoken feelingly on the question of adulteration, but that was the least of the sins of the milk vendors. The addition of a little water to the milk would not kill anybody. The greatest crime of all was the filthy condition in which the milk was sometimes produced, and to that more than anything else was due the large infantile mortality in Western Australia. It was impossible for people, unless they had

come into close contact with the industry, to realise the full extent of the injury caused every year through this medium, and it was difficult to recommend an effective remedy. He thought that if the tuberculin test were applied more freely and a thorough system was carried out throughout the State, even if it cost thousands of pounds per annum, if the result was the elimination of all tuberculous cows, the Government would be conferring a lasting benefit on the community. He did not know that there was any question that had come before the House which could compare in importance with this one; it affected the lives of thousands of people, and the State would not need to bring into the country so many immigrants if more attention were paid to the milk supply, and to the rearing of the best of all immigrants—if they could be so termed—the youngsters born in Western Australia. It was a standing disgrace to our civilisation and to the Health Department of the State that the present state of things should be permitted to exist in Western Australia. He honoured Mr. Lander for the interest he had taken in this matter and he hoped that he would persevere, no matter whether he was met with ridicule or approval, and bring it before the House as frequently as opportunity would permit, until he at last got redress. People were prone to think that there were extreme views held on this matter, and that some persons were inclined to become fanatical in regard to the purity of the milk supply. This particular subject permitted of no delay, however, for it was of much more importance than many of the Bills which came before the House. He was happy to know that there was a sympathetic Minister administering the laws, and he hoped that the Minister would think deeply over the matter, and endeavour to provide some means by which effective supervision could be brought into operation. He had been in dairies where he had seen things which he could not describe in this Chamber; and possibly that milk would go into circulation. It had not been adulterated with water, but the law could not operate against the offender. The dishonest man who wished to make a little more profit

by putting a drop of water into his milk might go to gaol, as Mr. Heitmann suggested, but that would not improve the condition of affairs, for that was the least of the offences in this direction. So far as he could see, there were only two ways of dealing with the evil, firstly, the application of the tuberculin test, which in 999 cases out of 1,000 was proof as to whether the disease existed, to be followed by the immediate destruction and burning of the affected cattle so that there might be no further trouble—never mind what the cost might be; and, secondly, more supervision over the dairy where the milk was being produced. There should be frequent surprise visits to the dairies so that without any warning a sympathetic expert could see exactly what was going on. If some people knew exactly how the milk was produced and how really dangerous it was, especially to children, they would not consume very large quantities of it. He had no desire to say anything more, but he hoped that this question would not be lost sight of. It was a very important matter indeed and he trusted that Mr. Lander would persevere and keep it before the public and before this House until we had the most perfect supervision that was possible.

Mr. ALLEN (West Perth): In supporting the motion he knew well how very close this matter was to the heart of the member for East Perth, and how lively and sincere an interest he had taken in it at all times. In the Perth City Council that gentleman had been foremost in urging on the Government to take the necessary steps to control the milk supply. The local board had not been altogether idle. Of course, the board had not the power to go outside the city boundaries and inspect dairies, but they had frequently taken samples of milk from vendors, and taken action against them when the milk had been found to be adulterated. It was to be regretted that those sitting on the bench to deal with these prosecutions had not been as severe as the cases deserved, but that was not the fault of the local body. He trusted that the present Government would rectify any neglect, if there had been any, on the part of the late Government, and would

take a keener interest, if possible, in this important matter. We were all anxious that the purest possible supply of milk should be given to the people. He knew that Mr. Lander had opportunities of seeing for himself what many members of the local health bodies and of this Chamber had not the opportunities of seeing; in fact, the member for East Perth had invited him to visit dairies where he asserted things were in existence of too filthy a nature to be mentioned in this Chamber. He was entirely in sympathy with the hon. member, and he had pleasure indeed in supporting the motion.

Mr. DOOLEY (Geraldton): A great deal had been heard at different times on the question of pure food, and milk in particular, and he was getting tired of hearing complaints on every hand without anything effective being done. The metropolitan districts seemed to be fairly well catered for as regards inspectors who devoted their time to carrying out the wishes of the people, but the matter resolved itself into a question of vested interests, and he had long ago despaired of anything practical being done while vested interests were at stake. Because of the great deal of competition, dairying was not a very profitable industry compared with other industries, and it was pleasing to hear the Minister for Lands say that the Government intended to take action to provide pure milk so far as the hospitals were concerned. As this was an important and vital question affecting the welfare of the community, he would ask the Minister if he could not do something in the way of establishing milk depots, not only in the metropolitan districts but in all large centres. If the Minister and the officers would apply themselves to that question, it would be found that such a system would not cause them a great deal of trouble or expense. If action were taken to establish depots controlled either by the State or by the municipal authorities, the private dairymen could deliver their supplies to that place and the milk could then be put through a test. In fact, in the large centres in the Eastern States a system similar to this, but con-

trolled by private enterprise, did obtain. If the Government would take this in hand they would find it an easy matter to cope with. That seemed to be the chief and only remedy for dealing effectively with pure milk supply, and the Minister for Lands might extend the proposal hinted at this afternoon in this direction, otherwise we would not get much "forwarder" in the matter. It was debated on the platform and in the Press, in this House, in lecture rooms, and in debating rooms, and had become quite a stock question for people to air their eloquence on and their sympathies generally without anything being done. We should do something practical, something in the direction he indicated, and that would at least be one step forward in this very important matter.

Mr. WISDOM (Claremont): The member for East Perth was to be congratulated on having brought up this very important matter. The people in the country and members in the House did not realise just how important a matter it was to the community at large. The member for West Perth was right in saying the local authorities were not altogether to blame. The local authorities in the Claremont district did their utmost to stop the evil of the supply of bad milk, but their operations were circumscribed to a great extent, and they had a great many difficulties to contend with. In the first place, it was difficult to get a satisfactory analysis. The matter of obtaining convictions would not be satisfactory until there was a thoroughly independent system of analyses. A special analyst should be appointed by the Government to deal with milk analyses. Another difficulty was to get the bench to realise the seriousness of the offences brought before them. The penalties imposed from time to time were not nearly heavy enough. In Cottesloe the board of health had tried to stop some glaring cases of supplying bad milk by endeavouring to refuse licenses to the dairies concerned, but in one case the board was informed by the Central Board of Health that a license could not be refused. If it were possible for the local

authorities to refuse licenses, or to void licenses in the case of dairies proved to have offended, it would go a long way towards stopping the evil. The suggestion of the member for Bury as to striking at the root of the evil one could say little of, but one could agree with the hon. member that the most drastic steps were justifiable in a matter of this kind. It was one that could be left to the Medical Department, if we could be satisfied that the Minister controlling the department realised its vital importance. So far neither the Medical Department nor the Minister responsible had realised the vast importance of the question. It was to be hoped the effect of the motion would be to bring more prominently before the attention of the Government the need for most drastic steps to purify the milk supply.

Mr. CARPENTER (Fremantle): One had no idea the moving of this motion would provoke such a lengthy discussion; but the number of members speaking to it showed beyond all doubt that the subject of the motion, if not the motion itself, was one commanding the attention of many members. It was truthfully said the matter of the milk supply was one of the most difficult phases of our food supply. Various proposals were made from time to time, and various attempts by legislation and regulations, to ensure that the milk going into ordinary consumption should be clean and free from disease. Having had the opportunity of visiting the laboratory of the Adelaide Hospital, he had seen under the microscope samples of the ordinary milk supplied throughout Adelaide, and the samples affected by tuberculosis appeared to the eye the least objectionable, though, of course, they were the most dangerous, but the most disgusting samples to the average onlooker were those taken from the daily supply, and representing the average sample of milk carried round from day to day. The microscope showed in almost every case an amount of filth in the milk almost past belief. It was to the medical gentlemen in the laboratory a matter of common knowledge, and those gentlemen had set-

tled down to the belief that it was hopeless, under existing circumstances, to expect any improvement in regard to the cleanliness of milk. Efforts were made in Adelaide, as elsewhere, to check the supply of tuberculous milk; but to keep the milk supply clean, these gentlemen gave assurance, was next to impossible so long as the supply was in the hands of anyone and everyone caring to start a dairy or keep two or three cows in the town or suburbs. As things were now, anyone with a few pounds, feeling so disposed, could buy two or three cows and start supplying milk. He had seen some private dairies, and would feel disposed, if he saw many of them, not to consume any more milk. He had seen a milkman, after completing the operation of milking the cows, deliberately wash his hands in the milk bucket, it being apparently a common practice on the part of that milkman. What was the remedy for this evil complained of day after day and year after year? Public opinion was moving in the direction of municipal or State control of the milk supply; and after all the years of experimenting, and the laws passed, and the regulations it was sought to administer, this appeared to be the only solution of the difficulty. No doubt it was a big project, but the question was of such importance as to warrant a big step being taken, if it would only supply some remedy for the very great evils the motion referred to. One felt sympathy towards the private milk suppliers who, in all honesty, went into the dairying business and purchased cows in good faith, and took the ordinary precautions to get cows free from disease and supply pure milk, only to find by and by on an inspector's visit that the cows they thought were clean were far from clean, and that the very conditions in which they carried on business made for contamination. The only thing that seemed possible was for the matter to be taken up by some public body, or by the Government.

Mr. Heitmann: We expect a little more from our experts in the Health Department.

Mr. CARPENTER: I do not know what they do.

Mr. Heitmann: They do nothing; that is what we are complaining of.

Mr. CARPENTER: It was understood there was strong complaint about the manner in which the experts had done their work; it was stated publicly that they had gone to some dairies and been somewhat severe, whereas with other dairies they had been very lenient. If that was the case, it showed still further how weak the present methods were, and how necessary it was to have some better means; but the only true solution of the difficulty was to have the matter of the milk supply placed in scientific hands, and to see that no milk went into consumption in the cities and big towns that was not produced under sanitary conditions, or supplied in such a way that there could be no danger of contamination. If the Government in the Local Governing Bill to be brought down would extend the powers of municipalities, giving them the right to tackle this question, there might possibly be some way; some progressive councils might undertake the work of supplying milk in their own districts. The present system was, perhaps, the most costly that could be devised. A dozen milkmen went into one street to supply probably two or three dozen customers, whereas under municipal control with a proper system one man could supply the whole street in half the time. That would reduce the cost of delivery and go a long way towards paying the extra cost of the greater care in the selection of cows and their treatment in the attempt to keep them clean and free from disease. It was, however, a matter for the future, but the discussion this afternoon should have the effect of concentrating opinion on the matter. If next session the hon. member would bring forward a motion making a practical proposal to remove the evil complained of, he would find it largely supported.

Mr. LANDER (in reply): The Minister for Lands was to be thanked for the assurance that steps would be taken in reference to the milk supply, which for 14 years he (Mr. Lander) had watched very closely, even in regard to the supply for the Perth Public Hospital. Three years

since he had noticed that tuberculous cows were supplying milk to that hospital. An inspector and he, used to go out at three or four o'clock in the morning, the hours at which the evil was going on. There was practically no inspection at that hour. The inspections were made during the day-time. There was too much of the 9 to 4 business about the departments. If it was desired to catch a dishonest dairyman it was necessary to go out at 3 o'clock in the morning, and if one went to the dairy at that time the milkman would be found milking his tuberculous cows. These animals could only be milked once a day; it did not pay to milk them twice because the poor things were in such an emaciated condition. Moreover, they were never taken into the dairy to be milked, the milkmen always went out to them. The lesions which were obtained could now be found deposited in the laboratory of the Central Board of Health. These were taken from diseased cows after they had been destroyed, and these were the cows which used to supply milk to the sick and dying in the Perth public hospital. Many diseased organs and bronchial glands could be seen in the Health Department's laboratory. Hon. members could also turn up the records of the Stock Department and they would find that three years ago he sent away a cow from a private hospital in Stirling-street. The nurse in that hospital at that time declared that she did not care anything about the cow "so long as Titus Lander did not get on to it." Mr. Piesse was laughing.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member must not address another member by his surname.

Mr. LANDER: The member for Kattanning could call to mind a case which he (Mr. Lander) brought under his notice at Kattanning some time ago where a poisoned dog and diseased stuff were left for pigs to eat. There seemed to be no supervision whatever even among local inspectors, and unless we shook up the Stock Department and the Central Board of Health we could not hope for any better results. With reference to tuberculous cows, we in this State should do

what Professor Bang did in Denmark when he was faced with a difficulty similar to that existing here. He went to the farmers and told them that the Government would give them tuberculin free of cost provided that as soon as the results from the tests were known the farmers would isolate the healthy cows from the diseased ones. What was the result? After a few years Denmark was practically free from tuberculous cows. In this country we had never taken up the matter seriously.

Mr. MONGER: Was the hon. member in order in referring to such matters when the motion standing in his name merely asked for a return showing the names of certain milk vendors? The hon. member was referring to the milk question generally.

Mr. SPEAKER: If I were to confine an hon. member to what the motion deals with, no discussion whatever would be allowed. The custom has always been to allow some latitude, otherwise a motion would not be moved.

Mr. LANDER: The manner in which our diseased cows should be dealt with was by the tuberculin test, and those which reacted from the tests could be isolated in the way that was done in Denmark. The diseased cows could be destroyed, and he would be in favour of paying compensation in the manner that was done all over the Continent and in New Zealand. That would be only after the destruction had been rendered necessary in consequence of scientific means having proved the cows to be diseased. Until we took some such action we would never be able to get a pure milk supply. We had heard about the microscopical examinations revealing the presence of the tubercle bacilli in milk. No one could hope to find the bacilli with a microscope.

Mr. Carpenter: You would require a powerful one.

Mr. LANDER: No matter how powerful it could not always be found; it was necessary to resort to biological tests. The best way to ascertain the presence of bacilli would be to inoculate guinea-pigs. If we did that he guaranteed that the guinea-pigs would die in less than 14

days. Another thing he wished to point out was that we had not a pure milk supply because we had not inspectors whom we could trust. It might be remembered that four inspectors were dismissed from the Central Board of Health some time back and one was taken before the Perth police court for allowing animals to eat offal in slaughter-yards. The hon. member for York said that he (Mr. Lander) did not know what he was talking about. He, however, knew sufficient for the member for York to bring a case of pleuropneumonia before him.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member must confine himself to the motion.

Mr. LANDER: This disease was allowed to find its way into Victoria Park and the records of the Stock Department would prove that. With these few remarks it was to be hoped the Minister would interview some of the prominent dairymen, men like Rome, Kinane, and Donovan, from whom could be obtained a correct version of the milk supply. If the Minister did this he was sure that prompt action would follow.

Question—put and passed.

RETURN—FACTORIES ACT, BREACHES.

Mr. LANDER (East Perth) moved—

That there be laid upon the Table of the House a return showing the number of cases taken before the Perth and Fremantle Police Courts by the lady inspector for breaches of the Factories Act.

There was no desire on his part to deal at any length with this question because he was sure the Minister in charge of the department would receive support in such a matter from the women who were working in the different industries. It was to be hoped that the Minister would induce the inspectors to devote more time to the inspection of industries where women were employed.

Mr. CARPENTER (Fremantle) seconded. As the motion read it would not clearly effect what the hon. member desired. It would simply show the number of cases, but what was wanted was some

particulars of those cases, the names of those charged. He would move an amendment that in line 4 after the word "courts" the words "with particulars of charges and convictions" be added.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member has seconded the motion and he cannot now move an amendment.

Mr. CARPENTER: Some other member might move the amendment for him in order that a return might be prepared which would be of some value.

Mr. PRICE (Albany) moved an amendment—

That in line 4 after the word "courts" the words "with particulars of charges and convictions" be added.

Mr. Lander: The addition would be accepted.

Mr. GREEN (Kalgoorlie) moved a further amendment—

That in line 3 after the word "Fre-mantle" the word "Kalgoorlie" be added.

Mr. SPEAKER: I cannot accept the further amendment.

Amendment (Mr. Price's) put and passed.

Question as amended agreed to.

RETURN—RAILWAY WORKSHOPS, STEEL AND IRON IMPORTED.

On motion by Mr. SWAN (North Perth), ordered: "That there be laid up on the Table of the House a return showing:—1, The amount of cast-iron work imported from the Eastern States, for use of the W.A.G. Railways, during the past twelve months. 2, The amount of cast steel imported from the Eastern States, for use on the W.A.G. Railways, during the past twelve months. 3, The amount of cast steel and cast iron, for use on the W.A.G. Railways, imported from European countries, during the past twelve months. 4, Also cost of same in each case. 5, The quantity of this class of work made in Midland Junction previously. 6, If any for what reason has the work referred to been imported?"

MOTION—PERTH TRAMWAYS, NATIONALISATION.

Mr. LEWIS (Canning) moved—

That in the opinion of this House the Government should immediately enter into negotiations with the Perth Tramway Company with a view to nationalising the Perth tramways at the earliest possible moment.

He said: In submitting this motion I feel I can do so with a good deal of confidence. In the first place the nationalisation of public utilities is in accordance with the principles and policy of the party to which I belong, and in my opinion there is nothing which lends itself more to nationalisation than a tramway. Secondly, I feel that I can claim the support of the leader of the Opposition, and several of the members on that side of the House, because during the last election campaign the leader of the Opposition, at Brookhampton, pledged himself to support the nationalisation of the tramways, while several others now in Opposition pledged themselves in like manner. Our system of tramways is owned by shareholders who live in England, and whose sole desire is to secure profits. They have no thought whatever for the public convenience, which with them is quite a secondary consideration. Repeatedly they have been urged to extend the system to outlying suburbs, and urged also to introduce sectional fares, but without avail. We have close to the City suburbs whose progress is retarded owing to the fact that they have no communication with the City, many places that are ideal health giving localities, with open air spaces, where the people are anxious to reside, but cannot, owing to the lack of communication with the City. The company will not entertain any proposal for extension, because while the suburbs are developing the profits of the extension may remain at a minimum. Again, the company have always turned down the proposal for the introduction of sectional fares, and have declined to listen to that proposition on any account. We cannot develop our suburban areas under such conditions, for it is absolutely essential to this development that the tramways should be ex-

tended. Sectional fares should be introduced and the public convenience studied, and this can best be carried out under State control and State management. The management and administration of the tramways should be placed under the Railway Department, in the hands of a superintendent responsible to the Minister for Railways. This superintendent would supervise and manage the system, and lay down extensions without entering into undue competition with our railway system, but at the same time linking up the suburbs in a comprehensive scheme. The New South Wales tramway system is owned by the State, with the result that the public have every facility afforded them; in fact the New South Wales scheme has called forth from numerous visitors admiring testimony of the wonderful facilities provided for the public. Yet those tramways have shown a handsome profit. We find striking examples in regard to the difference between the systems of public and of private ownership. Quite recently difficulties have been experienced in Melbourne, owing to the fact that the tramway system there is controlled by a private concern, who, in their anxiety to secure profits, have had no regard whatever for the public interest, with the result that the Legislature of Victoria found it necessary to appoint a Royal Commission to inquire into the suburban traffic. There are many important features to be taken into consideration in a business such as this. First of all there is the question of motive power, and in this regard I think it will be found that electricity is superseding all other power. This Victorian Commission went into the question of power, and evidence was adduced clearly demonstrating the necessity of concentrating the power—not only that required for the tramway system, but also in regard to the railway system. The electrification of railways has become a burning question in the big cities of Australia, and ultimately we will find ourselves face to face with it in Perth. Then consideration has to be given to the question of public and private lighting, as well as to the supply of motive power at a cheap rate for factories. Evi-

dence was submitted to that Commission demonstrating the necessity of bringing about the State power supply, and on this point the report reads—

If a central power supply scheme is not instituted there will be in addition to the installations already mentioned two more power houses, one for the railways and one for tramways, and each will have separate and parallel systems of transmission lines and separate converter stations. These considerations, and the fact that the electrification of the suburban railways and tramways offer a fitting opportunity to place the whole electric power supply of Melbourne on a satisfactory basis, demand serious attention. The perpetuation of the different standards, the continued use of small isolated plants (with small units), each of which must keep a reserve of power, must only lead to worse complications and greater relative inefficiency. Furthermore, no advantage is taken of the diversity factor due to the different loads, and the economies resulting from a large power-house with large-sized units. Looking to the future, the following will be the principal demands for electric power:—1, railways; 2, tramways; 3, public and private lighting; 4, factories. The total electrical power required for Melbourne and suburbs is estimated by Messrs. Merz and McLellan and Mr. R. P. Wilson in their joint report at 90,000 H.P. The use of electric power in factories is only in its initial stage in Melbourne, and lighting has not yet been extended to its full, whilst the railways and tramways use practically no power. Seeing that the railways and tramways follow very nearly the same routes and that the factories and electric lights are in close proximity to those routes, there are exceptional opportunities for co-ordinating the various services so that the loss in transmission and capital expenditure on lines may be reduced to a minimum. If the recommendations of your Commissioners be adopted the State will manage the railways and supply electric power in bulk; a tramways trust, the tramways, and the munici-

palities will distribute current for lighting and power. Furthermore, the electrification of the tramways will entail the establishment of a number of sub-stations for converting the high tension current to low tension, and if direct current be used on the railways converter stations for this purpose will also be required, and will also be necessary for the supply of current for power and lighting. Your Commissioners therefore recommend that a central power-house be established capable of supplying all the electric energy required by the railways, tramways, factories, and electric lighting of the metropolis, and that the central power house, high tension transmission lines, and converter stations be under the control of the Railways Commissioners, and that these three items of electrical equipment should be located so that they can best supply the whole of the services in the metropolitan area.

This is sufficient to demonstrate to the people of the State the necessity of first of all acquiring our tramway system, which would form the nucleus of a power supply. As the community develops it will be necessary to go in for a State power supply in order to meet the demands that will ultimately be made. The Melbourne Tramway Company has 43½ miles of cable, and 3½ miles of horse tram. To give an idea of the suburban growth round that City it might be noticed that in 1907 the receipts from the tramways were £507,206; in 1908 they were £545,269; in 1909 they were £565,601; in 1910 they were £581,390, while for the year ending June 30th, 1911, they had risen to £644,187. That will give some idea of the great increase in revenue during the last few years in connection with the Melbourne tramway system, and it is an undoubted fact, so far as the Perth system also is concerned, that the revenue has increased considerably during the last few years. Mr. Stoneham, speaking in London in connection with the Perth tramway system said—"My company have no qualms as to the future financial position. With towns of less than, say 50,000 inhabitants, tramways are always a diffi-

cult proposition, but once this limit has been reached the profits increase in leaps and bounds. This is borne out in our own receipts for the year just closing as compared with 1909 (1910 being the year of the strike is useless for comparison purposes): 1909—gross receipts to November 30th, £66,732; gross profit, £30,388; 1911—gross receipts to November 30th, £77,611; gross profit, £36,429; estimated gross profit for 1911, £39,740." So that if we base our calculations as to the purchase of this system on a price of something like £450,000 that profit alone would provide interest and sinking fund and then leave a fair margin for profit.

Mr. Allen: You would have to spend another £100,000.

Mr. LEWIS: That is for the Government to say. The hon. member for West Perth seems to know something about it and we will be pleased to hear him later on. I desire that the Government and their experts should look into this matter, and this motion just affirms the desirability of the Government conferring with the company and endeavouring to arrive at a satisfactory decision in order to secure this very important concession and work it in the interests of the people generally. The metropolitan area requires an up-to-date and greatly extended system, which would immediately justify itself, particularly if the progress of our city is to be maintained. It is the universal experience that cheap and speedy travelling facilities create traffic, and there is no one better able to increase those facilities than the Government. In regard to municipalisation, I will read from this report in order to show why nationalisation is preferable to municipalisation. In this State we have many municipalities through which tramways have to run, and these municipalities have certain conflicting interests, with the result that the system is not run in the best interests of the people generally. A clear instance of that is given in this report. In Melbourne the tramway system is owned by a number of bodies, and some of them have different gauges. In other cases they have a different type of car, a wider car that will not run on the other lines; and, again,

there are instances where one tramway system stops two or three hundred yards away from the next one, and the public have to walk the intervening distance, which, during hot or wet weather, is a great inconvenience. These municipalities would not link up their systems because it might eat into their profit. One municipality is fighting the other, with the result that some people have to travel into Melbourne and then out again in order to cover a very short distance. Under Government control we should have a national system free of these conflicting interests. The tramway system of Melbourne comprises the cable system owned by the municipalities represented on the Tramways Trust and leased to the Melbourne Tramway and Omnibus Company; the Prahran and Malvern Electric Tramway, owned and operated by a trust representative of these two municipalities; the Essendon electric tramway, owned and operated by the North Melbourne and Essendon Electric Light and Tramway Company; the St. Kilda to Brighton Electric tramway, operated by the railway commissioners; the Northcote cable tramway, owned by the Northcote municipal council; the Beaumaris horse tramway, privately owned; the Coburg horse tramway, privately owned; and the other little systems. These various systems show the need of linking up the Perth system under one control and management, and by placing that control under the Government we should have greater economy in administration, for the system could be worked by the Railway Department with a superintendent of tramways. At the same time lines could be constructed in such a way that they would act as feeders to the railway system, whereas under a municipal system the conflicting interests would prevent the public being as well served. It is absolutely essential that extensions of the system should be carried out. Such extensions would widen the area of suburban populations, and nothing distributes population better than a tramway system. In the industrial suburbs of Collingwood and Fitzroy, in Melbourne, there are areas which have a population of 40 and 50 to the acre, whereas in other suburbs, within

a mile of these industrial centres there are undeveloped areas having a population of only two and three to the acre. It is interesting to notice the figures as to the death rate. The infantile mortality in the densely populated centres of Fitzroy and Collingwood is 12.86 and 10.39 respectively per 100 births, whilst in the less populous districts of Kew and Camberwell, the death rate was 3.99 and 4.28 respectively, clearly showing that the huddling of the community together is not conducive to health or to their best interests. By extending the tramway system to various localities we would give the people an opportunity to live under free and open conditions. They could go in for gardening and live under their own vines and fig trees. By carrying out these extensions the Government could develop many of the suburbs around the city, and this would result in the creation of traffic. In fact the report states very clearly: "One of the objects of tramways should be the prevention and the relief of the congestion of population by providing cheap and speedy travelling between industrial centres, and suitable residential areas. Cheap and easy communication to the sea beaches should also be made a feature of the tramway service." That is the case with the metropolitan area. At South Perth we have magnificent water frontages, but the place is isolated and it cannot be developed owing to the need of communication. We have other places such as Belmont and Bayswater which cannot be developed owing to lack of proper communication with the City, and, although the tramway company have on many occasions been asked to extend their system, they would not do so because in the process of developing these suburbs their profits would diminish for the time being. If the Government were to obtain control of the system these extensions would be carried out, and they would reap the benefit. It is not necessary for me to quote the enormous receipts and profits which the tramway companies receive. I think I have said sufficient to demonstrate the necessity of the Government earnestly entering into this

matter, and I feel certain that, once the nationalisation is brought about, it will afford great benefits to the metropolitan area, and the system will prove a source of revenue and a valuable asset to the State. I venture to predict that if the Government bring about the nationalisation of the tramway system, the people will say, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful in few things, we will make thee ruler over many." Wherever we go to-day we hear complaints about the system as being unsatisfactory; the service is not frequent and the people have to pay for a short ride the same money as for a long one. By allowing the people to pay according to the length of their ride we would popularise the system, bring about the development of the City and suburbs, and confer a benefit on the community generally. I should like to have this question discussed and I feel certain that the motion will be carried.

On motion by Mr. Dwyer, debate adjourned.

BILLS (3)—THIRD READING.

- 1, Agricultural Bank Act Amendment.
- 2, Shearers' Accommodation.
- 3, Totalisator Regulation.

Transmitted to the Legislative Council.

BILL—WORKERS' HOMES.

Recommittal.

On motion by the Minister for Lands, Bill recommitted for further consideration.

Mr. Holman in the Chair; the Minister for Lands in charge of the Bill.
Schedule to come.

Schedule:

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: In accordance with the Premier's promise to consider the question of the provision for sinking fund, he moved an amendment—

That in Subclause 5 the following be inserted to stand as paragraph 3:—
"Except as herein provided it shall not be necessary to contribute to any sink-

ing fund in respect to debentures issued under the authority of this Act."

There was provision for the repayment of debentures from the amounts deposited with the board from time to time. There was no need for a sinking fund. This was an amendment suggested by the Crown Solicitor in accordance with the promise given by the Premier.

Mr. MITCHELL: There was no objection to the amendment. It apparently followed the provisions laid down in the Agricultural Bank Act that the repayment of moneys advanced was pooled to redeem debentures, so that there was no need for a sinking fund.

Amendment put and passed; the schedule as amended agreed to.

Bill reported with a further amendment, and the report adopted.

BILL—TRANSCONTINENTAL RAILWAY.

Report of Committee adopted.

[The Deputy Speaker took the Chair.]

BILL—PERMANENT RESERVE REDEDICATION.

Second Reading.

Debate resumed from the 7th December.

Mr. FRANK WILSON (Sussex): Whilst I approve, and the Government of which I was the head approved, strongly of selecting a site and setting aside land for the purpose of a consumptives' home, after examination of the plan showing the national park I am doubtful whether it is the best site that could be selected for the purpose. It is a good site undoubtedly, but it appears to me it is a site that ought to be reserved for all time for the purpose for which it was originally set apart. The late Government appointed a board consisting of Dr. Hope, the Chief Medical Officer, Mr. Despeissis and the Surveyor General to examine any suitable Crown lands available and report, but up to the present I am not aware that they have sent in any report to the Government. Certainly they did not do so up to the time we went

out of office. I notice in the papers the Minister for Lands was good enough to allow me to sight yesterday, that Dr. Hope has sent in a recommendation on his own, and he recommends, naturally very strongly, that this national park should be utilised for the purpose. Whether it is intended to take a portion of the national park or the whole I know not—probably a portion only would be in the Minister's mind—but whether it be a portion or whether it be the whole of the national park, it seems to me equally objectionable from the public standpoint. There are objections which strike one at once to this land being utilised for the purpose. First of all we have to look to the future: and anyone knowing how the metropolitan area has extended and how the population has increased during the past 10 or 15 years will realise that within the next 10 or 15 years we ought to have an immense population extending from Midland Junction to Fremantle, indeed extending beyond Midland Junction up towards the foot of the Darling Ranges, which is quite close up where this national park is situated. I think it would be a great pity indeed if we should do anything at the present juncture to deprive the future generations of their national heritage in this respect. The time will come—we perhaps do not see it now—when we shall require all the open spaces of this description. We will not only want the usual reserves that are provided by all local and municipal authorities for the purpose of the public generally, but we shall require large areas of land permanently remaining open for the use of the people generally, and therefore I am inclined to think that the Bill is objectionable from that standpoint. If that were the only standpoint we would be justified in refusing to allow this park to be utilised for the purpose. But then I would like to point out that the land adjacent to the national park is fairly closely settled already; there are numbers of small homesteads all around it.

Mr. O'Loghlen: What is the area of the park?

Mr. FRANK WILSON: About 3,300 acres. Of course it is objectionable to

establish a home of this description in the centre of a district which is going to be comparatively densely populated in the near future. Then I remember we had a report in regard to future water supplies for the metropolitan area, and the engineers who had the matter in hand reported pretty strongly that the Government would be wise to set aside, and reserve, all catchments in the Darling Ranges within a reasonable distance of the City. And I believe that through this national park runs a considerable, if not the main, brook in the district, and that it is one of the places reported upon as a probable additional catchment area to be utilised as the years go by. At any rate, even if that be not so, we still must have every care, and remember that the park is drained by gullies and brooks into the river Swan; indeed I believe the main brook runs right down to the town of Midland Junction itself. Again there is a serious objection to establishing a home of this description on flowing water which may be required for domestic purposes and which, in any case, drains into the centres of population. It may be argued that we have no other land available. If that were true we would be justified in seriously considering the setting apart of a portion of this land for the purpose. Because I do not wish it to be thought that I am arguing against the making of proper provision for these poor unfortunate people suffering from the dread disease consumption; indeed, I think it is our desire to, as soon as possible, make proper provision for their comfort and to ensure for them a chance of recovery. But we have plenty of land available, and I cannot help thinking that it is not necessary to have a home of this description immediately adjoining our populous centres, or so close at any rate as is this national park to the metropolitan area, with its dense population. It seems to me it is not like a surgical hospital, where surgeons have to be available at a moment's notice. A consumptive home is a thing rather for the permanent residence of the patients and of the medical officer in charge of them, as at the establishment at Coalgardie. Therefore it appears to me it does not matter whether this home

be within 10, 15, or 50 miles of the capital city; indeed it is rather preferable that it should be some distance away than so adjacent as this national park is to the City. I would suggest to the Government that they call upon this board, or some other board, for a further report, and especially that they get some report of the Whitby Falls institution. For some time I have had it in my mind that the estate was not required any longer for the purposes of an asylum for the insane. Seeing the additions that have been made at Claremont, this institution at Whitby might well be utilised as a consumptives' home, and might be got into operation immediately. I do not know from personal knowledge what that place is utilised for just now, whether there are still patients there; but at any rate, if there are, it appears to me they could be cleared out and removed to Claremont at short notice, without inconvenience to themselves, and that this Whitby Falls institution could be brought into full swing as a home for these consumptive patients.

The Minister for Lands: We have it in view for another purpose.

Mr. FRANK WILSON: I was not aware of that. I do not know what is in the Minister's mind, but it struck me that the Whitby Falls institution would be a capital place for this purpose. Not only would you have the establishment ready to be utilised almost immediately, but there is agricultural land adjoining the property, and everyone knows that, especially in regard to the treatment of patients in a home, if the disease can be stayed, it is half the battle to have them properly and happily employed. If you have agricultural land surrounding your institution you can have little gardens for the patients, and some fruit-growing, and general farming work, by participation in which they are made very much happier, a condition which goes a long way towards rendering the curative treatment permanently beneficial. I hope the Minister for Lands will not think I am opposing the Bill simply for the sake of opposition. I feel strongly that when we have once set aside a national park of this extent, so close to our large centres

of population, it would be unwise for us to divert it, more especially to a purpose of this description, which can be so easily and, I contend, better catered for elsewhere.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN (Forrest): I might be inclined to support the view of the leader of the Opposition if he were to suggest any other locality where we might establish this home. He has thrown out a suggestion in regard to the Whitby Falls institution, which might be utilised for the purpose, and possibly the Minister can give us some information as to whether there is any chance at all of making use of that institution.

Mr. Frank Wilson: You have the whole of the Darling Ranges before you.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: But the whole of the Darling Ranges has to supply all purposes for all time, although when we want more national parks it will not be a difficult matter to find a suitable area in the Darling Range. I have a good deal of sympathy with the leader of the Opposition when he speaks of keeping these breathing spaces for future population, and if I thought there was any danger I would be prepared to follow him in his objection. But, knowing the Minister for Lands, who introduced the Bill, to be one who has ever and always stood out for the reservation of spaces for the people's benefit, I have every confidence in him. Year after year when any proposals have been made to tamper with the reserves, the present Minister for Lands has stood out against it.

Mr. Frank Wilson: Then he has gone back on his views.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: I venture to say he has not gone back without very good grounds. It would be possible for the Minister to refer the report back to the board, but I assume the board have taken into consideration every available site.

Mr. Frank Wilson: The board has not reported yet. The report is merely by by Doctor Hope.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: Well, even if that be so, I assume that before recommending this site for a consumptives' home, Doctor Hope took into consideration the fact

that there would be some opposition to cutting up the national park for the purpose. All I want to see is that the matter be dealt with expeditiously. I want to see better provision made for those unfortunate people. During the last few weeks I have met several of them in Perth. Their position is practically hopeless, they have been through the sanatorium and discharged, and are seeking light work to do. Their stories are pitiful, while their prospects are of the gloomiest. They are unable to tackle heavy work, and I think some provision should be made for them in the hills, in order to give them a chance of living the remaining period of their lives, however short, in better surroundings. I would support the view of the leader of the Opposition if the Bill had been introduced by any other Minister, but as it comes from the Minister for Lands, and as I know that for many years that hon. gentleman has stood out against anything that would to any extent militate against the interests of the people of the future in regards to our parks, I am prepared to display confidence in his proposal. Therefore, I shall support the Government in the determination they have taken to allocate a portion of this park for the consumptives' home.

Mr. E. B. JOHNSTON (Williams-Narrogin): I deem it my duty to very strenuously oppose this measure. It is the first time I have found myself in disagreement with the Government. This time I must say I think a very great mistake is being made in seeking to alter the purpose of the national park. As far as I know, this is the only national park we have in Western Australia outside the King's Park. At all events it is the only national park anywhere near the metropolitan area, and in view of the reputation the Minister for Lands enjoys of being a gentleman who wishes to retain to the people their public reserves, I am surprised that he should be fathering this measure, and this, so far as the file discloses, on the sole recommendation of Doctor Hope. The member for Forrest referred to the fact of Mr. Bath's supporting the measure

as being the reason why he also was prepared to support it, but I would point out that the Minister for Lands did not tell us he has seen the reserve, nor did he tell us that he believed personally in taking it away from the people. I knew this national park pretty well from end to end. It begins within four miles of Midland Junction and, as the leader of the Opposition has pointed out, all around it to-day people are establishing homes for themselves. The Government of the past deserved great credit for the foresight they displayed in setting this area apart and dedicating it for the use of the people for ever. I believe it is one of the most beautiful parts of the Darling Ranges, and when we look at the maps of the districts adjoining Perth we can see only too little of the Darling Ranges set apart for the use of the people. Unfortunately, most of our areas in the hills have been sold, except that which is locked up for the Mundaring Water Supply and the Perth Water Supply. I think a very great mistake would be made to alienate from the use of the people this national park. It has very beautifully timbered valleys, and the large rocks and boulders all through it are a special feature to view, but I do not think the land is much good for agricultural purposes and for a home of the kind it is proposed to establish on it. I would like to point out that the people of the metropolitan area have several splendid reserves set apart for their use. We have the King's Park, the reserves adjoining the ocean beach at Cottesloe, the splendid pleasure grounds along the Swan, and we have the national park near Swan View. Why should the people be robbed of one of the pleasure grounds in the way proposed by the measure? These are the playgrounds set apart for the people of the metropolitan area and for the people of this great city of Perth for all time, and we have no right, sitting in this Chamber, and in this early stage of our history as a country, to take away one of these national playgrounds. I regret the Government should desire to rob the people of this State, and the unborn generations to come after us, of this playground.

I say unhesitatingly this is a measure that seeks to rob the people of Western Australia, and the metropolitan area in particular, of one of their beautiful playgrounds. It may be that this particular reserve is not at present as much used as others are, but when the metropolitan area becomes more closely settled I am sure it will be one of our most popular holiday resorts. In past years I have seen several hundreds of people on a public holiday picnicing on this reserve in the spring time; the flowers there are beautiful, and it is a place that people enjoy picnicing on. This park takes in the area of land from Swan View to Parkerville, and crosses almost to the Smith's Mill railway line; the main York road runs right through it. It is also served by two railways, therefore it is very accessible to the people of the metropolitan area as a picnic ground. I think many members travelling to and from Northam must have often looked out from the train over this ground, and looked at the waterfall near Swan View, and admired the scene there, and I am sure everyone of these will regret that the beautiful trees will probably be ring-barked if this measure becomes law. Apart from that, as I said before, the land is mostly of a gravelly nature; there are very big rocky boulders throughout, and I do not think it is a suitable place for gardening. A far more suitable place could be found for a home for the unfortunate afflicted persons.

Mr. O'Loughlen: Where ?

Mr. E. B. JOHNSTON: We can buy one, if necessary. This park is a lung to the metropolitan area, and I hope it will be retained for the unborn generations who will live in the metropolitan area long after we are dead and gone. I say the toilers in every factory and shop, in every warehouse, and in every office in the city of Perth, are interested in seeing this park kept for those who are here to-day and also for the benefit of those coming afterwards. I hope the House will take the view that it is our duty to retain this reserve for the purpose for which it was set apart very long ago namely, a national

park. In summer there is a far cooler and more invigorating atmosphere in the hills than in the City, and I had hoped some day to see the Government building an accommodation house in that part and encouraging the people of the City to use it, instead of diverting the park from its present purpose. In opposing this particular measure I do not wish to be accused of any lack of sympathy with the people suffering from tuberculosis; on the other hand, I would be prepared to support a measure for the expenditure of £10,000, if such a sum were necessary, to purchase a site that would be of far more use to the afflicted people than the site proposed in the measure is. I think land should be purchased for the consumptives' home, rather than that the Government should seek to take the national park away from the people. I believe at Whitby Falls the land is far better. There may be an objection to that site, but I am not aware of it. I rather admire and appreciate the large heart of the Minister for Lands in bringing the Bill forward. I am sure he has thought of the people suffering and I am sure that in his sympathy for them he has forgotten the necessities of the metropolitan area in regard to keeping the national park for the purposes for which it was set apart in the first place. In our desire to help this unfortunate section of suffering humanity we can make a mistake, and I hope an irreparable mistake will not be made by giving them this park. Yesterday I looked through the file in reference to this proposal, and I notice that a site near Chidlow's Well was suggested to the Commissioner of Railways, and the only objection to that site that the file discloses is that the water in a reservoir at Chidlow's Well might possibly be contaminated, and that the people drinking their tea at the railway refreshment rooms at Chidlow's Well might be subject to infection if the home were established on that site. That objection is a very frivolous one, because, as members all know, the Coolgardie Water Supply main is at Chidlow's Well and the railway refreshment rooms can

be served from that source, instead of from the reservoir. There is absolutely nothing in the objection that the Commissioner raised on the file as to the site at Chidlow's Well being set apart for the home. I am sure the House might well take into consideration the advisability of putting the consumptives' home on that site. If, however, there is any fear of infection through the establishment of the home, I would like to point out that the people of the metropolitan area are going to suffer if the home is to be in the national park, because the gullies that run through the national park, and run for a considerable part of the year, run through Jane Brook to Midland Junction, and thus into the Swan river. The Swan river runs through Perth and Fremantle, and if there is any danger of infection through the establishment of the home it is by putting it on the national park where the drainage from the home will run through the most densely populated area in Western Australia, namely, the metropolitan area from Midland Junction to Fremantle. This is a phase of the question which ought to be taken into consideration, but the main grounds on which I strongly oppose the Bill is that I believe the park is required as a public park for the uses of the people of the metropolitan area for all time to come.

Mr. TURVEY (Swan): I rise to support the Bill, and in doing so may I be permitted to say that the greater part of this park which it is proposed to set aside as a sanatorium is embraced in the electorate which I represent; and knowing the park, and the area set aside, and the locality so well, I have not the slightest hesitation in saying here that I believe it is one of the best spots procurable in Western Australia for the establishment of a sanatorium for such a purpose. And believing that, and knowing the hundreds who are suffering from this dreaded scourge, and knowing the desirability of giving to these poor unfortunate sufferers all the relief we possibly can, I believe that the Medical Department should be assisted in every possible way by giving

to them the necessary land to establish a sanatorium. The Medical Department for years past have been trying to secure a sufficient area in a suitable district for the establishment of a sanatorium, but evidently without avail, and on the recommendation of the medical officers they have now decided to utilise this national park. There is one thing I regret, and that is that so far it has not definitely been announced what portion of the national park it is proposed to set aside; or I should say in what portion of the park it is proposed to build the sanatorium. That, to my mind—and speaking with a thorough knowledge of this particular park—is one of the most important suggestions in regard to the establishment of a sanatorium. The member for Williams-Narrogin has pointed out the possibility of the contamination of the water going through the park and along Jane Brook, which flows eventually into the Swan River. The possibility of contamination or otherwise depends, to a great measure, on the position in which they propose to establish the sanatorium. It is all very well to say this is in the centre of a thickly populated district, but I would tell members it would take days and days to travel over this particular park; in fact, I venture to assert the best possible portion of the part for the establishment of a sanatorium has very, very infrequently been trodden by the foot of man, and I am sure that in order to pick out a suitable site it would be necessary for the experts connected with the Medical Department, and, I take it, the Survey Department, to traverse this park on foot. The York road travels through portion of the park, the Eastern Goldfields railway also, and as far as I can ascertain from the Medical Department the proposal at the present time is to establish a building on the site between the York road and the tunnel. I took the trouble to visit that particular spot last Monday in company with the constable for the district, and I can say that the view from that particular point is one of the brightest that ever I have seen in my life and one of the finest panoramic views that one could wish to behold.

So far as national parks for recreation purposes are concerned there are plenty of spots on the Darling Ranges. There are 17,000 acres between Smith's Mill and Mahogany Creek.

Mr. Frank Wilson: You would not have this place on a catchment area?

Mr. TURVEY: This is not a catchment area.

Mr. Frank Wilson: It will be some day.

Mr. TURVEY: Has the honourable member been over it?

Mr. Frank Wilson: No.

Mr. TURVEY: I am speaking with a fair knowledge of that particular part, and I say that it is not in the catchment area and there is no drainage towards the catchment. The drainage from the spot proposed goes towards the railway tunnel. Reference has been made to the possibility of contamination. May I say that so far as the hills district is concerned it surely is well known to members that not only City doctors but the medical fraternity generally advise their patients who are suffering from this dread scourge to go into the hills district, and I can say from the knowledge of having lived in the hills district for a number of years I have seen some remarkable cures effected through patients having gone up to the higher atmosphere of the Darling Ranges, and these have been cases which were apparently in a hopeless state. Is it not infinitely better that those cases should be congregated together under proper supervision in a properly equipped sanatorium? The position at the present time is that these people are sent into the townships in the hills district without any medical supervision, and consequently there is a far greater possibility of contamination or infection in that way. So far as the Coolgardie sanatorium is concerned the report of the medical officer of that institution bears out the fact that it is so far from the City that it is almost impossible to transport people there, and it is altogether too costly, and the Medical Department have been clamouring for some years for the establishment of a suitable sanatorium in the hills district. Mention has been made by the leader of the Oppo-

sition of the question of taking some other site. I think he referred to Whithy Falls, while other sites have been spoken of by other members. The simple fact, however, remains that for years past the Medical Department have been endeavouring to secure a suitable site, and I am sure the Minister for Lands would not accede to the giving away of this national park unless he was absolutely convinced that all efforts in the past to secure a suitable site had proved fruitless. There is one matter which I think should be taken into consideration in connection with the establishment of this sanatorium, and it is that at the present time there is no water supply there. This is a matter on which I think the Minister might give some information. At the site proposed near Chidlow's Well, there is an adequate supply already provided, but if the sanatorium is to be established in the national park where there is at present no water supply I think it would be well for the Minister to give some information as to what is proposed in this direction. Reference has been made to the fact that it is necessary to keep this park as a playground for our children. May I point out to hon. members who perhaps are not acquainted with the district that there are thousands and thousands of acres already locked up which could be used for that purpose, but which cannot be used for the establishment of a consumptives sanatorium.

Mr. E. B. Johnston: Where are they?

Mr. TURVEY: At Mundaring, Smith's Mill, Mahogany Creek, and Kalamunda.

Mr. Mitchell: It is all catchment area.

Mr. TURVEY: Supplementary catchment area. I believe it is the intention of this Government to establish a reservoir somewhere in the Canning to supply the metropolitan district or give a sufficient water supply to the metropolitan area, and as soon as that is decided on I take it that this supplementary catchment area can be given up. This is below the present weir. However, with the knowledge that patients have gone into the district, and of the cures which have been effected in the cases of some of those unfortunate sufferers by living in the hills district, and also with the knowledge that in the

case of the patients who go up there at the present time practically no precautions are taken to prevent infection. I say it would be far better if those people had an opportunity of going into a properly established sanatorium where they would receive the benefit of the bracing atmosphere of the hills and also receive that proper treatment for their particular complaint which they can only receive at a sanatorium. I have not the slightest doubt that it is not the intention of the Medical Department to establish a home in close proximity to neighbouring townships. Even if it were so I have sufficient faith in the Medical Department to know that they would take every precaution to prevent the spread of the disease by those people mixing with others. As I have said before, having a knowledge of the district and of the particular site where I believe it is proposed to establish a sanatorium I have much pleasure in supporting the measure, believing as I do that the site chosen is one of the finest that could possibly be secured in Western Australia for such an institution.

Mr. FOLEY (Mount Leonora): Speaking in this question now before the Chamber as one of an Assembly who I believe have taken a deep interest in the question under review, I think that a good purpose would be served if members had an opportunity of visiting this site which has been proposed by the Minister for Lands. Medical opinion has been obtained by the Minister as to this being a good site or otherwise. Following on that we have the opinion of hon. members who said that they knew well the district mentioned. As one who wishes to do something for the people suffering from the dread disease, consumption, I think the Chamber in order to cast an intelligent vote should take an opportunity of visiting this place. I think it is the desire of every member present to do something for these people, and if the course I have suggested is adopted we will be able to cast an intelligent vote. We shall not be able to do that unless we understand thoroughly the geographical position of the site.

Mr. DWYER (Perth): It seems to me that this Bill gives us a very small

amount of information and the information it does give seems to be contradicted by some hon. members who appear to know more than is set forth in the Bill itself. The Bill states that the whole of this large resort, the national park, containing 3,200 acres should be set aside for other purposes; the member for Swan states it is only intended to set aside a small portion though he advocates if necessary the setting aside of the whole area.

Mr. Turvey: I said that only a small part of the reserve need necessarily be used for the establishing of a sanatorium, that is between York road and the tunnel.

Mr. DWYER: The hon. member has made an explanation but it does not alter the fact that while he says a small portion is to be set aside for the actual building, it of course goes without saying that this Bill says that the whole of the reserve without any restriction is to be set apart for the specific purposes of the consumptives home and that the people in the metropolitan districts from Midland Junction to Fremantle are to be deprived for ever of this national park to which they have looked forward in the same sense as the national park outside Sydney is looked forward to by the residents of that city. If it were an absolute necessity and if it were a question of no choice at all, in the name of common humanity and for the sake of the people afflicted with consumption, I think we would give way, but there has been no argument adduced here that other sites cannot be procured; nothing has been advanced to show that it has been necessary to strip from the people this heritage of theirs, and not a single argument has been adduced to show where the absolute necessity arises. I am sure every member in this House sympathises unstintingly with these people who have been afflicted with consumption, or who are in the early stages of it, and nothing would please us more than to see a sanatorium or sanatoria in proper and suitable places; but there is the other question that we must not inflict a hardship upon those who also have interests at stake. I understand that the

selection of this site has been made by one gentleman, Dr. Hope. Before I would be prepared to say that one acre of this national park should be set aside, not only would I like to see Dr. Hope's opinion, but I would like to see the opinions of many other medical men and the opinions of our water supply engineers in order to learn what bearing the placing of the institution on this site would have on the future source of water supply in Perth. If there is the least possibility of contamination and the spread of this disease through contamination, it would indeed be wicked of us to pass this measure, and I do not know, and I have not been informed whether the engineers for water supply, our authoritative officers, have been in any way consulted or whether we have any reports as to the probable effect of the reservation of this site for the purposes set forth in the Bill. There is another reason that should make us consider well before this Bill is passed. I think that the proper sanatorium should be such a one as would combine, if possible, two qualifications—first of all, a climate suitable for the cure of consumption, or, at any rate, for stopping its ravages, and, secondly, a place where those who are afflicted with the disease can gain a knowledge and experience in agriculture or agronomy of some kind or description. The member for Williams-Narrogin stated that he had been over this ground, and could speak with authority as to the soil and general geographical appearance, and he assured the House that it is not suitable for agricultural purposes

[Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair.]

Mr. E. B. Johnston : Except in small patches.

Mr. Turvey : It is suitable for horticulture.

Mr. DWYER : If it is not suitable for the one, it cannot be suitable for the other. The place where we establish our sanatorium should be one where people from the goldfields could not only get cured, but also gain a knowledge of agriculture that will be useful to them on

the farms which many of them may after they are cured acquire in other parts of the State. If it is only suitable in small patches for agriculture, it will not achieve the object which we have in view in creating this sanatorium. I think, therefore, in order that this House may have the fullest possible information on the point, and in order also that the intentions of the member for Leonora may be carried out, it would be advisable to refer this Bill to a select committee, which would have the right to call evidence, not only from Dr. Hope, but from the engineers for water supply, the residents in the district, and anyone else who is interested. The evidence so collected could be submitted to the House before they decide on this final and serious step of taking from the people the grand national inheritance which they and future generations have every right to look forward to. If we can supply a place for a sanatorium—and I have no doubt that it will be possible, even if it is further away from Perth—which will combine altitude with proper soil for agriculture, we will be meeting the requirements of the community in this respect much better than by rededicating this national park. But if, on the other hand, another suitable site cannot be obtained, and the rededication of this park is the only course open, then, and only as a final resort, should we take away this grand national heritage of the people.

Mr. MITCHELL (Northam) : I should like to point out that there has been no very exhaustive inquiry into the question of a site. We have in this State many hundreds of thousands of acres that would be quite as suitable for the purpose as this national park. Dr. Hope, it is true, favours this site, and I confess that at one time I was of opinion that we would have to make use of it, but after inquiry I came to the conclusion that this park should not be taken away from the people, but should remain a park for all time. It is easy to find sites suitable in every respect for the purpose of this sanatorium.

Mr. Turvey : Where are they?

Mr. MITCHELL: In Western Australia. The hon. member thinks the whole world centres in his electorate. Probably we should find a very suitable spot on the Jarrahdale timber concession, on land that belongs to the Crown and could be taken over from the present lessees.

The Minister for Lands: Yes, at the price they ask for it.

Mr. MITCHELL: No. I think we have power to resume cut-out land; at any rate I am perfectly certain that no opposition would be offered by Millars' company to the resumption of cut-out land for a purpose of this sort.

Mr. O'Loughlen: That is not the reply you gave to me.

Mr. MITCHELL: It seems to me that we should not decide on this measure with the very meagre information which has been supplied to us. The late Colonial Secretary, who had charge of medical matters, appointed a board of inquiry, but this board have never reported, for the reason, I think, that the members of it have been too busy in other ways. There is no reason why we should not have further inquiry and report. I would suggest to the Minister for Lands that he should withdraw this measure, and that he should set afoot some form of inquiry by his departmental officers. There is no need at all for a select committee; it is just a question of getting the best site for this purpose, and having got the site of setting it aside and placing it under the Colonial Treasurer in order that the treatment of consumption may be provided for. No member will object to any site if it is the most suitable, no matter for what purpose it may be now held. It is of the utmost importance that consumption should be combatted. Of course, this disease attacks people all the world over, but Western Australia is supposed to provide opportunities for cure which countries with less favourable climates do not provide. Dr. Hope's idea was that we should have not less than 3,000 acres, so that there should be ample space to provide for the various stages of the disease, and my own idea was to encourage agriculture in this area. It was thought that if a man had means he should be allowed

to rent a cottage if he so desired, and live to some extent apart, and with an ample area that would be possible. Where people are in a position to pay the full expenses, the fullest opportunity should be given to them. I am certainly of opinion that between Perth and Bunbury there must be ample space of Crown lands available, and until the Minister assures us that the officials cannot find another suitable site we should not agree to this proposal. It is true that Perth is altogether inadequately supplied with parks, and for that reason the purposes of this reserve should not be changed. It is not a question of giving up a few acres, but of giving up the whole reserve, and it would be almost a scandal for this House to acquiesce in the conversion of the park to a purpose other than that for which it is at present dedicated. I therefore ask the Minister for Lands to make full inquiry, even though, with the majority behind him, he is able to pass this measure.

The Minister for Lands: What is the use of talking in that way when you have just heard some of our members speaking against the Bill?

Mr. MITCHELL: I heard two members speaking against it, but you have still got 32.

The Minister for Lands: What is the use of talking in a silly fashion like that?

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The hon. Minister must not reflect on the hon. member.

Mr. MITCHELL: The Minister for Lands may know how his members are going to vote, and it is absurd for him to say that he does not. The Government would not bring down a measure unless they thought that members on their side were going to support it. I hope the Minister will give an assurance that if the measure is carried he will cause full and careful inquiry to be made, that suitable land will be searched for, and if that suitable land is found in some other locality it will be used, notwithstanding that the House may have agreed to this measure.

Mr. MUNSIE (Hannans): I do not intend to occupy the attention of the

House long is discussing this Bill, but there are just one or two matters that I should like to say a few words on. In the first place, let me say that there has been no argument adduced, to my satisfaction at all events, to make me even consider voting against this Bill. I was rather surprised to hear the arguments adduced by the member for Northam, when he stated that there is any amount of suitable land in Western Australia that could be procured for the purpose for which the Minister for Lands wishes to have this park, namely, the building of a sanatorium for the treatment of consumptives. I remember that for the last six years at least, not only once but on fully a dozen different occasions, have resolutions been carried by important bodies in this State and forwarded to the late Government, of which the hon. member was one, asking that they should use their best endeavours to, at the earliest opportunity, proceed with the erection of a sanatorium for the treatment of consumptives. To-day the hon. member contends that there is any amount of suitable land available. We have the present Minister for Lands introducing this Bill with the object of giving us what the people of Western Australia have been looking for during the last six or seven years, a proper sanatorium in a good locality for the efficient treatment of this disease. It seems remarkable to me that if there was so much land available for a sanatorium the member for Northam did not use his influence when he was a Minister, in setting apart some land for the establishment of this necessary institution. The very actions of the Minister speak louder than words. He either could not get a suitable site for the sanatorium, or worse than that he was insincere in regard to the building of one. I would not like to think that it was the latter; I am more inclined to believe that it was the former excuse, and that he could not get a suitable site. That being the case, we have a Bill submitted by the present Government with the object of making this reserve available. I am opposed at all times, in thickly populated centres, to cutting up the breathing spaces set apart for the people. Every speaker

on this Bill has said that there is land that can be made available, and if it can be made available for the sanatorium it can be made available later on for a park. At any rate I intend to support the Bill, and I hope that the Minister will go on with it. The time has gone by when we should put this matter off any further. If I had an assurance from the Minister that if this Bill were defeated he had other places where he could erect a sanatorium I might be persuaded to wait some little time. I have given a considerable amount of thought to this matter. I have urged, on every occasion it has been possible to do so, at public meetings, and in societies that the Government should immediately take in hand the erection of a sanatorium for the treatment of consumptives; and now I can see a possibility of this thing coming on, I am not going to vote against the Bill because it is taking away a park from the people in the metropolitan area they are not likely to require, at all events, for the next 20 or 30 years.

Mr. HEITMANN (Cue): I am sorry we did not get more information from the Minister who introduced this Bill. The Minister for Lands made very few remarks, but he explained that for some reason or other the report of the Health Department and the report of the board appointed to select a site was not in the House at the time, though full information would be brought forward when the second reading again came before the House. As to the necessity for a sanatorium I think there is no doubt. All agree that the time has arrived—in fact it has long since arrived—when there should be some systematic effort made to deal with the matter of preventing, as well as curing, tuberculosis. As the member for Hannans has stated, for years past resolutions have been carried at various conferences and meetings of important bodies on the fields and in other parts of Western Australia asking that some system should be adopted for the treatment of consumption. I am not altogether concerned as to whether the present site under discussion should be reserved for a national park for the people or should be transferred and used as a consumptive

sanatorium, but I think the first question we should consider is the atmospheric conditions, and I have no doubt, seeing that this national park is situated in a very high position, the atmosphere in that particular locality would be conducive to great benefit to those people who have lung troubles.

Mr. Thomas: What is the height of it?

Mr. Turvey: About 900 feet.

Mr. HEITMANN: It is right on the Darling Ranges, and I think it is just about as high a place as can be got anywhere near the city. I think if we are satisfied with that the next consideration should be the area of land, and, in conjunction with that, I think we should also consider the amount of land cultivable. With an up-to-date system of treating people suffering from lung troubles it has been recognised that cases in the early stages benefit by exercise more or less as required by the medical man in charge. We also should take into consideration the position regarding railways for a site of this description, and I am sorry to see that the board appointed to inquire have given us a very vague report indeed. It seems to me the board was appointed to carry out the work as it is carried out by Government departments on more than one occasion. Looking casually through it, I can see nothing definite at all in regard to the various qualities possessed by this particular piece of country. Nearly the whole of the report is taken up by letters from various people owning land and offering to dispose of it and telling the board of the suitability of their land for the purpose.

Mr. E. B. Johnston: There is no report on it from an agricultural standpoint.

Mr. HEITMANN: I can see very little report from any standpoint. I certainly think it is necessary that we should have a fair proportion of this land suitable for agricultural or horticultural purposes; but, from the nature of the country about the hills, I should say, without examining, and speaking only from travelling through the place on the trains, only a small portion of this park could be

used for agricultural purposes; and I believe that in the very near future, if the Government take up this question wisely and intend to take in not only those cases which are advanced but also those which show the slightest sign of lung trouble, will have a great number of patients in the sanatorium. However, I do not think it is altogether advisable to have very hilly country. If it were possible to get a plateau as high as the top of the Darling Ranges it would be a very good position, but to have the rough, hilly country of the Darling Ranges, from what I have seen, it would not be altogether a suitable position. I believe we have other sites. One was mentioned by the leader of the Opposition. On looking through the files I notice that the Lands Department were asked on one occasion to reserve a certain area of land for the purpose, and it was then that the Government decided to appoint a board to go into the question. Further on in the file I notice that numerous blocks were offered to the Government by different people, all in or about the hills. Now, I am inclined to think, as a layman and not as an expert, that further down the Darling Ranges would be more suitable, in the country mentioned by the leader of the Opposition. I certainly think the House, and the country, are deserving of much more information than has been given in the report submitted by Dr. Hope. As a matter of fact, I fail to find any report. I have seen a file dealing with the question generally; but, when it comes to a report on any particular piece of land, it has not been gone into as fully as it should be. I think it would be better if the Minister would defer this question for a little time. It might be said we were deferring the great benefits that will be given to the people by the organisation of such an institution, but we have recently had sitting in Western Australia a Commission inquiring into lung diseases as affecting miners in this State, and that Commission made certain recommendations after going into the question very fully. What may be the value of their recommendations I am not in a position to say, though, according to a summary

in the *West Australian*, they have recommended that we should go into this question thoroughly and not deal with it, as we have in the past, in a haphazard manner, or spasmodically, taking it up to-day and, when it gets a bit stale, dropping it to take it up again at some future time. When the present Government start to investigate this question I believe they will do the thing thoroughly. We need a sanatorium situated in the best possible place, one that is going to deal with all the consumptives in Western Australia, not only those far advanced but those who are found in the early stages. The present sites are undoubtedly unsuitable. We have one institution at Subiaco dealing with incurable cases, and at Coolgardie, which was selected at one time as the most suitable place in Western Australia, we have a sanatorium where we treat patients we have a hope of curing, but both of these places are, in my opinion, unsuitable, and in my opinion the site now selected by Dr. Hope and by the board is also unsuitable, principally on account of the small proportion of land which can be cultivated. I think it will come about that this institution to some extent will be self-supporting, but I am afraid that with the present site on the hills that object would be almost impossible.

Mr. TURVEY: They wanted to cut up 850 acres of the park into orchard blocks last year.

Mr. HEITMANN: The report does not go into that phase of the question. I have casually looked at it and I have failed to find a report of that description. If we have a site in another part of the State which is as suitable, and close to a railway and fairly close to the city, I can see no reason why we should interfere with the national park; but, at the same time, if it is the best site, then I say a sanatorium for consumptives should come before a national park. However, I sincerely hope the Minister will defer this Bill, if only for a few months, when it can come on again, by which time the question can be gone into thoroughly, and the whole matter dealt with in a more systematic manner.

Mr. TAYLOR (Mt. Margaret): I am in favour of the Government acquiring land for the purpose aimed at by this Bill, but I am not sure whether the spot selected is the most suitable site that can be obtained. In 1904 this question was considered by myself, as Colonial Secretary. There were recommendations in the office from the highest medical practitioners in Perth, setting forth the necessity for a sanatorium being erected to treat consumptive patients in the Darling Ranges. So much did the question concern me that I adopted the only course open to me then, that of establishing a sanatorium at Coolgardie, as it was the cheapest possible way in which it could be done at the time. There was no chance of doing anything on the Darling Ranges on account of the expenditure. At that time, consumption was looked upon by the public generally in this State in quite a different light from what it is to-day. We had not Royal Commissions, nor had we the people on the goldfields complaining so bitterly of miners' complaint. Nevertheless, we had a number of people suffering from consumption, and, at that time, when I mooted that the sanatorium was to be put at Coolgardie, the people of Coolgardie opposed it very bitterly. This can be borne out by the present member for Coolgardie, who was then the mayor of that town. So strongly did they feel when they saw in the Press the action I was about to take, that it was necessary for me, as the responsible Minister, to visit Coolgardie and interview the mayor and councillors and the health officer, and the opposition from the council and the health officer was indeed very strong. With his medical knowledge Dr. Ellis, the then member for Coolgardie, was satisfied that the site would be sufficiently segregated from the hospital to obviate any danger to the patients in that hospital or to the citizens of Coolgardie. I was determined that something should be done in the interests of the sufferers, and I came to Perth and got the advice of those who were considered to be at the top of the medical profession. They advised me that it would be perfectly safe to es-

tablish a sanatorium at Coolgardie. To-day, however, the institution is entirely inadequate to meet the requirements of the State. I also had advice as to the erection of a sanatorium on the Darling Ranges in close proximity to the City. That was said to be the best site within a reasonable radius of Perth. It is considered necessary that a sanatorium should be at a high altitude, and while that at Coolgardie is 14,000 feet above sea level the site in the Darling Ranges is 900 feet, the best available altitude anywhere within striking distance of Perth. So it will be found that if prominence be given to the altitude factor there is much in favour of an extension of the present sanatorium at Coolgardie. Medical advice I had when I was dealing with the subject pointed to the necessity of having a main sanatorium in the Darling Ranges, to be the resort during certain months of the year when it would be a more suitable locality than Coolgardie, while during the remaining months of the year Coolgardie would have the advantage over the site in the Darling Ranges. There is no use in closing our eyes to the fact that when the Government take up this work of building a sanatorium suitable to cope with the disease it will cost money; it will require to be a very large institution, and it is wise that Parliament should decide on the very best place for the expenditure of that money in order that it will give the best results to those whom it is intended to benefit. It will be necessary, unless these medical men have changed their views, to have two sanatoria, for reasons I have already given. I would very much prefer that this matter be postponed this afternoon in order to get an opportunity of securing the latest possible information on the subject. However, if the second reading be taken to a division this afternoon I shall vote for the Bill, because I am not going to cast a vote which will for one moment prevent the Government going immediately into the question of building a sanatorium for these people. If the Bill be lost nothing can be done until next session. I hope, therefore, the Minister will not press it to a division this afternoon,

that is, not if there is the slightest doubt in his mind about the site. If he is sure that the proposed site is absolutely the best to be got he will be justified in going to a division; if not, then it would be wise to wait a few days while the best information on the subject is being secured. I am sorry there has not been more information on this point submitted to the House. I will vote for the measure if it is put to a division, for I would not dream of doing anything which would militate against the chance of the Government taking steps to cope with the disease. I have heard hon. members speak of measures as being of great importance, but there could not be any measure of greater importance than one providing for the health of our people. It has been decided at medical conferences that this disease is curable in its early stages; that being so, I say we should overtake the disease in its early stages, and establish in the minds of our people the fact that it can be cured. It is generally understood by the people that once you contract lung trouble that is the end of you. We hope to be able to establish the fact that it can be cured, but we cannot establish that until we have a proper place in which to put the unfortunate people.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN (Honorary Minister): There is no doubt the member for Mount Margaret has got on to the critical point in regard to the passing of this measure. It is necessary that we should immediately take some action with a view to preventing or curing consumption. If hon. members would but visit the hospital at Subiaco they would agree that it is necessary immediate action should be taken with a view to preventing this disease reaching the stage it has reached in that hospital. When the hon. member held the position of Colonial Secretary it was stated that one of the best sites in Western Australia was then under reserve for the purpose of a sanatorium for consumptives; since that time it has been found necessary that that reserve should be taken for the purposes of water conservation, and therefore its original purpose has been changed. Not

only is it necessary that we should take proper steps to effect the cure of the unfortunate sufferers, but we must also provide means of employment for them when cured or when, at least, the progress of the disease has been stopped. We have to be guided by medical authority, and I am assured by the Principal Medical Officer, who in this expresses also the opinion of the officer in charge of the Coolgardie institution at the present time, that this national park reserve is the best site in Western Australia for the purpose. The Principal Medical Officer holds that the national park is an ideal site for a sanatorium, and that the air there is suitable for aiding the curative treatment of tuberculosis. Seeing that this is so, why the necessity for waiting any longer?

Mr. Heitmann: Will the Minister tell the House how soon it is proposed to start the work?

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN (Honorary Minister): It is impossible to make a start until we have a site, impossible even to make any preparations in regard to making a start until we are assured that we have a suitable site. So anxious are the Government to make a start with the provision of a proper sanatorium for these persons that they have to-day a medical officer and one of the land officers going over that site with a view to setting out ideal spots for the erection of buildings, in case the Bill goes through. It shows clearly that the Government are anxious to get ahead with the work. I hope hon. members will agree to the passing of the measure. The officers of the Medical Department are very anxious that they should have the use of this park, and seeing that the matter has been under consideration for so long, and that not only officers at present in the department but others who have long since left the department all agree that this site is eminently suitable for the purpose I trust hon. members will agree to the passing of the Bill.

Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS (Hon. T. H. Bath): If there is no other member

who desires to address himself to this Bill I would just like to make a few remarks in reply to those hon. gentlemen who have criticised this proposal. I want hon. members to understand that I am not the Minister controlling the department which is directly concerned with the question of selecting a site as a sanatorium for consumptives but when such a site is selected and considered suitable it is my duty as Minister for Lands to introduce a measure of this kind which provides for the rededication of a Class A reserve. I would like to point out that a very great deal of attention has been devoted to the question of selecting a suitable site and a number of gentlemen have from time to time directed their attention towards this particular purpose and although it is true a board was appointed and that particular board did not report, I wish to assure members that it was owing to the fact that two members of that board found it impossible owing to their other duties to carry out the work entrusted to them. Members who have had an opportunity of perusing the file know that the Principal Medical Officer has not determined by himself this particular site as being suitable, for instance I have a report from Dr. Mitchell, who is in charge of the home for consumptives at Coolgardie, in which he states—

After due consideration of the two sites viewed with you when I was in Perth, (a) that of the national park reserve, (b) the railway reserve near Chidlow's Well, I beg strongly to recommend that the national park site be chosen, for the following reasons:—It is favoured by, 1, Its accessibility which is a very important consideration from the point of view of economy; also for the arrival of the patients at the sanatorium; 2, The landscape. Cheerfulness of surroundings is an essential in the success of such an institution and to my mind the most beautiful outlook possible should be secured. There can be no alienation of the public interest by setting aside a portion of the national park for such a purpose; indeed it would be for the benefit of the community as in such a position it would prove a great educative force.

This is the point I wish to emphasise as set forth by Dr. Mitchell.

The State has a duty to perform to foster a feeling of kindness and consideration towards sufferers from tuberculosis, thereby encouraging them to come along to the sanatorium early for treatment with a great prospect of cure, instead of the conditions which obtain at present when they come as a *dernier ressort* with little or no hope of any permanent benefit. 3, The situation and soil. As far as the hurried inspection I had will allow me to express an opinion, this was ideal from a sanatorium standpoint.

Then followed the report at that time from the Principal Medical Officer in which he hears out the statement of Dr. Mitchell that this is admirably suited for the purpose for which it is designed. I recognise and appreciate the feeling of hon. members where it is proposed to alter the purpose of a reserve which is dedicated as a national park, to question a proposal which seeks to deprive the people of any locality of what is regarded as a breathing space. I want members to bear this fact in mind; it is an essential thing in considering the general public and the healthy portion of the public, that we must not lose sight of the fact that it is even of greater necessity to secure suitable breathing space for those afflicted with this unfortunate disease. When one is faced with the two issues, the question of a national park for people possessed of an ordinary degree of robust health and the question of considering the needs of those who are suffering from tuberculosis and for which these particular circumstances are absolutely essential, then, so far as I am concerned, my predilection and my sympathies weigh down on the side of consideration for those afflicted with this disease.

Mr. Dwyer: Have you any reports from the water supply department as to the possibility of contamination?

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: We have already dealt with parasites, in which that has been taken into consideration, but this is such a large area and there is no present consideration from the water sup-

ply point of view so that I think the question of contamination may be entirely eliminated from the discussion. Particularly bearing in mind the argument of the member for Swan, already those suffering from this disease are sent there privately by medical men and without the necessary supervision and scientific control which necessarily should be adopted when consumptives are concentrated in a sanatorium and are continuously under the control of a medical man and attendants appointed for the purpose. I also want to give this assurance to hon. members that in acquiescing in the desire of the Colonial Secretary and his officers, and I may say also the Government, in making this site available for the purpose designed, I am not blind to the fact that it may be desirable to constitute a national park in lieu. I can freely undertake to have reports from the officers of my department as to other sites which are suitable and which may be set apart and dedicated as a national park for the purpose, and I may say I would gladly accept suggestions from hon. members who may know of sites equally acceptable which may be devoted to the purpose. At this stage if we further delay the matter by refusing to set apart this site and wait until the next session of Parliament already prolonging the delay, that is a delay which I for one do not wish to be accountable for.

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

Ayes	..	..	..	25
Noes	..	..	..	17

Majority for .. 8

AYES.

Mr. Angwin	Mr. McDonald
Mr. Bath	Mr. McDowall
Mr. Carpenter	Mr. Mullany
Mr. Collier	Mr. Munzie
Mr. Dooley	Mr. O'Loughlin
Mr. Foley	Mr. Scaddan
Mr. Gardiner	Mr. Swan
Mr. Gill	Mr. Taylor
Mr. Green	Mr. Thomas
Mr. Holman	Mr. Turvey
Mr. Hudson	Mr. Walker
Mr. Lander	Mr. B. J. Stubbs
Mr. Lewis	(Teller).

NOES.

Mr. Allen	Mr. Mitchell
Mr. Broun	Mr. Moore
Mr. Dwyer	Mr. Nanson
Mr. George	Mr. A. E. Piesse
Mr. Harper	Mr. A. N. Piesse
Mr. Heitmann	Mr. Underwood
Mr. Johnson	Mr. F. Wilson
Mr. Lefroy	Mr. Layman
Mr. Male	(Teller).

Question thus passed.

Bill read a second time.

ANNUAL ESTIMATES.

Message from the Governor received and read, transmitting the annual Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for the financial year 1911-12 and recommending appropriations.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR
1911-12.*In Committee of Supply.*

The House having resolved into Committee of Supply for receiving the annual Financial Statement, Mr. Holman in the Chair,

The PREMIER AND TREASURER (Hon. J. Scaddan) said; In rising to make this my first, and the twenty-second Budget of the State since Responsible Government, I will, at the outset, make it perfectly clear that I intend to depart from what might be termed orthodox procedure. It has been the custom in the past for the Colonial Treasurer, when introducing his Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for the financial year, to seize the opportunity of, may I say, making considerable reference to the administration of his Government during the year that has just closed, and leaving very little to be said about the actual financial position of the State at the moment. I propose to deliver what, I hold, is more in the nature of a Financial Statement than a Budget, as it is usually understood by that term. My reason for doing so is the lateness of the session, coupled with the fact that it is advisable that Parliament should prorogue at the close of next week,

in view of the assembling of the Premiers' Conference in Melbourne at the beginning of the year. Instead of wearying members with a mass of departmental data, which, I think, can best be left to the Ministers when introducing their departments' estimates, I shall confine myself to a financial statement, as revealed by the Estimates and the accompanying returns. Members are, of course, aware that one half of the year has gone, and practically it only remains for me, at such a late stage, to analyse the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure as I found them upon taking office and as now presented.

A Trying Season.

There is no need for me to dwell upon the fact that the present year has been perhaps a most trying one from a financial point of view—more especially so far as the agricultural interests are concerned. The far-reaching effect of a dry season (the first for a period of 20 years) upon the commercial community, and its bearing upon revenue and expenditure, is of course readily realised. I do not desire to lay too great stress on this fact, but, nevertheless we cannot hide it, although, however we may desire to do so, when introducing our Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for the year it is essential that hon. members representing the taxpayers should know the reason why certain figures are arrived at, and thus we may have even to mention matters which are sometimes unpleasant. Later on, in touching upon the departmental Estimates and the Returns, I shall have occasion to refer to loan matters, Commonwealth finance, and our trading concerns. As is well known, we have at the present time a 4 per cent. loan on the market, and I venture to assert that it will be a success. One matter which has given me some concern is the Commonwealth Bank Bill, the provisions of which would appear to endanger that valuable State institution—the people's Savings Bank. The Government have joined with the other States in protesting against any such course as that proposed, and as I understand the Prime Minister is willing

to confer with the State Premiers on this very important subject, I trust that a satisfactory understanding will be arrived at.

The Savings Bank.

In the meantime, however, I feel that the duty devolves upon me, as Treasurer, and as the Minister controlling the funds of the taxpayer, to take this opportunity of explaining the attitude adopted by our Government on this, at present, all-important question. My desire is not to approach the subject in any bitterness of spirit, because after all I recognise that the Commonwealth Government is a Government of the people, just as much as a State Government, but that the former covers a wider sphere. Notwithstanding this fact I must further recognise that the State Government is called upon to do work of such a nature as must materially assist or retard the progress of the people of the State generally. We are inclined to view the fact that the Savings Bank, as established in our State, has perhaps done more to assist the development of our industries than any other branch of our State institutions. Immediately I ascertained that the Commonwealth were likely to seriously interfere with our State Savings Bank, I conferred with the Under Treasurer and the Manager of the Savings Bank, with a view to the adoption of some methods which would assure the continuance of such a valuable institution in the hands of the State, and had prepared a synopsis of the operations of our Savings Bank, which I immediately transmitted to the Right Hon. the Prime Minister of the Commonwealth. In this statement it was shown that from the funds of our State Savings Bank we had used moneys for varied and important purposes. Persons, for instance, who had desired to provide homes for themselves under the conditions which prevail to-day, were able to obtain from the bank no less than £109,944 for this purpose, whilst municipalities took up debentures to the extent of £73,170. The Metropolitan Waterworks Board also obtained by debentures £459,275, and under the provisions of the Agricultural Bank Act, which has assisted greatly in

the development of our agricultural industry—an industry which must eventually become and remain one of the mainstays of this part of the Commonwealth—that Bank obtained £1,109,500. During this session Parliament has further authorised an additional half-million being allotted for this purpose. Again, under the Agricultural Lands Purchase Act, for closer settlement, £197,014 has been provided, and water boards, other than the Metropolitan and Goldfields Water Supply Administration, took up debentures to the extent of £67,029. The Goldfields Water Supply Board have obtained capital funds to the extent of £334,316 from the Savings Bank on debentures, and under local inscribed stock certificates, the Savings Bank has provided £753,790 for the purposes of General Development. Debentures under the Land Drainage Act, totalling £4,804; the Claremont roads board, £1,600; and the Fire Brigades Board, £12,000, have also been taken up by the Savings Bank. Treasury bills, further, represent £18,500, and inscribed stock £150,926. In these directions, then, the funds of the Savings Bank, to the tune of £3,292,554 have been invested. I view, too, with great alarm, the loss of such an institution, because so much of the policy of the present Government—representing, as it does, the masses in our community, depends materially on the funds that may be placed at our disposal principally by the means of such an institution, and the unfortunate position we would be placed in were we unable to find the funds for what we wish to put into operation; a policy which the people, too, have considered to be material for their future welfare and prosperity. And side by side we might be called upon to find funds from elsewhere to come to the assistance of a State Bank, perhaps through wholesale withdrawals by depositors, who through panic or other cause, might so withdraw for the purpose of redepositing in a Commonwealth Savings Bank. As an Administration we view with pleasure the desire of the Federal Government to assist the people by establishing a banking system, but we can see no advantage, even from

the people's standpoint, as well as that of the State, in two institutions dealing with the question of the people's savings as at present operating in our State Savings Bank. I may say, further, that we took the earliest opportunity of communicating our views to the Western Australian representatives in the Federal Senate, owing to the Bill having passed the House of Representatives before the mail could have carried a similar communication to the Western Australian members of the Lower House. I am sure hon members of this Chamber will know me, as well as the other members of the Government, well enough to realise that there does not exist in the Cabinet what might be termed a "State Righter" in the ordinary sense of the term, but we realise that we are individually and collectively "State Protectors," and must look after our people's welfare in this as in other matters. Therefore, I do not desire to say anything which can be viewed, construed, or accepted as being in the nature of a threat, but we view the question with such seriousness that I have already considered ways and means for carrying on our State Savings Bank apart altogether from any Commonwealth buildings or assistance. Personally, I think we can make use of our many schools in the various districts, and in many cases of the teachers established at those schools. It is doubtful whether a Premiers' conference was ever called together where the Premiers, representing the various States, were so unanimous on a question as in this instance. This is the more particularly emphasised by the fact that it cannot be urged that the objection to the Commonwealth Savings Bank provisions is a party one, as frequently in the past the Premiers' conferences have been looked upon—particularly the one held prior to the last Federal elections—as a conference of persons interested more in the welfare of their party than of the people of the Commonwealth generally.

Mr. Frank Wilson: It is a matter of opinion.

The PREMIER: I am expressing my opinion. On this occasion we find no less than three of the six

State Premiers representative of the same party as comprise the present Federal Government. I obtained as soon as possible, by wire, a copy of Premier McGowen and Premier Murray's protest against the Savings Bank provisions of the Commonwealth Bill, which I am handing to the Press to-night for publication, rather than weary hon. members by reading it at this stage. I desire to say, however, that I immediately wired to Messrs. McGowen and Murray and to the Prime Minister, endorsing the protest on behalf of the Government and people of this State. In any case Parliament can rest assured that we fully appreciate the seriousness of the position, and the Government will do everything in their power to protect the interests of the State in this matter. May I again express the hope however, that a satisfactory understanding will be arrived at when we meet in conference early in January.

The State Finances.

Reverting to the question of the State finances as contained in the Estimates of revenue and expenditure for the year, may I point out, in view of the large amount of revotes, for which provision had to be made, and with the heavy expenditure which the Government have determined upon, owing to the dry season in certain agricultural districts, I can see no alternative but to anticipate a deficit of £104,402 at the end of the current Financial Year. The Government intend, however, during recess to give exceedingly careful attention to departmental administration, with a view to making improvements and effecting necessary economies. The public service will receive close attention, and here I may mention that hon. members will discover that we have not provided any automatic increases to any of the public servants other than those in "F" and "G" classes, because we concluded that no such increases could be provided without causing some misunderstanding. We are making provision in the Treasurer's advances that any increases granted by the present reclassification board shall be made retrospective from the 1st July, in accordance with the pro-

mise given by our predecessors and in the event of a public officer not being affected by the reclassification, then the automatic increases will take effect from the same date. I want to make that perfectly clear in order that there may be no misunderstanding in regard to the attitude we are adopting towards the public service. I am satisfied that the laws which are being placed upon our statute-book as a result of the present session's labours, will not only redound to the credit of this Parliament, but will be of material benefit to the people, whilst next session we propose to bring down a graduated land and income tax, so that there may be a fair and equitable incidence of taxation, leaving if it be possible—no loophole of escape, and making those who are best able to pay, and should pay, contribute a fair share to the revenue. Here let me say that we frequently have requests from various people in the country for substantial grants to assist them in the development of their industries in those particular parts of the State, and yet those very same gentlemen who are foremost in submitting such requests, if asked how they propose to find the revenue, tell us we must find it as best we can, and are very careful to omit any reference to further revenue from additional taxation. In fact, the man who requires most in the country is the man who is desirous of getting out by paying as little as possible to the revenue. The Government are desirous of giving every assistance in the extending of the various industries, but it must be borne in mind that whilst they are desirous of doing that they are also desirous that the money raised by taxation shall be spent as economically as possible; and if these people require that assistance, and the funds are not available, they must expect additional taxation for those purposes. Before passing on to the actual financial statement, I would express the hope that next season's harvest will be so bountiful that it will cause the spirit of rejoicing to be again manifested on all sides, and make up the leeway which has been lost. May I further say I confidently anticipate such will be the result. At the same time

I am glad to note that although in many parts the past season was so unfavourable, still in others the best crop has been reaped for many years past, and the general agricultural return of the State is a magnificent one, all circumstances being considered. It is earnestly to be hoped, however, that we shall not have two dry seasons in succession, despite our friend Clement Wragge's predictions, for it would certainly be a very great setback to a number of genuine and struggling agricultural settlers. I propose to analyse the financial position as at the time I assumed office, which was a few days subsequent to the close of the first quarter of the financial year.

Consolidated Revenue Fund.

I find there was an accumulated deficit in the Consolidated Revenue Fund of £28,994; that is, after deducting £65,930 which had been advanced to Departments and which was returnable to the Treasury at the end of the year, although so far as the cash was concerned this extra money was disbursed. It must also be remembered that the accumulated deficit of £28,994, as shown on the 30th September, does not really indicate the true position, as I consider that the amounts which have subsequently been paid by way of increases in salaries and wages, made retrospective to 1st July, would be a fair charge against the first quarter of the year. It is difficult to say to-day what that means, but it is well to understand that our predecessors made promises to the civil service that increases which would be provided, and which had been provided, would be made retrospective to 1st July, but at the close of the first quarter on 30th September, when they left office, they had not paid any of these increases, and it has fallen to the lot of the present Government to find that money. Therefore, the deficit at the end of September should be materially increased by the amount we had to find in order to keep the promises made by our predecessors.

Loan Funds.

With regard to Loan Funds, the position on the 30th September was that there

was a credit balance of £795,938, against which Loan Suspense Account had been advanced £11,000 for the purchase of the Dalkeith estate; also £1,573 for surveys of new railway lines. There was a balance of loan authority under the 1911 Loan Act of £1,315,000. The liability of the Treasurer on account of the Trust Fund was £8,497,597, of which sum £6,954,156 was invested, and £802,066 was held for the Savings Bank. The total cash at the Treasury, in London, and in the Eastern States was £1,678,274. This sum, although only partially earmarked to any particular account, may, I think, be fairly distributed to the following accounts:—loan, £783,365; trust, £870,468; bills payable, £24,441. This leaves a shortage against the trust fund of £672,973, and I find that this money had been availed of for the following purposes:—stores, £424,599; advances, £153,489, and deficit on Consolidated Revenue Fund to 30th September, £94,924.

Revenue and Expenditure, 1910-11.

Before dealing with the Estimates for the current year I would draw hon. members' attention to the several returns dealing principally with the revenue and expenditure for the year which closed on the 30th June last. By return No. 1 it will be noted that the late Treasurer under-estimated his revenue by £13,396, the under-estimates and over-estimates being shown in detail on the return. It will also be observed that he under-estimated his expenditure by £99,906. Return No. 2 is a synopsis of the balance sheet on the 30th June, 1911, from which it will be seen that the Treasurer's liability on the 30th June was £9,514,684. Of this amount £6,989,627 is held by investments, including the sinking fund vested in trustees domiciled in London. The balance is shown in detail in the return.

Estimated Revenue, 1911-12.

Turning now to the estimates of revenue and expenditure I may state that these were in course of preparation when I assumed office, and have since received

careful revision at the hands of myself and my colleagues. In revenue I expect to receive £4,037,083. This may appear, in view of the previous year's receipts, too sanguine an estimate, but a reference to the printed details will I feel sure dispel any fears on that score.

Financial arrangements with Commonwealth.

Commencing with the Commonwealth, as one of the most important items from a purely revenue point of view, I anticipate receiving £600,927 under the financial agreement, this being £31,349 more than was paid to the State in 1910-11. I am also pleased to be able to announce that the Federal Treasurer has agreed to pay the State interest at the rate of 3 per cent. on the value of transferred properties, and not only for the current year, but also for the previous year; the sum receivable on this account will be £40,745.

Mr. Frank Wilson: Have the other States agreed to take three per cent.?

The PREMIER: I am not aware of that.

Mr. Frank Wilson: Have you agreed to take three per cent.?

The PREMIER: I have agreed to accept the three per cent. offered by the Commonwealth without prejudice. This makes a total payable by the Commonwealth of £641,672. I might here explain that this is the gross amount; we have to contribute towards the pensions of transferred officers, and as this is outside the financial agreement, and is a statutory liability under the Federal Constitution Act, I have provided for the payment under Special Acts, the amount for this year being £2,500. The financial arrangements with the Commonwealth now appear to be on a sound footing, which it must be realised is a matter of congratulation for the State Treasurer. In return No. 3 will be found the details of the anticipated receipts from the Commonwealth for this year with the total of the receipts from the same source for last year.

Internal Revenue—Increases and decreases.

With reference to the State revenue, the session is now drawing to a close, and the Government have not made any alteration in the methods of taxation operating at the present time, the most that can be done for the current year being to introduce economies in expenditure throughout the various departments, wherever possible, and thus endeavour to keep our expenditure well within the revenue which we expect to derive from the existing forms of taxation. We anticipate receiving an amount of £3,395,411, apart from the receipts from the Commonwealth, which is an increase of £114,549 on the actual revenue of last year. The revenue we anticipate receiving is shown in detail on return No. 3. The principal anticipated increases being: Railways, £91,000, due to the continued extension of our railway system; State water supply generally, £21,000, owing to increased provision of water supplies in all parts of the State; and State batteries, £14,000; we fully anticipate a greater quantity of ore being put through our State batteries, due to many mining men returning to their districts after the conditions at Bullfinch have become normal. The principal decreases are:—miscellaneous £10,857, principally due to a falling off in the interest earned as compared with last year, owing to less loan money being deposited with the Agent General in London; reimbursements-in-aid, £6,403, made up of various items, which are shown in detail on pages 10 and 11 of the Estimates; and mining, £6,089, due principally to mining being again normal after the Bullfinch boom.

Estimated Expenditure.

In regard to expenditure I now approach what I consider is the next most important section of my Financial Statement, and that is the expenditure of the public service for the year. Having devoted a considerable amount of the time at my disposal to ascertaining the probable requirements of departments,

I find that I shall require no less than £2,963,127 for ordinary expenditure, and £1,191,657 under special Acts. The estimate under special Acts is £48,646 more than was paid away last year. This is due to an increase in interest and sinking fund, these charges necessarily increasing in proportion to the State's borrowings. There is also more to pay to members of Parliament; and, under the Parliamentary Allowances Act, charges which last year were placed under Parliamentary votes now appear under special Acts. Where any sum is provided under special Acts it is set out in the Estimates of the department affected, though the money is paid under special Acts. I have also provided here for the Commonwealth pensions as previously mentioned. The estimate of departmental expenditure is £371,690 more than was actually disbursed in 1910-11. I have dissected the expenditure as between administration and general expenditure, and in return No. 5 have shown the result of this, my desire having been to let hon. members and the taxpayers know how much money is required for administration, and what I propose to do with the balance. I specially draw the attention of hon. members to this return. I have particularly attempted to make these returns as simple as possible so that not only members but the general taxpayers may be able to grasp, almost at sight, what has become of the funds they have provided for the functions of the State; and I think members, by perusing the return, will see that I have been fairly successful in my endeavours. Return No. 4 shows the estimated expenditure on administrative, recurring, and revenue-producing expenditure for the year 1911-12. For this purpose, under Special Acts, £90,808 is provided, under "General" £1,208,061, that is for the cost of all public services other than revenue-producing expenditure, the latter amounting to £1,534,735. These together, that is special Acts, general, and revenue-producing expenditure, total £2,833,604. Return No. 5 I previously referred to shows the balance of expenditure, which is termed "general

expenditure for the year," being interest and sinking fund and public debt £1,078,349, subsidies to municipalities £18,000, public works, including subsidies and grants to roads boards, water supply, drainage, etcetera, £181,260, and providing for relaying Great Southern Railway £12,500 (making a total of £193,760 for public works), and sundry grants, as detailed in another return, amounting to £31,071, or a total general expenditure of £1,321,180. Returns 4 and 5 will show that, working on an estimated expenditure of £4,154,784, and after allowing for interest and sinking fund, municipal subsidies, and other necessary expenditure in the form of grants to libraries, hospitals, the Museum, mechanics' institutes, Zoological Gardens, benevolent institutions, and others, I have a balance of £193,760 for expenditure on public works. What may be fairly classed as administrative expenditure amounts to no less than £2,833,604. As shown on return No. 4, the question of reduction of administrative cost is one which, during the recess, will receive most careful attention, and the return will be of value for the purpose of showing any results attained in that direction.

Revenue and Expenditure, 1911-12.

The final results as between revenue and expenditure will therefore be:—Estimated revenue, £4,037,083, and balance brought forward from 1910-11, £13,299, or a total revenue estimated to be at the disposal of the Treasurer of £4,050,382. The estimated expenditure is made up by public debt charges £1,078,349, administrative £2,833,604, totalling together £3,911,953, leaving a balance available for general purposes of £138,429, as I have previously mentioned. Of this, municipal subsidies will absorb £18,000, and sundry grants, etcetera, £31,071, the balance then left available for public works being £89,358. We estimate an expenditure on public works as follows:—relaying Great Southern Railway £12,500, subsidies to roads boards £37,000, and grants to roads boards £24,065, or a total of £61,065 to roads boards; and for works generally, as detailed in the Estimates, £120,195, or

a total for works of £193,760. We provide out of revenue £89,358, which leaves the deficit I previously mentioned, or a shortage on the year's transactions, of £104,402. It will be evident if hon. members peruse the various returns and note what I have now stated, that it would be a very simple matter for the present Administration to submit estimates of revenue and expenditure that would balance on the 30th June next; but the method to be adopted would be one of cutting down necessary public works in the country, and we have given the public to understand, and I again give the House to understand, that, notwithstanding the difficulties with which we are faced and which have been previously stated, we are determined to carry on a progressive public works policy, although the outlay may, perhaps, for the moment, cause the present Administration to be unpopular for coming in with a shortage in revenue account of £104,402.

Assistance to Local Governing Bodies.

Moreover, we recognise that our local authorities are doing in their way equally with the central Government a great deal to assist in the development of our various industries, and we have continual complaints against the action of our predecessors in refusing to provide them with the money necessary to enable them to carry on their affairs on something like reasonable lines. It is unfortunate to-day the position has arrived at that stage that almost all municipalities, and nearly all the roads boards, are clamouring for some special consideration at the hands of the Government, because they cannot possibly carry on under existing conditions. It was only last week that I had an application from one municipality to make available at once the subsidy due to them for the year in order to enable them to pay the wages due at the end of the fortnight. This condition of affairs has been brought about by the policy of our predecessors in continually reducing subsidies to municipalities, and by the reduction of grants to roads boards generally. Last year the Government disbursed for municipalities £11,733,

and we provide this year £18,000. They expended last year for roads boards by way of subsidies £29,926, and we provide £37,000. On roads and bridges grants they provided £22,713, and we provide on the Estimates £24,065. The totals are—last year, subsidies to municipalities and roads boards grants £64,372; this year, as we are providing and propose to expend, £70,065, or an increase in the year, although faced with such difficulties, of £14,693 to our local bodies.

Land Revenue Shortage.

To proceed with our revenue accounts, the return shows £104,000 less than the estimated expenditure for the current year, but were we to receive during this year payment for services rendered for which the expenditure has to be provided at once, such as water supplies in agricultural areas, and were we to receive the rents payable on conditional purchase lands which are being deferred owing to the unfortunate season experienced in certain portions of our agricultural districts, I fully anticipate that our revenue would approach very closely to our expenditure. I am assured by my colleague the Minister for Lands that he has allowed for a falling-off of £22,000 due to deferred payments of rent and withdrawals of sale of town lots. It is also to be understood that we are supplying water to agricultural and dry districts, the greater proportion of the payment for which will not be recovered until the next financial year. In fact the whole of the water we are supplying to dry districts will not be recovered until next year, although we are receiving coupons, which are really promises to pay next year, when they reap which, I believe, will be a bountiful harvest. With an anticipated normal season next year, and close attention to administration and an adjustment of our finances during the ensuing period, I fully anticipate that we shall be able to make up the lee-way before the end of the next financial term.

Position of Loan Funds.

Return No. 6 has no great bearing on the Revenue and Expenditure Estimates,

except so far as the necessary provision of interest and sinking fund for loans is concerned, yet it is usual when presenting the Financial Statement to explain the position of our Loan Funds, as at the close of the previous financial year. It will be seen that on the 30th June last, the total authorisations amounted to £25,627,253, while of that amount £24,177,253 had been absorbed by flotations, leaving the balance available for flotation at that date of £1,450,000. The actual loan indebtedness on the 30th June amounted to £24,177,253, less bonds redeemed £473,300, and sinking fund £2,544,812, making a net indebtedness of £21,159,141. The net public debt per head of the population on the 30th June, 1911, was £73 7s. 10d. That is adjusted to comply with the census figures as finally adopted by the Commonwealth and the State. Return No. 7 shows the loan flotations expenditure in detail. It will be noticed that of our total flotations of £24,177,253 we have actually expended £22,068,102, and the cost of raising amounted to £1,068,453, leaving an unexpended balance on the 30th June to the credit of Loan Account of £1,040,698.

Exports and Imports.

Return No. 8 I consider of considerable value, as it is really the pulse indicating the progress of the State. It will be noted that our internal trade, judging by railway revenue, is materially on the increase, this of course being partly due to the increase in the railway mileage. Wool and wheat have increased considerably, while hay last year showed a small falling off. It will be seen that there was a falling off in the total exports. This was due to a decreased export, during the past year, of gold specie and gold bullion. There is no reason to think that that decrease was a result of a proportionate falling off in the gold production, as the exports have since again increased. The cause was, no doubt, one of the financial adjustments in connection with the balance of trade between this State and other States and countries overlapping from one year to another. Timber produced

for export shows a slight increase, while the coal produced shows a small falling off. The increase, however, in the output of coal from the previous year was hardly normal, being due, I think, to the amount of bunkering trade during the Newcastle strike. Other minerals exported show a considerable falling off. In the imports there have been increases in practically all the articles required for consumption, as well as for industrial purposes. This is a natural result of the growth of the population exceeding for the present its productive capabilities. It accentuates the necessity for encouraging to the utmost all our local industries. It is particularly worthy of note that the largest increases occurred under the headings "ironware" and "machinery." These articles are, of course, required in the development of our industries. Apparel, however, as well as the main articles of consumption, have also increased, and it is evident that there is plenty of room for increased local production to supply the local demand.

Land Development and Railways.

Our herds, horses, cattle, and sheep show a marked improvement. Hon. members will notice that the area of land selected approaches two million acres, while the area of land leased totalled over nine million acres. But it is a question whether we should be gratified with the fact that while we had nearly two million acres of additional land selected, there was only an increase of 133,000 acres under crop. Savings Bank deposits show a steady increase. Finally, the excess of arrivals over departures shows a gratifying increase. To summarise this return then, we find that we have apparently centralised our attention in the direction of assisting in the increased production of wool—the increased wealth of a few—in the increase of our flocks and herds—sheep, cattle, and horses—and, to a somewhat lesser extent, other agricultural products. We have increased materially our railway mileage to assist land selection, but I fear we are losing sight of the object of such operations by the comparatively small additional area which has been

put under crop. In connection with this matter I may be permitted to digress for a moment, and to point out that the railways under construction total 351 miles, that railways for which Bills have been passed, or are about to be presented to Parliament, total 617 miles, and that the average railway construction carried out during the last five years has been 153 miles per annum. The present Administration propose to increase this to at least 200 miles per annum, until such time as we dispose of the lines authorised by Parliament, so that at the present time we have three years' work ahead of us. This, of course, does not include the proposed Transcontinental line, of some 330 miles. As previously stated, the export and import tables are matters which must receive the attention of the Government, and it will be one of our duties to find what appears to be a weakness in this matter, and to endeavour to assist in causing our exports to increase rather than decrease, and our imports to decrease rather than increase. This is one of the matters to which the Government will assiduously apply themselves.

Conclusion.

In conclusion let me say that in thus presenting to hon. members and the people of this State my first Financial Statement, as head of the second Labour Administration of Western Australia, I would again take this opportunity of stating that, although I am aware of, and pay due respect to the able efforts of those who have preceded me as Colonial Treasurer and Ministers of the Crown responsible for the good conduct of the Government of the State, I cannot be oblivious to the outstanding fact that many anomalies exist in connection with the administration of the State Departments. In a speech such as the present I need not deal in detail with these anomalies and inconsistencies; but, as they have a very strong bearing upon the finances of the State, I can assure hon. members that I, in conjunction with my colleagues, will earnestly grasp such matters, with the one object of removing them, if as a result of careful investigation such a course is proved

to be possible. The Government fully realise that in this vast State, although with its population severed, in many instances, by such great distances, we indeed have a heritage which only requires close and careful administrative handling to raise it from the comparative obscurity of the past to that position to which its manifold resources demand it shall attain; namely, that of being one of the leading States, if not the principal State in the Commonwealth, and that in all matters it shall be treated on an equality with the States forming the Eastern portion of the Commonwealth. I am satisfied that Western Australia will advance more rapidly in the future than she has done in the past, and with this advance of the State generally we shall be forced into still greater prominence before the world and its markets. We hope that, with the increase of our flocks and herds, and general prosperity brought about by wise administration, we will make Western Australia sufficiently attractive to induce a steady and continuous influx of population. Further, with the through running of the iron horse from the western coast of the Commonwealth to the sister States of the east; with the creation of the naval base at Cockburn Sound; with the largest of His Majesty's fleet and mercantile marine provided with docking and repairing facilities at Fremantle; with our great agricultural, mineral, timber, wool, pearling, and other industries growing apace, and with improved conditions in our commercial and industrial centres, as a direct resultant of good government and wise laws. Western Australia will come into her own. This Government hold office for the good of the people—for they have placed us in power; and we realise and respect their unmistakable mandate. We do not represent, nor will we legislate for, any one section, but will at all times endeavour to do justice to all sections of the community. We stand here, in fact, by the will of the people, pledged to do our utmost for the advancement of Western Australia as a whole, from the educational, commercial, legislative, and administrative point of view. Our one object is that it shall not be possible for the

finger of derision or accusations of neglect to be pointed at us, for in everything we shall strive to do our duty, not failing to realise, however, that the foremost step is to build up our finances upon a solid foundation so that in this important connection we may best serve the interests of the citizens of the present day, whilst at the same time having proper regard to those of future generations. "For forms of Government let fools contest: whatever is best administered is best." With these observations, Mr. Holman, I now beg to move the first item on the Estimates, namely—

His Excellency the Governor, £2,760.

Progress reported.

[For returns Nos. 1 to 8, referred to in the Treasurer's Budget speech, see pages 925-932.]

ORDERS OF THE DAY PROCEEDED WITH.

The PREMIER: The leader of the Opposition having no objection it would be as well to proceed with the Orders of the Day.

Mr. SPEAKER: The House had already resolved that the Orders of the Day should be postponed. However, there was no definite ruling in respect to the matter, and the House could alter its own decision and pass a motion that the postponed Orders of the Day be proceeded with.

The PREMIER moved—

That the postponed Orders of the Day be proceeded with.

Question passed.

BILL—LOCAL COURTS ACT AMENDMENT.

Council's Amendments.

Schedule of three amendments made by the Legislative Council now considered.

In Committee.

Mr. Holman in the Chair, the Attorney General in charge of the Bill.

No. 1, Clause 4—Strike out the clause:

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: It was purposed to accept the Council's amendment. This clause was inserted while the Bill was in Committee in this House. He (the Attorney General) was not particularly in favour of it when it was introduced, besides it was a species of experiment. He moved—

That the amendment be agreed to.

Mr. DWYER: When the Bill was in Committee previously he moved the amendment. At that time he thought, and still thought it possible to render our Local Courts Act more useful and justice more speedy of accomplishment if it could be arranged that justices could sit in certain small cases. However, when the Bill was in another place it was considered by other members of the profession to which he belonged that justices were not competent to decide these cases. Points of law might crop up which it would be dangerous to leave to the decision of justices. After reconsidering the matter and after certain recent experiences of decisions of justices he agreed with the motion.

Question passed; the Council's amendment agreed to.

No. 2, Clause 13—Strike out the word "deleted" and insert "repealed":

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: This was purely a verbal amendment. The clause said that "paragraphs (a) and (b) of Section 154 of the principal Act are hereby deleted." It should have been "repealed." He moved—

That the amendment be agreed to.

Question passed; the Council's amendment agreed to.

No. 3, New clause—"Section 145 of the principal Act is hereby amended by the insertion of the words 'or the clerk' after the words 'the magistrate' in the sixth line thereof":

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: This was an amendment of Section 145 of the principal Act which dealt with the power to make garnishee orders and the principal Act gave that power to magistrates only. The amendment proposed that the power should also be given to the

clerk. He did not see any danger in the amendment. He moved—

That the amendment be agreed to.

Question passed; the Council's amendment agreed to.

Resolutions reported, the report adopted, and a Message accordingly returned to the Legislative Council.

BILL—VETERINARY.

Second Reading.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS (Hon. T. H. Bath) in moving the second reading said: This measure provides for the regulation of the practice of veterinary surgery in Western Australia. Hon. members who have any knowledge of the country districts in Western Australia will know that for some time past there have been repeated complaints as to the practice of veterinary surgery by incompetent persons. Speaking from my own personal experience I know settlers who can ill afford the loss which they have undoubtedly sustained through the fact of persons posing as veterinary surgeons and attending their stock without the requisite knowledge to qualify them for that particular calling. In common with other parts of the State during the recent elections this matter was brought forward by settlers and a request made that this measure should be introduced. I may say, some time past, during the last Parliament when I was leader of the Opposition I was then approached from different parts of the State and urged to support a proposal for the registration of veterinary surgeons. At that time I promised the then Premier and the Minister for Agriculture that if they introduced a measure I would assist them to the fullest extent of my power to have that measure passed through the House. The Bill as now submitted provides for the registration of veterinary surgeons and constitutes the necessary machinery for that purpose. We provide for the appointment of a veterinary board consisting of five members and impose upon them the duty of keeping a register of qualified veterinary surgeons. Power is given under the Act

to any person who has been refused registration and considers he has a grievance against the board to appeal against that refusal to register, so that as far as possible we provide against any injustice being done to the persons practising or who desire to practise in the future.

Mr. Lander: To whom is he to appeal?

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: Provision is given to appeal to a judge within three months of the refusal to register. Under the measure, apart from the ordinary machinery provisions which I may say is largely modelled on the Victorian Act, we provide, or rather the Bill as originally drafted provided, that each board would have power to register existing practitioners in Western Australia, that is those who had practised for a term of seven years and who were able to pass the prescribed examination in diseases of the horse and other domestic animals, but another place has struck that provision out, and I may say at once that unless the members of this House are prepared to reinsert that provision I have no intention of proceeding with the Bill. The object of this Bill is to prevent incompetent persons from securing fees from settlers under false pretences. If we are to accept a measure which provides that the registration board must confer registration on all existing practitioners who have practised for a term of seven years without any power on the board to ascertain whether they are competent or not we may just as well wipe the measure off the Notice Paper and waste no more time over it. I might give the assurance that the examination will be essentially of a practical nature and in that respect will constitute a very vital difference from the examination which it is necessary for a veterinary student to pass before he may secure a diploma. Under the Victorian Act it provides that he must pass an examination in the following subjects:—Materia medica, pharmacy, medical botany, practical chemistry, toxicology, anatomy of the horse and other domesticated animals, physiology and histology, morbid anatomy, pathology and pathological toxicology, diseases of the horse and other domesticated animals, veterinary

medicine and surgery, and therapeutics. All that we ask is that the applicant who comes forward, and who is an existing practitioner, and who has been practising for a term of seven years, shall be able to pass an examination in diseases of horses and other domesticated animals, and surely, if a man claims that he is qualified to practice as a veterinary surgeon, that is the very rudiment of knowledge which he should have.

Mr. Foley: Who would you make examiners?

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: The board. I know that hon. members will have in their mind's eye this practitioner, or that practitioner, who may have been practising in the past, and I fully recognise that those men would be placed in a serious position if they were refused registration, but, on the other hand, I am quite confident that any person who has won any reputation as a veterinary practitioner in the past, will have not the slightest difficulty in satisfying the Board of his qualifications, or his capacity to be registered as a practitioner, after the passage of this measure. On the other hand, if we make no such provision, then the Bill gives us absolutely no power whatever to prevent veterinary quacks from practising and, as I have said, it would be absolutely absurd to waste the time of the House further if the other Chamber have no intention of reinserting that clause in the Bill. I would like to give the views of a gentleman whose reputation is unassailable. I refer to Professor Lowrie, the late Director of Agriculture in Western Australia, who, while occupying that position here, had this Bill submitted to him for his consideration. He wrote—

I suggest that the words "Provided that until the first day of May, One thousand nine hundred and eleven, the Board may register any person who has been continuously practising as a veterinary surgeon in Western Australia for seven years on his passing the prescribed examination in diseases of the horse and other domesticated animals in lieu of his holding such diploma," be omitted

altogether. I believe that if this provision be retained it will defeat the purposes of the Bill for some years. I know no reason why a cheap back door entrance should be offered to men who may think fit now to practice without qualification. There are facilities in Melbourne for taking a regular course and qualification in veterinary medicine, and as the Bill is purposely framed to protect the public from unqualified men, I recommend that no provision be made to allow of such being registered until they secure a regular qualification.

Undoubtedly it would impose a hardship, and, on the other hand, we have to bear in mind that it may only impose a hardship on those who under that proposal would be refused registration. But it also may impose a hardship on settlers in our sparsely settled areas, who would find it difficult to get the necessary assistance there. We have decided to retain that provision, but we think that that is an essential part of the Bill, and it is that point which I desire to impress upon hon. members. I beg to move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

Mr. THOMAS (Bunbury): I am very much interested in the passage of this Bill, and I am very sorry to hear the Minister in charge of it making a definite statement that if the particular clause, which has been referred to, is not carried he will refuse to go on with the Bill. That is presenting a sort of ultimatum to this House, that we shall do this, or the Bill will be disposed of altogether. I would very much like to see the Minister in charge of the Bill approach this subject with an open mind, and disposed to discuss the pros and cons of the situation, so that we might have the opportunity of putting a forcible and good case before him. That seems to me the course which it will be right to adopt in this case. The Minister has said that he desires to do away with quackery, and to protect people who have suffered from the effects of these said quacks. We must consider, in order to arrive at

a proper understanding, the various phases of the question. I have made some inquiries, and I have been told that there are in Western Australia at the present time probably only half a dozen qualified veterinary surgeons. If this Bill is carried into effect I know enough of the profession myself to believe that for some months, or possibly a year or more, there will be no other individuals qualifying, because the men who may have a practical knowledge in this particular profession would need a very considerable time to study in order to pass an examination at all. The object of the Minister is most laudable, but he is going to prevent every individual practising as a veterinary surgeon in this State at the present time from doing so in the future. He is going to hand over the whole of this population to about half a dozen qualified veterinary surgeons. I would very much like to know how they are going to attend the whole of the stock in Western Australia. If you prevent a man, with possibly a limited and reasonable knowledge, from carrying on the practise of his profession, you will lead to men quacking for themselves, because they will endeavour to doctor their own stock and bring less knowledge to bear on the subject than an unqualified veterinary surgeon who has had 5, 10, 15, or even 20 years' experience. It must be obvious to the hon. member that he is defeating his own ends in trying to bring about the alteration he desires in this Bill. We provided in a Bill in this House some little time ago with regard to nurses, that they should have six months' training, and that they should have attended 20 cases of midwifery, in order to be entitled to qualification as registered midwives. They were to have the lives of human beings in their hands and they were only to attend 20 cases without passing an examination, but a veterinary surgeon who may have attended a thousand horses and spent 20 years in learning something about it, and who may get a fee of 5s. for his services, would appear to be of more consideration than human beings.

The Minister for Railways: He will be able to pass the examination.

Mr. THOMAS: If the hon. member had any experience in connection with that profession, and had anything to do with the theory attached to it, he would know that there is a big difference between the two, and that, while a man may have a great deal of knowledge perhaps in regard to stock, when you pin him down to hard and fast things that may be put before him by a man reared on theory, it may be a difficult matter, especially at an advanced age, to satisfy that man. I have come into contact with many veterinary surgeons who have been practising here for a great number of years, and they are in every way excellent men.

The Minister for Lands: They will have no difficulty.

Mr. THOMAS: They will have a difficulty. Why should we provide for examinations to cause all that trouble? The Bill is providing for a close corporation of half a dozen veterinary surgeons in Western Australia and we are going to submit the public of this country to their extortion. We will be doing a great injury to the people and an injustice to a very desirable section of the community. Knowing the Minister for Lands as well as I do, I am aware he takes a very temperate and fair view of most things, but I fear that on this occasion he has not taken that fair view for which he is so characteristic. I profess to have some knowledge of the subject and I feel deeply on the matter, because I believe a great injustice will be done to many people. I find in every State in Australia where a Veterinary Act exists, that they have granted concessions to men who were practising before the passing of the Act. In Victoria, the Act from which the Minister has quoted, the Act provides that if an alleged veterinary surgeon has been in practise for seven years before the passing of the Act, he shall by virtue of that be registered without any examination. I understand that in Queensland the period is five years, and there is no examination there either. In the Eng-

lish Act it provides that if a man has practised veterinary surgery in the United Kingdom at the time of the passing of the Act for not less than 10 years, either in the United Kingdom or elsewhere, he shall, upon payment of the registration fee, be entitled without examination in the United Kingdom to be registered as a Colonial practitioner in the register of veterinary surgeons and become a member of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons. It is possible for a man to become a member of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons without passing an examination, but it is not possible for him to be registered in Western Australia without doing so, and we are going to set ourselves up as a pattern, that we shall have a precedent of our own, and deny the people that justice which has been granted to them elsewhere. There is the point that it is more than probable that the veterinary surgeons in Western Australia, who are members of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, and who obtained that degree without an examination, will, under the Bill, be permitted to practise in this State. We are simply giving to them a privilege that we will not grant to the ordinary individual who lives in Western Australia. It is utterly impossible for those people who will be admitted to practise to deal with all the work which will be required to be done in Western Australia. There will be no examining board, there will be no college and no means of imparting information to enable these people to qualify as veterinary surgeons, but we are going to appoint a board which will provide for an examination. Who will set that examination? We will have to admit those veterinary surgeons without examination, otherwise we will find that those gentlemen, who will be in the position of setting up the examinations, will endeavour to keep others from enjoying the same privileges as they themselves have. They will set up an examination which will prevent others from getting into that charmed circle we have had an example of in the profession to which I belong. The fewer there are in this particular

profession the better the fees will be. We will assume, for the sake of argument, that the Bill is carried and we are limited to half a dozen practitioners in Western Australia. What are the fees going to be? Why, they will not look at a horse under a guinea.

Mr. Lander: Bunkum.

Mr. THOMAS: I wonder if as much bunkum comes from the rest of the House as from the hon. member himself. If a person has an animal of little value, such as a cat or a dog, he could not possibly requisition the services of a veterinary surgeon because he would charge five times the value of the animal to merely look at it. Even under the best of conditions, even if these men prepared for an examination, they could not do it under a considerable time; and what are the advantages about this? In no other profession is such an examination imposed. Take the medical profession itself; I believe that in the first Act introduced into Western Australia men who were practising as doctors in the State at that time were admitted to be registered as qualified medical practitioners without passing any examination. We have that precedent here and, I believe, in the other States of the Commonwealth as well. On the introduction of the Pharmacy Act in every State of Australia they have allowed those practising before the Act to be registered without passing a qualifying examination, taking it as a matter of fact that a certain amount of experience was a qualification. We do not find that it has turned out badly in regard to either the medical profession or the pharmacists; no wrong has been done. Those men who were admitted have been proved to be a worthy and able class; yet whilst that liberty is allowed in the case of doctors and chemists, we will not allow a man to examine a cat or dog without passing an examination. It is reducing the argument to an absurdity. Take the case of any other industry. In regard to publicans, the Government grant them licenses to carry on for 12 months, but they consider that after establishing the hotel they have interests that deserve consideration at the hands of the State, and they will not de-

prive these people of their licenses without granting them some measure of compensation. The fact remains that hitherto we have not had a Veterinary Surgery Act in Western Australia. Guided by that, people came here years ago and started in this profession. Many of them are deserving men, and they have earned their living for 20 years or more at this profession, and may have to-day wives and children dependent upon them.

Mr. Taylor: Some of them are very capable.

Mr. THOMAS: Yes, very capable; and, in fact, more capable than some of the men who depend mainly on theory. Yet we are going to deprive these individuals of their means of livelihood in order to gratify certain persons who want to bring about a prohibitive state of things. Regarding Professor Lowrie's opinion, he may know a good deal about agriculture, and in that science I would have a good deal of respect for his opinion, but I do not think that agricultural science has any thing to do with veterinary surgery. If I broke my leg and wanted it set I would not go to a blacksmith, and if I wanted to know something about veterinary surgery I would not go to a professor of agricultural science.

The Minister for Lands: If you went to Hawkesbury Agricultural College you would learn something about it.

Mr. THOMAS: I have been to Hawkesbury Agricultural College. I went to school within a mile of that institution, and I know something about its curriculum. But here the Minister is setting up the opinion of Professor Lowrie, who knows nothing about veterinary surgery, against all the experience—

The Minister for Lands: That is only an assumption on your part.

Mr. THOMAS: With all due respect, it is only an assumption on your part that he does know anything about it.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member must address the Chair.

Mr. THOMAS: As I said at the outset, I feel very deeply on this subject. I know many people who are implicated in this matter, and I would appeal to the Min-

ister with all the earnestness I can to reconsider the matter.

The Minister for Lands: You want us to give a State endorsement to quacks.

Mr. THOMAS: If you choose to use such an extreme term you may do so, but as we have given a State endorsement to quacks in other walks of life, why should we victimise them in this particular profession more than in any other? I say we are not extending to these individuals the humane consideration that they have a right to expect from a fair-minded Parliament. In connection with the pharmaceutical profession, many men have practised veterinary surgery for a number of years, and by their knowledge of drugs have become expert in their treatment of animals. In the past their services have been available at a reasonable and modest cost. In future it will prevent those individuals from practising as veterinary surgeons. That will be a great injustice to the community as a whole. So far as human beings are concerned, the chemists have power to prescribe for them and to accept fees for prescriptions, but when it comes to prescribing for a cat we deprive them of the privilege, and say they do not know enough to be allowed to do it. That is an inconsistency and a great injustice. I think I have touched on all the points which I desire to impress on hon. members. I trust that particularly the members connected with agricultural constituencies will give careful and deep consideration to this matter before they cast a vote in favour of making this Bill as prohibitive as the Minister for Lands desires. Out in the back-blocks of Western Australia they will be deprived of any class of assistance for attending to their animals. At the present time the attendance of these non-bona fide veterinary surgeons may not be perfect, but it is better to have the services of a man with 10 years' experience than to have the services of a man with no experience at all, and on those grounds I appeal to hon. members to disregard the statement of the Minister who introduced the Bill and to support the amendment introduced in another place—possibly it might be subject to some slight alteration, extended

a little—but I really think we should do away with the question of examination altogether. With these remarks I will commend the measure to the consideration of hon. members.

Mr. LANDER (East Perth): I do not desire to say much in regard to this Bill, but if this House accepts this Bill in the manner in which it is put before us to-night it will be a standing disgrace to any reasonable man.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The hon. member cannot refer to a Bill before the House in those terms.

Mr. LANDER: Then I will have to withdraw the remark. When the member for Bunbury was referring to the Victorian Act he enumerated the different subjects which a qualified veterinary surgeon would have to pass. All we ask him to pass in this country is a simple practical test in the diseases of horses and other domestic animals. A man who has been practising veterinary surgery and is not willing to go before the board and pass a practical examination in this matter, is unworthy to be registered in Western Australia as a qualified veterinary surgeon. I am pleased indeed to see the member for Bunbury such an advocate for a body of professional men who very often have been the means of establishing these quacks, these blown-out jockeys, in different places. And what for? So that they could sell their drugs. One can go to some places and ask who has established such and such a blown-out jockey, and the answer is "chemist so-and-so." What does a chemist know about attending horses? What does he know about organic chemistry? He may know something about inorganic chemistry. Could he diagnose a tissue if it were brought to him? No; he could tell a person more about taking a big fee. What did the member for Bunbury bring before the House to quote from? An old book that I would not put under a cart to sprag a wheel with. He has quoted the Act of 1882, but if he were to go to the Royal College he would find that the veterinary surgeons are compelled to put in continuous practice for about 10 years. I am surprised to find a man of the reputation of the member

for Bunbury coming forward and asking us to pass a measure such as he suggests. He would make out that a qualified veterinary surgeon has only to read books. That is wrong. For his information I can assure the House that before a student of veterinary surgery can advance any stage in a recognised college he has to know not only the theory but also the practical part of the business. He has to be competent to dissect every organ, and to diagnose every different part of tissue, before he can advance from the A to the B certificate. In Edinburgh last year every student was put back because he failed in anatomy. I have here some of the questions put to the students, and if hon. members will read them they will say that these quacks should know something about diseases of this description. I have seen jarrah jerkers, who have given £80 for a horse, paying 23 guineas to have an eye taken out when the horse was suffering from a malignant growth on the nasal bone. Are we going to allow a man to be not only robbed, but practically have his horse killed? What do we find all over the country? Go into the Northam district and we will find quite a nest of quacks, blown-out jockeys, not one of them having the courage to come forward and pass a single examination in diseases of horses and other domesticated animals. We have gentlemen in this State who have come out here, and are willing to offer their professional services at very reduced rates to the settlers. What have they to fight against? Such gentlemen as the member for Bunbury and others, who pose as friends of the quacks. I sincerely trust the Minister for Lands will stand firm regarding the Bill. If the House will not accept the Bill let us throw it out again, and next session, possibly after another election in a certain quarter, we will have a different class of men in, and they will stand by the settlers in the country and see we put before them a proper Bill. The hon. member claims we object to allowing a man to register who has been practising for 10 years, 20 years, or so many years; but what have they been practising at? Horse

killing. I can take members to different settlers who have suffered the penalty of losing valuable horses in this State. I have seen a horse suffering from a fistula and I have seen one of these men go up to it, make a couple of slashes and cut off a piece of bone and a piece of ligament, and hold it up to the settler and say the horse was cured, but I reckon it was killing the horse. What is to become of the settler if that class of men the member for Bunbury would like to see us admit as qualified veterinary surgeons are allowed to pose as such.

Mr. Thomas: You are too profound altogether.

Mr. LANDER: I do not think one can be too profound on this question. Only recently in Victoria the Victorian Government have gone to the expense of devoting £4,000 to the establishment of a veterinary college in connection with their university. They are paying £3,500 now for some of the best experts this side of the Equator there in Victoria; and what are we going to do in Western Australia? We are going to say to the Victorians and others that we are going to ignore scientific training and allow the thumb-and-rule man to come in. I trust before we do that we will, as the Minister says, pass it out. Only recently a big conference sat in America, and they went into the question, and not only fixed a standard for the different colleges, but also fixed the different subjects which should be passed by qualified veterinary surgeons before being allowed to go out and slaughter people's horses, as quacks are doing at the present time. I do not intend to say much more on this Bill until it gets into Committee, and then I will do my best to back up the Minister for Lands and try to get this clause put in. Providing it is not I will do my best to blow the Bill out.

Mr. DWYER (Perth): I intend supporting the second reading of this Bill, as I think that any Bill intended to regulate practices or qualifications for any profession is a Bill deserving the support of this House. However, I hope that in a few directions the Bill will be amended in the Committee stage. At the present time we have

laws governing the practice and standing of the legal profession, the medical profession, dentistry and pharmacy, and we have a Bill regulating veterinary surgery before us, and shortly, I hope, we will have a Bill dealing with the profession of accountancy. I think that in the introduction of measures of this kind the Government are carrying out business which is in the best interests of all the people of the State; that is to say, where persons require professional knowledge or professional attendance, the best professional knowledge or professional attendance the State can offer, or will offer, or which from its circumstances it is able to offer should be made available to the persons requiring it; and that any person possessing knowledge of the quality required to practise the profession should receive that protection from the State to which he is justly and truly entitled, and which his qualifications entitle him to expect. Also he should receive protection from the competition of persons who have not qualified themselves to carry on the business of the same calling. It is true, of course, that in the past when Bills have been introduced governing certain professions I have named, concessions have been made to those who have been practising, whether they were qualified or not, in these professions for a certain number of years; and I think that vested interests in cases of this kind ought to receive a certain amount of consideration; but I do think that, while we should give consideration to vested interests, we must also give consideration, and a greater consideration if necessary, to the safeguarding of the community and the lives at stake—whether they be lives of human beings, or even lives of domesticated animals—and even a man's own private business or affairs. I think, however, in the case of the Bill before us, it may in a few directions be amended to meet with the requirements and necessities of our community, and also so as not to inflict an injustice on persons who have not thoroughly qualified, or at any rate are qualified to a certain extent to practise this profession of veterinary surgery. I

should like the Minister for Lands, who has introduced the Bill, to inform the House first of all as to the number of persons in the State who, if this Bill be passed, will be qualified to practise under it.

Mr. Lander: There are nine men.

Mr. DWYER: Secondly, will the Minister inform us as to the place where these nine persons are resident? If we confine the practice of veterinary surgery to simply nine men who are, most of them, living in Perth, what are we to do for the outlying districts and outlying centres?

Mr. Lander: They are not all in Perth.

Mr. DWYER: Most of the nine are practising in Perth. There might be one or two at present on the Eastern Goldfields, and one perhaps at Northam, and perhaps one at Geraldton, but I think I am near the mark in saying that of the nine whom the hon. member claims will be entitled to practise under this Bill, should it become law, nearly all of them are resident in Perth. If the settlers living at long distances from Perth will be obliged to send to Perth for this assistance when the Bill is passed—

The Minister for Lands: I have two living in my electorate.

Mr. DWYER: Will they be qualified under the Bill?

The Minister for Lands: They will both be able to qualify by examination.

Mr. DWYER: If there were in various centres and scattered throughout the State persons qualified to practise under the Bill so that the necessary assistance could be rendered to the settlers who own suffering animals obliged to have surgery practised on them or medicines given to them, I think my objections, and those of the member for Bunbury, with regard to a few details of the Bill might disappear; but I hope when the Bill is in Committee the Minister for Lands will be able to give us details of the nine who are qualified to practise, and their present places of residence; because their places of residence and the qualifications will very much influence me as regards the voting I shall give on the various clauses

of the Bill when it reaches the Committee stage. The Bill is putting outside the pale of its rose-water preference, if I may put it that way, several persons who have hitherto been practising, in a small way most of them I believe, as veterinary surgeons. Most of them I understand have been chemists. Now, from their training, and from their education, and from their knowledge of drugs and medicines, chemists are to a great extent fitted to practise, if only in a small degree, under this Bill. As a matter of fact, we know that frequently they give a sort of cheap and free-and-easy medical advice to human beings over their counters, and give medicines to them; and if that practice is allowed as regards human beings, I think we might give the same liberty to them as regards domesticated animals. I am not in favour of giving a legal status to quacks, nor am I a friend of quacks in any respect whatsoever, and I am quite at issue with the member for East Perth when he deprecates the practice of quackery in this matter. I go further and deprecate the practice of quackery in any profession, trade, or calling. An hon. member has interjected as regards lawyers. Many legal practitioners were admitted and entitled to qualify who never passed an examination, and I understand that one of the gentlemen at present ornamenting our Bench, one of our ablest lawyers, is a gentleman who never had to pass an examination. As a matter of fact, in many professions apprenticeship and practical knowledge go as far as theoretical knowledge and acquaintanceship with the principles of the profession. However, that is in a sense beside the question. The Bill assumes that only persons who have been qualified elsewhere are entitled to practise as veterinary surgeons. If we have persons here who have been practising this profession for such a number of years as could give them a good practical knowledge, and if they satisfy, not by written examination, but by an oral examination—I specify that particularly—if they satisfy by an oral examination the board to be appointed under this measure, I think they

ought to be allowed to continue to practise the profession under this Bill.

Mr. Lander: That is all we ask for. Some of them could not pass a written examination; they cannot write.

Mr. DWYER: If my friend wishes to move that as a proviso to one of the clauses of the Bill I shall support him, but I think he is entirely mistaken; because most of those I know to be practising veterinary surgery, even in a small degree, are quite as capable of writing as the hon. member. There is no provision whatever in this Bill as regards the training of future veterinary surgeons here, so that if we register these nine we create a close corporation of nine men who will be entitled to practise for all time the profession of veterinary surgery throughout the whole State, and we will close the doors to everyone else. It may be, of course, that the number will be increased from outside, but we cannot say that that will be so. There is no provision made in the Bill for the examination, or the training, of persons who desire to qualify as veterinary surgeons, and I hope the Minister for Lands will see his way to introduce a clause whereby more means will be provided for the training of future veterinary surgeons, by placing them under some regulations which will state their qualifications, and which will fix the examinations they are to pass, and prescribe the curriculum. Without this, the Bill is incomplete. We have in view the early establishment of a university, and it seems to me that this provision, as well as other provisions, might well be taken into consideration when the university is started, and we should make provision that the examinations of future veterinary surgeons should be under the guidance of that university, and that the board to be appointed under this measure will be connected or affiliated in some way with the university. By such means we will have some opportunity of qualifying and training future veterinary surgeons, and those glorified nine will not have it all their own way throughout the whole of the State. It is, of course, necessary that all professions should be

regulated, and, even though the regulating of professions means a hardship in certain instances, I think that a higher consideration is the safety of the public, and the safeguarding of public interests more than counterbalances any hardship which may follow. Therefore, while supporting the second reading of the Bill, I trust that means will be found whereby its provisions may be modified, so as to embody, first of all, our requirements as a scattered State, and whereby our distant settlers will not be placed at the mercy of the nine qualified men, who may charge any fees they wish, because those fees will not be regulated under the Bill. Secondly, we should have the Bill so regulated that there will be an opportunity for those desirous of qualifying in veterinary surgery to be admitted to practise this profession, that is, training and

educating apprentices or youths who wish to qualify; and, thirdly, some provision should be made whereby those who have been practising in the past in any branch of veterinary surgery may, on oral proof being given to the board of their knowledge, either surgical knowledge or as regards their prescribing of medicines or drugs, may, on giving this proof, be allowed to practise. We will then conserve the best interests of the State, and we will see that the settlers are not unduly penalised, and that no injustice will be done. The future requirements of the State will also be looked after by providing persons who may become qualified to carry on this profession of veterinary surgery.

On motion by Mr. B. J. Stubbs debate adjourned.

House adjourned at 9.53 p.m.

APPENDIX TABLES Nos. 1 to 8, referred to in the Treasurer's Financial Statement.

[No. 1.]

Revenue, 1910-11.

					£
The actual amount received for the year was	..	...	...	...	3,850,439
The Treasurer's estimate was	...	...	...	...	3,737,043
Or a total net under-estimate of	...	...	...	...	<u>£113,396</u>
<i>The under-estimates were—</i>					£
Stamp Duty	...	...	...	...	2,404
Income Tax	...	...	...	...	5,579
Land Revenue	...	...	...	...	29,935
Mining	...	...	...	...	6,139
Railways	...	...	...	...	102,914
Water Supply	...	...	...	...	11,429
Reimbursements-in-aid	...	...	...	...	11,968
Residue	...	...	...	...	11,472
					<u>£101,840</u>
<i>The over-estimates were—</i>					£
Commonwealth	...	...	...	...	11,652
Dividend Duty	...	...	...	...	33,504
State Batteries	...	...	...	...	13,857
Probate	...	...	...	...	6,876
Laud Tax	...	...	...	...	2,129
Residue	...	...	...	...	426
					<u>£68,444</u>
					<u>£113,396</u>

Expenditure, 1910-11.

	£	
The actual amount expended for the year was	3,784,448	
The Treasurer's estimate was	3,684,542	
	<hr/>	
Or a net under-estimate of ... ..	...	£99,906
	<hr/>	
<i>The under-estimates were—</i>	£	
Railways	81,468	
Minister for Works	16,661	
Minister for Mines	4,711	
Minister for Education	1,253	
Residue	2,888	
	<hr/>	£106,981
<i>The over-estimates were—</i>	£	
Minister for Lands	752	
Colonial Secretary	4,378	
Attorney General	888	
Residue	1,057	
	<hr/>	£7,075
		<hr/>
		£99,906
		<hr/>

[No. 2.]

Synopsis of Balance Sheet for 30th June, 1911.

	DR.	£	
Balance on year	13,299	
Sinking Fund	2,888,035	
General Loan Fund	1,029,699	
Savings Bank	4,118,143	
Trust and Deposits Accounts generally	1,465,508	
		<hr/>	£9,514,684
		<hr/>	
	CR.	£	
Advances to be recovered	152,715	
Investments and Sinking Fund	6,989,627	
Stores on hand	419,504	
Cash in hand—			
Savings Bank	111	
Treasury	14,068	
Agricultural Bank Redemption Account	2,366	
Current Accounts	110,066	
Trust Accounts	818,381	
Eastern States	29,409	
London	678,144	
Remittances <i>in transitu</i>	300,293	
		<hr/>	£9,514,684
		<hr/>	

[No. 3.]

Estimated Receipts for Year ending 30th June, 1912.

Heads.						Receipts for Year 1910-11.	1911-12.
STATE.						£	£
Land Tax	...	...	...	...	...	37,871	40,000
Income Tax	...	...	...	...	...	49,579	50,000
Dividend Duty	...	...	...	...	...	84,496	87,000
Totalisator Tax	...	...	...	...	...	7,739	8,000
Stamp Duty	...	...	...	...	...	79,404	79,000
Probate Duty	...	...	...	...	...	23,125	30,000
Licenses	...	...	...	...	...	43,033	43,000
Land	...	...	...	...	...	362,934	367,000
Mining	...	...	...	...	...	38,189	32,100
Railways	...	...	...	...	...	1,858,914	1,950,000
State Batteries	...	...	...	...	...	67,143	81,650
Water Supply	...	...	...	...	...	156,559	178,000
Harbour Dues	...	...	...	...	...	133,692	132,000
Royal Mint	...	...	...	...	...	32,101	32,000
Other Public Works and Services	...	...	...	...	...	70,670	69,363
Reimbursements-in-Aid	...	...	...	...	...	144,086	137,683
Fees of Public Offices	...	...	...	...	...	48,519	47,065
Law Courts	...	...	...	...	...	18,701	18,300
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	24,107	13,250
						3,280,862	3,395,411
COMMONWEALTH.							
Financial Agreement, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	569,578	600,927
Interest on Transferred Properties	...	...	...	...	...	...	40,745
						3,850,440	4,037,083
Balance from Year 1910-11	...	...	...	...	...	...	13,299
Total amount available for Expenditure						...	4,050,382

Details of Commonwealth Receipts.

	£
25s. per capita on estimated population of 295,000 as on 31-12-11	368,750
Special payment to Western Australia	232,177
Interest on transferred properties for two years, being 3 per cent. on £679,086	40,745
Total for the year	641,672
Total amount received from the Commonwealth for the year 1910-11	569,578
Estimated increase for 1911-12	£72,094

						£	£
	Brought forward	..	..	..	..	384,855	90,808
<i>General—continued.</i>							
Mining School .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	5,466	
Crown Law Offices .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	8,647	
Electoral .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	16,349	
Land Titles .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	11,999	
Stipendiary Magistracy .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	28,941	
Supreme Court .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	14,712	
Education .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	232,695	
Colonial Secretary .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	10,917	
Aborigines .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	17,995	
Charities .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	39,965	
Fisheries .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	3,558	
Friendly Societies .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	3,856	
Gaols .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	23,485	
Harbour and Light .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	30,905	
Immigration and Tourist .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	15,189	
Lunacy .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	36,163	
Medical and Health .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	98,245	
Observatory .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	2,612	
Police .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	128,180	
Public Gardens .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	2,289	
Registry .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	9,225	
Parliamentary Expenses .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	3,630	
Law Costs .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	1,000	
London Westminster Bank, Commission .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	3,000	
Survey of N.W. Coast .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	3,750	
Royal Commissions .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	4,226	
Railway Advisory Board .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	1,000	
Incidentals .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	12,187	
Public Works .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	26,720	
Public Buildings, Repairs and Upkeep .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	26,300	
							1,208,061
<i>Revenue Producing Expenditure—</i>							
Royal Mint .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	22,500	
Public Batteries .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	83,555	
Railways .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	1,412,750	
Gwalia Hotel .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	8,100	
Refrigerating Works, Abattoirs, etc. .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	7,830	
							1,534,735
Total Administration .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..		£2,833,604

[No. 5.]

General Expenditure for Year 1911-12.

	£	£	£
Interest and Sinking Fund on Public Debt .. ..	.. ..	1,078,349	
Subsidies to Municipalities .. ..	.. ..	18,000	
<i>Public Works—</i>			
Roads Boards—Subsidies	37,000		
Roads—Revotes	700		
Roads—New	19,000		
Bridges—Revotes	3,365		
Bridges—New	1,000		
Total Roads and Bridges		61,065	
Water Supply, Drainage, etc.—			
Revotes	5,395		
New Works	1,465		
Miscellaneous		6,860	
Total		4,995	
<i>Public Buildings, etc.—</i>			
Schools and Quarters	27,190		
Hospitals	8,722		
Gaols and Quarters	1,362		
Police Stations, etc.	7,565		
Court Houses	1,941		
Lands Offices, etc.	5,924		
Mechanics' Institutes, Halls, etc.	4,250		
Harbour and Light—Quarters	1,192		
Victoria Quay	20,000		
Jetties, Tramways, etc.	19,766		
Various Buildings	10,428		
Total Works and Buildings		108,340	
<i>Railways—</i>			
Relaying Great Southern Railway		12,500	
Total Works and Buildings			193,760
<i>Sundry Grants, etc.—</i>			
Hospitals and Benevolent	5,245		
Fire Brigades	5,871		
National Grants	280		
Cemeteries	500		
Parks and Recreation Grounds	4,000		
Land for Hospitals	1,000		
Land for Schools	100		
Public Libraries	4,150		
W.A. Museum and Art Gallery	3,800		
Horticultural	150		
Zoological Gardens	3,600		
Mechanics' Institutes	2,000		
Literary and Scientific	300		
Various	275		
Total			31,071
Total General Expenditure			£1,321,180

[No. 6.]

Loan Authorisations and Flotations

	£	£
Authorisations to 30th June, 1910	23,527,253	
Do. for 1910-11	2,100,000	
Total Authorisations		25,627,253
Flotations—		
General Loans	19,938,253	
Local Debentures	246,100	
Local Inscribed Stock	3,281,900	
Treasury Bills	711,000	
		24,177,253
Balance available for Flotation		£1,450,000
<i>Actual Loan Indebtedness—</i>		
Gross Debt as on 30th June, 1911	23,527,253	
Flotation during year	650,000	
		24,177,253
<i>Less—</i>		
Bonds redeemed	473,300	
Sinking Fund	2,544,812	
		3,018,112
Net Indebtedness		£21,159,141
Net Public Debt per head of population on 30th June, 1911,		£73 7 10

[No. 7.]

Loan Flotations and Expenditure.

Works and Services.	Flotations.	Actual Cash spent.
	£	£
Railways	13,178,940	12,103,084
Harbours and Rivers	2,955,117	2,733,872
Goldfields Water Scheme	2,903,078	2,689,823
Water Supply Generally	338,244	272,462
Sewerage	599,037	512,310
Erection of State Batteries	228,176	200,149
Development of Goldfields and Mineral Resources	1,209,219	1,071,420
Development of Agriculture	1,424,841	1,381,356
Telegraphs	276,721	269,308
Roads and Bridges	267,508	239,768
Public Buildings	539,238	459,938
Immigration	79,437	36,479
Miscellaneous	177,697	98,133
	£24,177,253	£22,068,102
Cost of Raising		1,068,453
Unexpended Balance		1,040,698
	£24,177,253	£24,177,253

[No. 8.]

Trade, Production, etc.

	1909-10.	1910-11.
Railway Revenue	£1,649,397	£1,858,914
Railway Mileage	2,145	2,376
Wool produced (exported)	£969,904	£1,047,456
*Wheat produced (bushels)	5,602,368	5,897,540
*Hay produced (tons)	195,182	178,891
Gold produced	£6,553,314	£6,003,789
Timber produced (exported)	£907,702	£932,800
Coal produced	£114,487	£104,016
Other Minerals (exported)	£328,471	£155,277
†Number Sheep	4,731,737	5,158,516
†Number Cattle	793,217	825,040
†Number Horses	125,315	134,114
Area of land selected (acres)	1,904,780	1,922,112
Area of land leased (acres)	10,330,373	9,314,310
*†Area of land for cultivation (acres)	4,685,607	5,309,832
*Area of land for crop (acres)	722,086	855,024
Tonnage shipping, Inwards	2,279,852	2,408,803
Tonnage shipping, Outwards	2,271,879	2,419,078
Exports	£8,576,659	£8,177,272
Imports	£6,932,731	£8,450,855
Savings Bank's Deposits	£2,400,099	£3,170,345
Savings Bank's Withdrawals	£2,070,776	£2,667,377
Excess of Arrivals over Departures	2,691	12,013

* Years ended 28th February, 1910 and 1911.

† Years ended 31st December, 1909 and 1910.

‡ Area cropped, cleared, etc.

Legislative Council,*Thursday, 14th December, 1911.*

limit of deviation of proposed railways
(a) from Norseman to Esperance, (b)
through Upper Darling Range.

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CLOSE OF SESSION—NEW BUSINESS.

Hon. Sir F. H. WITTENOOM: If I am in order I should like to point out to the Colonial Secretary that if it is hoped to end the session on Friday week it will be impossible if the Minister continues bringing down new Bills. I do not know how he can do it, even as it is. I only mention this, and perhaps he will convey this remark to the members of the Ministry in another place.

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

PAPERS PRESENTED.

By the Colonial Secretary: 1, Annual report Goldfields Water Supply Administration for the year ended 30th June, 1911; 2, Maps showing centre line and

BILL—LOCAL COURTS ACT AMENDMENT.

Message from the Legislative Assembly received and read notifying that the amendments made by the Council had been agreed to.