

for any provision of this kind, because such Bill must originate in this House.

MR. R. F. SHOLL moved that the Message from the Legislative Council be taken into consideration at the next sitting of this House. He said it would be only courteous to consider any Message from the other House.

THE SPEAKER said he was of opinion that a reply to the Message should be sent to the Legislative Council.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) said that, perhaps, on the next day the hon. member in charge of the Message might make other arrangements, and the matter could stand over for the present.

ADJOURNMENT.

The House adjourned at 11:35 o'clock p.m.

Legislative Council,

Thursday, 20th September, 1894.

Boyanup-Busselton Railway: contract date for completion—Government Service: employment in—Hospitals Bill: first reading—Constitution Act Amendment Bill: third reading—Adjournment.

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

PRAYERS.

BOYANUP-BUSSELTON RAILWAY—CONTRACT DATE FOR COMPLETION OF.

THE HON. J. C. G. FOULKES asked the Colonial Secretary: What is the date fixed in the contract for the completion of the Boyanup-Busselton Railway?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. S. H. Parker): December 22nd, 1894.

GOVERNMENT SERVICE—EMPLOYMENT IN.

THE HON. J. C. G. FOULKES moved, "That all vacancies for employment in the Government service should be advertised in the *Government Gazette*." He said: As hon. members know, a great deal of interest is taken in the colony as to the position of Civil servants. The Government employ a great number of them, and the motion I have tabled deals with the question of their appointment. I am aware that a Civil Service Commission is sitting, and I asked a question as to when we are likely to have a report, but the reply I got was so vague that I am led to think the time will be very long before we get it. I, therefore, thought there was no necessity to wait. Another thing is that, perhaps, unless their attention is called to the matter, the Commission will not deal with it. At present, if any person wants employment in the Government service, he applies to the Minister or person in charge of the department. He gives his name, which is entered in a book called the Application Book, and I believe that in every department a great number of names are to be found in the books. Some of these names have been down for two or three years. The system may do very well for those who reside in Perth or Fremantle, and who are able to worry the Minister from time to time; but it is very hard upon those who reside in the country, and who have not the same advantages as those who reside in the towns. I was anxious to obtain employment for a young fellow a short time ago, but I was told that there was no vacancy: that was in the Works Department. They said they had dozens of names down, and that it would be useless to wait. Very soon afterwards I heard that a boy who had been getting eight shillings a week was given an appointment at £60 a year. I made inquiries, and found that he had a father and two or three brothers in the service, so that I easily accounted for the appointment. This system, of course, works considerable injustice on those who do not reside in Perth, and who do not know when vacancies occur. In this colony young men are at great disadvantages. It is not possible for them to enter the medical profession here, and

unless a boy's parents can afford the expense of sending him away to learn a profession, he must do something else. Again, a boy cannot enter the clerical profession.

HON. MEMBERS: It does not pay.

THE HON. J. C. G. FOULKES: I know it does not, but I am surprised that my hon. friend does not look at the matter from a higher standpoint. They may certainly enter the legal profession, but I may tell the House that it is the most poorly paid profession of all. There are, owing to these disadvantages, more candidates for employment in the Government service here than elsewhere. If my motion is agreed to, and every vacancy is advertised in the *Government Gazette*, everyone will have the same chance, and the system would not only be of advantage to the applicant, but also to the Minister who has to appoint. Under the existing system the Minister may have the applicant's name before him, but he forgets the qualifications of particular individuals. I know that there is a strong feeling that there has been some amount of favouritism, but I need not deal with that part of the subject. Some may say that there would be just as much favouritism even if the vacancies were advertised, but I do not think so. For instance, if a man applied from York and a man was appointed from Perth who was not so good a man, someone would soon inquire on what grounds the choice was made. My system would also make the heads of departments more careful. At present appointments are made in the most haphazard way, and to remedy it I bring forward this proposition. I am going to ask country members to support me, although I do not think it is much good for me to ask the members for Perth to do likewise, because probably they will like to keep the news in Perth so that they may have the first chance of securing the appointments.

THE HON. F. T. CROWDER seconded the motion.

THE HON. E. G. HENTY: I think the Hon. Mr. Foulkes has made a powerful speech on a particularly small matter. The fact of the vacancies being advertised will, I think, affect but a few. I take the *Gazette*, but, like many others, I do not take much notice of its contents. However, the hon. member has given us

a chance of dealing with a principle which in time will involve competitive examination for these appointments, and I shall therefore support him.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. S. H. Parker): There is, at the present time, a Commission sitting, which is considering the organisation of the Service, and I trust that their labours will enable us to put Civil servants on a better footing than they are on now. I hope this Commission will recommend that appointments shall be by competitive examination, and that they will recommend that a Bill be introduced for regulating the Service and promotions in it. As the Commission has not yet reported, I think hon. members will agree that this motion is somewhat premature. If we look at the terms of the motion, we will see that it says that all vacancies shall be advertised. Now, in the majority of instances, vacancies are filled by the promotion of the next junior. If a second clerk, say, leaves the Treasury, the next clerk, almost as a matter of course, takes his place. I hardly remember an instance of where the next clerk has been passed over, and an officer from outside or one lower down in the Service has been placed over his head. It is obvious, then, that in these cases there is no need to advertise.

THE HON. D. K. CONGDON: A vacancy would still be left.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. S. H. Parker): Certainly, but one at the bottom of the list—the £60 a year gentleman. The fact of the hon. gentleman only being able to name one case shows—

THE HON. J. C. G. FOULKES: I can mention lots of others. The fewer cases you ask me to quote the better.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. S. H. Parker): The hon. member is a lawyer, and we know that lawyers generally quote their strongest case first. The hon. member quotes a case of where his friend did not get an appointment worth £60 a year. He does not tell us whether his friend was more worthy or a better man than the one who was appointed.

THE HON. J. C. G. FOULKES: I only used that as an example. I was told that there was no vacancy, and immediately after an appointment was made.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. S. H. Parker): Then I congratulate my

hon. friend's friend that he escaped getting the appointment, for I have not the slightest doubt that if he devotes his energies to something else it will bring him a fortune at a much earlier date than if he were in the public service. It would be better if young men struck out in lines for themselves, and did not enter the public service so readily as they do. After being for years—I will not say years of hard work—in the public service, they can only look forward to a small competency. Even if they became carpenters, or mechanics, or gold miners, it strikes me they would have better chances than by taking small clerkships in the public offices. There are very few prizes in the Service, and probably only one man in a hundred succeeds in obtaining one. Again, if there were any difficulty in obtaining clerks it might be well to advertise, but when we have hundreds applying why need we do so? I do not, however, remember any application for the Vasse, and I take it that the reason is that the inhabitants of that town are possessed of so much common sense that they wish to keep out of the public service. The endeavour of the Government has been, as far as possible, to give the residents of this colony and the sons of the old settlers the first chances in the service if they desire it, and as far as I am concerned in my department, I defy any hon. member to point out any instance of favouritism.

THE HON. J. C. G. FOULKES: What about the appointment of a librarian to the Victoria Library?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. S. H. Parker): I regret exceedingly that the hon. member is not aware that that appointment rests solely with the trustees of the Library, and not with the Government. I am glad to see the second strongest case of the hon. member fall to the ground. I can only again assure hon. members that when a vacancy occurs, the sons of old settlers will be considered first, all other things being equal, and that our only desire is to obtain the best men we can for the positions.

THE HON. D. K. CONGDON: I shall not vote for the motion, because to my mind it is altogether impracticable to carry out.

THE HON. J. C. G. FOULKES: Is the hon. member in order, he being a member of the Civil Service Commission?

THE PRESIDENT (Hon. Sir G. Shenton): Perfectly in order.

THE HON. D. K. CONGDON: I say it is impracticable. Take the Railway Department. Surely it could not be expected that they could wait for men at a time of a rush, until the vacancies were advertised? I think the hon. member wishes to go out of the way, and use very powerful machinery to accomplish a small object.

THE HON. C. E. DEMPSTER: I am inclined to favour this motion on account of the favoured way in which appointments are made, and I think it would do good if publicity were given to all vacancies. There is a general idea that kissing goes by favour, and if the vacancies were advertised people would consider that their applications received proper consideration.

THE HON. H. MCKERNAN: I rise to support the motion, because there seems to be a feeling that appointments are not made in a way that is fair to all who aspire to positions in the public service. If the result of the motion leads to appointments being made after competitive examination it will do still more good.

THE HON. T. H. MARSHALL: I shall support the motion, although I do not think it goes far enough. The hon. member should have said that the vacancies should be advertised in the daily papers. The *Government Gazette* is hardly ever read, even by those to whom it is sent free.

THE HON. E. McLARTY: I think the motion is impracticable to carry out. Suppose a vacancy occurred and 100 applications came in, in what better position would the Minister be in to judge of the merits of the candidates? Still, there is an impression abroad that men are placed in positions who have no claims on the colony, although I am glad to hear the hon. the Colonial Secretary say that preference is given to the sons of old settlers. I am sorry I cannot support the motion.

THE HON. J. C. G. FOULKES: I should like to deal with a few of the arguments against the motion. It sounds all very well for the Ministry to say that they do their best, and that they never do anything wrong, but when we come to the actual practice it is a different matter altogether. The practice is if a

young fellow comes here with a good suit of clothes and a glass in his eye he is found an appointment, perhaps to the detriment of the young man from York or Beverley who has also applied. The Hon. the Colonial Secretary says I only mentioned one case; but I did not wish to refer to individual cases. I know of a young fellow who was given an appointment in the Crown Lands Department at £300 a year after he had been here but a short time, and no one knew of the vacancy.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. S. H. Parker): What was his name?

THE HON. J. C. G. FOULKES: I will not state it; I will write it down.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. S. H. Parker): The position is vacant now, and there are no applications for it.

THE HON. J. C. G. FOULKES: No one knows it is vacant. The Hon. the Colonial Secretary says he makes it a rule to give the preference to the sons of old settlers, but how are we to know that? This motion will prove whether such is the case. The Hon. Mr. McLarty says the motion is impracticable and is no protection against favouritism. I believe it will be. Another argument was that the motion was premature, but I anticipated this some days ago by asking when we should get the report of the Civil Service Commission, and I received a vague reply, and we do not know whether this Commission will recommend publicity in these matters. I can assure the Hon. the Colonial Secretary that there is a great deal of dissatisfaction with regard to the Government appointments, and I believe this motion, if carried, will remedy it.

The House divided.

Ayes	7
Noes	5

Majority for ... 2

AYES.
The Hon. F. T. Crowder
The Hon. C. E. Dempster
The Hon. Ernest Henty
The Hon. T. H. Marshall
The Hon. H. McKernan
The Hon. E. Robinson
The Hon. J. C. G. Foulkes
(Teller).

NOES.
The Hon. D. K. Congdon
The Hon. S. J. Haynes
The Hon. E. McLarty
The Hon. H. J. Saunders
The Hon. S. H. Parker
(Teller).

HOSPITALS BILL.

This Bill was introduced and was read a first time.

CONSTITUTION ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

THIRD READING.

This Bill was read a third time, and passed.

ADJOURNMENT.

The House, at 5-20 o'clock p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, 26th September, at 4-30 o'clock p.m.

Legislative Assembly, Thursday, 20th September, 1894.

Carriage of Explosives by Northern Coasting Boats—Employment in the Public Service of Captain T. W. Smith, late Inspector of Pearl Shell Fisheries—Settlement Areas within Coolgardie Townsite, and Water Supply for Goldfields—Droving Bill: second reading—Brands Bill: second reading—Municipal Institutions Bill: recommitted—Loan Bill (£1,500,000): further considered in committee—Adjournment.

THE SPEAKER took the chair at 4-30 p.m.

PRAYERS.

CARRIAGE OF EXPLOSIVES BY NORTHERN COASTING BOATS.

MR. CONNOR, in accordance with notice, asked the Premier whether it was the intention of the Government to forbid any explosives being carried on coastal boats to the North?

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) replied that the Government had not the power to forbid this being done, but that the regulations were so stringent that ships would probably not do so as a rule.

EMPLOYMENT BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE LATE INSPECTOR OF PEARL-SHELL FISHERIES.

MR. R. F. SHOLL (for MR. KEEP), in accordance with notice, asked the Premier whether Captain T. W. Smith, late