

service many years, beginning at a low salary and rising by a small annual increase until they reached the maximum. It was unfair that others of these men had lost the benefit of annual increases through the action of Parliament in blocking increases during the last three years, and they had not got the benefit of the full payment which would otherwise have been due to them, while there were officers who had reached the maximum previously and were not put to this disadvantage. Justice should be done in these cases.

THE PREMIER: Attendants were employed under the medical rules and regulations, being taken on at £90 per annum with allowance for rations and lodging, and they received an annual increase. If some warders had been deprived of this increase during the last three years, he would inquire into those cases.

Item — Fremantle Public Hospital, £5,500:

MR. PIGOTT: From statements in the Press it appeared that the hospital board had nominated a doctor for appointment to the honorary medical staff; that the Colonial Secretary had disapproved of the nomination, and that a deadlock had resulted. Surely the board were not obliged to get Ministerial sanction to an honorary appointment. What was the legal position?

THE PREMIER said he had not looked up the legal point.

MR. PIGOTT: If there was a doubt, the Minister's attitude was not to be commended.

THE PREMIER: The Minister, if requested to consent, had surely the right to refuse.

MR. PIGOTT: The request might have been made out of courtesy. The only reason given for refusal was that the doctor nominated had a partner on the medical staff of the hospital.

THE PREMIER: A partner on the board.

MR. PIGOTT: So had other doctors. All the laymen on the board, the chairman included, unanimously picked out Dr. Martin as best qualified for the position.

MR. FOULKES: The majority did, but the laymen were not unanimous.

MR. PIGOTT: This doctor was stated to have held a high position in St. Thomas's Hospital (London); yet the board were denied his service.

THE PREMIER: Such appointments were bad in principle.

MR. PIGOTT: Then why not ask other doctors similarly situated to resign?

THE PREMIER: There was a difference between asking existing officers to resign and objecting to a new appointment.

[**MR. QUINLAN** took the Chair.]

MR. PIGOTT: The objection to this officer seemed to come from long-established practitioners.

THE PREMIER: Inquiries would be made and information furnished.

On motion by **MR. PIGOTT**, progress reported and leave given to sit again.

ADJOURNMENT.

The House adjourned at 22 minutes past 10 o'clock, until the next day.

Legislative Council.

Wednesday, 11th November, 1903.

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Schedule of Provinces, progress 1997	

The **PRESIDENT** took the Chair at 4:30 o'clock, p.m.

PRAYERS.

PAPER PRESENTED.

By the **COLONIAL SECRETARY:** Return showing number of Royal Commissions held during the present Parliament, moved for by Hon. G. Bellingham.

Ordered, to lie on the table.

QUESTION—RAILWAY WATER
SUPPLY, GERALDTON.

HON. J. M. DREW asked the Colonial Secretary : 1, What is the estimated cost per thousand gallons of condensing water for locomotive purposes at Geraldton. 2, What has been the approximate average cost per thousand gallons of the haulage of water for locomotive purposes at Geraldton.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY replied : 1, 12s. 2, 27s.

ADMINISTRATION BILL (PROBATE).

Read a third time, and *passed*.

ELECTORAL BILL.

IN COMMITTEE.

Resumed from the previous day : the recommendations of the select committee farther considered.

Clauses 106 to 111—agreed to.

Clause 112—Challenge of voter :

On motion by HON. J. W. HACKETT, the words "for this province" added to Subclause 3.

Clause as amended agreed to.

Clauses 113 to 117—agreed to.

Clause 118—Vote to be marked in private :

On motion by HON. J. W. HACKETT, in line 4, the words "mark his vote on the ballot paper in the manner hereinafter described" struck out, and the words "vote by drawing a line through the name of each candidate for whom he does not vote" inserted in lieu.

Clause as amended agreed to.

Clauses 119, 120—agreed to.

Clause 121—How votes to be marked :

On motion by HON. J. W. HACKETT, clause struck out.

Clauses 122 to 128—agreed to.

Clause 129—Informal ballot papers :

On motion by HON. J. W. HACKETT, in line 2 of Subclause 2, the words "crosses in squares opposite" struck out, and the words "left without a line drawn through them" inserted after "elected" in line 4.

Also in line 2 of Subclause 3, the words "crosses in squares opposite the names of more than one candidate" struck out, and the words "the name of more than one candidate left without a line drawn through it" inserted in lieu.

Also, all the words following Subclause 4 struck out.

Clause as amended agreed to.

Clauses 130 to 137—agreed to.

Clause 138—Rates of expenditure :

HON. J. W. HACKETT moved that the word "two" be struck out, and "five" inserted in lieu (£500).

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY : This amendment was apparently going very close to the expedient of putting a property qualification on a candidate for the Upper House. In a federal election campaign, £250 was judged sufficient for an election for the Senate, which comprised the whole State, and he considered £500 in regard to a province rather excessive. He opposed the amendment, and intended to stick to the amount mentioned in the Bill.

HON. A. G. JENKINS : It would be absolutely impossible for anyone to contest any of the larger provinces for £200. £100 was allowed for one district, and in some of the provinces there were seven or eight districts. These districts were made up, especially on the gold-fields, of a number of towns of about equal importance, where the candidate had to engage rooms and advertise; and if any member thought to advertise in about 20 newspapers and visit 30 different towns would require only £200 in expenses, probably that candidate would not be a member of the Council. Five hundred pounds was a moderate estimate. It was not incumbent on a candidate to spend that amount, but an ordinary candidate having perhaps few friends to assist him must put his hand in his pocket to a certain extent. Let us not have to resort to all sorts of subterfuges to defeat the object of the Bill.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY : The amount of £500, or the £200 in the clause, was not supposed to cover the entire expenses of the electoral campaign. Clause 140 showed there were excluded from such expenses electoral rolls, stationery, postages, rent of hall belonging to any public body, and personal and reasonable living and travelling expenses of the candidate. As to advertising, he was afraid that a great deal of it was not so much to acquaint the electors with the views of the candidate as to secure in some instances the support of a section of the Press. He had heard such was

the case. He hoped it was not, and would accept the emphatic denial of members on the point.

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

Ayes	...	...	...	17
Noes	...	...	...	4

Majority for ... 13

AYES.	NOES.
Hon. G. Bellingham	Hon. W. Kingsmill
Hon. T. F. O. Brimage	Hon. B. C. O'Brien
Hon. J. D. Connolly	Hon. J. A. Thomson
Hon. C. E. Dempster	Hon. J. M. Drew (Teller).
Hon. J. W. Hackett	
Hon. S. J. Haynes	
Hon. A. G. Jenkins	
Hon. Z. Lane	
Hon. R. Laurie	
Hon. W. T. Loton	
Hon. W. Maley	
Hon. C. A. Piesse	
Hon. G. Randall	
Hon. C. Sommers	
Hon. Sir E. H. Wittenoom	
Hon. J. W. Wright	
Hon. J. T. Glowrey	
(Teller).	

Amendment thus passed, and the clause as amended agreed to.

Clause 139—Expenses allowed :

HON. J. D. CONNOLLY : Subclause 3 mentioned "halls" among election expenses, whereas in Clause 140 halls were exempted.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY : Certain classes of halls. In the case of halls belonging to private individuals, it was thought that undue influence might be brought to bear by payment for hire, but that such influence was not likely in relation to halls belonging to public bodies.

HON. J. W. HACKETT, referring to Subclause 5, moved—

That the words "one election agent" be struck out, and "election agents" inserted in lieu.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY : A fair compromise could be arrived at by inserting the words "for each electoral district." This would give candidates for provinces as many electoral agents as there were districts in the province. By substituting the word "election agents" we opened the door to undue influence. It might be possible to pay a man for his vote and call him an election agent, and this might be done up to £500. It was not wise to open the door to such practices.

THE HON. J. W. HACKETT : Any candidate who did that would be unseated.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY : If found out.

THE HON. W. T. LOTON : If we limited the amount the candidate was to expend, we should allow him to spend it as he liked legally under the Bill. The leader of the House seemed to be an expert in these matters, and knew how things could be worked.

HON. J. W. HACKETT : There were strict clauses against undue influence, and anything like what was in the hon. member's mind would bring the candidate within the purview of these clauses. We might as well remove the bribery clauses altogether, if we accepted the Bill as it stood, for there would be nothing except what was set out in which bribery could arise.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY : By giving the candidate an unlimited number of agents, we gave him a sufficient defence against the charge of bribery, because the people receiving the money could be described as election agents.

HON. B. C. O'BRIEN : By inserting the word "agents" we gave a candidate power to do what he liked. We should draw the line somewhere, and the Minister had offered a very fair compromise to have one agent in each district. Surely that was sufficient.

HON. J. D. CONNOLLY : The Committee should pass the select committee's recommendation. If one agent in each district was legal, why was it improper to have two, three, or four? The Minister's proposal was not a fair compromise. In the case of the North-East Province, Mt. Margaret electorate contained four large towns of equal importance. The candidate would only be able to employ one agent in one town, and that agent could not reach the other towns. It was the same in the Kanowna electorate, where there were several towns of equal importance.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY : With regard to provinces, the amount of canvassing that had to be done was not as great as was required in elections for the Assembly, because the voters for the Council were less numerous, and the election agents' duties were lighter. The representatives of districts were satisfied with one agent, and it was a reasonable compromise to ask the House to accept the proposal that candidates for the

Council should be satisfied with one agent for each district.

HON. GEO. RANDELL: There were organisations which would probably have fifty agents in one district.

SIR. E. H. WITTENOOM: Did the Colonial Secretary object to the amendment on the ground that voters might be bribed?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: It would be possible for a candidate to expend money in securing the services of persons who might be described as election agents, and by that description the bribery clauses would be evaded. It was not wise to open the door to this sort of practice. At any rate we should open the door as little as possible.

HON. J. A. THOMSON: By accepting the proposal of the Colonial Secretary we would not give any great encouragement to those parasites who fed on the candidate with money to spend. The rottenest state of affairs that could exist—and it was more marked in Western Australia than in any other place—was that as soon as these parasites got to know that a man with a little money to spend was about to become a candidate, they set to work to get him to come out, not caring whether he was the best man or not, but simply because he was a man they could bleed for his money. The candidate would find ways and means of employing agents whether it was permitted or not. One protested, however, against an unlimited number of agents, for these parasites ought to be crushed out of existence. If the candidate went round and made his views known, and asked people to vote for him, and did not employ any of these parasites, and did not spend more money than was necessary to pay for his advertising and his personal expenses, we would have purer Parliaments, and it would be better for the community at large.

HON. J. W. HACKETT: The only objection of the Colonial Secretary was that the candidate might use the money to bribe a large number of election agents, or that the candidate would do such an idiotic thing as to waste his money in bribing his own friends.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: Any word should be substituted rather than "friends" after what Mr. Thomson had pointed out. If a candidate set out

to adopt this sort of campaign it would not be the person of whom he was certain that he would engage as agent.

HON. J. W. HACKETT: He would lose his election.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: Not necessarily. There would be a good defence against bribery.

HON. J. W. HACKETT bowed to the greater experience of the hon. gentleman.

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

Ayes	...	...	20
Noes	...	...	4

Majority for ... 16

AYES.
 Hon. G. Bellingham
 Hon. T. F. O. Brimage
 Hon. J. D. Connolly
 Hon. A. Dempster
 Hon. C. E. Dempster
 Hon. J. T. Glowrey
 Hon. J. W. Hackett
 Hon. S. J. Haynes
 Hon. A. G. Jenkins
 Hon. Z. Lane
 Hon. B. Laurie
 Hon. W. T. Loton
 Hon. W. Maley
 Hon. C. A. Piesse
 Hon. G. Randall
 Hon. Sir George Shepton
 Hon. C. Sommers
 Hon. F. M. Stone
 Hon. Sir E. H. Wittenoom
 Hon. J. W. Wright

NOES.
 Hon. J. M. Draw
 Hon. W. Kingsmill
 Hon. J. A. Thomson
 Hon. B. C. O'Brien
 (Teller).

(Teller).

Amendment thus passed, and the clause as amended agreed to.

Clauses 140 to 150—agreed to.

Clause 151—Electoral offences:

HON. J. W. HACKETT moved that after "month," in line 5 (page 28), the following be inserted:—

Penalty not exceeding Twenty pounds.

Being the clerk or secretary of a municipality or road board, neglecting to transmit to the registrar the list of electors as required by Section 39.

Section 39 was a new clause.

Amendment passed, and the clause as amended agreed to.

Clauses 152, 153—agreed to.

Clause 154—Expenditure on behalf of a candidate:

On motion by HON. J. W. HACKETT, the clause struck out, and the following inserted in lieu:—

Expenditure on behalf of a candidate.

154. If any person purporting to act for and on behalf of a candidate incurs or authorises any electoral expense without the written authority of the candidate or of his agent authorised in writing, he shall be guilty of a contravention of this Act.

Clause as altered agreed to.

Clauses 155 to 181—agreed to.

New Clause—Lists of municipal or road board electors:

HON. J. W. HACKETT moved that the following be added as Clause 39:—

The clerk or secretary of every municipality and road board shall in the month of December in every year—

(a.) Make out separately for every district or portion of a district within the boundaries of the municipality or road district, a list containing, in alphabetical order of surnames, the names of every person on the electoral list of such municipality or road district in respect of property situated within the electoral district, and of every person whose name would appear thereon but for non-payment of rates; and

(b.) Transmit such list in the form and containing the particulars required in Form F in the second schedule, certified under his hand, to the registrar or registrars of the electoral district or districts within or partly within the boundaries of the municipality or road district as the case may be.

(c.) The registrar shall compare such list with the rolls, and enter on the proper roll the name of and particulars relating to every person whose name appears in any such list and has not been registered.

The object was to leave the law pretty well as at present. The Bill as introduced by the Government merely allowed the municipal and roads boards lists to be supplied to the registrar as one of several sources from which he might make up the rolls. At present there was no penalty for not supplying them. We believed the ratepayers' roll was the foundation of the electoral list for this House; therefore the select committee had provided specifically that the clerks or secretaries of roads boards or municipal councils should send in these lists, distinguishing between those who had paid rates due and those who had not, or a penalty for failing to supply at least a list of the names of all ratepayers whether rates were paid or not. He believed this would be made special use of by the electoral registrar in the compilation of the rolls.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: Not only had he no objection to this clause, but would be glad under the new circumstances to see it in the Bill. The principal difficulty which the Chief Electoral

Officer had in connection with the municipal and roads board lists was that it was almost impossible to get the officers of those bodies to send in their lists in time, and unfortunately under the present Act there was no penalty. Now a penalty would be provided, and perhaps after one or two of these officers had found that such a clause had come into force, there would be no farther difficulty.

Clause passed and added to the Bill.

New Clause—Certificate of revision:

HON. J. W. HACKETT moved that the following be added as Clause 61:—

The Court shall certify, by indorsement on the roll, that it has been revised.

This was merely to provide an authorised copy of the rolls.

Clause passed and added to the Bill.

First Schedule—agreed to.

Second Schedule:

On motion by HON. J. W. HACKETT, Form F (on page 8 of the select committee's report) inserted in the Schedule.

Also, in Form O the squares struck out, the footnote struck out, and the words "draw [a] line[s] through the name[s] of the [four] candidate[s] for whom you do not vote," inserted in lieu.

Schedule as amended agreed to.

Preamble, Title—agreed to.

Bill reported with amendments, and the report adopted.

REDISTRIBUTION OF SEATS BILL.

IN COMMITTEE.

Amendments made by the select committee now considered as recommendations.

Clauses 1 to end—agreed to.

First Schedule:

HON. J. W. HACKETT: It was desired to move some new clauses. Should we take them now? Personally he preferred to take the schedule first.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: It was contrary to practice to move new clauses unless they had first appeared on the Notice Paper. He had an amendment to move to the Second Schedule, and in order that members could see it on the Notice Paper he intended to move that progress be reported when we reached the Second Schedule. The opportunity would thus be given to members to have new clauses placed on the Notice Paper.

HON. J. W. HACKETT: In bringing forward the proposals of the select committee with regard to the First Schedule, to which very much attention had been given, it was difficult to speak without an array of figures and some lengthy explanation. The select committee had been guided by several principles. They first endeavoured to make as little change as possible, believing that we should accommodate ourselves to what existed before flying to innovations. This should be the cardinal rule in all constitutional action and constitutional legislation. The next principle the committee followed was to endeavour, as far as possible, to retain the existing distribution of districts amongst the provinces. They suggested few alterations in the boundaries, and these were not very material. Another point the select committee had in view was that there should be, as far as possible, an equality of votes, but in certain cases strong exceptions had to be made. To begin with there was at the one extreme the Metropolitan Province with 4,538 voters and at the other extreme the North Province containing 363 voters. He would not argue the question as to whether this disproportion was too great or inevitable. The select committee came to the determination to ask the House to accept the North Province and the Metropolitan Province as they stood, the reason being that the metropolis, for obvious reasons, had more voters than the other districts, and that it would be inadvisable that larger representation should be given to the centre which had such very great representation in the Assembly. Then came the Metropolitan-Suburban Province of 3,389 voters, and next the North-East Province. It was suggested by the Government that the latter should contain 3,683 voters. The select committee recommended that there should be 2,694 voters. The rest of the provinces the committee had been able to keep on fairly equal terms. It was suggested by the committee that the South-West Province should have 1,700 electors, containing Bunbury, Collie, Forrest, Murray, Nelson, Sussex, and Wellington. The Government proposed to add "Swan" to the South-West Province. If any question was raised on that matter, it was easy to point out that the province would be altogether lop-

sided, and that the Swan district was dragged out of its own neighbourhood and caused a great difficulty in equalising the numbers of the provinces. The committee kept in view continuity of neighbourhood as far as possible and community of interests. It was felt there was no community of interest between the Swan and the South-West. In the South-East Province, according to the committee's schedule, the committee kept to the old district as far as possible, but added Beverley, making a total of 1,533 votes. The Government proposed that the province should contain 1,241 votes.

HON. C. E. DEMPSTER: Why should Beverley be added? There was no continuity there.

HON. J. W. HACKETT: It was all one strip of country along the Avon Valley, similar in character. That was the main reason. If we made the number 1,241, it would jeopardise the whole scheme, and afford to another place one of the strongest arguments for throwing out the scheme prepared by the select committee. Geraldton might be taken out of the Central Province because it was not a mining or agricultural district. The select committee proceeded with the remaining provinces largely according to number; and if we took Beverley out of the East and added it to the South-East (for its own protection as much as anything) and retained the East, giving it the Swan instead of Beverley, the East Province would then contain Northam, Toodyay, York, and the Swan, with 1,760 voters; the South-East would contain Albany, Beverley, Katanning, and the Williams, with 1,533 voters; the South-West would contain Bunbury, Collie, Forrest, Murray, Nelson, Sussex, and Wellington, with 1,700 voters; the Central would contain Cue, Geraldton, Greenough, Irwin, Mount Magnet, and Murchison, with 1,321 voters. There was practically an approximation to equality of electors in all these provinces. There remained the two goldfields provinces, on which the representatives of goldfields would be better able to speak. One of these was the South Province, containing Boulder, Coolgardie, Dundas, Hanuans West, Ivanhoe, and Yilgarn, with 1,710 voters; the other was the North-East Province, containing Han-

nans, Kalgoorlie, Kanowna, Mount Leonora, Mount Margaret, and Menzies, with 2,694 voters. He moved as an amendment that "North-West" be struck out, and the word "North" inserted in lieu.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: In the discussion of this schedule he anticipated finding that members who had been fairly solid heretofore would disagree with one another. It would be a novelty to him to be looking on. As far as the alteration of the names in the schedule went, he was prepared to accept the amendment; but as to the areas of the provinces, he intended to adopt the advice of Dr. Hackett, to avoid change as far as possible. Therefore he would support the schedule as in the Bill.

Amendment put and passed.

North Province:

On motion by **HON. J. W. HACKETT**, the word "North" struck out, and "Central" inserted in lieu.

Metropolitan Province—agreed to.

Metropolitan - Suburban Province—agreed to.

Western Province:

On motion by **HON. J. W. HACKETT**, the word "Western" struck out, and "West" inserted in lieu.

South-West Province:

HON. J. W. HACKETT moved that the word "Swan" be struck out.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY opposed the amendment.

HON. J. D. CONNOLLY: The Committee should not agree to strike out the Swan. To insert it in the South-West Province would tend to equality between the South-West and what would be the South-East, or (as in the schedule) the Central Province. If the Swan were struck out of this and put in the South-East, we should make the South-East a huge province and the South-West a small one. The intention of the select committee was to strike out three provinces from the goldfields as contained in the Bill, and insert two; also to strike out two provinces for the agricultural districts as contained in the Bill, and insert three. He was altogether opposed to that proposition.

HON. A. G. JENKINS: When explaining the Bill, the leader of the House indicated that it proposed three and a half agricultural provinces, three and

a half mining provinces, and three metropolitan. The South-West Province was purely agricultural—for the purpose of this Bill he put the mining and pastoral interests as one—the Central was half agricultural and half mining, the North and North-West were quite agricultural. The Bill as it came down made the South-East and the North-East as mining provinces. That left three and a half agricultural, three and a half mining. This House was purely representative of interests, and no one could gainsay that the mining interest was one of the most important in the State. Therefore, should not the mining interest have as much representation as the agricultural? The agriculturists would have three and a half provinces under this Bill, and the mining people only asked for the same representation as the agricultural industry desired. If the word "Swan" were inserted in the South-West Province, we could give the three provinces to the goldfields. If we struck out "Swan," the goldfields would go back to their two provinces.

HON. J. D. CONNOLLY: The present Central Province was essentially agricultural, though there were many mining votes in it. In the Irwin district, which was in the present Central Province, there were 51 voters for the Legislative Council, every one being an agricultural voter. In Greenough there were 121 voters, all agricultural; in Geraldton, 319 voters; in Magnet, 212, out of which no less than 26 were resident pastoral voters; in the existing Murchison electorate (Northampton district) there were 174 voters, which he classed as agricultural because no mining was included; in North Murchison, 142 voters, nine being pastoral; and in Cue, 302 voters, including four pastoral. On the present rolls, therefore, the existing Central Province showed 1,321 names, the mining votes being 617, and the agricultural and pastoral votes 704, giving the latter a clear majority. Now it was proposed to add four-fifths of the Moore electorate to the existing Central Province. The Moore at present contained 144 voters for the Legislative Council, all agricultural. Out of these, at least 100 votes would be added to the Central Province, thus giving the farmers and pastoralists in the province a

clear majority of 200 over the miners. What, then, would prevent the Central Province returning an agricultural and pastoral member every time? So it was not unfair and unreasonable to classify the province as an agricultural province. In the Bill as brought in, it was proposed to give one seat to the pastoralists, who were identical with the farmers.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: The two interests were identical.

HON. J. D. CONNOLLY: It was proposed to give one province to the pastoralists, three provinces to the agriculturists, and three to the mining interests, agriculture thus having practically four provinces. So the proposal favoured the agriculturists. The mining industry was undoubtedly the principal industry of the State, and the goldfields carried a population of considerably over 70,000 people, while according to figures taken last September the farming districts had a population of only 40,000 to 42,000. It must be admitted that the division favoured the agriculturists; but he did not propose to divide the Upper House according to population, because it was essentially a House of interests. Nevertheless he did not think we were giving justice to the goldfields, but goldfields members were prepared to accept the proposal of the select committee, and he hoped the House would pass it. Although the population of the goldfields was something like 70,000, or about a third of the population of the State, and although this industry only got nine members out of 30, which was not a third and not a fair proportion, the goldfields contained at least half the total population of male adults in the State, who were after all the bone and sinew of the country, and in these circumstances were surely entitled to a third of the representation.

HON. J. W. HACKETT: The hon. member talked as if this House was the Legislative Assembly. We did not represent population.

HON. J. D. CONNOLLY: The argument went to show the importance of the industry when it could maintain in comfort and in many instances in luxury half the male adult population of the State. Surely the goldfields did not get justice when they only had nine members out of 30. The mining industry was likely to in-

crease. Last year the State produced something like a million and a half ounces of gold; this year it would be little short of two millions. Last year something like one and a half million pounds was paid in dividends; this year it would be over two millions. It was not the fault of residents on the goldfields that the dividends were not paid within the State. He mentioned these facts in passing only to bring the matter for a moment to the minds of members.

HON. J. W. HACKETT: The issue raised by the hon. member was mining against the other interests of the State. It was a little unfortunate that any vote should be made to depend on such considerations. We should consider the interests of the State as a whole. He did not know the hon. member desired to represent one interest only. Agriculture was as important as mining in this State. Miners could go elsewhere, but agriculturists had to stay where they were.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: The two industries received equal representation.

HON. J. W. HACKETT: The schedule prepared by the select committee was certainly not acceptable to the Ministry. The Colonial Secretary was only moving in the matter because he saw several wedges that might divide the members of the select committee into two or three parts, and was rejoiced to see several interests at work which would give him excellent sport in watching the various divisions. He (Dr. Hackett) did not represent any interest. Should he represent his own interests, he would vote to have three provinces for Perth, two for Fremantle, and two for the suburbs; but he did not suppose any member for a metropolitan province would claim to be entitled to such an immense proportion of representation. That was the argument of the Colonial Secretary.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: It was not.

HON. J. W. HACKETT: The hon. member had it in view, but would be shown to be wrong; and when the divisions were taken he would have the sympathy of a large number of members who formed the minority. Mr. Connolly was bound to raise his point because of his constituency, and it would have gone very badly indeed with the hon. member if he had failed to raise it on this

occasion. The proportion in regard to these districts was all the other way. Nobody could tell the worth of the agricultural industry. It would probably be the industry of the future. It certainly would remain when the last tree was cut down in the forest and the last mine was closed, and it would have to bear the weight and burden of taxation when other industries were gone. Thus it was entitled to peculiar consideration at the hands of every man who wished to see Western Australia a stable State. There were three mining provinces, and only three agricultural provinces. He defied Mr. Connolly, with all his juggling of figures and rolls, to prove anything else. Taking the schedule prepared by the select committee, there was no doubt the North-East and the South were mining provinces. He might go farther and say that every member sitting for the Metropolitan and the Metropolitan-Suburban Provinces was interested in mining, and very largely interested.

MEMBER: Just as goldfields members were interested in agriculture.

HON. J. W. HACKETT: They were interested in the agriculture of the other States, but only secondarily, he was sorry to say, in the agricultural industry of their own State.

HON. J. D. CONNOLLY: They had taken up more land than the hon. member gave them credit for.

HON. J. W. HACKETT: The tide was, he believed, turning, but it had not turned yet. We could not forget—and he was not altogether pleased to be compelled to make this remark—the encouragement, he used the word ironically, the agricultural districts received from the mining districts in the past, and he could not forget that there was a considerable section of the goldfields at this moment demanding a railway to Esperance for the single and simple purpose of out-bidding the agricultural parts of Western Australia and opening a port which would be purely Victorian and South Australian. [MEMBER: That was confined to half a dozen people.] The argument had been used over and over again by people who represented the goldfields, not in this Parliament but in another. [MEMBER: By one man.] That man would shortly place his views before his constituents. Presumably the

hon. member would accept the South and North-East as mining provinces, and he (DR. HACKETT) would challenge any person not actuated by political motives or a desire to make a case, to deny that the Central Province was to all intents and purposes a mining province. In the districts representing the mining industry in the Central Province there was a considerable majority of mining votes or votes strongly attached to the mining industry. In Geraldton there was a considerable labour vote, which would coalesce with the mining, and take care that none but mining members, if they could help it, would be returned for the future. That made three mining districts, and then, if the North developed, if Pilbarra went ahead as we all hoped, soon the votes in the North Province would also predominate and the member would represent not only pastoral interests but mining also. We had three and a-half mining provinces against only three agricultural provinces, those three being the South-West, the South-East, and the East. [MEMBER: Central.] No; he utterly refused the Central. Did anyone suppose the little tail to the south of the Central Province, consisting of Greenough and Irwin, would “waggle the dog”?

HON. J. D. CONNOLLY: It contained a majority of votes, and more so when the Irwin was added.

HON. J. W. HACKETT: There would always be a considerable minority even there which would support the labour vote. He was not saying anything against the labour or mining vote. There were practically three certain mining constituencies, and it was as certain the Central Province would return a mining man as that the South or North-East would do so, if properly organised, and we knew it was. The North was in imminent peril of having its representation changed, but he would not claim that. He merely said there were three certain provinces for the mining and a possible fourth, whereas for the agricultural industry there were only three, and even not that three. If the mining vote in his own province were properly organised, it could return one or more mining members. This schedule by the select committee afforded due representation of the great interests of the State. No one

would refuse to exert himself to prevent injustice to the mining industry or to sweep away any obstacles. He only wished he could say as much for the mining members in relation to the agriculturists. Three out of seven provinces was the smallest limit that should be given to the agricultural industry of this State, or, rather, those two and a possible third; two a certainty, the East and the South-East, and a possible third in the South-West. That was as little as we could give with a due regard to what were the true interests of Western Australia.

SIR E. H. WITTENOOM moved that progress be reported.

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

Ayes	...	...	...	12
Noes	...	...	...	12

A tie

Ayes.	Noes.
Hon. A. Dempster	Hon. G. Bellingham
Hon. J. W. Hackett	Hon. T. F. O. Brimage
Hon. S. J. Haynes	Hon. J. D. Connolly
Hon. W. T. Loton	Hon. J. M. Drew
Hon. W. Maley	Hon. J. T. Glowrey
Hon. C. A. Piesse	Hon. A. G. Jenkins
Hon. G. Randell	Hon. W. Kingsmill
Hon. Sir George Shenton	Hon. Z. Lane
Hon. F. M. Stone	Hon. B. Laurie
Hon. Sir E. H. Wittenoom	Hon. B. C. O'Brien
Hon. J. W. Wright	Hon. C. Sommers
Hon. C. E. Dempster	Hon. J. A. Thomson
(Teller).	(Teller).

THE CHAIRMAN gave his casting vote with the Ayes.

Motion thus passed.

Progress reported, and leave given to sit again.

ADJOURNMENT.

The House adjourned at half-past six o'clock, until the next day.

Legislative Assembly,

Wednesday, 11th November, 1903.

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

PRAYERS.

PAPER PRESENTED.

By the TREASURER: Return (additional) as to liquor licenses, moved for by Mr. Foulkes.

Ordered, to lie on the table.

FERTILISERS AND FEEDING STUFFS ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

HON. J. M. HOPKINS brought up the report of the Select Committee appointed to inquire into the Bill.

Report received; to be considered on the next day.

PRIVATE BILL.

Message from the DEPUTY GOVERNOR received and read, assenting (as far as the interests of the Government were concerned) to whatever the House might do in connection with the Land Act Amendment Bill (private).

KATANNING ELECTRIC LIGHTING AND POWER BILL (PRIVATE).

Introduced by MR. FOULKES, and read a first time.

Select Committee appointed by ballot, comprising Mr. Atkins, Mr. Higham, Mr. Pigott, Mr. Wallace, also Mr. Foulkes as mover; with power to call for persons and papers, and to sit on days on which the House stands adjourned; to report on the 18th November.

RETURN—FREMANTLE HARBOUR, REBATES.

On motion by MR. TAYLOR, ordered: That there be laid on the table of the