

THE CHAIRMAN: We had not dealt with the second part of Standing Order 296, "and the original amendments made by the Council insisted upon."

HON. J. W. HACKETT: It did not allow one to introduce the third alternative, that the Bill might be laid aside.

SIR E. H. WITTENOOM: It seemed to him there was nothing else to do but to draw up reasons why we disagreed with the message from the Legislative Assembly.

HON. M. L. MOSS: We had undoubtedly to appoint a committee to draw up reasons, and he thought we could do that to-morrow. He moved that progress be reported, with the object of appointing a committee to draw up reasons.

Progress reported and leave given to sit again.

ADJOURNMENT.

The House adjourned at 6'42 o'clock, until the next day.

Legislative Assembly,

Wednesday, 3rd December, 1902.

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THE DEPUTY SPEAKER took the Chair at 2'30 o'clock, p.m.

PRAYERS.

PAPERS PRESENTED.

By the MINISTER FOR WORKS: Alteration to Classification and Rate Book relating to conditions and regulations under which telephone messages will be accepted for transmission over Govern-

ment Railway telephone lines; to discharge of ballast at the Albany Jetty; to sectional season tickets; to return excess fare tickets.

Ordered: To lie on the table.

QUESTION—FRIENDLY SOCIETIES BILL.

MR. HOPKINS asked the Premier: If he will arrange for the Friendly Societies Act Amendment Bill to be considered this week.

THE PREMIER replied: Yes.

QUESTION—HEALTH ACT, TO AMEND.

MR. HOPKINS asked the Premier: When is it intended to introduce the promised amendment of the Health Act to make District Boards elective?

THE PREMIER replied: The matter cannot be dealt with this session.

REPORT—STOCK REGULATIONS COMMITTEE.

MR. J. J. HIGHAM brought up the report of the select committee.

Report received, and ordered to be printed.

REPORT—KALGOORLIE ELECTRIC LIGHT AND POWER SPECIAL LEASE COMMITTEE.

MR. W. ATKINS brought up the report of the select committee.

Report received, and ordered to be printed.

ANNUAL ESTIMATES.

IN COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY.

Resumed from the previous sitting; MR. ILLINGWORTH in the Chair.

COLONIAL SECRETARY'S DEPARTMENT (resumed).

Police, £130,448 2s. 6d.:

MR. MORAN again referred to the advisability of the Government giving early consideration to the question of properly policing the Kimberley district, and to the settlement of the newly explored Kimberley country. The police were more necessary in those North-West parts than they were in Perth. He honestly believed that there we had the finest cattle country in the world. We were badly in need of cattle country

in Australia. We were paying a grievous price for meat, and, he believed, through nobody's fault, but from scarcity. Too much could not be done to make secure, or as nearly secure as possible, the lives of those pioneers who had accomplished so much for Australia, the small and struggling squatters, and the big squatters also. A man taking up new country and going there would take his life in his hand. It was undesirable—and he knew he did not altogether agree with a great many Kimberley people—to allow unrestricted collisions between the blacks and the whites there. The old pioneers would probably maintain that they could do without police, and perhaps they could; but the Government must not look at the matter in that light. The chief source of trouble in Kimberley had been the means of escape to unknown country impassable to whites. The whole territory should be effectively policed, if necessary with the assistance of black troopers: then the natives would recognise that their only escape was to the central desert. The Government might consider whether the towns could not do with fewer uniformed police. The detective branch ought to be strengthened, since it dealt most effectually with city crime. In the Kimberleys the uniformed man, who was known and respected by the natives, answered better. The police throughout the North-West were a body of men admirable in every respect, and were favourably regarded by both blacks and whites; indeed, the whites complained that the blacks reposed too great a degree of confidence in the police. He hoped that under the *régime* of the present Colonial Secretary the administration of the new Kimberleys would be on a higher level than any hitherto known in Australia.

MR. WALLACE: Having spent several years in the northern parts of Queensland nearly a quarter of a century ago, he was in a position to state that the same trouble had existed there as was now experienced in our North-West. In Queensland, good work was done by stationing a sub-inspector with from six to 10 black troopers in each district, the forces patrolling to meet each other at certain points. Although occasionally serious depredations were committed, the squatters were fairly well protected.

Blacks in the Queensland Gulf country, when he was there, were wild and murderous. They killed on various occasions two sub-inspectors and five or six black troopers; eventually, however, a volunteer party comprising a number of native troopers dispersed the wild blacks in the manner then usual in Queensland. The fact of black troopers joining in such an expedition showed that they were trustworthy for the protection of the lives and property of whites. The patrol system must have been in the mind of the Minister last year, since the previous session's Estimates showed an item of £500 for a police patrol in the Kimberley District. The idea of £500 being adequate for the work, however, was preposterous; that sum would not keep a Queensland police camp, consisting of a white officer with from six to ten black troopers and from twenty to thirty horses, for three months. From an article lately published in the newspapers he had learnt that numbers of small squatters in the Kimberleys were losing so much stock through native depredations that they were selling out to the larger squatters. Thus the very men whom we ought to encourage were being wiped out, owing to insufficient police protection. For the past 13 or 14 years the northern squatters had asked for protection, but none had been given. The suggestion that the number of police in cities should be reduced was unwise, in view of the number of crimes committed.

MR. MORAN: But these were mainly crimes which the uniformed police could not be expected to cope with.

MR. WALLACE: That argument had considerable force. Perhaps the best course would be to increase the strength of the plain-clothes police. Three or four years ago Sir John Forrest had boasted that by one stroke of the pen he had saved £28,000 a year on the police vote. The right hon. gentleman had favourably compared the cost of the police in this State with the cost in Victoria; but the comparison was foolish, because not population but area governed the question. The conditions of life in Victoria were not comparable with those in Western Australia. He was glad to learn from the Minister that our police vote per head exceeded that of Victoria: indeed, this must necessarily be so. He

hoped that during recess the Minister would go into the question with his able Commissioner of Police, and devise some means of affording protection to the northern squatters, who would otherwise be compelled to resort to old Queensland practices.

MR. MORAN: Those practices had never been resorted to in this country.

MR. WALLACE: The contention was not that they had been but that they might be resorted to. In the back blocks of Queensland men without police protection protected themselves. To reduce crime, enough police officers must be provided to keep the natives in subjection.

MR. JACOBY: Comparing these Estimates with the cost of the police force in other States, the reason for our enormous expenditure was obvious. We had an undue proportion of highly paid officers such as inspectors and sub-inspectors; whereas Queensland had one inspector to 36 men, South Australia one to 49, Victoria one to 38, New South Wales one to 39, while we had one to 32, or a total of 16 inspectors for 505 men. A material reduction could here be effected.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: Surely not.

MR. JACOBY: Why not? Consider the other States. As to sergeants and corporals, the case was worse. He particularly objected to inspectors being appointed from outside the service. Such posts should be reserved for deserving constables who had risen from the ranks.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: How many outside appointments?

MR. JACOBY: Only recently a military man, Inspector Munchin, had been appointed.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: And had since left.

MR. JACOBY: The constables did the real work of the force, and this State did not require more inspectors than were needed elsewhere. Highly-paid billets had been created for a few favoured persons with no previous knowledge of police work. There had been too much of that.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: Not under the present Commissioner.

MR. JACOBY: The bungling during the Royal Visit showed that police officers would be far more efficient did they work

their way up in the force. To carry out his duties an officer must be *au fait* with every branch of the service. Reduce the inspectors by four, giving one inspector to 40 men. The bad organisation of the department made one look with suspicion on the Commissioner, who would in future be closely watched. Far better save the £800 or so paid to unnecessary officers, and increase the constables in the Kimberleys, as suggested by the member for West Perth (Mr. Moran).

MR. DAGLISH disagreed with the previous speaker as to the cause of the large expenditure on this vote, and as to the force being over-officered. The area of the State must be considered. One inspector to 40 constables would be sufficient where the men were concentrated in a small area, while in a large district adequate supervision by one inspector might be impossible.

MR. JACOBY: In Queensland the conditions were similar.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: Certainly not.

MR. DAGLISH: Surely travelling facilities by rail and boat were much greater in Queensland than here.

MR. MORAN: The whole of our settlement, except on the goldfields, was on the coast.

MR. DAGLISH: On the fields, the wide distances the officers must cover took up much time. Even the distance between Coolgardie and Kalgoorlie necessitated an inspector in each town; and the same remark applied to contiguous districts. True, there had been in the past too great a tendency to appoint from outside the force gentlemen who had or professed to have military experience. Such officers were at once raised over the heads of men who had spent years in the service, and all, with the exception of Sub-inspector Munchin, who was engaged to drill recruits, had been absolute failures. Our large and sparsely-populated State must need a greater number of police than a smaller country, and we must expect a larger expenditure in proportion to population. One or two items might receive the Minister's attention, such as the maintenance of native trackers in places where their services were not needed, and who therefore became grooms and rouseabouts for the constables. The expenditure

on remounts and forage required attention. An unnecessarily large and costly stable appeared to be maintained in Perth. Four horses were kept solely for a Ministerial carriage used perhaps once a month, or less frequently. It would be cheaper to hire a carriage, the cost of which, moreover, was not a fair charge against the Police Department. Again, there were a buggy and pair of ponies used, he believed, by the officers of the force. The loss of this turn-out would hardly impair the efficiency of the department. Items such as this should be looked into. There was a tendency when police officers took charge of new districts to require a buggy in place of horses. Officers should be selected from men active enough to do a fair amount of riding, and should not require to go about in a buggy with a driver.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY : That was very exceptional.

MR. DAGLISH : Cases had been known in which officers in the goldfields towns and remote districts had been supplied with a buggy, and if it was not used there was a waste of money to buy it. He spoke of officers above the rank of sergeants, such as those in charge at Coolgardie, Geraldton, and Cue. These officers were supplied with buggies at the public expense, and the buggies were maintained at the public expense. If not used for police purposes, then the buggies were supplied for the private benefit of officers in charge of districts. That was another question which might be looked into. There was a tendency occasionally to have a division of a district made somewhat too small. A few years ago the Guildford district and the country around that part of the metropolitan area was very efficiently supervised from Perth. But the people in Guildford had a police building, and therefore had to get a sub-inspector appointed whose headquarters would be at Guildford. This occurred three or four years ago, and Guildford was made the centre of a police district. It was absurd to establish a district so near the Perth centre. The expenditure in the Police Department had been fairly well represented by the services the department rendered; but let it be understood by the head of the department, who was

a very efficient gentleman indeed, that as population in the various centres increased and was more easily supervised, so the cost per head of police supervision in the State was expected to come down. It had come down from 12s. 3d. a few years ago to 11s. 10d. per head at the present time. He hoped the Minister would insist on economy in this direction being carried out.

MR. HASSELL : There was £6,000 for lodging allowance in lieu of quarters, which was so large a sum that he thought it would be better and would pay the Government to borrow money to build quarters for the men. At four per cent. the amount on the Estimates would pay interest on £150,000.

MR. HOPKINS : In Boulder constituency there were 20 policemen drawing a lodging allowance of £20 a year each, which ran into £400. If barracks were constructed at a cost of £2,000, which would give ample accommodation for the men, at 3½ per cent. that would be £300 a year. The municipality went into this matter, therefore he knew the statement he was making was accurate. It was said that police constables were of more service if they were distributed. That was very good so far as a section of them was concerned, but it was not advisable to have the whole force distributed. Boulder police station was inadequate for the requirements. It was in the centre of from 17,000 to 19,000 people. The Minister should give serious consideration to the advisability of finding ways and means to make provision on the next year's Estimates for suitable substantial quarters in the centre of the town. The administration of the Police Department was highly satisfactory.

MR. BUTCHER : What was the intention of the Minister in regard to affording the settlers in the Kimberleys protection? Many years ago when the North-Western portion of the country was settled, trouble occurred with the natives. This was years before police protection was afforded, and the settlers had to protect themselves. In many instances the settlers went too far and were now reaping the reward by being attacked in the Press. The same thing applied to the Murchison and the Gascoyne districts. He happened to be one of the settlers in the country represented by the Colonial Secretary

where there was no police protection for years, and lots of the settlers went too far in protecting themselves against the attacks of the natives. The same thing would occur in the new Kimberley country which was being taken up, if the Government did not take immediate steps to give the settlers some protection.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: With regard to the question raised by the member for West Perth about the distribution of the police throughout the various districts of the country, this was one of the most important subjects that could engage the attention of the Commissioner of Police or the Minister. So far as he was concerned, he was giving the matter every attention, and where there was any discrepancy in the number of the police supplied to the wants of the district, he was endeavouring to get the Commissioner to remedy it. He recognised the benefit in the settlement of the new parts of the country that police protection gave; and whilst he did not go so far as some members, he assured the Committee the settlers had protection. There was a great deal of difficulty connected with the proper administration of the police in the Kimberleys. The natives had so many baunts into which it was impossible for the police to follow them, it made the task of the police very hard. He hoped the difficulty would be successfully coped with. As to the urgency of the case, it was strange that although the pastoralists suffered these great hardships that had been pointed out, no appeal was made to the Government.

MR. MORAN: They had done so all along, but cattle-killing was going on in West Kimberley on dozens of stations yet.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: If any body desired a grant they did not write a letter to the newspapers, but they generally wrote to the head of the department concerned. Therefore the same thing should apply in connection with the trouble the pastoralists in the northern portion of the State were said to be suffering from. He asked the member for Mt. Magnet to furnish information why the people in the northern portion of the country suffered so much in silence and did not apply for protection to the proper quarters. The member for the Swan

had shown a great amount of acerbity in connection with this matter in speaking of the number of officers who were employed by the department. If the hon. member would consider the circumstances of the State—circumstances which did not obtain in any other part of Australia and in very few other parts of the world—he might see that in a country so large and so sparsely populated such an event must come to pass. Any increase of the police force must be in a very much larger proportion in the lower ranks of the force than in the upper ranks in future. As our population came in we had sufficient officers, and the increase would undoubtedly be in the rank and file. He had no hesitation in saying that when we arrived at the stage of development in reference to the area we had to cover which had been reached by the other States, our police force, under the management, and he thought he might say the very able management, of the present Commissioner, would compare very favourably with the forces in the other States. Whilst upon the subject of the Commissioner he might say personally he was very pleased with the work that officer had done. That officer had raised the physical, mental, and moral status of the force, and was endeavouring to raise it every day, in which object he (the Colonial Secretary) hoped that any little assistance he could give him would be always forthcoming. With regard to the subject introduced by the member for Plantagenet (Mr. Hassell) as to lodging allowances, he hoped we would be able to deal with that gradually. If members would turn to the Public Works Estimates, they would find that in very many parts of the State we were already making provision for quarters. As to Perth, we were putting a fairly large sum on the Estimates for the purpose of supplying large barracks for the police. In Fremantle the same was being done, and he would note the utterances of the member for Boulder (Mr. Hopkins). As a matter of fact he had not lost sight of any of the populated portions of the State, and he hoped as time went on we should be able to do away to a very large extent with the somewhat large sum now provided for lodging allowances in lieu of quarters. When barracks in Perth were constructed they alone would relieve us from a very

great deal of the expense we were now put to, and he hoped that early in the year a substantial start would be made with the erection of barracks in Roe street.

MR. WALLACE: Would the Minister make inquiries and ascertain if there was any truth in the report published in the papers during the last two or three days?

MR. MORAN: The Department had not seen it.

MR. WALLACE: Possibly the Department would not see it. There had been almost a continuous outcry against the blacks, and the Minister must know it. He must have heard the former member for West Kimberley (the late Mr. Alex. Forrest) and the present member for East Kimberley (Mr. O'Connor), who spoke in this House year after year. The hon. gentleman said he had not heard it.

MR. MORAN said he himself had heard the members ever since they had been in the House, and he had seen the occurrences too.

MR. WALLACE: Having so much faith in what was published, he believed the report to be correct.

MR. MORAN: The hon. gentleman should not be so prone as he always had been as a Minister of the Crown to be content with the assurances of his own department and his own official channels of information. He would be all the better, if he had a little of the independent distrust which characterised some of his colleagues. Some of his colleagues had brought a commendable amount not of distrust but of caution into the administration of departments, which was absolutely necessary in order to get a department out of a groove. Any hon. gentleman who could be at the head of the Police Department and throw any doubt upon the statement that depredations were committed daily in the far off Kimberleys knew nothing about the subject. On the borders of Western Australia and in the Northern Territory there were men who were putting big money into that country, who were buying stations and taking risks, and stations had been reduced 50 per cent. in value because they were overrun by blacks.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: No doubts had been thrown by him on the statements published.

MR. MORAN: The meat we were now getting was worse than he had ever seen before in any capital city of Australia, and it came from a quarter where the cattle were absolutely run to death by blacks. That information would be given to the hon. gentleman by any man dealing in cattle in the Northern Territory. The state of things was not so bad in West Kimberley, but he did not suppose that in West Kimberley a week passed by without someone losing cattle through their being speared. Nobody doubted for a moment that there were great disabilities suffered by the old settlers in Kimberley, and there were going to be great disabilities suffered by the new settlers. He wanted to get ahead of settlement, but did not wish to be guided by the Police Department, because they knew nothing about what should be done in the new Kimberley. It was for men who knew what they were talking about to dictate the policy of this country, and that policy was to have more police protection for Kimberley, if we were going to throw it open and meet the necessities of the people of this State. The only way to get the price of meat down was to people the new Kimberleys, and in order to people the new Kimberleys we must first police them or else we would depopulate them. No one doubted for a moment that if white settlers came into a place and were attacked by hostile blacks, the first law of nature demanded that they would protect themselves, and no amount of police protection would obviate the necessity of every white man carrying a rifle; not that he should use it—we hoped that he never would have to use it—but he was a fool to go there without carrying it. It was to obviate the unlicensed use of the rifle he made this appeal. In no other parts of Australia were there the same opportunities for cattle raising; and in no other part of the world that he knew of. Droughts were unknown, fires did very little damage, and floods did little harm now. There were no disabilities in the newest and fairest of the Kimberleys, except the blacks, who could only be handled in one way—they must either be shot down by the whites, the police being kept away and making no inquiries, or else the Kimberleys must be policed. If the whites were let loose they would settle

the question. We should find men who had been used to that sort of thing in the early days of Queensland, who would not needlessly shoot blacks, but who would not stop in their career of civilisation because of trouble with the blacks. To obviate that difficulty he wanted the police alone to be entitled to take life, if necessary, and he wanted the police to endeavour to prevent collisions between the blacks and the whites. Even if that cost £10,000 a year it would be a cheap service.

MR. WALLACE: The Police Report of 1902 contained the following:—

The principal trouble with the natives during the past 12 months has been caused by the Sturt Creek tribes, in the Hall's Creek sub-district. Numerous complaints have been made by the settlers of the continued depredations committed by the natives in that locality. Notwithstanding the constant patrolling of this part of the district by the Hall's Creek police, as well as by a special patrol party from Derby during the months of December, January, and February, I regret to say complaints are still being made of the great amount of destruction caused by those tribes amongst stock.

Notwithstanding the capture of eleven of the ringleaders by the special patrol party, already referred to in the beginning of the year, a number of native desperadoes (principally escapees from Wyndham Gaol) have been doing a lot of damage among stock during the last few months in the vicinity of Turkey Creek, killing horses and cattle indiscriminately. I am, however, pleased to say that the police have succeeded in arresting nine of the ringleaders. The others have been dispersed. The approximate number of natives throughout the district is 5,000.

The report pointed out that a tour through the district had satisfied the writer that the natives were treated well by these settlers. He (Mr. Wallace) was surprised at the Minister not knowing anything about the depredations.

MR. MORAN: Some of the soldiers who had returned from South Africa would make excellent patrol men; they were men thoroughly trained and they had a greater respect for life now that they had been in war than they had before. They were bushmen and used to camping out. He would recommend the Minister to see if he could not get five, six, or a dozen of the very best men of our contingents and draft them into the police force for Kimberley.

MR. STONE: There was discontent in the police force through the mode of pro-

motion. He knew many police who had been in the service a long time classed as first-class constables in charge of stations for six, seven, or eight years at a time, and they still remained in those positions. These men, perhaps for lack of friends at court, were not promoted in the same way as the new hands. Men who had been classed as full constables for years, and who had been in charge of stations, received no advancement. Promotion should be based solely on merit.

MR. JACOBY: Would the Colonial Secretary discourage the maintenance of such a high proportion of officers to men? This question applied not only to sub-inspectors but also to sergeants and corporals. He had not drawn attention to the lower ranks of officers, because they were valuable as practical police. A good deal of the work here discharged by sub-inspectors was intrusted to sergeants elsewhere in Australia. The Minister had stated that the number of men would increase, but he had not said that the undue proportion of officers would be reduced.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: That was what he had intended to say, and what he thought he had said.

MR. JACOBY: The force was over-officered, and some of the officers were not men of practical experience.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: Which of them?

MR. JACOBY: The Colonial Secretary had complained of the bitterness of his (Mr. Jacoby's) attacks, but that bitterness was engendered by the immobility of the Minister in matters of reform. A strong impression prevailed on the Opposition side of the House that if the Colonial Secretary were granted sufficient funds no civil servant under his control would receive less than a thousand a year, with perhaps a C.M.G.-ship and five days' a week leave into the bargain. The Minister should remember that he did not represent altogether the civil service, but rather the people as against the civil service. The hon. gentleman ought not on every possible occasion to evince a readiness to defend every impossible act of his subordinates. From the Minister's attitude one could only derive the impression that the hon. gentleman was not so anxious for reform as was the State. He (Mr. Jacoby) had not moved

a reduction in the vote; but he had pointed out, and he would continue to point out, what seemed to him anomalies.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: Certainly, by all means.

MR. JACOBY: In speaking as he did, he was actuated not by a desire to attack anybody, but by a sense of duty.

Item 15—Inspector, £325 :

MR. DAGLISH: With the object of retaining promotion within the ranks of the police force, he suggested that the Minister should have the men of most intelligence, education, and zeal selected for special training to fit them for the position of officers. The duties required a fairly young and fairly active man, one who could correspond with the public without showing marked defects of education, a man fit to prosecute in the police court. Promotion by seniority meant simply that a man perhaps fitted on entry into the service to rise to the position of officer had become too old for it by the time he was entitled to it by reason of seniority. Moreover, a man promoted for mere seniority would very probably be too old to alter his mode of living in such fashion that he might enter a new social class.

MR. JACOBY: That consideration ought not to affect promotion. An inspectorship in the police force was not a society matter.

MR. MORAN: It was delightful to hear a Labour member talking about social fitness!

MR. DAGLISH: The man promoted had not merely to enter into new social relations, but had also to change from subordinate to commander. One who was accustomed to play a subordinate part for thirty or forty years could not readily adapt himself to a position of command. On these grounds it was desirable that the best class of men joining the force should be specially pushed on regardless of seniority, so that within ten or twelve years of joining the force they might attain the rank of officers. He had known much trouble to be caused in the police forces of other States by the appointment to positions of command of men who had lost all activity by reason of advancing years.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: The hon. member's (Mr. Daglish's) suggestion

was welcome, and it accorded to a certain extent with his own views. At the present time, however, the inspectors and sub-inspectors of the West Australian police were largely men still in the prime of life: indeed, some of them were even young men.

MR. DAGLISH: That was due to the fact that the West Australian force had grown very quickly; but the objection he had raised applied to the police forces of other States.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: This was a word of warning for the future, then?

MR. DAGLISH: Quite so.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: The hon. member's observations would not be lost sight of.

MR. MORAN: It was to be hoped that the hon. member's observations would not be taken too much notice of. One could not imagine anything more injurious to the force, or more impracticable, than to set apart certain young men and say to them, "We will give you special training, and make officers of you." That course of action would not have resulted in the discovery of Napoleon's generals, nor would it have produced a Hector Macdonald, or the magnificent Boer generals. Active service, and active service alone, made good men. It was to be hoped that no *dilettante* methods of picking out young constables and training them to a new social rank, as suggested, would be adopted. Was the young policeman to be taught how to take tea with white gloves? And was his wife also to receive instruction in social etiquette?

MR. BATH entirely disagreed with the suggestion of the member for Subiaco (Mr. Daglish). If constables likely to be promoted to the rank of sub-inspector were deficient in any respect, they should receive special training of the nature given at Home in similar circumstances. The setting apart of a special class for promotion would be a gross injustice to the large body of the police.

MR. DAGLISH: The members for West Perth (Mr. Moran) and Hannans (Mr. Bath) seemed to have mistaken the nature of his observations. He had argued that the man who had simply managed to remain in the force because he had not done anything bad enough to merit dismissal, who simply went round

his beat, ought not to become an officer. Such, however, was the position in most Australian police forces at present. He had suggested that the men who by a few years' service had proved themselves to be possessed of special intelligence, zeal, and ability should be trained to become officers.

MR. TAYLOR: Their intelligence, zeal, and ability would be proved by the influence they had behind them.

MR. DAGLISH: Certainly not. At present, advancement was regulated by seniority alone. In the case of the West Australian police force sufficient time had not elapsed to allow the operation of any particular system of advancement to be observed. The plan adopted until lately had been to import inexperienced outsiders and put them over the heads of the men already in the force. In the Eastern States trouble had arisen from the circumstance that as a whole the officers were too old. He desired the selection of no special class except the fit class. That mode of advancement would throw responsibility on the head of the department. Of course Ministerial or parliamentary or personal influence must not be allowed to interfere.

MR. TAYLOR: It certainly would interfere.

MR. DAGLISH: The seniority principle had been adopted simply in order to save the permanent head the responsibility of making a selection. At all events, the examination system might be coupled with the seniority system. He knew of officers who were not qualified to instruct their subordinates. If our police force was to be officered by active men, then the fit must be advanced more quickly than the ordinary rule of promotion by seniority would allow.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: The hon. member (Mr. Daglish) desired that promotion should be regulated not by seniority alone, but also by merit.

MR. JACOBY: Constables ought to be picked out and taught how to train their moustaches.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: That was, no doubt, the impression on the mind of the member for the Swan (Mr. Jacoby), but it was not to be derived from the remarks of the member for Subiaco. Evidently the hon. member meant that men should not be promoted

for mere seniority, but on the ground of fitness. To a great extent that idea had been followed, and with good results.

MR. MORAN: It would be impossible to find better officers than natives of the State like Superintendent Laurence, Warden Troy of Kanowna, and Inspector McKenna; but imported men were promoted for social reasons. A special training was not needed prior to promotion from the ranks. When a man was competent, promote him. It was sad to see so many men pitchforked into positions over the heads of those who had borne the burden and heat of the day.

Item—Orderly, Government House, £173 7s. 6d. :

MR. HASTIE: This and the two following items seemed practically new appointments.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: No; they were formerly lumped in a group of items, as were the corporals and sergeants immediately preceding them. To make the Estimates clearer to members, some of the officers not engaged at ordinary police duties were shown separately. These were neither increases nor new appointments.

MR. HASTIE: This was an expense of Government House. It should be debited to the Government House vote, and not made a charge on the police force. He moved that the item be struck out.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: After the many complaints in years past as to lack of lucidity in the Estimates, this reception of the first effort to give hon. members that explanation in print for which they were always clamouring, was most discouraging. Had the item appeared as before, it would have escaped criticism. Now an hon. member moved to strike it out, because the Government endeavoured to give information. The officer in question had been employed at Government House for years.

MR. JACOBY: Charge his service to Government House.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: It was charged to Government House, and the police vote was recouped; but a police constable must appear in the police vote.

MR. HASTIE: The amendment was moved because the item was charged in

the wrong place. As the printing done for each department was charged to each, so should the police services to each department be charged. The amendment was a protest against a loose system.

MR. THOMAS: That was a valuable suggestion. Members should know the cost of each department without searching the Estimates from cover to cover.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: Exactly the same procedure was followed here as with the printing.

MR. MORAN: The item was included in two places, thus swelling the total of the Estimates.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: So was the printing. The charge was made against each department, and recouped by a cross entry. Could the hon. member suggest a better method?

MR. HASTIE: In the Government House vote was a recoup for services of orderly, £203 16s. 6d.; and the amount of this item was £173 7s. 6d. Why the difference?

MR. MORAN: By the Estimates the amount appeared to have been spent twice. Probably the best plan was to avoid such cross entries. In the other States the system had been changed two or three times. With these duplications the Estimates did not give a true account of the expenditure.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: The system of cross entries had the advantage of giving members an accurate idea of how services were rendered between departments; and it was in deference to the demand made for years for more detailed information on the Estimates as to how work was distributed and money spent that the system was initiated. How could anyone be misled?

MR. MORAN: What was entered against these two debits? The orderly was paid once only, but was charged for twice.

THE TREASURER: True; as cross entries always swelled the totals. Similarly the printing was debited to different departments and recoups credited, the State neither gaining nor losing by these.

MR. MORAN: To increase the grand total of expenditure at the present time was inadvisable.

MR. THOMAS: The recoup for this item was £203 odd, and the item itself

£173. Was the difference a commission for services rendered?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: No; The odd £30 represented lodging allowance, etc.

MR. JACOBY: The difficulty might be overcome by charging such amounts in a separate column, the items being reckoned once only in the total.

MR. MORAN: Was this system followed in connection with works and railways?

THE TREASURER: To a considerable extent.

MR. MORAN: No wonder people considered the expenditure large. It was impossible for hon. members to have any idea of the cost of government. This could not be ascertained from the Estimates.

[At 4 o'clock, business suspended for 15 minutes.]

MR. MORAN: Sufficient attention had been drawn to the matter now without striking the item out. There were numerous amounts on the Estimates, purely bookkeeping entries, for printing and carting and so forth, which amounted to fully £50,000, and which gave a false total to the Estimates. We should not let the world think we were living £50,000 beyond what was the real amount. Some other method ought to be adopted of getting the information without increasing the apparent revenue and expenditure of the country.

MR. HASTIE: The item might be passed with the understanding that on the next Estimates matters of this kind would be made clearer, perhaps as suggested by the member for the Swan, by having a special column setting out what the amounts were for. He would withdraw the amendment.

Amendment withdrawn.

MR. THOMAS: A few moments spent on a matter of this kind was no doubt welcomed by the Minister. It was to be hoped attention would be paid to the suggestion of the member for the Swan of having another column inserted, or, better still, by taking the items clean out of the Estimates and furnishing a return at the end of the Estimates. These matters right through the Estimates amounted to fully £73,000, which showed an inflated revenue and an inflated expenditure. If the amounts were taken

out of the Estimates and a statement given showing the amounts debited to printing vote and what each department had cost, that would serve all the circumstances; it would give the information without complicating the Estimates.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: If members objected to the present method of showing the value of services rendered by one department to another, it would be an easy matter to attach a return to the Estimates showing these services.

Item—170 first-class constables at 8s. 6d. per day, £26,371 5s.:

MR. HASSELL: Was it the intention of the Government to remove the constable from Kojonup?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: It was not to be expected he could answer such a question without notice. The member could ask for the papers to be laid on the table. He believed the matter was in a transition stage and another trial was to be given. It was purely a local question.

Item—Water Police, one sergeant at 7s. per day, £200 15s.:

MR. DAGLISH: Was such a large force of water police necessary in this State? The question should be looked into. In no other State was there the same number of water police required and our shipping was not so great as that of the other States. The great bulk of the force were stationed at Fremantle; there were one or two at Albany, one at Geraldton, one at Carnarvon, and there might be one at Derby. There were far more water police than were adequate to the requirements of the port of Fremantle.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: Of the 29 water police 16 were stationed at Fremantle, and an increase had been made because it appeared necessary in the interests and protection of the shipping. Two river police were stationed at Perth, and the other water police were stationed at various ports throughout the State. There were not too many nor was it possible to do with less than 16 water police at Fremantle.

MR. BUTCHER: Was it a fact that most of the water police were doing work for the Federal Government in different parts of the State? In the past, the constables had conveyed the mails from

the post office to the ships in the various ports.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: So far as he knew this was not so. Was the hon. member referring to Carnarvon?

MR. BUTCHER: Not necessarily; but also to Cossack and Sharks Bay.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: There was a contract for the conveyance of mails from steamers to the post office in most places. He would make inquiries and find out if instructions had been issued. He was sure instructions had not been given in his time.

MR. DAGLISH: The water police had been doing mail duty for years.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: If that was so it was only right the Commonwealth Government should pay for the services. He would certainly make a claim.

MR. BUTCHER: It was not stated by him that at present the water police were doing this duty, but that they had done it in the past.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: It was not done to his knowledge.

MR. DAGLISH: Would the Colonial Secretary make a note in reference to the water police? In spite of the explanation given he thought there was an unnecessary number of water police employed, and the bulk of the duty done by the police was on dry land; there was no reason why the water police should continue to exist as a separate force.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: If water police did duty on land, then they were only taking the place of other constables, and no one complained that the police did too much work. If there was a certain amount of work to be done, it did not matter, so long as it was efficiently carried out, whether it was done by the water police or the land police.

Item—Detective Branch, Inspector, £325:

MR. MORAN: It was to be hoped this branch of the service would be raised to greater prominence than had been the case in the past. This arm of the law should be strengthened. At present it was weak.

Item—Allowance for maintenance of native trackers, £2,650:

MR. HOPKINS: In the past at certain stations there were too many native

trackers and most of them were kept to polish the boots and the stirrup irons of the superior officers. In one place the police were unable to get a tracker appointed at all and in another part of the country a constable was ordered to send his tracker away, although the tracker was being kept at the constable's own expense. The officer who ordered the tracker away had two trackers of his own.

Item—Allowance in lieu of uniforms to superintendent and six inspectors at £15 each, £105:

MR. BATH: Some explanation was required in regard to this item. It appeared to be on a par with the forage allowances.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: The allowance was in lieu of uniform when not provided.

Item—Allowance to Inspector of Criminal Investigation Branch, £25:

MR. DAGLISH: When this allowance was commenced some two years ago, it was for the purpose of obtaining information; but in fact the information was always got by subordinate officers, and not by the chief officer to whom the allowance was made. In another item (560) there was an allowance of £100 for "information."

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: That officer was paid by results.

MR. DAGLISH: But the item was down as "allowance," whereas now the Minister said it was not for allowance.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: The previous answer as to the £25 was an error. The position was that the chief officer employed in the detective branch was engaged on the understanding that an allowance of £25 was provided; therefore it would hardly be equitable to strike out the allowance of £25, which ought really to be added to his salary. This officer came here from the London detective police force, with the highest credentials and the latest methods relating to the detection of crime. The amount paid to him here was altogether £350, added to which was an allowance of about £30 for lodging. This State was exceedingly fortunate in having obtained an officer of such high standing for so small a remuneration; which was accounted

for by the fact that he was also in receipt of a pension from the Imperial Government.

MR. DAGLISH: The explanation not being satisfactory, he moved that the item of £25 be struck out. If the amount was to recoup the inspector for expenses incurred in obtaining information, one would not object; but if it was not for this purpose, then the amount should appear as part of the salary. He must object on principle to an addition being made to the salary by a side-wind. As to this officer's capabilities, there were capable men in the police force who could have filled this position, and would have brought to it the advantage of local knowledge; or, by going outside the State, a suitable officer with Australian experience would have been preferable.

MR. THOMAS supported the striking out of the item, because he intended to object in all cases where an addition was made to the salary in an indirect way. If the particular officer was not paid a sufficient amount, the Government might put in the Supplementary Estimates such amounts as they considered necessary for the proper payment of officers. If this officer was so able a man, and so highly skilled in criminal investigation, it was desirable he should be sent to Boulder, to reside there for a time and bring his knowledge and skill to bear on the detection of gold stealing, which went on there to a greater extent than in any other part of the goldfields. There was a nest of gold thieves at Boulder. One had only to look at the return of the number of "gold buyers" and their place of residence, to find out where the majority of gold stealers resided. The Minister for Mines knew of repeated complaints in regard to gold stealing; and this showed the necessity of some better system for detecting this form of crime. As an instance, some time ago a parcel of tailings was offered to a smelting company for treatment, but it was refused. That parcel contained a big percentage of telluride, and yet the parcel came apparently from Kanowna, where to his own knowledge no telluride had ever been discovered. The very fact that battery tailings from Kanowna had been offered to a smelting company for treatment and was found to contain a big percentage of telluride was enough in

itself to show the necessity for sending detectives into that district. If a capable officer were sent for this particular duty, he would probably find enough to enable him to report that legislation was necessary for stopping the wholesale gold robberies going on.

MR. BATH: At the present time, and having had opportunity of judging the work of detectives in the Kalgoorlie-Hannans district, he could state that there were some excellent officers in the detective department there. If the Colonial Secretary acted on the recommendation which had just been made, then it would be well if he would send a detective who had some acquaintance with the social arts, so that he might move in select society, and be in a more favourable position to come in contact with the real thieves. The amount of gold stolen by working men engaged on the mines was infinitesimal as compared with the gold stealing carried on by persons who moved in good society.

MR. THOMAS: A few weeks ago a death occurred on Hannans Belt in an abandoned claim. Two men, an Englishman and an Italian, were treating stone and gold slimes. The former died, overcome by the fumes, and the latter confessed that they had gone there for the purpose of stealing gold.

MR. HOPKINS: Why did not the mine manager prosecute?

MR. THOMAS: Were mine managers compelled to perform the duty of the State?

MR. HOPKINS: That was the trouble. For some reason, no matter what, managers did not always prosecute the criminals. For a long time in Boulder he had tried to get a resident magistrate appointed, in the hope that the officer would secure an inspector of police capable of dealing with gold stealers. Had the chamber of mines assisted that movement? No. He would not cast imputations on any section of the community, and he resented the singling out of Boulder. Illicit gold buyers were to be found in Africa, America, and near the rich mines on every goldfield in the world. If there were any illicit gold dealing at Boulder it could have been put down long since by the chamber of mines and the mine managers. Let the Government appoint a royal commission to

investigate the question, call for the books of the banks, find out the bankers of the sellers of gold, make the buyers produce their bank books and show to whom they made their payments. If necessary, compare the cheques with the cheque butts, and the payments with the payees' banking accounts, if they had any. If the Government or the chamber of mines wished to put down gold stealing, the remedy was easy; but perhaps those who had the most to say against gold stealing knew most about it.

MR. BATH: The commission would cause a flutter amongst the dovescotes.

MR. HOPKINS: The respectable portion of the mining community had been blinded by the efforts of those who were justly suspected. He supported the amendment. A proper magistrate in Boulder would have convinced the Government of the need of a smart inspector, who would soon have brought the guilty persons to justice.

MR. THOMAS: The remarks of the two preceding speakers must not pass unchallenged. In the large majority of cases, mine managers and the chamber of mines had done everything in their power to stop gold stealing.

MR. JOHNSON: What about the Lake View case?

MR. THOMAS: In every community there were blackguards as well as honest men. After hearing the member for Hannans, one might think 99 per cent. of gold stolen could be traced to men in high social circles. Three or four years ago, at the Hill End mine at Broad Arrow, when he took charge, he warned the miners against thefts, and tried to persuade them to report to him any robberies perpetrated; but to do so was against the principles of the ordinary miner. Thefts occurred and were reported to the Government, who asked that a detective be allowed to investigate. This was agreed to, the detective being paid by the company as well as the Government, and the thieves were caught redhanded and sentenced to six months' imprisonment with hard labour, which sentences they had not yet served, notwithstanding he (Mr. Thomas) had in writing informed the Crown Law Department of the whereabouts of the guilty persons. This showed it was almost impossible for mine managers to put down gold stealing. Some

months ago another case occurred at the Golden Horseshoe mine. To supplement the small allowance made by the Government, the chamber of mines offered a reward for information leading to the conviction of a gold stealer. Just before the offer, an employee of that mine found that his company were being robbed by a battery-hand and others, the gold being treated at a condenser outside Boulder. The man who made the discovery considered it his duty to inform on the thief, as on an ordinary pickpocket or a burglar, and did inform, though he did not know of the reward. After he had given that information he went to his boarding-house; and every miner in the house told the landlord that unless this "dastardly informer," as they called him, were turned out, they would leave in a body.

MR. JOHNSON: Was the informer absolutely guiltless?

MR. THOMAS said he did not know.

MR. JOHNSON: Then the hon. member should have inquired.

MR. THOMAS: The man was boycotted because he committed the sin of informing against a thief.

MR. JOHNSON: Quite right, too.

MR. THOMAS: Having worked with miners for the last 15 years, he knew that they all throughout the world believed in the old Cousin Jack maxim: "It is no sin to take the cap'n in." Something must be done to break down that feeling, to convince the men that theft was a crime in the miner who robbed his employer, as well as in the common burglar. The member for Boulder stated that the chamber of mines and the mine managers had not been doing their duty in helping the inspector of the Criminal Investigation Department to discover the gold stealers; and the member for Hannans had pointed out that the mine managers were the gold stealers in these districts. There might be thieves amongst the mine managers or directors themselves; he did not attempt to deny that, or to say it was false, because there were thieves and scoundrels in every walk of life. But he objected to the inference from the remarks of the hon. member. The member for Boulder, however, did say that the chamber of mines and the mine managers had not been doing their duty. He had spent hundreds of pounds in trying to sheet a charge home, and when the

police detectives were put on they detected the offender, who was sentenced to six months, but was let out soon after he was sentenced. When such things happened, it was impossible for the mine managers to cope with the difficulty. He hoped the Colonial Secretary would see fit to send the new inspector, who had all the latest up-to-date methods from home, and he would be able to tell the Government the best means to be adopted to almost eradicate the evil. It could not be eradicated *in toto*, but it could be reduced to a minimum, while to-day it was at the maximum.

MR. BATH: In supporting the suggestion to send the inspector to the district, he did so without any desire to appear as an apologist for the gold stealer. He resented the remark that he had stated that the bulk of the gold stealing was done by the mine managers. If the blame was to be apportioned, it should be placed on the shoulders of all those concerned. He suggested that if a detective were sent to the district he would be in a position to detect the stealing of gold in walks of life which had been neglected in the past. The member for Dundas stated that he (Mr. Bath) had imputed that the whole of the gold-stealing was done by the mine managers and others on the goldfields. He had not done any such thing: he stated that if inquiries were made a considerable amount of gold stealing going on would be traced to that source. He wished the widest inquiry to be made in this connection, and not that accusations should be made against the working miners on the Hannans Belt.

MR. HOPKINS: The member for Dundas thought fit to make some damaging references to the town of Boulder on previous occasions, and by his speech this afternoon he would lead people to believe that he (Mr. Hopkins) and other members representing goldfields constituencies had some sympathy with gold stealers.

MR. THOMAS: What had been stated by him was that he thought the member for Boulder would back up his suggestion, because there was a hotbed of thieves at Boulder, and that the thieves would not be in Boulder if it were not for the fact of the people being connected with the mining industry.

MR. HOPKINS: It was not worth while sending a detective to the goldfields, for if the chamber of mines and mine managers were sincere this matter could be investigated if taken in hand by a royal commission, who could have the benefit of the services of the new inspector. Before Parliament met again the report could be received from that commission, which would be interesting to the House, as well as highly instructive to the members of the chamber of mines.

MR. JOHNSON: The fact that the goldfields members supported the passing of the Police Act Amendment Bill showed that they recognised that there was too much gold stealing going on in and around the Hannans Belt. That demonstrated that the goldfields members were desirous of putting down gold stealing. He took exception to the remarks of the member for Dundas, who would lead members to believe that the whole of the gold stealing was carried on by the working miners. The member for Dundas knew perfectly well that the bulk of the gold stealing was not done by the working miners, but by the high-paid officials. If the member for Dundas knew the facts in connection with the miserable informer whom he had spoken about, he would admit that the reason why the miners refused to live in the same house with this informer was that the man was one of those guilty of stealing the gold, and did not stick to his mates but turned informer. In reference to the gold found at the bottom of a shaft where some men were working, and where one man was found dead, if the hon. member knew the facts of the case he would be aware that these men were at the bottom of the shaft treating the gold for some high officials.

MR. THOMAS: It was not stated by him that the miners were guilty of gold stealing. Gold was stolen by all classes, and there was no legislation in Western Australia to stop the offence.

MR. HOPKINS: The member for Dundas might have stated that the member for Boulder was the magistrate who sentenced the offender to six months' imprisonment for stealing gold from the Golden Horseshoe, and not allow the Committee believe that some influence had been used.

Amendment negatived.

Item—Allowances for clothing at lock-ups, £80:

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY moved that the word "clothing" be struck out, and "cooking" inserted in lieu.

Amendment passed.

Item—Travelling expenses and transport, including travelling of special constables, £8,250:

MR. THOMAS: A promise had been made that a sum would be placed on the Estimates for police constables when travelling. Was the amount included in this vote?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: The amount appeared in this vote. There was an extra allowance of £620 for the purpose of paying the actual expenses of policemen when on gold escort duty. These policemen had in the past been paid travelling allowances, and whenever they went on gold escort duty they lost money.

Item—Band instruments, £100:

MR. HOLMAN moved that the item be struck out. A sum of £100 appeared on the Estimates last year for this purpose, and now another £100 was to be granted. How many band instruments did the police require, and were the instruments to be supplied to the police throughout the State? The whole of the people of the country should not pay for the upkeep of the police band in Perth. There was no necessity to go on paying £100 year after year for the upkeep of band instruments.

Amendment put, and a division taken with the following result:—

Ayes	...	...	10
Noes	...	...	15

Majority against ... 5

AYES.	NOES.
Mr. Bath	Mr. Atkins
Mr. Daglish	Mr. Butcher
Mr. Haastie	Mr. Ewing
Mr. Holman	Mr. Gardiner
Mr. Hopkins	Mr. Gregory
Mr. Johnson	Mr. Jacoby
Mr. Reid	Mr. James
Mr. Taylor	Mr. Kingsmill
Mr. Wallace	Mr. McDonald
Mr. Stone (Teller).	Mr. Moran
	Mr. Nanson
	Mr. Oats
	Mr. Phillips
	Mr. Thomas
	Mr. Higham (Teller).

Amendment thus negatived.

Other items agreed to, and the vote passed.

Public Health, £6,849 19s. 8d. :

MR. MORAN: What had been done in reference to the insanitary condition of many portions of Hannans Belt? It was a great eyesore to see the shocking state of insanitation in reference to closet accommodation in parts of that district. Some of the dwellings were so close that only one closet was provided for a group of them, and this was not only shockingly indecent but highly dangerous to health. With magnificent towns laid out on the goldfields, surely a determined effort should be made to remove this great eyesore from the borders of goldfields towns. No information was put before the Committee as to whether there was any inspection or compulsion, or whether anything was being done or attempted to remedy this bad state of affairs. It had been a great factor in disseminating typhoid fever in years gone by, and the same evil conditions existed to-day in certain places.

MR. BATH: Local bodies in those districts were awaiting the gazetting of new regulations in regard to additional land being thrown open for residential leases. The Minister for Lands had informed local bodies that although some goldfields leases had been surrendered for the purpose of making residential areas, yet they could not be utilised until the new regulations were drafted and gazetted. Those local bodies were desirous of improving the sanitary conditions, but were not able to so in any effective way at present.

MR. WALLACE: There was no need to go outside of Perth to quote instances of insanitation. The health bodies in Perth seemed unable or unwilling to remove grievances when these were brought under their notice. He had drawn attention to a nuisance at the corner of Hill and Wellington Streets, in Perth, where a pool of slush was allowed to remain for weeks. The local board of health when applied to did not give him any redress, and the Central Board of Health stated it had no power to interfere in that instance. He consulted his solicitors as to taking action for removing the nuisance. Examples of insanitary conditions could be found in many parts of Perth. Even in Hay Street, liquid matter might be seen running on the footpath not far from the

Bon Marché. It was not necessary to raise complaints in this House in regard to thickly-populated districts like Hannans Belt, when so many instances of insanitation were visible in Perth. Year after year the Government had been paying considerable sums of money to local bodies for sewerage and other such purposes, as in the case of the Perth City Council in connection with the grant for a deep drain in Wellington Street; and it was to be regretted that the Government did not give more attention to the manner in which such grants were used, so as to see they were properly applied to the purposes specified. Dr. Blackburn stated that he anticipated an outbreak of fever in summer, owing to the insanitary condition of Perth; therefore it was not necessary to refer to places on the goldfields, when people in parts of Perth were living up to their necks in filth. If the Minister was aware of any defects in the Health Act, he should endeavour to have them amended, so that local bodies might have the necessary power for dealing effectually with all kinds of nuisances.

MR. JOHNSON agreed that the sanitation of Hannans Belt was far from satisfactory. This the inhabitants had long realised, and those living on leases had for years been agitating for residence areas around the mines. Some of these had been granted by Mr. Moran when Minister for Lands, and if the Government would grant more the evil would be remedied. The district health board should be made elective, because the people would then have a direct interest in its working, whereas they resented a nominee board, and objected to pay rates which they had no voice in imposing.

MR. HOPKINS: Recently he had driven the member for West Perth round the Kalgoorlie and Boulder leases to see the circumstances in which the people lived. For over three years he (Mr. Hopkins) had been president of the board of health there. The first settlers at Kalgoorlie and Boulder camped anywhere on the leases, and paid no rates, while the people in the surveyed towns were rated. Thus the great population on the leases had no interest in the place. A grant of residence areas would have made them permanent citizens; but having no inducement to quit those leases they remained,

and would on slight provocation draw their money from the savings bank and leave the State. The sanitary problem would be solved when such people were taken off the leases and placed on surveyed land with proper streets and rights-of-way; but the inducement to move must be sufficient. The local health boards had laboured under great difficulties. When a mining company was prosecuted for creating a nuisance, the answer of the magistrate was, "We cannot afford to hurt the mining industry." More particularly in Boulder was this experienced. On an occasion when the local board prosecuted a man for keeping a filthy piggery, the magistrate, 14 days after the date of the alleged offence, inspected the yard, found it clean, and dismissed the case, giving costs against the board. Far better give most of the powers of the Central Board of Health to a combined board representing Kalgoorlie, Boulder, and Hannans, elected annually like any other local body. The danger was increasing by reason of the water scheme; there would be more surface water, greater evaporation, and infectious diseases must follow unless improvements were effected. The elective board suggested should have power to supervise health boards farther inland, which the central board could not adequately control. To send an inspector from Perth once a year to look into health matters at Kalgoorlie and Boulder was futile.

MR. BATH: The central board ignored the wishes of the local board of the Kalgoorlie, Boulder, and Hannans electorates. Recently the secretary told him that little satisfaction could be obtained in regard to any proposals made to the central board by the local body. In almost every matter on which they communicated with the central board they were hampered and not assisted. Their powers should be made larger and wider; but they were an advisory board merely, and their advice was not accepted by the central authority. No improvement need be expected till they were given greater power and allowed to act on their own initiative.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: The idea that local boards were only advisory was absolutely erroneous. They had the fullest possible powers, but were generally unwilling to put them in operation.

Under the Health Act the rating powers were ample, and the Government wished them used. In the future he would assist the boards who assisted themselves. Too many had not struck rates, and others who wrote to the central board reporting with pride the striking of a sixpenny rate were found on inquiry to have made no effort to collect the money. Boards should as far as possible be self-supporting. They then obtained a better idea of their duties, and took fuller advantage of their powers. He would make inquiries as to any hampering of the Kalgoorlie and district board, and was now inquiring regarding the filling by a goldfields representative of a vacancy shortly to occur in the central board.

MR. HASTIE: That local boards should as far as possible be self-supporting was very desirable. Until the members of the Kalgoorlie board were elected they would be unable to collect the rates. People camped on the leases could not be rated without a special Act. With a board elected by the ratepayers and given a free hand, the central board would seldom be troubled. Last year the Government had promised to bring in such a Bill this session. Could not the board be made elective without parliamentary sanction?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: The only method by which the board could be made elective was by the people of the district assembling in public meeting and making suggestions to him for filling vacancies which might occur on the present board. If he were satisfied that the suggestions made were *bona fide* he would have much pleasure in carrying them into effect. He would have to satisfy himself of the *bona fides* of the meeting, and that the person suggested would represent the feeling of the district. It would be necessary to introduce an amending Health Bill as soon as it was possible next session, and members could then correct the points which had been indicated in the discussion.

MR. HOPKINS: Did the Colonial Secretary think it was necessary that public meetings should be called to establish the necessity for elective boards?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: That was not what was meant: to call public meetings to fill vacancies on the boards.

MR. HOPKINS: That did not appear to be necessary. When the first combined board was established it was asked and distinctly laid down that it was to be an elective board; but instead of getting that board in its entirety, a hybrid board was established, which gave no satisfaction to anybody.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: The Act must be amended.

MR. HOPKINS: The amendment which was introduced last session provided for the election of the board, and the latter portion was thrown out in the absence of two or three members when a promise had been given that the matter should not be discussed in the absence of those members. This session the member for Hannans asked when it was intended to introduce the amending Bill to make boards elective, and the answer received was "early in the session." He was sure this matter had not been intentionally dropped, and perhaps members were somewhat to blame in not keeping the matter before the Government. He hoped an amending Bill would be introduced early next session.

Item—Acting President and Medical Officer for the prevention of tuberculosis, £397 19s. 8d.:

MR. DAGLISH: Was the reduction in salary to be permanent, or was it to recognise the difference between the competency of the present holder of the office and the competency of Dr. Black.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: It was not a permanent reduction. The officer was paid one-half of the salary received as medical officer to the Central Board of Health and officer acting for the prevention of tuberculosis, which was £400, and half Dr. Black's salary, £500 a year.

Item—Inspector, £200:

MR. DAGLISH: Was this a new appointment?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: This salary was struck out last year under a misapprehension. The officer was required to carry out the functions of the board, therefore the item had been reinstated.

Item—Special Medical Officer, £52:

MR. DAGLISH: What functions did this special medical officer perform; who

was he, and why was the amount placed on the fixed list? Was this full payment for the whole of this officer's time, or was it only an allowance to an officer holding another position?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: The officer was Dr. Anderson, of Fremantle, and the amount was paid in the nature of a retaining fee, for which the officer was always on the look-out for, and carried out duties in connection with, cases of bubonic plague, and the inspection of localities where bubonic plague was likely to occur. The money was very well spent, and the officer did a fair amount of work.

MR. DAGLISH: Why was the officer on the fixed list?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: Unfortunately, it was thought it would be necessary to have this officer for the next year or two.

MR. MORAN: Was there any information by which the Government expected there would be a recurrence of bubonic plague?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: There was a likelihood that places which had been visited by bubonic plague would have a recurrence of the plague annually, but perhaps in a less aggravated form.

Item—Maintenance of hospitals for infectious and contagious diseases, £25:

MR. HOPKINS: This seemed a small amount. The other day, he was informed that there were two or three cases of scarlet fever on the goldfields. If an epidemic of scarlet fever were to break out, what was to be done? There was no place to send the patients to.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: This item was put on the Estimates to pay an outstanding liability. He could not imagine a board of health being unable to deal with a case of infectious disease; but in the case of an epidemic, which was looked upon as a national calamity, it would be the duty of the Government to come to the assistance of any district. But in everyday cases of scarlet fever or measles, the matter could be left to the board of health to deal with. If the Health Act was wrong, it should be amended. He did not think it was so in this respect.

MR. HOPKINS: Should not some provision be made so that infectious

diseases should be treated in large centres of population. No accommodation was provided on the goldfields.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: That would be a very good thing indeed, and, in some cases, that was being done. There was the Victoria Hospital at Subiaco, the cottage hospital in connection with the Perth hospital and the infectious diseases ward at the Fremantle Hospital.

MR. HOPKINS: What about the goldfields? There was an absolute lack of accommodation on the goldfields.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: It was to be regretted. Was there no place that could be used?

MR. HOPKINS: A case of scarlet fever had occurred at his place, and the doctor said that the patient had to be treated somewhere else. The doctor wanted a quarantine station built. There ought to be some provision made for an outbreak of infectious disease. One of the doctors on the fields reported last week there were three cases of scarlet fever in the town. It was desirable that there should be some accommodation in big centres, so that infectious cases could be attended to.

Item—Bubonic Plague, £500 :

MR. HOPKINS: Had the amount been spent?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: The greater portion of it had been spent. The Government would be justified if there were an outbreak of bubonic plague in using Form J. The Government could not foresee an outbreak of plague, and if members noticed a large amount on the Estimates on chance they would object.

MR. DAGLISH: Would the Government take any steps to protect the principal port and the metropolis against an invasion of plague? Would anything be done in the matter of the drainage of the metropolitan area? If plague visited the State again, there would be great difficulty in getting it out. This matter had not received the attention from the Government it ought to have received.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: The hon. member was not right in saying that, for a considerable amount of money had been spent in Fremantle in the destruction of rats and the cleansing of the town. Unfortunately, the great danger was the introduction from out-

side, and no one had devised a means by which that could be effectually prevented. The Government tried to render the condition of the town unfavourable to the plague.

MR. DAGLISH: That could not be done until there was a drainage system.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: Plague was not so much a matter of drainage.

MR. DAGLISH: Where did rats usually live?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: It was known that in Paris, which was famous for its sewers, those sewers were the most rat-infested places in the world. The principal breeding-ground for rats in Fremantle was along the wharves. In regard to the last outbreak of plague at Fremantle, although hundreds of rats were examined, no trace of the plague was found in any of them. In the previous outbreak, plague germs were found in rats.

MR. HASTIE: Had the Perth City Council paid back to the Government the £40,000 lent to them some years ago?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: In regard to that transaction, we had it on the authority of the then Premier that the advance made to the City Council was neither a loan nor a gift. He regretted to inform the hon. member that the Perth Council so far had shown no intention to repay the money.

MR. HOPKINS: Was it not a fact that the Government held several unpaid bills of the City Council?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: As to any bills of that sort, he was afraid they were not negotiable.

Other items agreed to, and the vote passed.

Registry, £5,000 :

MR. DAGLISH asked why the so-called *Year Book* was so late in being produced. He also drew attention to the lateness of publishing the census returns in complete form; and it appeared from an item in the Estimates that the returns would not be finished till the next financial year. There being a statistical staff attached to this department, was it necessary also to have a separate staff for statistical work in connection with the Mines Department? A saving might be effected by

combining these two branches under one management.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: With regard to the lateness of publishing the *Year Book*, he would see if the book could not be published earlier and more regularly in future. With regard to the census returns, he was informed by the Registrar General that the work would be practically finished by the end of this month. This result would compare favourably with the publication of census returns in other States, and he believed that only one other State had already published the complete returns.

MR. DAGLISH: But the urgency of the figures was greater here, because our conditions changed more rapidly.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: The Statistical Department could not be charged with laxity in this matter. As to the amalgamation of the statistical branches under one management, he agreed that this was desirable, and the Minister for Mines with himself had been considering the question of effecting an amalgamation.

Vote put and passed.

Rottnest Establishment, £1,348 6s. 8d.:

MR. DAGLISH: What were the functions of the superintendent now? Most of the officers under him had ceased to act; but there was still a principal warder, and one other warder had a month to run yet. In the meantime the superintendent was employed at £400 a year, apparently to look after the one warder who would be left. How long would it take the superintendent to complete the work of looking after that warder?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: All the native prisoners had not yet left Rottnest, their services being retained to get in the growing crops; and for that purpose the services of the superintendent, who acted in his usual capacity, had been retained with certain warders to look after the prisoners. The other warders mostly had been found positions in other branches of prison work. The superintendent would have to be pensioned, or some other position found for him.

MR. HIGHAM asked for an assurance that Rottnest was really going to be vacated by the native prisoners in the next few weeks. As to the crops, it would be more economical to put a fire

into them than to keep prisoners there with officers looking after them, incurring all this expense for reaping those crops. People were hoping to get the use of Rottnest as a sanatorium.

MR. HAYWARD: As a specimen of good management in farming, Rottnest might be taken as an example of the worst kind. Some time ago when he was there, chaff was selling in the market at a very high price, and he saw standing there some stacks of hay. Now when chaff was down in price they were cutting the chaff to keep up an establishment there, and were reaping crops that could be dealt with more cheaply by putting a fire into them.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: One could not understand the attitude of some members. It might be cheaper to put a fire into the growing crops, if we were not under the necessity of taking care of the native prisoners at Rottnest or some other place. When the natives were removed from Rottnest, they would have to be kept somewhere; and while they were at Rottnest under the care of warders and a superintendent, their labour was being utilised to get in the crops, which would realise several hundred pounds. He hoped that in the next few weeks the public would get a freer access to the island than hitherto.

Item—Table allowance for Superintendent, £50:

MR. HOLMAN asked what the superintendent required this allowance for?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: If the hon. member went to Rottnest and the superintendent was made aware that he was a member of Parliament, no doubt the hon. member would be invited to take a meal at the superintendent's house. For such purposes as these the table allowance was made.

Other items agreed to, and the vote passed.

At 6:30, the CHAIRMAN left the Chair. At 7:30, Chair resumed.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (HOD. W. Kingsmill, Minister).

Education, £123,825:

MR. HASTIE: This vote had been increased by nearly £2,000. Few would

grudge a large expenditure on education, for in this more than in any other State numerous schools were needed in proportion to population, because of our scattered areas. But that a large proportion of the increases was given to a few officers at the top of the list instead of being expended in additional school accommodation was regrettable. The Inspector General of Schools received a substantial increase of £150, and the Minister to show his impartiality gave increases to the officials next to the Inspector General. Last session it had been understood that except in very rare circumstances no alteration would be made in civil servants' salaries until the Royal Commission on the public service had reported, and Ministers had opportunity for considering the report. Many civil servants understood that if increases were recommended by the commission and indorsed by the Government, these would be made retrospective. To such retrospective payments no member would object; for there were many underpaid officers. The Minister should explain the reasons for specific increases and for the increase in the total.

MR. DAGLISH: The increases were as surprising to him as to the member for Kanowna (Mr. Hastie), for they had been given to every officer receiving anything like a fair salary. The salaries of three officers had been raised from £360 to £380; and other increases were from £350 to £370, from £250 to £260, from £200 to £210, and from £400 to £450, while such salaries as £70, £75, £80, and £100 a year were absolutely untouched. It might be right that the smaller salaries should remain unaltered, but he entirely objected to increases beginning and stopping at the top. Why should all the exceptional cases be confined to officers at the head of the service? If none but specially deserving officers had been considered, some could have been found lower down on the list. As to the general increase, to be parsimonious with the Education Department, assuming it worked satisfactorily, would be a mistaken policy. The department was probably the most efficient in the service at the present time. He believed we had a staff of teachers and a system of tuition absolutely the best in Australia. The permanent head,

Mr. Cyril Jackson, deserved due credit for the admirable results obtained; the other officers who received increases had likewise contributed to the success of the system; while the teaching staff generally, though not selected for increases, were entitled, in their degree, to a share of the credit attaching to the department. We had the benefit of getting, through a number of circumstances, some of the best teachers in Australia; some from the Eastern States, who had acquired experience and ability as teachers, and who had received their training as teachers in the Eastern States before they came here. Some had come here as the result of retrenchment, and some had come from the natural desire for change which was inherent in many of us. We had gained by the experience teachers had derived before they came here, and it was not right to overlook the teachers who had done much to make the education system a success. No doubt the organisation had a great deal to do with the success; but without good subordinates the department could never have acquired the success it had. A practice had been followed in connection with this estimate, which Parliament would not allow to be adopted in regard to any other department—lumping a big sum. In one item we were asked to pass no less a sum than £74,000, and the only particular we were given was that the money was spent on Government schools. We did not know how it was spent; we simply had the statement on the Estimates that it was spent on Government schools. We did not know how the teachers were paid, or what salaries were apportioned to individuals. It was only reasonable the Committee should have details, because we were undoubtedly responsible for the way the £74,000 was apportioned. The Minister should give some particulars of the salaries paid to the various teachers to enable members to judge whether the £74,000 was wisely apportioned. Some portion of the amount might not be for salaries; but as the amount was put down under "Salaries, temporary and provisional," perhaps he should withdraw that statement. Details should be supplied, and members had a right to expect these particulars. There was a sum of £1,500 provided for sale stock—books, drawing materials, etc. He

did not know whether the sale stock was provided for all schools, whether the department retailed the stock at a profit, or whether the department provided teachers with the stock, so as to retail it at a profit. The department was not doing wisely in retailing books or other school requisites at all. This was a class of trade usually resorted to by persons who were not qualified for many lines of business. It helped to add to the income of persons keeping small lollie shops or paper shops, and it was not right for the Education Department or the State teachers to enter into competition with that class of individual. There were two other items which he viewed with some degree of surprise, not to say alarm—purchase of rifles, swords, etc., £3,000, and uniforms £500. He did not know that this supply of arms and uniforms was a necessary part of the educational system of the State. The physical drill provided in the State schools was undoubtedly advantageous to the children, but he did not see any advantage in encouraging in them a spirit of militarism. A sum of £3,500 devoted to this purpose, to give them a love of the sword and the rifle, was somewhat wasted. We should not put into the hands of school children these dangerous weapons. We might give all the military drill necessary in order to fit them later on to join the volunteer defence forces, without providing them with the real weapons, which could come after they had passed the school age. The sooner we abolished the system of uniforms in connection with the volunteers the better it would be. We would then get as volunteers a class of people who joined not for the purpose of show, not for the purpose of making a display, but a class actuated solely by patriotic motives. But that was somewhat outside the present discussion. He hoped some provision would at an early date be made by the Education Department for the higher education of our children. He urged this last year, and he urged it again. He would like the State to establish some secondary school to carry on the education of the more apt of the pupils in the State schools. He did not think the system of assisting any secondary school not controlled by the State was good. Better results, which would give more satisfaction to the public,

would be obtained by establishing a State college to which entrance could be gained by examination on the exhibition principle. There could be a limited number of exhibitions in proportion to the capacity of the college which should be provided. By that means an opportunity would be afforded of getting higher education for the children best fitted to profit by it, and who would turn it to the best advantage. He hoped that before the next Estimates came before members the Minister would give some fair degree of consideration to this matter. The next time the Minister brought down Estimates he hoped a few remarks would be made about the condition of the department, the progress made, and the lines upon which it was intended to work in the future.

MR. HARPER: It was pleasing to hear the remarks of the member for Subiaco in praise of the Inspector General of Schools. It was known to most that there were very few men of enthusiasm in this particular work. In the Inspector General we had a man who was an expert and also an enthusiast, and it was very largely due to that fact that the standard of education in the State Schools had taken the high place that it had. It was only an enthusiast who would collect about him those who were enthusiastic in their work. It was well we should realize that in dealing with this question, and do all we could to maintain the present condition of affairs. He was very much struck by a few words in a speech by Mr. Chamberlain the other day. In discussing the Education Bill before his constituents in Birmingham, Mr. Chamberlain pointed out that in dealing with education their aim and desire was to give the children of all parts, either country or town, an equal chance. We should bear that in mind in arranging this, because there was no doubt that to teach a child in the country cost a great deal more than to teach a child in the town. That was already expressed in the figures placed before us by the Inspector General of Schools. There was a tendency to benefit the town child at the expense of the country child, and we ought to watch this very carefully and see that we carried out that most desirable principle of giving the child, in whatever part of the State he might be, an equal chance.

With regard to the establishment of secondary schools under State control, there was something to be said for it, and also something to be said against it. It would take a considerable expenditure to do this, and the secondary schools would probably be established at the expense of the State schools, because it was impossible for the State to find the money to teach the whole of the children in the primary and secondary schools. Therefore, if we branched off in the direction of secondary schools, something would have to suffer, and that was the school we so much desired, the technical school. The technical school was the direction in which we should improve the children from a State point of view. There was vast scope in this direction, which was recognised all the world over. The system had been brought to a very high pitch by some of the nations of Europe. We had made some attempts in this State, and he believed with very satisfactory results. If any attempt was made to take up State secondary schools, the technical schools would suffer, and the men and women of the future would suffer. More, therefore, would be lost than would be gained by the establishment of secondary schools.

MR. BATH: Not being one who believed in niggardliness in connection with the vote for education, he was pleased to see an increase in the amount set down for technical education. This was a branch of education which should be encouraged to the fullest extent in our power. We had a school of mines established in Coolgardie, and one was to be established at Kalgoorlie; but no provision had been made in other important centres for the establishment of technical schools. He urged the Minister to give some encouragement to outside districts to go in for technical education. He concurred with the member for Subiaco in his contention that the vote for providing a supply of rifles, swords, and uniforms for the cadets was quite unnecessary. In supplying the cadets with uniforms, rifles, and swords we gave encouragement to militarism, which should be discouraged rather than encouraged. This amount should be struck out, or devoted to technical education.

MR. HASTIE: Referring to secondary education, he asked if any grant were

made to secondary schools other than the High School, which he understood to be connected with the Church of England. That school received a grant of £1,000 a year. Was any grant or subsidy given to other secondary schools?

THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: It was pleasing indeed to hear the cordial tone in which members had criticised the Education Vote. He regarded education as one of the most important subjects which could engage the attention of this House. The last speaker had somewhat regretted that more money was not being spent on education. [MR. HASTIE: No.] That regret was shared by himself; but he would remind hon. members that in addition to the fairly respectable sum of £123,000 which was provided for the actual administration of the department, we also proposed, under a vote in the Works Estimates, to allow £58,980 for providing schools and school buildings throughout the State. The words of the member for Beverley were full of meaning when he asked that the children throughout the State should have equal chances of obtaining education. That was what he (the Minister) earnestly desired, and he hoped that facilities as great as possible would be given for the instruction of children in the outlying portions of the State, so that their educational facilities might compare favourably with those in more closely settled portions. [MR. TAYLOR: They were somewhat neglected at times.] The Education Department did not bind itself to erect a school in every locality where there were a very few children, but they did endeavour to provide a teacher where the settlers in a district undertook to provide a building in which children could be taught. That was as far as the department could be expected to go. In regard to other parts of the State that might appear to be neglected, he hoped that in the near future no partiality would be shown to one part of the State more than another, and if there were any such appearance it would be by accident and not design. He thanked hon. members for the encomiums passed on the satisfactory working of the Education Department; and this State might well congratulate itself on the efficiency of the education system. He believed we had in this State an education system equal to

any in Australia, and nearly as good as any in the world. He hoped the standard and utility of education in this State would continue to improve in the future as in the past. Reference had been made to various increments of salary in these Estimates. He would be prepared to explain and defend any of those increments which members might refer to. Increments occurred in these Estimates in accordance with the regulations, which regulations in printed form were available to the general public, and the scale of salaries payable to teachers, also the scale of annual increments or otherwise by which those teachers received increases to their salaries, would be found in the regulations.

MR. DAGLISH said he had never seen a copy.

THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION said he would be glad to supply the hon. member with one.

MR. JACOBY: Better let members have them all round.

THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: It had always appeared to him, and he had referred to it in previous years when a private member, that the salaries of teachers were somewhat low in this State; but he was glad to say they had been gradually increased, until now they compared favourably with the salaries paid to teachers in other parts of Australia. Not only that, but since he became Minister for Education he had prevailed on Cabinet to permit him to increase some of the allowances to teachers in various parts of the State. He hoped hon. members would not show any strong feeling at the use of the term "allowance," especially in regard to school teachers. The conditions of life in this State varied so much in different parts, and this difference affected so much the cost of living, that it was found necessary to equalise the conditions by means of allowances. For this purpose he had recommended to Cabinet that he, as Minister, should have it in his power to increase the allowances to teachers in certain parts, as might seem fit; and the increases had been guided by the scale of the cost of living in different parts of the State. There were two important subjects dealt with in the Education Estimates; one being a larger provision for evening schools, and the other a larger

provision for technical education. The Government were endeavouring to extend evening schools throughout the State. They were provided in Perth, in Fremantle, at Boulder, at Bulong, and at Northam. It was proposed also to extend the scheme of evening education, which reached an older class of youths and gave opportunities to persons who, being busy in the day-time, might continue their education by attending evening classes. With regard to technical education, he was afraid that if he had his way he might be inclined to go somewhat too far; but he always felt that while he occupied his present position he was likely to be the victim of financial circumstances, and that he would not be able to get more money to play with in this direction than would be good for the State. He could assure members it was a subject the utility of which he felt deeply. He felt that for the youth of this State it was desirable they should have opportunities of acquiring a usefulness which would stick to them in after-life. It often happened that their lines fell in hard places after youths left school, and that had been so in his own case. Had it been otherwise, he would probably have spent a happier time in his early life. As to providing a sum of money for the purchase of swords and rifles, this was a question on which probably there was a diversity of opinion; but some members had been incorrect in referring to this item, in saying it would encourage a spirit of militarism. That was far from being the intention. It was the duty of a State which wished to be self-reliant, and which with other States under the British Crown was embarking on times that might become troublous, to teach the young of the State to be able to take part in its defence. He did not call that "militarism," nor was it a martial display. To teach boys the use of weapons—he referred particularly to shooting, which he regarded as a necessary part of the education of youths—no State should shrink from this as a duty, and he thought also this was a matter on which it was worth while to spend some money.

MR. JACOBY: Would the boys be taught to shoot?

THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: Yes; arrangements would be made for the

use of the rifle-ranges, so that cadets might practise shooting at times when the ranges were not otherwise required; and he hoped there would be annual encampments for cadets as well as for the adult volunteers. What he knew of Australian youths justified him in saying that we need not make great provision for "stray bullets," as one member suggested, for it seemed to him that shooting came naturally to youths in Australia. He hoped that our volunteer forces would be advanced a stage by the provision of money on these Estimates; and he believed this State would be able to recover a substantial portion of the money from the Commonwealth, which took charge of the defences of Australia. With regard to secondary schools, there was a good deal to be said on both sides of the question; and he gave attention to the opinion expressed by the member for Beverley, who had gone deeply into the matter, because he (the Minister) knew that the district in which the hon. member resided had much to be thankful for to him for what he had done in the matter of secondary schools. Members would find by the Public Works Estimates that the Government purposed to found a State secondary school which would impart to the youth of the country, after they left the State schools, a good sound secondary commercial education, and the grounding of an agricultural education which would enable them later on to pass into technical agricultural schools which Ministers hoped to establish throughout the State. To subsidise secondary schools to any greater extent than they were now assisted was not intended. The High School was subsidised under an Act passed some years ago, and whether the subsidy should not entitle the Government to more control than they at present exercised was of course open to debate. As to providing means whereby State school boys could finish their education in secondary schools, £450 had been set down for scholarships, so that boys could be sent to such schools in and around Perth.

MR. DAGLISH: The amount was ridiculous.

THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: Very small; but with the hon. member's encouragement it might be increased next year. He thanked members for the

cordial tone of all their speeches on the vote, and would gladly explain the items.

MR. TAYLOR: The most highly-paid officers received what appeared to be the only increases. The salaries of the subordinate officers did not appear on the Estimates.

THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: They were all in the Blue Book.

MR. TAYLOR: We were told that a school would be provided wherever there were 13 children. From a place in his electorate had come a petition setting forth that 15 children were prepared to attend a school, and requesting accommodation; but the request had not been granted. If 13 were the required minimum the school would doubtless be provided. The establishment of schools in the back country would increase the immigration of the wives and families of workers. In the early part of this year he had received numerous complaints from teachers of small schools in his electorate as to their miserable salaries. If these had not been increased the Minister should see that they were, so that there might be some inducement for suitable persons to enter the teaching profession. Throughout Australia the teachers of small schools received such paltry pittances that the calling was unpopular.

Item—Inspector General of Schools, £800:

MR. HASTIE: Why this increase from £650, in spite of the understanding that no increases be granted till the Government could deal with all departments simultaneously? This was most unfair to other civil servants who had accepted that understanding and had not pressed their claims. Here a highly paid officer was given the substantial increase of £150; and it had been stated that £800 was the highest salary paid in Australia to an Inspector General of Schools. For this no reason was alleged, save that if the officer in question were not given the increase he would resign. There was great danger of this becoming a precedent. If it were known that a threat to leave would procure an increase of £150, Ministers might expect numerous applications within the next few months. The Minister and other members had referred to the great organising ability of

this officer, and to the fact that under his superintendence we had secured the best system of education in the world. If so, why did not the Minister sooner recognise the officer's ability, and raise the salary before receiving the threat of resignation? As the member for Mount Margaret (Mr. Taylor) said, the officer was apparently "going on strike." Mr. Jackson was, he understood, a man of great talent, possessed of the rare ability to organise.

THE MINISTER FOR MINES: And a good worker.

MR. HASTIE: That was undoubted. But why had such great ability been recognised at the last moment, when no other civil servants were similarly treated? Unless it were shown that there was some sense of fairness to the various branches of the service, he would endeavour to strike out the increase. If the Minister would agree to that, neither he (Mr. Hastie) nor many other members would object to this and other increases being made retrospective; but he protested against a few getting substantial increases now while the salaries of others were left untouched. The first, third, fourth, and sixth officers on the list had increases while the second had none. Was the second officer one of those rare and modest men who were content with their positions? He moved that the item be reduced by £150.

THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: At the risk of being again accused of seeing through the spectacles of his officers, he would defend this item. After the admissions of the member for Kanowna (Mr. Hastie), though these were made on hearsay, the officer's ability would not be questioned; but it was desirable to mention some of the results of Mr. Cyril Jackson's appointment to the post of Inspector General of Schools. When installed in 1896, at exactly the same salary as he had been receiving up to the beginning of this financial year, Mr. Jackson had apparently been given to understand that increments in his salary would come in due course; and the Agent General, who engaged him, had been empowered to offer an annual salary of £750 to secure a good man. That he secured the services of a good man the educational system of the State bore witness; that we got him cheaply

was undoubtedly beyond question when we recollected that the Agent General secured the officer for £100 less than the amount allowed. Since his appointment in 1896 Mr. Jackson had been working hard endeavouring to perfect the educational system; he had worked most assiduously and effectually. Members who took the trouble to study the successive Blue Books issued, which showed the various officers employed by the Education Department since Mr. Jackson took charge, would see that there had been a considerable reduction in the administrative staff: he referred to the central staff in Perth, which dealt with departmental matters alone, and not the teaching staff. Members would find that when Mr. Jackson took charge there were two officers employed—a secretary of education and a chief clerk of education. Both of these officers the Government were able to dispense with, and the work which these officers had carried out was now performed by Mr. Jackson. This gave an annual saving to the State of £780. The member for Kanowna seemed inclined to grudge an increase of £150 to an officer who had carried out the work which Mr. Jackson had been doing for the last six years without the increments which he was led to expect on his appointment. With regard to the understanding which the member for Kanowna had spoken of, the only understanding he (the Minister) knew of was that which reserved to the Government in all cases the right to use their own discretion. This was a special case; it had been considered by the Cabinet, who thought this officer worthy of the increment proposed. Let members take a common-sense view and be guided by the circumstances of the case, and if hon. members did that the Committee would show a large majority in favour of the increase which was proposed to be given to Mr. Jackson. There was another aspect of the case. When Mr. Jackson came here and before he took over the work of the secretary and chief clerk, he was at liberty to earn a good many fees and allowances which the increased nature of his work now precluded him from earning. One found from a return which had been furnished that in the first year Mr. Jackson came here, that was in 1897, the fees and allowances amounted to no less a sum

than £166, and from that sum it had come down till in 1901 it only amounted to £25.

MR. DAGLISH: The low-paid servants were not allowed to earn anything extra.

THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: These fees were well earned, principally by conducting examinations, and anyone who had had experience of this class of work would agree it was perhaps the most tedious, and wearisome, and most exacting work one could carry out.

MR. DAGLISH: For the examinee.

THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: For both, perhaps; to the examiner if he did his duty by the examinee, who suffered tortures perhaps which we were supposed to suffer in the hereafter. If the State did not recognise the abilities of Mr. Jackson in this direction, there were other places perfectly willing so to do. He knew members might say, and the member for Kanowna did say, this was establishing a precedent and was somewhat dangerous. So far as he was concerned he would say—and he was not going to particularise anybody—he knew there were civil servants whose threat to leave if an increase was not received would not have any influence, and the officer making it would not receive the increase. When we had a good man we should certainly do our best to keep him. The Committee ran a risk in the case he was speaking of. He certainly would do his best to keep this officer in the State in which he had done so much for the educational system. Furthermore, if the Government had not recommended this increase on the Estimates, members of the Committee would have been perfectly justified in heaping censure on the Government for not doing so. Members must look at the matter apart from any fixed idea to strike at increases because they were increases. If members looked at the circumstances a majority would support the Government.

MR. THOMAS: It was his intention to support the amendment of the member for Kanowna. He did not wish to enter into an argument as to whether the officer filling the position was the best man who ever walked or otherwise. He had never met Mr. Jackson, but he had heard it said by friends of his own that Mr. Jackson was a most worthy officer, and if any-

one was entitled to an increase, he was. That was entirely beside the argument which he wished to adduce in favour of the amendment. This Parliament ever since its formation had been crying aloud for economy. The present and the previous Governments were very anxious to tell members that they were pledged to a policy of economy.

MR. DAGLISH: Economy against the heads of departments?

MR. THOMAS: Economy wherever it was wanted.

THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: Hear, hear.

MR. THOMAS: The Government told members that if they were allowed to remain in power they would see that the Estimates were placed on a proper basis, that the expenditure should be placed on a proper basis, and they would see that the reforms which the country had for years been crying aloud for should be carried into practical effect. Some of the members now sitting in Opposition were previously members of a Government; but they had not obtained a royal commission to go thoroughly into everything concerning the civil service in order to get recommendations for reform. One would have thought from the speech of the Minister for Education and other speeches by Ministers that some previous Ministry had appointed a royal commission to inquire into civil service reform to see where it could be carried out, and that the present Government had succeeded that Administration. The commission was appointed by the present occupants of the Treasury benches to travel throughout the length and breadth of the land, to collect evidence and recommend what system of reorganisation could be adopted by the Government. Therefore, it was most unfair for the Government which had appointed that commission to come before members during the progress of the investigations by that commission and ask members to consent to an increase in salary. If the Minister for Education could prove up to the hilt that the Inspector General of Schools was worth £3,000 a year, he (Mr. Thomas) would say it was a most unwarranted proceeding to ask for an increase when the commission which had been appointed was inquiring into the matter. The commission had cost a con-

siderable sum of money, and would cost the country a large sum of money; so much so that the member for Subiaco had seen fit to place a Notice of Motion on the paper to do away with the Royal Commission and allow the Government to carry out reform and practise the economy they were fond of preaching. Perhaps one who was in favour of appointing the Royal Commission might be tempted to give way and vote for the motion of the member for Subiaco, because it could be seen that the money which was being spent on the inquiry was being wasted when the Government came before members and intended to place no reliance on the report which was expected from the commission. If the commission reported that this officer merited an increase in salary, and if he was satisfied that the commission had conducted their labours in a proper manner, he would be prepared to back up the Minister for Education in any proposal for an increase. As the Government appointed those commissioners, the least the Government should do would be to wait for their recommendations in regard to increases. For himself he would not consent, pending the receipt of a report from the commission, to vote for any increase of salary, and he would take that course in regard to the salary of Mr. Jackson without going into the merits of the officer. He hoped the Committee would wipe off this increase as they had wiped off the proposed increases in the case of Mr. North and Mr. Ord. This should be done on principle.

MR. JACOBY: In the last session, the Leake Government assured this House that until a reorganisation of the public service took place, no increases would be submitted to Parliament. After the appointment of the Public Service Commission, the late Mr. Leake received a deputation of civil servants, and assured them that no increases would be made until the report of the Commission was received, also that any increases which the Commission recommend would be made retrospective. That was a pledge to the civil servants of the State, and it should have been kept by responsible Ministers.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: Except in special cases—that was the understanding in Cabinet.

MR. JACOBY: Throughout the Estimates there were considerable increases of salary. In regard to the increase of Mr. Cyril Jackson's salary, this increase might not be too large in view of the officer's merits. The State owed a great debt to this officer for the work done here, though in saying this he (Mr. Jacoby) was not defending some of the expenses in the larger centres. He had previously stated his reasons for voting against every increase of salary, and he hoped every member of the Committee would consistently carry out the understanding previously arrived at, and the pledge given by the late Premier. If this increase were recommended in the Estimates next year he would be willing that it should be made retrospective in effect.

[Attention called to the state of the House. Bells rung and a quorum formed.]

MR. JACOBY: One of the most dishonest acts of the Government was the breaking of the pledge given by the late Mr. Leake in saying that no increase would be proposed until the Commission had reported.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: That pledge was denied.

MR. JACOBY: Here were the great advocates for retrenchment, the pigeon-hole clearing Ministry, and what had they done?

THE PREMIER: There was no encouragement when electors returned men like the hon. member.

MR. JACOBY: Those members supporting the Premier were returned pledged to retrenchment and reorganisation, as he was; and if he (Mr. Jacoby) were supporting the present Premier, he would insist that the Ministerial pledge previously given should be carried out.

THE PREMIER: It was to be hoped that members would not be misled by any false cry. We had in this State what was recognised outside the State as being the best system of education in Australia. That was particularly the testimony from South Australia.

MR. JACOBY: And the testimony from this side also.

THE PREMIER: Yes; a testimony from both sides of this House and from outside the State. What authority or what special knowledge had members of the Public Service Commission in this

State, who came from countries where the education system was admittedly not so good as ours, to sit in judgment on the work of the man who had made our system and brought it to its present position?

MR. THOMAS: Then why appoint those commissioners?

THE PREMIER: The State school system of this State was admittedly better than the systems in the Eastern States; but far more important was the confirmation by the member for the Swan (Mr. Jacoby). The question as to the amount of salary depended largely on the value of the work to be done, and the authorities in this State had shown their estimate of the value of Mr. Jackson's work by recommending this increase. Again he must ask, what special knowledge had the members of this commission to deal with education, and to put forward their recommendation as having more weight and authority than the recommendation of those who were more immediately in touch with the work of education in this State? It was obvious that the same observation did not apply to the other departments, because it could not be said that they stood as being admitted in the East as equal to, if not better than, similar departments in those States. That was all the difference in the world. In connection with this department, it was recognised, putting it on its lowest basis, as being quite as good as any department in the East. So far as other departments were concerned, no such recognition was given. In dealing with the Education Department he personally should attach far more importance to the recommendations of the inspector general than to the recommendations of the commission. The member for the Swan (Mr. Jacoby) admitted that our present educational system was quite as good as, if not in advance of, the educational systems in the Eastern States. What authority had this Commission, if a conflict arose, to say that their recommendations should take precedence of the recommendations of our own departmental officers?

MR. JACOBY: Let the commission be abolished.

THE PREMIER: These commissioners were not brought here as educational experts.

MR. DAGLISH: Brought here for a picnic.

THE PREMIER: That might or might not be so. If they were brought here for the purpose of a picnic, why should we allow the educational system of this State to wait upon gentlemen who came here for the purpose of carrying on a picnic? The Committee could see all round in this State good work done by the inspector general.

MR. DAGLISH: And the teachers.

THE PREMIER: Undoubtedly; and no one recognised that more than the Inspector General himself. There never was a man at the head of the department more loyal to his subordinates, and more anxious to do justice to them than the inspector general, and increases were provided on the Estimates. In dealing with the whole of the department this principle, in relation to which he had suggested we should be guided very largely, if not entirely, by the Inspector General, an enthusiast on education, had been applied all round. We had complete confidence in the inspector general, who had shown his good works, which were manifest to any individual who liked to go to any State school in Western Australia and see the difference between the State school to-day and the State school before Mr. Jackson took up his duties in this State. He believed Mr. Jackson was worth every penny of his salary, and the Government were not applying to him any different rule from that which they were applying to other members of the department. The commission covered a very small portion of the department, and the Government believed that the Inspector General was a far better authority on educational matters than the commission was or could be.

MR. THOMAS: We did not ask a man to advise as to what salary should be paid to him. It had been said we had the best educational system in the Australian States, and he perfectly agreed with that statement. He had acted on school boards in Western Australia for some considerable time. It had been his duty to inspect schools and to keep in touch with them. He had travelled in all parts of the globe, and had never seen schools in a better condition or conducted on a better system of

education than those in Western Australia. That, however, was totally apart from the point raised by the member for Kanowna (Mr. Hastie). The Premier had told us the commission were not fit to state what salary the inspector general ought to receive. Was the hon. gentleman prepared to tell us that he would take immediate steps to dissolve that commission, or refuse to allow them to carry out any more of their inquiries into the civil service of Western Australia? The Premier said these people might be here on a picnic. If so, it was his duty to put an immediate stop to the picnic, and send them back to the States from which they came. He (Mr. Thomas) had some little faith in the work of the commission. He had an idea that those people were going into the matter in a whole-hearted way; that they were men who had been tried in other States and found competent, and fit to be sent into Western Australia to conduct an inquiry into our civil service. He was firmly convinced that no more competent officer could be found to administer this department than Mr. Cyril Jackson, and any salary paid to him would be exceedingly well earned. If the commission told us in their report that Mr. Cyril Jackson was underpaid, as he (Mr. Thomas) believed he was, he would vote for the increase, even if it were made retrospective. It was the duty of the Government to abide by, or at any rate to wait for, the recommendations of those men whom they themselves had appointed at a big salary and big cost to the State to inquire into this matter. He trusted the Committee would see that the amendment by the member for Kanowna was carried, and that the increase of £150 was wiped off the Estimates.

MR. HARPER: The debate had been listened to by him very attentively, and it was borne in upon him that if we were considering the best interests of the scholars we must not be bound to any rigid idea of what might be the report of a commission of gentlemen who were not experts on matters of education. These gentlemen had been appointed to inquire into certain things of which the Committee were not competent to judge in detail; but members of Parliament in this State were infinitely better judges of

the results of the efforts of the Education Department than any commission likely to report on the civil service could be. The words which had fallen even from members opposing the increase, giving vigorous support to the claim that this branch of our civil service was excellently administered, were infinitely more valuable, and probably far more correct, than any expression of opinion which we could expect to come from gentlemen who had been brought up in other branches of the civil service and who were experts in those other branches. These gentlemen might produce excellent reports on the red-tape aspect of the public service, but on a matter affecting the education of the youth of this State members were in a better position to form an opinion for themselves. Therefore it was unpractical and unwise to withhold the advancement of our educational system until we had received a report which, if it were adverse to the claims of the Education Department, would not receive much notice from members of the Committee, who, as before stated, were better judges in this matter than any commission could possibly be. Therefore he trusted that the Committee would think more of the interests of the youth of this State than of any report of the commission.

MR. DAGLISH: While re-echoing all that had been said in praise of the Inspector General of Schools, he likewise re-echoed his former advocacy of the principle that the Government should not make exceptions save for exceptional reasons. The only exceptional reason given in this instance was that the Inspector General might resign if not granted an increase. That was not a proper position for a public officer to take up. No officer had a right to threaten resignation and by that means to hold, as it were, a bludgeon over the Minister's head and force an increase.

THE PREMIER: How could an officer force an increase unless he were worthy of an increase? If unworthy, he would simply be told to go.

MR. DAGLISH: True; if an officer were not valuable or not thought valuable, the threat would not be effective. While admitting that the Inspector General was a valuable officer, he could not refrain from calling attention to the circumstance that in the opinion of a

Minister the head of a department was always a most valuable officer. Having seen many officers who as heads of departments were considered absolutely indispensable replaced, and more effectively replaced by others, he must call to mind the old adage that there were just as good fish in the sea as ever came out of it. We should consider whether Mr. Jackson's was the only case in which an increase was deserved. If there were other cases, had they been remembered in these Estimates? The understanding alluded to by the member for Dundas (Mr. Thomas) as having been come to last session, that until the Public Service Commission had reported no increases of salary should be made, had undoubtedly been arrived at as stated. The desire of Ministers to depart from that principle was perfectly comprehensible, since no one had ever anticipated that the Royal Commission was likely to take so long over the task of classifying the public service. Ministers, who no doubt desired to grant certain increases during the life of the present Parliament, would certainly not have an opportunity of doing so if they waited until the commission's report was produced. It was somewhat startling to learn that the Commission was not competent to assess the value of officers in one of our largest departments. It was, farther, startling to hear, from a source believed to be inspired, the announcement that after the Public Service Commission had travelled round the goldfields classifying officers, two Ministers would now go over the same ground and amalgamate various offices without waiting for the Commission's report. In other words, what the Commission had done in full force—three commissioners having done work which might well have been done by one commissioner at one-third the cost—two Ministers would now do over again. In this particular case he could recognise no special necessity for an immediate increase. Neither could he follow those members who said they would agree to an increase later under certain circumstances. He would never agree to an increase of the salary of a departmental head unless lower officers, who were underpaid, were likewise to be granted an increase. In the Education Department various officers received sala-

ries of £100, £80, £75, and £70 per annum; and to these officers no increase was to be given. Surely it was better that an increment of £10 should be made in those cases than that Mr. Jackson should receive an increment amounting to more than double the annual salary paid in some instances. If the item were passed, the Inspector General would be the highest paid head of a department in the State. The Auditor General received only £700 a year, and his office was the most important in the State.

THE PREMIER: What! auditing more important than education?

MR. DAGLISH: The Auditor General's was unquestionably the most important office in the State; and yet the Auditor General was to receive only £700, while the Inspector General of Schools was to be paid £800. The Under Treasurer received only £550, and the under secretaries for Lands, Mines, and Works all drew salaries considerably lower than that proposed to be paid to Mr. Jackson. Were we to ask a C.M.G. to accept a salary £250 less than that paid to an Inspector General of Schools? On that ground alone the increase must be opposed.

MR. FOULKES: Some members looked at this matter from a wrong point of view. The member for Subiaco (Mr. Daglish) had said that he could not recognise the necessity for an immediate increase. The matter, however, was one of ordinary business. Members acknowledged that the State had a first-rate officer in Mr. Jackson. Now, Mr. Jackson, having received a certain salary for several years, had decided to leave unless that salary were raised to £800; and we were therefore called on to consider, not whether the officer was entitled to that increase by reason of long service, but simply whether as a matter of business we should agree to give it. The officer was quite justified in taking the stand of saying that he would leave unless his salary were raised. Pity a great number of civil servants were not able to take the same stand, and so demonstrate that their abilities were such as to enable them to obtain equally well paid, if not better paid, employment outside the State's service. True, the Minister might get an equally good officer for the salary Mr. Jackson was now being paid, or even for less; but

that new officer would institute fresh methods. Mr. Jackson's methods had taken some time to establish, and a great deal of his work would be lost under a new head. Moreover, we should not be able to tell for some time whether Mr. Jackson's successor was half as good as that gentleman. Better pay the extra £150 in order to keep a good officer.

MR. TAYLOR: In voting for the reduction of this item, he wished it to be clearly understood that his vote was cast irrespective of the merits or demerits of the officer concerned. The Government had appointed a civil service commission because they lacked the courage necessary to reduce the service, either in number or in salaries. Notwithstanding the statement of the Premier that the commission was half a picnic—[THE PREMIER: Nothing of the sort]—he believed that when the commission's report was received next year, hon. members would be startled. The report would recommend, not increases in salaries, but decreases; and not decreases in salaries alone, but decreases in the number of civil servants. The Government were acting unfairly in asking the House to agree to increases while the royal commission was engaged in the work of reorganising the civil service.

MR. JACOBY: Having been accused of failing to grasp the business aspect of the question, he desired again to explain that his reason for voting in favour of the amendment was that Mr. Leake had pledged his Government to granting no increases until the Civil Service Commission should have reported. To help the Government to keep their compact with the civil service, and for no other reason, he would vote for the reduction.

MR. ATKINS: Members should consider that Mr. Jackson had been in the service for six or seven years without an increase; his work had been first-rate and had become harder; and although increases at this time were wrong in principle an exception should be made in this case, for to disturb the present condition of the department would be injurious to the State.

MR. HASTIE: If good reason were shown he had promised to withdraw the amendment, but neither the Premier nor the Colonial Secretary had given him satisfaction. Much had been said of Mr.

Jackson's character and ability; but during this and last session every officer attacked had always found numerous members to say he was the best man in the country; and even the most inefficient could procure a good certificate of character from some hon. members. No one questioned Mr. Jackson's ability; but members objected to increases being given to him and a few others while salaries generally were not raised. The Premier's contention that Mr. Jackson was better able than the civil service commission to assess his own salary did not bear on the point. The commission's recommendation would not be final. As to the risk we ran of losing Mr. Jackson, take the risk. If he were as good as represented, he must have put the school system on a sound basis, and after he left, it would not seriously deteriorate. Mr. Jackson was said to be a very reasonable man. If so he would understand the position members took up, and would not insist that he and his inspectors should be specially selected for increases, but would wait till the service generally was reorganised.

Amendment (to reduce by £150) put, and a division taken with the following result:—

Ayes	...	...	...	9
Noes	...	...	...	16

Majority against ... 7

AYES.	NOES.
Mr. Bath	Mr. Atkins
Mr. Daglish	Mr. Butcher
Mr. Hastie	Mr. Ewing
Mr. Holman	Mr. Foulkes
Mr. Jacoby	Mr. Gardiner
Mr. Johnson	Mr. Gregory
Mr. Reid	Mr. Hayward
Mr. Taylor	Mr. James
Mr. Thomas (Teller).	Mr. Kingsmill
	Mr. Monger
	Mr. Morgans
	Mr. Piesse
	Mr. Quinlan
	Mr. Rason
	Mr. Throssell
	Mr. Highman (Teller).

Amendment thus negatived.

Item—Inspector of Schools, £380:

MR. HASTIE: Why were increases given to this and the three following inspectors, while the Chief Inspector of Schools did not get any?

THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: These district inspectors received an increase of £20, because by the terms of their appointments they were each entitled to an annual increment of £10, and

last year, owing to a misapprehension, that increment was not granted. To avoid a breach of contract, the £10 was added to this year's salary and increment. The same conditions did not apply to the Chief Inspector of Schools.

Item—Allowances to teachers, forage, lodging, etc., £1,000:

MR. THOMAS objected to forage allowances. Last year the Estimate was £900 and the expenditure £872 odd, a saving of about £27. Being opposed to any increases, he moved that the item be reduced by £100.

THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: There were more teachers this year than last.

MR. THOMAS: Define forage. Last night he had been told that forage meant salary, and to-day that rations meant salary. Such definitions were not according to Webster.

THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: These allowances varied in amount according to the circumstances of the teachers. The Education Department should be allowed to use some discretion as to the amounts which it was deemed necessary the teachers should receive, and he could assure members that where the teachers were not likely to expend the money the amount would not be granted. The conditions were so diverse in various portions of the State what where teachers received salaries according to grade the circumstances of the locality had to be taken into consideration.

MR. MORGANS: Why not call them allowances?

THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: The item was for "allowances, forage, lodging, etc." The amount was granted according to the locality and the price of necessities in that locality. Allowances might be granted from £10 to £40 per annum.

MR. BUTCHER: What did teachers require forage for?

THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: Teachers in charge of half-time schools had to travel perhaps 10 miles from one school to another, and in such cases a horse had to be kept.

Amendment negatived.

Item—Principal of Training College, £450:

MR. JACOBY: What number of students was attending the training col-

lege, what number were in residence, what fees were paid, and what was the total annual revenue?

THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: There were 42 or 43 students at the present time attending the college, the greater number being in residence; the term of residence varied according to the capabilities of the teacher. After next year all teachers would go into the college for a term of three years. At present students were accepted for two years, so that the department would begin to turn out a certain number of teachers every year. The capacity of the training college was 60 students. This meant that the department would turn out every year from the college 20 teachers, which for some time to come would be the approximate number of teachers required by the Education Department. The fees were not large, and did not contribute very greatly to the upkeep of the college, neither was it usual in this class of institution that it should be so. As to the necessity of the training college, anyone who had any knowledge must know that a training college was absolutely necessary for a good educational system. It was not every one who could become a teacher, principally through faults of temperament. Those whose temperament unfitted them should have an opportunity to find out before they engaged in the work whether they were fitted for the occupation or not. Often a young man or a young woman might have an idea that he or she could qualify for this profession, but in practice it was found they were unfitted for the work. Thus the State avoided having bad teachers, and perhaps a lot of misery was saved to the teacher who was taking up a life for which he or she was not fitted.

MR. JACOBY: What was the annual income?

THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: It was not considerable, but he could not give the exact figures.

Item—Resident Assistant, £280:

MR. BATH: There was an increase in this item, also in the next. What necessity was there for the increases?

THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: These officers were on classification. The salary was fixed by regulation, and they received an increase of £10 a year.

Item—Director of Technical Education, £450:

MR. HOLMAN: Was any provision made for technical education on the fields? The Mines Department made provision on the Eastern Goldfields for technical education, and the Minister for Mines had informed him that it was intended to make provision for technical education on the Murchison. It was desirable that the people on the Murchison should have some assistance for technical education instead of the whole amount for this purpose being spent in Perth, where the children had greater advantages over those on the fields. There were many adults on the fields at the present time who would take advantage of technical education at night schools if opportunity were given.

THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: This matter would be taken into consideration and if he could fix it up, so far as he was concerned, there would be no centre of population without an opportunity being provided of having evening schools where persons would have a chance of acquiring technical education. Evening schools were being gradually extended over the State at such places as Bulong, Northam, and Boulder; but it was a matter to a great extent of the self help of the people in the district. Where it was found there were a certain number of students available, and willing to pay the fees, which were not exorbitant, then the department looked around to see if a school could be organised. If the hon. member would find out the wishes of his district he (the Minister) would do what he could to meet the people. An opportunity should be given to the clerk to learn manual work, and the manual tradesman should be enabled to perfect himself in scientific subjects. An opportunity should be offered to everyone to take advantage of this class of education.

MR. BATH suggested that the department should send a circular to the various districts pointing out the views of the department. In Boulder this matter was taken up in a proper manner, a class was established and a good many students enrolled themselves. If it was known that the Minister for Education would assist the various districts, classes would be started so that students could study

various trades. The department would be able to establish classes in such centres as Northam, York, Menzies, and Leonora, and those places outside the centres where schools of mines would be established. It would result in good by educating those who were desirous of securing such advantages.

Item—Cadet Staff, £400:

MR. BATH: There was an increase of £200 in this item. The Minister did not make out a very good case on behalf of the cadets. There was no justification for the increase, and he moved that the vote be reduced by £200.

MR. JACOBY: The amount seemed rather large. There was not a call for a great expenditure on staff. In a large number of instances teachers of schools were quite capable of carrying out the elementary teaching in drill. The greater portion of the expenditure in this direction should be devoted to ammunition and field work. Every teacher was capable of giving instruction in drill, and whilst the lads were being drilled they could not be in school, so the teacher would be available. In the other States a large staff was not kept. The expenditure should be kept down in this direction, so that more money could be expended in the actual field work.

THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: The greatest care would be exercised in the expenditure of this vote, and every effort used to make the Commonwealth take their share of the expenditure. Personally he thought their share should be a large one. [MEMBER: They were hard people to deal with.] He understood they were.

MR. JACOBY: What staff was proposed?

THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: The principal was Captain Hunt. It was proposed that he should teach the cadets, for which he was qualified, and also go round to give instruction in any particular lines to teachers throughout the State. The utmost economy would be exercised in the administration of the vote.

MR. JACOBY: The Minister might appoint an officer who was experienced in gymnastic and calisthenic work.

THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: This gentleman was, he was assured, skilled in all classes of drill.

Amendment negatived.

Item—Lodging, forage, etc., £200 :

MR. HOLMAN moved that the item be reduced by £100.

Amendment negatived.

Item—Purchase of rifles, swords, etc., £3,000 :

MR. BATH moved that the item be struck out. It was undesirable to devote £3,000 to the purchase of rifles and swords for school children.

THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: The item was not introduced with the idea of encouraging any spirit of militarism.

MR. BATH: It was sure to have that effect.

THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: If we created a generation of young Australians fit to defend their country, and who would, by the time they reached years of discretion, be really as well trained as some of our volunteers, we did a good thing and encouraged a spirit of self-reliance, which he was glad to say already existed, and which he hoped would be fostered by education given in this direction. His experience had been that the more a man knew about the way to defend himself the less likely he was to be the aggressor in any quarrel.

MR. HOLMAN: Would the whole of the rifles, swords, etc., be used in Perth, a few of them going to Fremantle to defend the famous swing bridge?

THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: They would be distributed throughout the State.

Amendment put, and a division taken with the following result:—

Ayes	8
Noes	19

Majority against	...	11
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AYES.

Mr. Bath
Mr. Duglish
Mr. Foulkes
Mr. Holman
Mr. McDonald
Mr. Reid
Mr. Taylor
Mr. Thomas (Teller).

NOES.

Mr. Atkins
Mr. Butcher
Mr. Ewing
Mr. Gardiner
Mr. Gregory
Mr. Hassell
Mr. Hastie
Mr. Hayward
Mr. Hicks
Mr. Jacoby
Mr. James
Mr. Kingsmill
Mr. Monger
Mr. Morgans
Mr. Phillips
Mr. Piesse
Mr. Rason
Mr. Wallace
Mr. Higham (Teller).

Amendment thus negatived.

Item—Purchase of Uniforms, £500 :

MR. JACOBY asked how this money would be spent. He hoped nothing would be spent in uniforms, because he fancied the parents of cadets would be prepared to provide all that was necessary in that direction—an ordinary serge suit which boys wore to school, with a few stripes. He was particularly anxious that the largest possible amount of this vote should be devoted to field work.

THE PREMIER: The object of the item was really to provide uniform when a boy was made corporal or sergeant, or something.

MR. JACOBY: It was to be hoped that not a single penny would be spent on swords, which were out of date.

THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: Uniforms, in his opinion, had a moral effect. The thought that he was wearing uniform emphasised in the mind of a person the fact that he was subject to discipline. It had that effect rather on young minds than on old minds. Five hundred pounds was a very small sum to spend for the whole State. He would see that even this small sum was economically distributed.

MR. HASTIE moved that the item be struck out. The Colonial Secretary stated that uniforms had a moral effect, but from his (Mr. Hastie's) observation uniform had an immoral effect. One particular effect that the uniform had was that it gave its wearer a feeling of superiority over others who were not uniformed. If children would appreciate rifle shooting and discipline they would do it quite as much even if they were not more decorated than other boys. Five hundred pounds was not sufficient to go round amongst all the boys, therefore a very large amount of ill-feeling would exist amongst the boys who had no uniforms. He hoped the Committee would hesitate before embarking on a scheme for uniforming the youths of this State.

MR. THOMAS: Before deciding how to vote, he would be glad to know from the Minister for Education how many boys were to have rifles and uniforms. [THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: About 1,000.] Did the Minister seriously believe that uniforms were obtainable for ten bob

a-piece? [The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: No.] Then some boys were to be given uniforms, and others not; and thus the spirit of envy would be aroused. Because he strongly favoured the establishment of rifle clubs, and because he was President of the National Rifle Association of Western Australia, he had, paradoxical as it might seem, voted against the last item. That the Colonial Secretary, who, as the pages of *Hansard* would show, had claimed to be the "economist-in-chief" of this State, should wish to expend £3,500 on the gratification of a mere fad was indeed surprising. The hon. gentleman would next be asking the Committee to provide funds for uniforming the girls employed in cookery classes.

MR. BATH: This item and the last represented not increases, but entirely new expenditure. He was utterly opposed to letting half educated youths strut about with uniforms and swords. The whole tendency of Federal defence was to dispense with military display, so that in passing this item we should be taking a retrograde step. Moreover, the money could be more usefully expended.

MR. DAGLISH: This item ought to be struck out. The Colonial Secretary must recognise the weakness of the argument that uniforms made for morality. Were garrison towns, where uniforms were most plentiful, the most moral of places?

THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION said he did not remember having made such a remark.

MR. DAGLISH: The statement had undoubtedly been made.

THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: The statement he made was that a uniform had a certain moral effect; but that moral effect might be either good or bad.

MR. DAGLISH: Then uniforms promoted immorality?

THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: Certainly not.

MR. DAGLISH: The Minister's explanation was incomprehensible; and he either did not know what he was saying, or did not mean what he said. If uniforms reminded the wearers that they were subject to discipline, the Premier should put his Ministers or his other supporters in uniform. If uniforms rendered boys more amenable to discipline, would portion only of a uniform have the same effect as the whole, and

how much could be expected from a vote sufficient to purchase caps and shoulder-straps only? How would this item promote the moral or physical education of the children? Strike it out, as a mere waste of money. If the sum must be spent, spend it for the benefit of the children, say on a scholarship.

MR. BUTCHER supported the amendment. Expenditure on education he would support, but against wasting £500 on shoddy uniforms, which the boys would soon grow out of, and which would then be useless for other boys, he must protest.

MR. HASTIE: As only a select few of the boys could be uniformed, the Minister should withdraw the item, for the system must promote envy amongst the children, both in school hours and at home. The vote showed an increase of £3,900, and such wasteful expenditure as the item involved was altogether unjustifiable.

Amendment passed, and the item struck out.

MR. JACOBY moved that the total of the vote be reduced by £5,000. To the Perth High School he wished to draw attention. It should be absorbed by the Education Department.

THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: General discussion on the Education Vote having been finished and all items passed, was the hon. member in order in moving to alter the total fixed by the Committee?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Quinlan): The hon. member could not now move to reduce the total. The question was that the total be a sum not exceeding £123,325.

MR. JACOBY: If that question were negatived, what would be the position?

THE CHAIRMAN: The whole vote would be struck out. It could not now be merely decreased.

MR. THOMAS: Yesterday he had desired to deal with a general vote first and to go through the items after; but a ruling was then given against him. Now the Committee had gone through these items, and when we came to the total of the vote members were told they could not discuss it.

THE CHAIRMAN: The hon. member was out of order. It had been ruled already that the vote could not be debated, the items had been put in the ordinary way.

MR. JACOBY wished to disagree with the Chairman's ruling.

THE CHAIRMAN: The vote must be put first.

Vote (reduced to £123,525) passed.

POINT OF ORDER.

MR. JACOBY moved that the ruling of the Chairman be not agreed to. He had looked up the matter in *May*, and was of opinion the total vote could be discussed.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Illingworth) resumed the Chair, and said: The hon. member was distinctly out of order in discussing a matter that was not within the vote under consideration. The Committee having dealt with the items and already fixed the total sum, no farther reduction could take place.

IN COMMITTEE.

Vote (postponed)—*Aborigines*, £5,000.

MR. WALLACE: Some years ago many reservations were made throughout the State to settle the aborigines upon; but not one of these reservations had been used for the purpose for which they were dedicated. Recently, through some questions asked in another place, it was ascertained that a lease of a portion of one of the reserves had been granted to a certain pastoralist for pastoral purposes. Some time last year the then Minister for Lands (Mr. Sommers) wrote advising a certain person that of a certain reserve on the Murchison, 297A, containing 50,000 acres in all, 20,000 acres could be leased to Mr. F. Wittenoom, and on January 9th, 1899, it was leased for a term of five years, the annual rental being 20s. per 1,000 acres. The Minister for Lands gave that information on October 15th. Within three weeks information was given in another place that this gentleman's lease had been extended to 22,000 acres, and the term of lease to 10 years. Had the Aborigines Department the power to lease the reserves or any portion of them for pastoral purposes, either privately or by calling for tenders, or should not the whole land transaction go through the Lands Department? Seeing there was no possibility, certainly no probability, of settling the natives on the reserve, would it not be better in the interests of pastoral settlement that these reserves be cancelled and thrown open to public competition, and not treated in the

way the one to which he referred had been treated? The area had been increased by 2,000 acres, and, worst of all, the term of lease had been increased 100 per cent. on what it was 12 months ago. The holder had fenced in the portion leased. He wanted to know if the Aborigines Board could make such use of the reserves in the way mentioned.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: With regard to the question as to a certain lease, there passed through his hands to-day the file dealing with that matter. He then sent the file to the Chief Inspector of Aborigines, with a request that he should report on the circumstances of the case. Until that report arrived, and seeing that this lease had been granted (as the hon. member said) some years before he (the Colonial Secretary) was in charge of the department, he did not suppose the hon. member expected him to give a reason for the action then taken. When the report was received the hon. member would be quite at liberty to read it.

MR. THOMAS said he had probably a greater knowledge of niggers and the native question than any other member, if not the whole of the members put together, having employed a large number of the superior native races—Zulus, Myyampans, and Myshaangaans. He was surprised at the large volume of arrant nonsense spoken by members who had no knowledge or acquaintance with niggers at all. His only object was to controvert statements made the other night by the member for Mount Margaret (Mr. Taylor) when he read a bill from some person dealing with the hiring of native labour. The hon. member waxed eloquent, and asked the Committee whether they were going to stand any longer natives being treated as goods and chattels. The hon. member said the very fact that they appeared in the bill in the form they did was conclusive proof that they were treated as goods and chattels. He stated that they were down in the same bill with a tin of kerosene. The member for Mount Margaret need not worry in looking after natives whose labour was classed among kerosene. The hon. member's first duty was to the white labourer in the immediate locality of Perth. He (Mr. Thomas) had in his hand two bills which, if the hon.

member's argument was correct regarding those natives, must be held as conclusive proof that our white men in Perth and its immediate neighbourhood, and right throughout the length and breadth of this State, were only held to be equal to ordinary goods and chattels. There was a bill from the Perth Gas Co., Ltd., which contained the items: Fifty-five units electric current, £2 1s. 3d.; rent of meter, 1s. 3d.; 2 yards of flexible cord at 4d., 8d.; fitter's time, 6s." There was another bill from Messrs. Wm. Goss and Co., which included the items: "One portable enamel bath, £11 10s.; mirror for lavatory, £1 2s. 6d.; one piece of marble for back of lavatory, 10s. 6d.; plumber's time, £7 2s. 6d.; assistant's time, £2 7s. 6d.; 11ft. of 2in. lead waste, 12s. 6d.; 1 P trap, 2in., 7s. 6d." Probably every member of the Committee had received invoices similar to that produced by the member for Mount Margaret.

MR. TAYLOR: Would the Colonial Secretary allow progress to be reported, to enable him to produce a letter from Mr. Farrelly, who had been so much abused by the member for the Gascoyne (Mr. Butcher)?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: The hon. member was rather exceeding the province of the House. Still, as the desire was to vindicate a man's character, progress might be reported.

MR. NANSON: If progress were reported on this ground, a farther postponement might be asked for in order that replies from Mr. Bush and Mr. Bush's overseer might be produced; and so the process would be interminable. The member for Mount Margaret (Mr. Taylor) could adopt other means of clearing Mr. Farrelly's character.

MR. TAYLOR: While no attack on any person had been made by him, the member for the Gascoyne had made a brutal attack on an absent man. Since this matter was last discussed, he (Mr. Taylor) had received from Mr. Farrelly a letter in which the writer referred to the Premier and another member of the House.

MR. DAGLISH: Did the letter relate to aborigines?

MR. TAYLOR: Yes; and to the account produced. Farther, the letter contradicted certain statements made by the member for the Gascoyne.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: Then the letter would lead to a great deal more useless discussion.

MR. TAYLOR: In justice, opportunity should be allowed for the production of the letter. Even without the letter he could, perhaps, prolong the debate.

MR. NANSON: The hon. member (Mr. Taylor) had denied having made an attack on Mr. Bush and Mr. Bush's overseer. The only construction to be placed on the hon. member's words, which were on record, was that they conveyed an attack of the most serious description. While not objecting in the slightest degree to opportunity being afforded for the clearing of Mr. Farrelly's character, he could not but recognise that this course might involve farther postponements.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: It was quite competent for the member for Mount Margaret to bring the matter up by way of personal explanation. That the progress of the Estimates should be delayed in order that the letter might be read was unreasonable, as the hon. member must realise. There was no general desire that the vote should be farther postponed.

MR. TAYLOR: Of course, the Minister had the brutal majority behind him and could use it.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: The business of the Committee ought not to be hung up when other means just as effective for the purpose were available.

MR. TAYLOR: If the vote were not postponed, other Estimates might not get through very quickly.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: The hon. member's threats were regrettable. If the desire for postponement were shared by other members, the position would be different.

MR. DAGLISH: When last discussed, this vote was postponed at the request of the Colonial Secretary and the leader of the Opposition. Now it was unexpectedly reintroduced, and as the member for Mount Margaret was not prepared to speak, a farther postponement was reasonable.

MR. NANSON: The discussion had been postponed pending presentation of the valuable report of the Inspector of Aborigines.

MR. THOMAS: As would be seen in *Hansard*, the member for Mount Margaret, on the previous occasion, objected to charges for hire of two aborigines appearing amongst items of flour and kerosene, as this showed that aborigines were treated as merchandise. He (Mr. Thomas) had produced bills in which the time of white men was charged for together with lead and cotton-waste, thus showing the absurdity of the hon. member's contention.

MR. TAYLOR rose to continue the discussion.

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

ADJOURNMENT.

The House adjourned at 11-20 o'clock, until the next day.

Legislative Council,

Thursday, 4th December, 1902.

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THE PRESIDENT took the Chair at 4-30 o'clock, p.m.

PRAYERS.

PETITION—CHINESE AND FACTORIES BILL.

HON. A. G. JENKINS presented a petition from Chinese merchants and

residents against Clause 74 of the Factories and Shops Bill.

Petition received, read, and ordered to be considered in connection with the Bill when in Committee.

QUESTION—KIMBERLEY RESERVE, REMOUNTS.

HON. W. MALEY asked the Minister for Lands: 1, Have the Government decided to offer for pastoral lease Temporary Reserve 8215, Kimberley (at present reserved for breeding remounts). 2, In view of the large area and magnificent position of the reserve, do the Government propose advertising the land before receiving applications. 3, How many remounts have been bred on the one million acres in the reserve. 4, Do the Government propose breeding remounts in any other portion of the State. 5, Has any other land been set apart for the purpose.

THE MINISTER FOR LANDS replied: 1, Yes. 2, Yes. 3, None. 4, No. 5, No.

QUESTION—ESPERANCE HARBOUR, REPORT.

HON. A. G. JENKINS asked the Minister for Lands: Will the Government consider the advisability of obtaining an independent expert report on the suitability of the port of Esperance as a harbour?

THE MINISTER FOR LANDS replied: It is not customary to call for independent expert opinion until the usual advisers on the question have first reported.

QUESTION—PARKER'S RANGE DAM.

HON. T. F. O. BRIMAGE asked the Minister for Lands: 1, Is it the intention of the Government to repair the Parker's Range dam. 2, Are the Government aware that the dam was full this winter. 3, Are they aware that the dam leaks, and that all the water is lost. 4, Do they intend to take action and make the dam watertight. 5, What would be the cost of asphaltting the dam. 6, Has anyone reported on the dam since its construction.

THE MINISTER FOR LANDS replied: 1, The tank does not need repairs, it never having been lined, and the question of rendering it watertight by means