

might say that these returns referred to by the hon. member for West Kimberley had often been furnished to that House, but very little information was to be obtained from them. As a matter of fact, the money was handed over by the Government to the heads of the various denominations, who expended it in the way they conceived to be to the best advantage of their respective flocks. He should like to point out that whilst the population of the colony had been increasing by leaps and bounds, this Ecclesiastical Grant had not been increased at all. When we had a population of only 30,000 this grant was as much as it was now, with a population of 54,000, or nearly double. He had taken the trouble to calculate what the grant now amounted to per head of the population, and he found it came to 1s. 4d. per head. That was the extent of the liberality of the colony in providing State aid to religion, the large sum of 1s. 4d. per head of the population.

MR. RICHARDSON said he was tired of listening to these old fusty arguments, year after year, about the duty of the State to provide religion for the people. They were quite worn out, and it was about time we had new ones. The facts were too strong for them. Facts were entirely against this principle all the world over. It was an historical fact, beyond all controversy, that the less a religion depended on State aid the more vitality it possessed. There was nothing more calculated to reduce it to a moribund condition, and to make dead bones of it, than State aid; and he thought it was about time they had done with these old worn-out arguments, which had been exploded long ago.

Vote agreed to.

Progress reported.

ADJOURNMENT.

The House adjourned at 5 o'clock, p.m.

Legislative Assembly,

Wednesday, 17th February, 1892.

Fremantle Harbor Works: report of Select Committee—Married Women's Property Bill: third reading—Police Bill: amendments of Legislative Council—Game Bill: conference with Legislative Council—Drill Instruction in schools—Estimates, 1892—Adjournment.

THE SPEAKER took the chair at 7:30 p.m.

PRAYERS.

FREMANTLE HARBOR WORKS.

REPORT OF SELECT COMMITTEE.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. H. W. Venn) brought up the report of the Joint Committee of both Houses of Parliament on the question of the proposed Harbor Works at Fremantle.

Report received and ordered to be printed.

MARRIED WOMEN'S PROPERTY BILL.

Read a third time and *passed*, and ordered to be transmitted to the Legislative Council, and their concurrence desired therein.

POLICE BILL.

AMENDMENTS OF LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt) said it was just as well that he should explain what the Legislative Council wished in this matter. They had received the following message from the other House:—"The Legislative Council has agreed to amendments Nos. 1 and 3, and 6 to 14 inclusive, made by the Legislative Assembly in the Police Bill, and has disagreed with the amendments Nos. 2, 4, and 5 as indicated by the annexed Schedule. The Legislative Council transmits the reason for not agreeing to amendments Nos. 2, 4, and 5, and returns the bill herewith." The amendments which the Council could not agree to were at page 18 of the Bill, clause 53, line 2, to strike out the words "public place;" at page 18, clause 54, line 2, also to strike out the words "public place," and at page 20, clause 59, line 1, also to strike out the words "public place." The reason given for not agreeing to the

striking out of these words was "because, since the Act has to be administered both by Magistrates and Police, it is advisable to make it clear and easily intelligible." No one, he felt sure, would consider these amendments of any importance; but the Upper House, for some reason or other, seemed to be intent upon having the words left in the bill, although they were quite unnecessary. By the interpretation clause the word "street" was defined to mean road, thoroughfare, street, or public place, and then throughout the bill, instead of repeating these four words every time, the one word "street" was used to denote them all. The same words occurred in all water-works bills, gas bills, and building Acts; and it was always the practice of draughtsmen to use one word to signify the whole of them. The Upper House said that they inserted the words "public place" to make these three clauses more intelligible, but in his opinion their insertion would only tend to confuse magistrates. However, he did not propose to strike out the words again because it was too small a matter to waste time over and send the bill back. He moved that the amendments be agreed to.

MR. CANNING seconded the motion for the reason that although he did not see the necessity of the insertion of the words desired by the Legislative Council, he thought it better to let them go than to waste time over the matter.

Question—That the amendments be agreed to—put and passed.

GAME BILL.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) moved, "That the request of the Legislative Council for a conference on the subject of this bill be acceded to; that the Assembly be represented at the conference by Mr. Burt, Mr. Parker, and Mr. Loton; and that the conference sit on Friday, 19th February, at three o'clock, p.m., in the Committee Room of the Assembly."

Question—put and passed.

DRILL INSTRUCTION IN SCHOOLS.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) moved that the following resolution of the Legislative Council be concurred in:—
"That in the opinion of this House it is

expedient, and would result in much public advantage, that regular drill instruction should be afforded in all boys' schools where means for such instruction can be obtained, and that the Government be requested to take such steps as may be necessary for carrying out the resolution of the House."

Question—put and passed.

ESTIMATES, 1892.

The House resolved itself into a committee of supply for further consideration of the Estimates for 1892.

Literary, Scientific and Agricultural Grants, £2,500:

MR. R. F. SHOLL asked why the item "Victoria Public Library" had been increased from £500 to £1,100.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) said the committee of the Library had pressed on the Government the urgency of increasing the vote in order that they might purchase new books, as there was little money available for purchasing books out of the £500 last year, after salaries and other expenses had been provided for. He had promised to put an increased amount on the Estimates, and therefore submitted to the House this proposal to vote £600 extra for the purchase of books. This increase appeared to be very necessary, as we were getting together gradually a very good library, and one which he hoped would soon be worthy of the colony.

MR. R. F. SHOLL said the vote appeared large, as the library was apparently well stocked already.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) said that the sum voted last year was altogether inadequate. After the expenses had been paid out of it there remained very little for the purchase of books.

MR. CANNING said the library was one of the most useful institutions in Perth, and, perhaps, in the colony. More than twelve months ago he was informed by a gentleman connected with the Press that the library was, to members of his profession, of inestimable value. It supplied works of reference that no newspaper here could collect together for its own use. The Press was a public teacher, and it was very desirable that statements appearing in newspapers should be founded on authority, and in

order to enable this to be accomplished it was necessary that useful and reliable books should be obtainable. They all knew that since the library had been opened it had been extensively used, and in order that it might be maintained and keep pace with the times, funds were required for the purchase of new works. In scientific subjects especially, it was desirable that the most recent and important works should be obtained with the least possible delay.

MR. R. F. SHOLL asked whether, some time ago, £3,000 or £5,000 had not been voted for the erection of the library?

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) said that, speaking from memory, he thought that £3,000 was voted as the colony's contribution towards the Imperial Institute, and he believed that the balance of the £5,000 was used for the purchase of books. Last year was the first time a vote had been passed for the library, and hon. members would see that after the expenses of cleaning, rent, salary of librarian, lighting, &c., had been met, very little remained out of the £500 for the purchase of books.

MR. R. F. SHOLL asked whether the books were insured?

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest): Yes.

MR. TRAYLEN asked whether the Government intended to discriminate in apportioning the £750 among Mechanics' Institutes and Working Men's Associations. One of the institutions in Perth was not being utilised for the intended purposes. The larger part of the building was used as a working men's club. If it were a *bona fide* club used for the benefit of working men, no member of this House would say a word against it, but it had become notorious that this was far more than a working man's club; that it was, in fact, a common public house, run under the name of a club. If hon. members would read the evidence given in the Perth Police Court on the previous day, they would find that the practice of selling grog to anyone who would pay for it must be very common. The building was put up largely at the Government expense; and it did seem monstrous that this House should vote money to sustain an institution which was more demoral-

ising to working men than anything else in Perth, because at almost any hour of the night as well as the day, and even on Sundays, it was possible to find men who were more or less inebriated going in or coming out. It was even said that there was a little building where parties who had differences and felt in a pugnacious humour could go and fight them out. It was not unknown that when a man had reached a condition which would not be creditable to the institution if he were seen going out of the front door, he was quietly put through a back window and dropped on to the railway line. The hon. member hoped the Government would keep a very sharp eye on that institution, and not grant money to it until those undesirable tenants, the Working Men's Club, were got rid of.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) regretted that he could not then inform the hon. member whether this institution had got a contribution last year from this vote, but he would furnish the information at another time. As to this year, he could promise the House that he should require very good evidence before any contribution was made to the institution referred to, unless it reformed itself and showed that it was not, as it was said to be, a drinking place where men could get drunk at all hours. It was not for the Government to subsidise places of that sort.

MR. PARKER asked if there was any list showing how the £750 was to be expended among Mechanics' Institutes and Working Men's Associations. The reason he asked was that when he was at Albany he was told that the Government had given £200 towards the building of the Mechanics' Institute there.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) said that small grants were made to these institutions in various towns, and grants were also made in aid of buildings or extensions where the greater part of the money was raised locally.

MR. DE HAMEL said a small grant of £200 in aid of the Albany Mechanics' Institute building, which had been referred to, was not much in comparison with the £1,500 which was proposed to be spent on additions to the building, and which sum it was intended to raise locally.

MR. MOLLOY said that as to the Working Men's Association in Perth, it was within his knowledge that an endeavor had been made to dispossess those objectionable tenants for some time past, and a certain process had been initiated which would take effect directly.

MR. SYMON asked how much of the £750 went to Fremantle?

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) said he could not say off hand.

MR. TRAYLEN asked how the item £50 for Perth Museum was spent? Was it expended on the museum itself, or did it go towards the general funds? If it did not go to the museum he thought it would be better to give the money to Albany, or would it not be better to make a general museum in connection with the Geological Museum? As things were now, if the Government wanted samples they sent to the museum for them, and cases had been known where gentlemen had given samples, and then subsequently had asked for them back again. He hoped some better arrangement would be made for the future.

MR. PARKER asked how item 4—"Agricultural and Horticultural Societies, £600"—was proposed to be spent? He thought the time had arrived when the rules of societies which were subsidised should be subject to the approval of the Government. He saw that there was an increase of £75 on the item.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) said the usual contribution to these societies was £25, and the reason of the increase was on account of the establishment of new societies—one at Broome Hill, one at Katanning, and another at Northam.

Vote agreed to.

Pensions, £4,338 6s. 11d.:

MR. MOLLOY called attention to item 37—"G. W. Leake, Police Magistrate, Perth, £386." He said that this item gave him an opportunity of saying a few words. The gentleman to whom this pension was payable happened to occupy the peculiar position of being a member of the Upper House, and in his place in that House, and under the hedge of its privileges, he took the opportunity, in a recent discussion, in the first instance, of attacking the judges of the Supreme Court and alleging that they were corrupt.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest): Is the hon. member in order in referring to a debate in the Upper House?

THE CHAIRMAN: I think the hon. member is out of order.

MR. A. FORREST referred to the item £125 payable to G. B. Humble, schoolmaster, Fremantle. He said that this pensioner occupied the positions of clerk to the Town Council and secretary to a large building society, and if he were able to perform these responsible duties outside of his Government duties, surely he must be also capable of carrying out the duties of schoolmaster. Why should he receive a pension as a schoolmaster because he was no longer able to perform the duties of his office, and yet be acting in these two other important positions, for which he was also paid?

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) said the gentleman had applied to be retired on the score of ill health, and his plea was supported by medical certificates that he was no longer able to carry on the duties of his office. He had performed 30 years' service; therefore an application for leave to retire on a pension, supported by medical certificates, was in such a case deserving of consideration.

MR. RICHARDSON said that anyone who had taught boys in school for 30 years, with all the worry of that work, was deserving of a pension anyhow.

Vote passed.

Refunds, £600:

Passed.

Miscellaneous Services, £25,337 15s. 9d.:

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) said it was the intention of the Government to strike out item 19—"Increase to Ministerial Salaries £1,000"—as they did not think such a vote would be in accordance with the terms of the Constitution Act. If there was still a desire to increase the ministerial salaries it must be done by bill.

MR. PARKER, on the item "Queen's Plate at Perth and Roebourne, £200," said that two or three years ago he proposed to strike out this item. It was recognised in Perth that a three-mile weight-for-age race did no good whatever. There was little interest in it, and it did not tend to improve the breed of horses. It might be a good thing to maintain the item so far as Roebourne was concerned,

but it did no good whatever in Perth. To test the feeling of the committee he would move to strike out the £100 for Perth. He had spoken to many racing men on the subject, and they were all of opinion that this £100 was quite unnecessary so far as racing in the metropolis was concerned.

MR. A. FORREST said he would oppose the amendment. The Queen's Plate had been an institution in the colony for the last 30 years, and why it should be done away with now he failed to see. Surely a three-mile race was a good thing to encourage the breed of horses. He wanted to see horses able to run long races. The hon. member for York had stated that this vote was unnecessary; but he challenged the statement. The £100 a year was a great help to the Club. If, however, the item was to be struck out for Perth, it should also be struck out for Roebourne, because they should follow some principle in these matters.

MR. PARKER said that, after consideration, he thought the money must have already been spent, and therefore he would not press the striking out of the item. On the Estimates for 1893, however, he would move to strike the vote out, and he now gave full notice of his intention to do so. He did not think members of the racing club would consider him an enemy, but he had it on the authority of officials of the Club that the three-mile race was a farce, and besides which it was somewhat of a cruel race, especially in the summer time.

MR. R. F. SHOLL said he would like to know what was the use of bringing forward an estimate if the money was already spent.

MR. RICHARDSON said that the old-fashioned idea that racing improved the breed of horses was very nearly extinct. If a person wanted to get a good and useful animal, a racehorse was about the last animal he would pick.

MR. PARKER said he thought it would be better if instead of having the vote of the previous year before them, they had the actual expenditure.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) said that next year he hoped to be able to give the vote for the previous year, the actual expenditure and the estimate for the following year. It could not be done this year owing to the exigencies of time.

MR. R. F. SHOLL asked, under item 5—"Subsidy Coastal Steam Service to North-West, £8,000"—when the contract with the Adelaide Steamship Company expired. He thought the time had arrived when these subsidies should be done away with.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) said there was a five years agreement.

MR. A. FORREST asked if any steps had been taken towards having a larger class of boat trading between Cossack and Derby. The matter was brought forward last session, but nothing had been done.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) said he was not aware of it.

MR. A. FORREST said he himself had drawn attention to it.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest): And what was said?

MR. A. FORREST: You said you would look into the matter.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt) said no class of boats was specified in the contract, except that certain accommodation must be provided.

MR. R. F. SHOLL asked whether the £500 provided last year for telegrams on public service was found to be sufficient.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) said it was not, and the difference would be provided for in the Excess Bill. £700 was asked for, for 1892. Since the present form of Government had come into force there had been an increase in the number of cable messages on the subject of loans and other matters, but it was money well spent. He could assure hon. members that the Government did not spend more on telegrams than was absolutely necessary.

MR. MOLLOY asked whether some details could not be given as to the item "Incidental Expenses, £2,500."

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) said the vote covered everything which was not specifically provided for on the Estimates.

MR. MOLLOY said he would like to know how, under these circumstances, the amount was arrived at.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) said it was an estimate based on the experiences of past years.

MR. RICHARDSON said that what he thought the hon. member really

wanted to know was how much had been spent last year.

MR. MOLLOY said he was quite competent to ask for any information he wanted himself, without interference from the hon. member. He was quite satisfied with the explanation given by the Premier.

MR. RICHARDSON said he would try to bear the hon. member's rebuke, and profit by it in the future.

MR. TRAYLEN, on the item "Gratuity to Fire Brigade, Perth, £20, and Fremantle £20," said he hoped it would be found possible to increase in future the amounts given as gratuities to fire brigades.

MR. A. FORREST thought this was a matter more for the insurance companies than the Government, as it was for their protection that the fire brigades existed.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt) said that the insurance companies would do nothing. If he were framing these Estimates he would not give anything to fire brigades, and it only showed how grandmotherly their legislation was. If he were on the other side of the House, he would move that these two items be struck out.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. W. E. Marmion) asked if something more than the mere destruction of property was not saved—if, after all, life was not often saved.

MR. R. F. SHOLL said perhaps the Government would give the committee some information on the items "Report on Pearl Shell and other Fisheries, £1,000," and "Inspection of Sharks Bay Pearl Shell Fishery, £500."

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) said that it was proposed to obtain the services of Mr. Saville-Kent, who had been engaged on the fisheries of Queensland for the last two or three years. He had explained, some time ago when he made a statement regarding the finances of the colony, the intention of the Government in this matter, and now they asked for a vote to carry out this intention. They proposed to ask for the vote next year also. The Government were not in any way bound to Mr. Saville-Kent unless the House approved of the vote. At the same time, he considered it was a very necessary vote. If the item was approved of by the House, Mr. Kent would be here in a very few months.

MR. RICHARDSON asked whether the efforts of Mr. Saville-Kent in Queensland had been a financial success?

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) believed they had. The success of the edible oyster fisheries there had been due principally to his exertions.

MR. CANNING did not think Mr. Saville-Kent could bring into existence oysters where there were none now, and, therefore, he considered it would be very much better to close the banks altogether for a time. He moved that the sum should be reduced by £900.

MR. H. W. SHOLL agreed with the member for East Perth. His experience of pearl-fishing led him to believe that this grant would do no good at all. If this £1,000 had been expended in years past in supervision to prevent the removal of immature shell, it would have been different.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt) considered that this was a most important vote. If the hon. member for East Perth had read Mr. Saville-Kent's reports, he would probably have had a different opinion. This gentleman was capable, and had re-planted oyster beds where oysters had altogether disappeared. He could also tell where to plant fresh beds, and if they could get a man to tell them where to propagate oysters, how to put the beds down and preserve them, the thousand pounds would be well spent.

MR. HARPER said that in Tasmania, where Mr. Saville-Kent was first introduced, he was extremely successful with the cultivation of oysters. His success led to his being employed by the Government of Victoria, and subsequently the Government of New South Wales engaged his services. He had, therefore, had a large amount of experience. He considered that it was desirable that they should know very much more than they did about the fisheries, and he had much pleasure in supporting the vote.

The amendment—to reduce the vote—negatived.

MR. R. F. SHOLL said he noticed an item, "Reward to David Stinton for discovery of tin, £250." In his opinion it was a very dangerous precedent to set, that every man who discovered tin should have a reward from the Government for it. This gentleman was, he thought, very well rewarded by the amount he got

from the shares in the Bunbury Tin Mining Co., some of which hon. members, unfortunately for themselves, had purchased. If they passed this they would have every man who discovered a mineral asking to be dealt with in a similar manner.

MR. A. FORREST hoped the vote would be reduced. He could not bring his mind to vote a reward to a man who floated a company which took some hon. members in.

SIR J. G. LEE STEERE said that, as he was somewhat responsible for this item being placed on the Estimates, he ought to say a few words. David Stinton was a modest, unassuming young man, and was the original discoverer of the field, but was too modest to ask for any reward. The settlers, however, thought he was deserving of a reward, and a numerous-signed petition was sent to him in favor of it. Acting on the principle of rewards to goldfields, he thought the Government, in placing this reward on the Estimates, had done right, the tinfields having been of as much use to the Southern districts as the goldfields had been to the other districts of the colony.

MR. R. F. SHOLL said he was still of the same opinion, that this was a most dangerous principle, and he proposed to strike the item out.

MR. COOKWORTHY said that the great hopes of the colony were centred in their minerals, and every encouragement should be given for their discovery.

MR. RICHARDSON said he did not agree that this was by any means a dangerous precedent. On the contrary he thought it a very valuable one. It was an inducement to men to prospect if they knew that if they discovered anything their efforts would be rewarded. He did not know for the moment what the value of the tin exported was.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest): Between £20,000 and £30,000.

MR. RICHARDSON said that under these circumstances he did not think the amount of the proposed reward was very extravagant.

MR. QUINLAN said he knew Mr. Stinton, and felt certain that the effort he had made and the perseverance he had shown in prospecting entitled him to some reward.

MR. SIMPSON said he had much pleasure in supporting the vote on principle, but he did not know that Mr. Stinton was the person entitled to it.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) said it was undisputed that Mr. Stinton was the first discoverer of tin in this colony.

MR. SIMPSON said he knew of one man who did not admit it, and that was Mr. Burnett. He supposed, however, that the Government were well advised on the matter. He thought in future that the Government, in offering rewards of this kind, should add a proviso that the money should not be paid over unless the discovery proved payable.

The amendment—to strike out the item—was negatived.

MR. THROSSELL said he did not know how the amount of £5,000 subsidy to Municipal Councils had been arrived at. £5,000 would cover £10,000 of Municipal income. He believed the incomes of Perth, Fremantle, and Guildford Municipalities were together about £9,000, and therefore there would be very little left out of the subsidy for country municipalities. Ten shillings in the pound would give Newcastle £38 and Northam only about £80, and therefore he thought special grants should be made to country municipalities. In his own municipality the roads were greatly used by persons going to the goldfields, and under these circumstances he thought they should have a special grant.

MR. QUINLAN did not think country municipalities should have any advantage over those of Perth and Fremantle. He rather thought that the capital should have the advantage, because people who came to the colony judged it by the appearance of its capital. Perth would only receive a trifle over £2,000 out of this subsidy, and he trusted that if the Government were going to favor any particular district they would not forget Perth.

MR. DE HAMEL said that, judging from the remarks of the hon. member, he assumed the position of a mere delegate for Perth. To him it was positively degrading. They were met together to do good for the colony, and not to fight for any particular district. He pointed out that if they adopted such miserable, pettifogging local ideas, they would

have to apply to the Government for £10,000 for Albany, where visitors first arrived, then £2,000 or £3,000 to Fremantle, and only £1,000 for Perth. But they were not dealing with matters in this way. They were dealing with a general principle—a principle which had been adopted in the other colonies. When the money was handed over he should like the Government to insist on the money being spent on certain defined works, as had been done in South Australia.

MR. QUINLAN said he resented the remarks of the hon. member. He was not there as a mere delegate. He simply pointed out that the colony was judged by its capital, and that therefore the Perth Municipality was entitled to more consideration than the country municipalities. Besides this the ratepayers were more heavily taxed and the cost of material was greater than in the country districts.

MR. MOLLOY said that one reason why Perth had a greater claim than other towns was on account of the larger amount of Government property in the city adjacent to which the Municipal Council had to keep the roads and paths in repair without receiving any rates whatever from the Government. He thought, however, that the ratepayers were satisfied with what the Government had done for this year.

MR. DE HAMEL said he could not follow this reasoning, for, although the Government property did not pay rates, inside the buildings were large numbers of civil servants, who were paid by the Government, and who spent the money in Perth, and to the benefit of the city. These clerks and others all required houses, and consequently the city was very much benefited. Although it did not get rates from the Government directly, it got them indirectly.

MR. LOTON said the whole question was one of principle. Was it a good thing to subsidise Municipal Councils? He thought it was, and he should support the vote.

MR. PARKER said he quite agreed with the hon. members for Perth that it was well to do all they could to improve Perth and make it a desirable place, which could be shown to visitors with pride. But this had nothing to do with the pre-

sent vote, which was proposed to be given to enable municipalities to keep up their roads and bridges, and make their paths more passable than they were at present. That being so, he could not help thinking that the Government had adopted the only plan they could to deal fairly with the municipalities all round, by giving a subsidy in proportion to the rates raised by the people. If they departed from this principle there would be endless disputes. He would like to ask the Premier whether it was the intention of the Government to award the municipalities anything out of the road vote, and whether it was proposed to distribute that allowance in proportion to the amount raised. He thought if this principle prevailed with regard to the sum of £5,000, it should be adopted in regard to the road vote also.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) said that this was a matter which had not yet been finally decided, but, as far as he knew then, there was no intention of disturbing the arrangements hitherto existing as to the distribution of the road vote. He did not think it would be practicable, because in some towns the length of the main road was greater than in others. In Geraldton there was no less than five or six miles of main road running through the town, and it would be very unfair to make the distribution there on the basis of the rates raised in the municipality.

MR. PARKER asked with regard to the municipal subsidies, whether it was intended to give 10s. in the pound on the total rates, or only on the general rate.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest): On the general rate only.

MR. R. F. SHOLL said that he noticed it proposed to take further roads into the bush. If this were to be the case it would be better if the Perth Municipality had none of the vote. It was said that we should make Perth attractive to visitors, but how was this to be done if the central portions of the city were left in their present disgraceful state, while further roads were being made into the bush? The argument that Perth possessed a greater claim than other municipalities would not hold water, for a great deal had already been done for the city by the Government. The city had had a present made to it of a beautiful town

hall, and there was a recreation ground made out of Government funds, and there was a magnificent post office, which were all advantages not possessed by other municipalities.

MR. MOLLOY said he had already stated that the ratepayers of Perth were perfectly satisfied with what the Government had done. They would like to see the subsidy pound for pound, but still they were satisfied with ten shillings in the pound as a commencement.

MR. A. FORREST said he hoped the Government would see that the subsidy was spent in the wards according to the rates levied.

MR. LOTON said that that would involve the Government in too much detail. Surely the country could trust the representatives of the ratepayers to spend the money properly. If they could not, they should not be trusted with the vote at all.

MR. CLARKSON agreed with the necessity that existed for beautifying the capital. Recently, when driving through the streets, he was perfectly astonished at the disgraceful condition they were in.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) moved that item 19—"Addition to Ministerial Salaries, £1,000"—be omitted.

Question—put and passed.

The vote as reduced was then agreed to.
Crown Law Offices, £695:

MR. R. F. SHOLL asked what work was provided for the clerks in the Crown Solicitor's and Attorney General's departments when those officers were absent from the colony. He knew that when the Attorney General was in England the greatest difficulty was experienced in finding something to do for his clerk. He could not see why, when the Attorney General or the Crown Solicitor was absent from the colony, some useful work could not be found for the clerk who was left behind, instead of leaving him to seek amusement in the police court, or doing the work of the clerk of the court while that officer amused himself elsewhere.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt) explained that the clerk of the Police Court, after obtaining leave of absence, had sent in his resignation, and the work was being done by the other clerk, who had been referred to as going there for amusement.

Vote agreed to.

Supreme Court, £3,130:

MR. R. F. SHOLL said he presumed the £350 put down for an Official Receiver was in consequence of the new Bankruptcy Act.

MR. PARKER said he believed it was the intention of the Government to appoint a solicitor to this position. If so, the salary was not sufficient to warrant any gentleman of ability in accepting the post without the right of private practice, and it was questionable whether it was advisable to allow this.

MR. CANNING said he agreed that it would be most undesirable to allow the gentleman who occupied such a position to engage in private practice.

MR. DE HAMEL also agreed with the hon. member who had just spoken. The official receivers in England were not allowed to practise.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt): That is just what they do.

MR. DE HAMEL said he begged to differ from the hon. gentleman. They were absolutely precluded from undertaking any private practice. Here the Official Receiver would not have more than a month's work to do in the year, and £350 was, therefore, an ample salary. If it were found that the bankruptcies increased, then the salary could be increased.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt) said he had been waiting to get in a word of explanation. If he could have spoken sooner it would have saved the last two speeches, for it was not proposed for one moment to allow the gentleman who occupied this position to engage in private practice. One hon. member had said that because there was not much work the salary was ample; but if they engaged a professional man, and precluded him from doing anything else, it would be no satisfaction to him to tell him that because he had nothing to do he must be content with a small salary. He was afraid that before the Estimates were passed, he would have to ask the House to agree to an increase to this item.

MR. R. F. SHOLL said it was absolutely necessary that a professional gentleman should be appointed to this position, both in the interests of economy and in the interests of the people who had to surrender their estate; but to expect to

get such a professional gentleman for £350 a year was absurd.

MR. A. FORREST also objected to the Official Receiver being allowed private practice. He hoped that if the Government were going to appoint a gentleman from outside the colony, they would take care to know all about him.

MR. DE HAMEL said that it would form part of the duty of the Official Receiver to recommend when a bankrupt should be prosecuted. If the Receiver were allowed private practice it might be that he would have to recommend the prosecution of his own client, and this would be very undesirable.

MR. CANNING said that in the other colonies the official assignee was never a professional man but a man well up in mercantile pursuits.

The vote was then agreed to.

Stipendiary Magistracy, £11,542:

MR. A. FORREST asked what the intention of the Government was with regard to the appointment of a magistrate for West Kimberley.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt) said it was most difficult to get gentlemen to go to the Northern parts of the colony, but they would make an appointment as soon as possible.

MR. R. F. SHOLL said he would like to know what necessity there was for the item "Magistrate for Katanning at £315." He noticed also there was £100 for a clerk. Considering that the Williams was also supplied with a magistrate and a clerk, he did not see the necessity for this item. He was under the impression that as railways increased a great many of these items could be done away with. If a magistrate were required at Katanning, he did not see why the magistrates at Albany and York could not do the work between them. He moved that the item be struck out.

MR. DE HAMEL seconded the motion. Last year they voted £500 for a police station at Katanning, and this year £275 more was provided. Altogether this year the country was to pay £1,985 for the support of Katanning to the Government. Up to the present the magistrate at the Williams had done all the work for £425, and he could not see the necessity of the increased expenditure now proposed, especially when the magistrates of York

and Albany could be made easily available for the work. The minor cases could be taken by honorary justices. He thought the stipendiary magistracy throughout the colony required re-organisation. The magistrate at Albany was also Sub-Treasurer, Sub-Collector, and Public Prosecutor. Whenever there was a case under the Customs Act, this gentleman had to leave the bench and act as prosecutor. He thought the Collector of Customs should appoint his own officers, leaving the magistrate to deal with cases that came before the court.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) said he explained, the other evening, what the intentions of the Government were. He stated that the magistrate and medical officer at the Williams was about to proceed on leave for nine months, and that, although he did not propose to disturb the item, it was intended to make some arrangement by which the magistrate should be transferred to Katanning, which was becoming the centre of a large agricultural district. The hon. member did not say a word about this explanation, but asked the committee to believe this was altogether a new appointment. The magistrate who would be stationed at Katanning would have Kojonup, Broome Hill, and Williams to attend to. No large extra expenditure would be incurred, and the convenience to the public would be very great.

MR. CLARKSON said he could not support this item because he thought there were already too many magistrates in the colony, most of whom did not know how to fill in their time. He found that the magistrate at Fremantle was doing the work in his own district besides that of Perth and Guildford, and he had that gentleman's own word for saying he was doing it very comfortably. If this could be done in the towns, it could be done in the country.

MR. PIESSE hoped hon. members would allow this item to remain, for a magistrate was absolutely necessary for so large a district. Twelve thousand five hundred acres of land had already been taken up and seven families were already residing on their land. At Katanning the population was 160, and there were 450 people within a radius of 10 miles. This, he thought, warranted the expenditure, especially as it was in-

tended to do away with the magistrate at the Williams.

MR. R. F. SHOLL said they now proposed to take a magistrate from where there was no railway to where there was one. It was more desirable that a magistrate should be kept at the Williams than at Katanning, because the latter place could be served from York or Albany. This vote seemed to him to be a gross abuse of power. Then there was £100 down for a clerk, but he noticed that in other places only £10 was provided.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest): They are police constables.

MR. R. F. SHOLL did not think constables should be appointed to these positions. Where clerks were necessary they should be paid properly.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest): We will take a note of that.

MR. DE HAMEL said he supported a vote the other night for a medical officer at Katanning, because he thought such was necessary in the case of sickness, but he saw no necessity for this appointment. It was said there were 300 or 400 people in the district, but it was giving them very bad characters to say that they wanted all this money for police and magistrates. Perhaps in two or three years time the appointment of a magistrate at Katanning might be warranted, but such was not the case at the present time.

MR. PARKER asked whether he was to understand that the Magistrate at Katanning was to take the place of the Magistrate at the Williams entirely.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest): That is the idea.

MR. PARKER said there could be no doubt that the Government would carry this item if the committee was assured that it was not intended to have two magistrates. He could not agree with the hon. member for Albany that it would be wrong to deprive the Williams of its magistrate; because, to his mind, we should keep the magistrates where the population was. He took it that the magistrate at Katanning would be more of an agent than anything else, who would show intending settlers the land and supply them with plans and things of that sort.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt) said it was intended to do away

with the magistracy at the Williams and re-establish it at Katanning. Surely it was for the Government to say where they wanted this officer located.

MR. LOTON said that after the distinct assurance which had been given by the Government he could not see what they could do other than to agree to the vote. There were not to be two magistrates, and the Government should be in the best position to know where the one was most required. He did not know that a magistrate at Katanning would be in any better position to do his work than if he were stationed at the Williams. From the latter place he could attend the Mooradong district, which was of much more importance than that of Katanning. However, the responsibility rested with the Government.

MR. R. F. SHOLL said that after what he had heard he was still of opinion that this vote was not necessary, and if he were alone on the question he would divide the House.

MR. PIESSE said that, as the representative of the Williams district, he asked for this change, and if he were not assured that it would meet with the approval of his constituents he would not do so. The number of people who resided at the Williams some time ago was 125, but now the number had dwindled down to 45, and there were 11 unoccupied houses there. This showed that the business had followed the railway. He would not ask the House for the change unless he was sure that his constituents approved of it.

Question—That the item be omitted from the Estimates—put.

The Committee divided.

Ayes	10
Noes	12

Majority against 2

AYES.	NOES.
Mr. Canning	Mr. Burt
Mr. Clarkson	Mr. Cookworthy
Mr. Darlot	Mr. A. Forrest
Mr. De Hamel	Mr. Hassell
Mr. Molloy	Mr. Loton
Mr. Phillips	Mr. Parker
Mr. Quinlan	Mr. Paterson
Mr. H. W. Sholl	Mr. Piesse
Mr. Simpson	Sir J. G. Lee Steere
Mr. R. F. Sholl (Teller).	Mr. Throssell
	Mr. Venn
	Sir John Forrest (Teller).

Question—put and negatived.

Item agreed to,

Mr. R. F. SHOLL moved that item 39—"Clerk to magistrate, Katanning, £100"—be struck out.

Mr. LOTON said he noticed there was also an item of £55 for a clerk at the Williams. That salary would not, under the arrangement proposed by the Government, be drawn, and it would therefore be available for the payment of the salary of the clerk at Katanning.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt) said the Government did not know exactly what would be done, but the two salaries would not be drawn together. The gentleman who received the £55 at the Williams was also telegraphist. Surely hon. members could trust the Government with the expenditure of a paltry £100. It did not follow that because it was voted it would be spent.

The amendment to strike out the item was negatived.

The vote was then agreed to.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) moved that progress be reported.

Question—put and passed.

ADJOURNMENT.

The House adjourned at 11:30 o'clock, p.m.

Legislative Assembly,

Thursday, 18th February, 1892.

Floating of second instalment of Loan—Northern Goldfields: Funds available for development of—Further assistance to the Midland Railway Company—Equipment of Midland Railway and selection of lands—Bullen's Railway Platform—Rewards for Destruction of Eagle-hawks—Leave of absence—Printing a return showing Expenditure by Midland Railway Company—Customs Laws Consolidation Bill: second reading—Estimates, 1892: further consideration of—Adjournment.

THE SPEAKER took the chair at 7:30 p.m.

PRAYERS.

FLOATING OF SECOND INSTALMENT OF LOAN.

Mr. CANNING: I wish, with leave, without notice, to ask the Premier

whether the Government is prepared to give this House any information with regard to the floating of the second instalment of £250,000 of the authorised loan? Telegrams, paragraphs, and leading articles have appeared in the newspapers referring to this matter and discussing it, but no intimation whatever has been made to this House on the subject; and I wish to ask the hon. gentleman, if I may be permitted to do so, whether the Government is prepared to give this House any information on the subject?

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest): I shall only be too glad to tell the House all I know, but I think members already possess all the information we have on the subject. The Government published, in the Press of the colony, full information relating to this loan, and I do not know that I have anything further to add. The loan (£250,000) was placed on the market at a minimum of £99; it realised £99 2s.; and it was fully subscribed.

FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF GOLDFIELDS.

MR. RICHARDSON, in accordance with notice, asked the Director of Public Works—

1. Whether any funds were now available for the development of goldfields.

2. Whether any applications for money to improve the water supply on Nullagine, Marble Bar, or Ashburton fields had lately been received; and if they could be granted.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. H. W. Venn): In reply to the hon. member, I have to state—

1. There are funds available for the development of goldfields.

2. The following grants have been made during 1891:

Well at Petermurra (balance of cost) ...	£	s.	d.
For expenditure by War-den—			
Wells, &c., Nullagine ...	400	0	0
Do. Western Shaw ...	250	0	0
Ashburton — For expenditure by Roads Board on Water Supply on road to Fields ...	200	0	0