

he is kept waiting until the council meet—they may have met a few hours before—it might be necessary to wait a month before it would be possible to deal in that land, and perhaps approval would not be obtained then. A man who has the money and wants an answer straight away would go somewhere else. In a business transaction expedition is the essence of bargaining. Most business men like an answer straight away. I fail to see why the owner, having submitted his plan of subdivision, and the plan having been approved by the council, should have to obtain the consent of the council to deal with the blocks so long as he does not in any way alter the boundaries. As soon as a block is sold, a business man will see that the council is acquainted, because in the absence of notification, the vendor would be liable for the payment of all rates. If a subdivision has been approved, and the owner seeks to make a further subdivision, he is still at liberty to appeal to the council, and so long as he gets their consent—

The Colonial Secretary: He need not

Hon. E. M. CLARKE: Then so much greater the reason why this further interference should not be countenanced. Having complied with the law in getting the approval of the corporate body, there should be no further trouble. As with a piece of machinery, the law should have as few working parts as possible, and then there would be less danger of complications. I fail to see the need for Clause 3. In Committee I will support any amendment in the direction of offering facilities for expediting land transactions, so that a man will not have to apply to the council, and perhaps wait a month, and then be refused.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

*House adjourned at 6-14 p.m.*

## Legislative Assembly.

*Thursday, 21st November, 1912.*

	PAGE
Papers presented	3739
Bills: Norseman-Esperance Railway, 3rd...	3739
Electoral Act Amendment, 2nd, Cont.	3739
Inebriates, Council's amendments	3744
Annual Estimates, Votes and Items discussed	3744

The SPEAKER took the Chair at 3.30 p.m., and read prayers.

### PAPERS PRESENTED.

By the Minister for Works: Special by-laws of Wickpin, West Kimberley, and Wiluna roads boards. (Valuation on annual value.)

By the Premier: By-laws made by the Roebourne Local Board of Health.

### BILL — ESPERANCE-NORSEMAN RAILWAY.

Read a third time and transmitted to the Legislative Council.

### BILL—ELECTORAL ACT AMENDMENT.

#### *Second Reading.*

The ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. T. Walker): In moving the second reading said: This is a simple little measure, dealing with the printing of the rolls. The existing Act makes it compulsory, whether necessary or not, that at annually recurring periods the whole of the rolls for the entire State shall be reprinted. Whether there are additions or no additions, whether there have been alterations or no alterations, whether or not any canvass has taken place in the meantime, at these annual periods we are compelled to reprint the whole of the rolls. The Bill makes it unnecessary to do so if the Minister gives his approval. Of course it must be fairly understood that the Minister accepts the responsibility of his action; in other words, when there is no necessity, when no alteration has been made in the rolls then, although the annual period has elapsed there will be no

reprinting of the rolls. All that is provided is that the rolls shall be reprinted at least once in every three years. I move—

*That the Bill be now read a second time.*

Hon. FRANK WILSON (Sussex): This seems to be a harmless enough Bill, judging by the size of it, but on looking at the existing legislation I find that in the original Act of 1907, Section 24 sets forth that the rolls shall be printed and issued under the hands of the Chief Electoral Officer whenever that officer thinks fit. This was amended in 1911 by adding the provision that the rolls shall be printed once in every year. That, I take it, is the provision the Attorney General desires to repeal.

The Attorney General: Yes. I want it to be compulsory only once in every three years.

Hon. FRANK WILSON: It seems to me the people are entitled to have the rolls reprinted, when a number of alterations have been made. We know the difficulty there is in finding out whether or not one is on the roll.

The Premier: You will get the supplementary list if there are any alterations. The trouble is that the existing legislation compels us to reprint the whole of the rolls.

Hon. FRANK WILSON: Well, the rights of the electors ought to be protected. They must know whether or not they are on the roll. The difficulties of finding out whether one is on the roll are sufficient at any time. I think the law should remain as it is. We have nothing to show that it has proved an expensive matter, and even if it does cost a few pounds—

Mr. Swan: The rights of the people must be protected.

Hon. FRANK WILSON: Of course. What is the object the Attorney General has?

The Attorney General: Simply to save expense.

Hon. FRANK WILSON: What does the expense amount to?

The Attorney General: It is a big expense.

Mr. FRANK WILSON: But that is not sufficient. Can the Attorney General not tell us what it really means? It cannot be much. The rolls are all set up, and they are only added to or taken from, and it is necessary that the electors should have the complete roll for reference. We never know when a by-election may take place, and why, for the sake of a small economy, we are to refrain from giving the public these facilities I cannot understand. It is essential that the people should have the information, and I would like the Attorney General to give us a stronger reason for departing from the principle than was contained in the few words he has thrown by way of interjection across the Chamber. I point out also that the electoral office keeps the rolls in type—they have stock worth about £400—in order that the rolls may be reprinted when the occasion demands. I hope the measure will not be passed unless we have some assurance that whenever an alteration has taken place the rolls will be reprinted. No one wants the rolls to be reprinted if there are no alterations, but if names are added and others struck off it is essential to have a reprint in order to conduct properly any election which may have to take place.

Hon. J. MITCHELL (Northam): I point out that the Attorney General amended the Act himself last year.

Hon. Frank Wilson: No, we did it.

Hon. J. MITCHELL: Well the Act was altered in 1911, and before that the rolls were printed at the instance of the Chief Electoral Officer. People find it very difficult to keep their names on the roll. I know one elector who makes periodical visits to the electoral office to see that his name has not been removed.

Mr. B. J. Stubbs: While you were in power?

Hon. J. MITCHELL: Yes, and since. Under the present Act it was comparatively easy to remove names from the roll and we should do all in our power to keep the rolls up to date and see that every man entitled to vote has his name on the roll. If it does cost a little money, there is no reason why the money should not be found. It is not possible by print-

ing rolls once in three years to keep them in order. We have a general election once in three years, and unless the rolls are in order the election will not be satisfactory. I ask the Attorney General what he would do at the end of next year if we had a dissolution and an election, and the rolls were in a bad condition?

Mr. Foley: They were not too good last election.

Hon. J. MITCHELL: They never will be good until some money is spent in getting people on the roll and keeping the rolls in order unless we made enrolment compulsory. I object to the Bill. I believe it is unnecessary economy which we cannot afford to indulge in. I hope the Attorney General will withdraw the Bill for surely he does not want the rolls to be less satisfactory than they are at present.

Mr. MALE (Kimberley): I certainly would like to enter my protest against the amending Bill. It seems to me to be a most pernicious form of economy and that is the only reason given for introducing it. We are kept here night after night until after sunrise, using electric light and by no means economising, and yet we are asked to economise in this way. The Attorney General well knows that it is impossible to keep these rolls anything like clean or complete even by annual printing. In my district I have sent out anything up to 1,000 circulars to people whose names appeared on the roll but who it was ascertained did not reside in the district. I have to send out prior to an election nearly double the number of circulars actually required, but if we get a roll printed annually there is a chance of keeping it clean. We must consider that the people are to a great extent migratory. They are not settled as the people in older established countries. People in my district are constantly coming and going and the rolls alter considerably in the course of 12 months. This is a most pernicious form of economy and I certainly resent it strongly, and urge the Minister to withdraw it and not bring in Bills of this nature at the end of the session when at the same time we are kept here night after night to try to get through the work of the session.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL (in reply): Members who have spoken have mistaken the object of the Bill. It is not to prevent the publication of rolls or the inclusion of names or the deletion of names when necessary. It is not to prevent the latest accession to the rolls from being published and distributed, but it is to obviate the necessity for amalgamating the rolls annually even when it is not necessary. We shall publish the supplementary rolls as usual as the rolls are amended and publication becomes requisite. There will be no information lacking in that way, but what we object to is the expense of amalgamating and republishing the complete information we have already given when it is unnecessary. On the one hand if the Government enter into any enterprise or do anything that means the expenditure of money we are blamed for it. If we attempt to cut down expenses we are equally blamed. I would like to know what we can do to please members of the Opposition.

Mr. Munsie: Resign.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: If the passage of this small measure could prevent names from being put on the roll, or prevent the publication of those names when added I would not be in charge of the measure.

Hon. J. Mitchell: No Government should have such control over the rolls.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: Before the amendment of last year while the hon. member was in power the electoral officer had complete command of the rolls and could publish them when and how he pleased.

Hon. J. Mitchell: We altered that.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: No, I altered that in 1911. I altered it because I voted for it. It is correct to say that because we altered it at the instance of those who wanted more satisfactory rolls. The amending Bill does not curtail one iota the publication of completed rolls, but it will curtail the amalgamation of rolls when it is unnecessary to amalgamate them and to republish the amalgamation. That is the only difference.

The Hon. J. Mitchell: You want a roll once a year?

The Attorney General: The rolls will be reprinted and we propose to do it once in three years and oftener as may be necessary.

Hon. J. Mitchell: It should be once every year.

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

Ayes	...	..	..	23
Noes	..	..	..	9

Majority for	..	..	14
--------------	----	----	----

## AYES.

Mr. Angwin	Mr. Mullany
Mr. Carpenter	Mr. Munsie
Mr. Dooley	Mr. O'Loghlen
Mr. Foley	Mr. Price
Mr. Gill	Mr. Scaddan
Mr. Green	Mr. B. J. Stubbs
Mr. Holman	Mr. Swan
Mr. Hudson	Mr. Taylor
Mr. Johnson	Mr. Underwood
Mr. Lander	Mr. Walker
Mr. Lewis	Mr. Heitmann
Mr. McDowall	

(Teller).

## NOES.

Mr. Broun	Mr. A. N. Plesse
Mr. Harper	Mr. F. Wilson
Mr. Lefroy	Mr. Wisdom
Mr. Mitchell	Mr. Male
Mr. Moore	

(Teller).

Question thus passed.

Bill read a second time.

## In Committee.

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

Clause 1—agreed to.

Clause 2—Amendment of Section 24:

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: So as not to mislead those who read the Bill in another Chamber, he moved an amendment—

*That after "Act" in line one of the words "as amended by Section 9 of the Electoral Act Amendment Act, 1911" be added.*

Hon. J. MITCHELL: Was it provided anywhere that the additions and alterations must be printed once a year?

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: They were published quarterly, but this amendment was to apply to the amalgamation of the whole thing.

The PREMIER: It was provided in the Electoral Act of 1907, Section 26, that supplementary rolls setting out additions and alterations since the last print should be printed and issued under the hand of the registrar of each district or province as soon after the last day of March, June, September and December in each year as practicable and not later than the last day of the month next following. That provision would still remain. Thus supplementary rolls must be printed and issued every quarter; but it was provided by Section 9 of the Amendment Act of 1911 that an amalgamation of each roll with its supplements and a subsequent reprint of such amalgamated roll should be made once in every year, and the object of the Bill was to provide that this amalgamation should only take place once every three years. The supplementary roll would still be printed each quarter but the amalgamated roll would only be printed once every three years. It would save a good deal of money.

Hon. H. B. LEFROY: It appeared the Government did not understand their own Bill. The Premier was not aware that Section 10 of the Amendment Act of 1911 altered the provision contained in Section 26 of the principal Act requiring supplementary rolls to be printed each quarter, and provided that the supplementary rolls were to be printed and issued under the hand of the registrar for the province and district "as often as instructed by the Chief Electoral Officer." The Chief Electoral Officer could direct that the supplementary rolls need only be printed once every three years. It was entirely discretionary with him. The Bill before the House now proposed to amend the principal Act by omitting words dealt with in the Act of 1911 as if the supplementary rolls had to be printed quarterly, but by existing legislation it was not compulsory to have the supplementary rolls made up quarterly.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: There was an error in the drafting. It was not contemplated that there should be any failure in the periodical printing of the supplementary rolls. Instructions

had been given that the Bill should also repeal Section 10 of the amending Act of 1911 and restore the provision to what it was in the original Act of 1907, Subsection 26, providing for the printing of quarterly supplementary rolls. He would move an amendment to repeal Section 10 of the amending Act of 1911 and leave the original Act intact in that respect. The cost of printing amalgamated rolls would be something close on £1,000.

Mr. MALE: The draftsmanship was bad, because if it was intended to amend the Act of 1911 the title of the Bill should contain more words than merely the words "An Act to amend the Electoral Act of 1907."

The Premier: The Amendment Act of 1911 was to be read as one with the Act of 1907.

Hon. J. MITCHELL: It was impossible to understand the position. We should adjourn the discussion.

Amendment put and passed.

Hon. J. MITCHELL: Would the position now be that the roll would be printed once in three years?

Hon. FRANK WILSON: Seeing the difficulty created, the Bill should be withdrawn and redrafted so that time would not be wasted.

The Attorney General: We can put it right now.

Hon. FRANK WILSON: Members had only seen the Bill five minutes ago and they could not compare it with the existing legislation to follow the clauses.

The PREMIER: The Bill was drafted correctly.

Hon. Frank Wilson: The Attorney General says it is not.

The PREMIER: It was members opposite who said it was not correctly drafted, and in order to meet their wishes the Attorney General had added certain words which now did not make the clause properly drafted. Section 1 of the Amendment Act of 1911 provided that the measure should be read as one with the Electoral Act of 1907, so that it became part of the principal Act. When we were making amendments affecting the Amendment Act of 1911 we were properly making amendments to the

principal Act. Under existing conditions, if there was one name to be added or struck off the original rolls during the year the whole had to be reprinted and that was a positive absurdity. To reprint the amalgamated rolls every year would cost £1,000.

Clause as amended put and passed.

New clause:

The ATTORNEY GENERAL moved—

*That the following new clause be added to stand as Clause 3: "Section 10 of the Electoral Act Amendment Act, 1911, is hereby repealed and Subsection (a) of Section 26 of the Electoral Act, 1907, is hereby re-enacted."*

Mr. TAYLOR: The amendment was not strictly in order. What were we restoring? Something that was not existing. If we were restoring it we should put into the clause the words that we were re-enacting. If the Act was repealed the section was certainly no longer in existence.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: The Act of 1907 was the principal Act. We amended the principal Act in 1911 by Section 10 and by means of that deleted Subsection (a) of Section 26 of the Act of 1907. By that amendment we repealed Section 10 of the principal Act of 1911 and restored Subsection (a) of the Act of 1907.

Mr. Taylor: That is knocked out.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: Subsection (a) of the Act of 1907 was restored.

Mr. MALE: When we repealed the Act in 1911 we also added the usual provision, "All copies of the Principal Act hereafter printed by the Government Printer shall be printed as amended by this Act."

Hon. H. B. LEFROY: It might be as well to put the necessary words into the amendment. There was no doubt about it that in 1911 when the amendment was passed Subsection (a) of Section 26 was deleted.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: There would be no objection to doing that; the words could be added.

The PREMIER: The difficulty might be got over if he moved an amendment

to the Attorney General's new clause so that it should read as follows:—

*Section 10 of the Electoral Act Amendment Act, 1911, is hereby repealed and Subsection (a) of Section 26 of the Electoral Act, 1907, as follows:—"As soon after the last day of March, June, September and December in each year as practicable, and not later than the last day of the month next following; and" is hereby re-enacted.*

Amendment passed; the new clause as amended agreed to.

Hon. J. MITCHELL: Was it quite clear now that we would get a complete roll?

The PREMIER: That was now distinctly provided.

Title—agreed to.

Bill reported with amendments.

## BILL—INEBRIATES.

### *Council's Amendments.*

Schedule of eight amendments requested by the Legislative Council now considered.

### *In Committee.*

On motion by the ATTORNEY GENERAL the amendments made.

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

## ANNUAL ESTIMATES, 1912-13.

### *In Committee of Supply.*

Resumed from the previous day: Mr. Holman in the Chair.

On motion by the PREMIER consideration of the Mines and Railways division postponed to the end of the Estimates.

Attorney General's Department (Hon. T. Walker, Minister).

Vote—*Attorney General, £78,653:*

The ATTORNEY GENERAL said: I do not know that the Committee want a very lengthy explanation from me regarding the administration of the Attorney General's Department, because it is almost entirely an administrative department. It is not one of those depart-

ments in which the revenue is very largely affected, yet I deem it incumbent upon me to inform the Committee that there have been changes of a somewhat important character effected in the administration. As the Estimates show there will be a saving on last year's expenditure of £2,947, but it is only fair to state that this is due to the fact that a general election will not be conducted this year, and no provision is made for it. The chief feature to which the attention of the Committee should be drawn is the fact that there have been certain transfers made to the Crown Law offices, which, in appearance, largely increase the expenditure, but which in fact neither increase nor decrease it. We have, for instance, transferred to the Crown Law Department an amount of £100 which the Solicitor General was previously paid as Commissioner of Titles. Hitherto when we were looking for the payments to an officer such as the Crown Solicitor we had to look under several heads in the different departments; for instance, we had to look under the head of Commissioner of Titles to find this £100 of additional salary. But now we show the salary as one sum. Then we have transferred to the Crown Law offices the payments to magistrates which were previously provided for under Magistracy. Payments to witnesses and jurors, which were previously shown under Supreme Court and Magistracy now come under the heading I have mentioned, and amount for £7,000. Circuit courts, £550, which were previously under the Supreme Court heading, now come under the Crown Law offices, and awards and law costs, which were previously under the Treasury, are now under the Crown Law offices, and amount to £1,000. The increases in the department are principally made up by the adjustments in the payments to officers due to reclassification, and due also to the fact that upon the Government taking office in every department of the State the lower ranks were lifted so far as payment was concerned. We gave them an increase of their wages from a minimum basis.

Hon. J. Mitchell: Not the temporary men?

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: All the lower paid men were raised to a certain standard. The reclassification of course accounts for a certain increment which is shown on the Estimates. We have been put to considerable expense in this department owing to the fact that last year we passed new Acts of Parliament which occasioned some considerable excess of printing in order to comply with the necessary forms for carrying out these Acts.

Hon. J. Mitchell: You will have a big bill this year again.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: I suppose we will have to do the same this year, but I am particularly referring to the new Local Courts Act which, whilst it saved the taxpayer expense and has been of service to him, meant the printing and drafting of quite a number of new forms. On that score, therefore, we have been put to considerable expense. Then in the Official Receiver's Department, owing to the action of the previous Government in offering land to civil servants and insisting upon the best applicants—

Hon. J. Mitchell: Why not?

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: I am not at all censuring it, but owing to that fact the Official Receiver's office suffered perhaps more than any other sub-department in the State.

Hon. J. Mitchell: But you have had an increase of work.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: Undoubtedly. But the Official Receiver lost the best men on his staff, and we have not replaced them. The staff has been undermined ever since, and if it were not for the facts that changes are pending in consequence of the Commonwealth Government having now upon the stocks and circulating amongst members a new Bankruptcy Bill which will take over the bankruptcy laws of the State, we should have to remodel and spend considerably more in the Official Receiver's Department. But at the present time we are waiting to see what changes will be rendered necessary by the passing of the Bankruptcy Bill now before the Federal Parliament. It may be that we shall have to completely change our mode of operations in this depart-

ment, and that the department itself will be rendered more or less unnecessary as a State department if the Federal Bankruptcy Bill becomes law. I shall leave any further comments to matters which may arise when the Estimates are under consideration.

Hon. J. MITCHELL: One could not help regretting the large increase of expenditure in the Attorney General's department. It was true the aggregate showed a small decrease accounted for by the fact that in the Electoral Department there was a reduction of £9,437, which was brought about by the fact that there was no general election this year. It was not brought about by improved administration or economy. If one analysed the figures it would be seen that there was an increase in the expenditure of the department of £6,490. That was, if one did not allow the Attorney General to take credit for the reduction of nine thousand pounds odd due to there being no general election this year. It was true the Attorney General explained that he had taken over certain work from other departments, but every department in the State showed an increase which did not say much for the Government who were not able to economise when economy was necessary. It went without saying that if there was increased work to do there must be increased expenditure. But there was no sign of economy and one might say there was some degree of extravagance visible. He knew that the reclassification meant an increase in expenditure and he also knew that the minimum amount paid to temporary clerks had had some effect in increasing the expenditure because the temporary clerks were now paid 11s. per day as compared with 10s. paid previously. But this was arranged before the Attorney General took over the administration of the office.

The Attorney General: No, it was one of the first things I arranged for.

Hon. J. MITCHELL: There could be no objection to the increase of salaries to officers in the lower grades of the service. We had no right to expect service from men that the country did not adequately pay because the country was in

a bad way, but if one looked into the increases they did not amount to much. There was not sufficient excuse for the increase of expenditure shown on the Estimates. The Attorney General said that the Official Receiver's office was somewhat disorganised and that some additional expenditure had to be incurred.

The Attorney General : We should require additional expenditure if it were not for the contemplated changes in the Bankruptcy Act.

Hon. J. MITCHELL : But the Attorney General referred to the loss of some officers who left to settle on the land in connection with the civil servants' land settlement scheme. Unfortunately there was additional expenditure in the Official Receiver's office, not due to the fact that one or two men had left. There had been much difficulty and trouble during the year and it was to be hoped the coming year, which everybody expected to be a satisfactory one from the farmers' point of view, would result in a decrease of the work of the Official Receiver's Department and a reduction consequently in the expenditure. The Attorney General was quite right in waiting to see what was the determination of the Federal Government in regard to this matter, and it was to be hoped that the expenditure under the Bankruptcy Act would decrease in the future. He wished to refer to the magistrates in country districts. Some years ago the Liberal Government very unwisely determined that magistrates should have more work to do; that there should be fewer magistrates and that they should cover much larger districts. That scheme had been in operation some time and it had not worked satisfactorily. Even if it were satisfactory at the time the change was made it had ceased to be satisfactory now ? Take the district of Albany, the magistrate there had to travel along the line as far as Wagin. Before the amalgamation at least two if not three magistrates were doing the work which this one magistrate to-day had to do. The added area that had to be controlled by a magistrate meant a good deal when the change was made,

but it meant more now that new centres had sprung up. In the Northam district tremendous development had taken place. New townships had been added to the map since the magisterial division of Northam was fixed, and if the magistrate was not actually compelled to visit these new townships he had to attend to the business of the people of those places. Whilst there had been this increase of population the magistrate was called on to cover the area fixed for him five or six years ago. This situation was unsatisfactory. It would be necessary to have a greater number of magistrates and to limit the area, for it was not satisfactory that justices should be called on to do the work which magistrates should do.

The Attorney General : Are you advocating more local courts and magistrates ?

Hon. J. MITCHELL : Yes.

The Attorney General : You talk of economy one moment and an increase of expenditure the next.

Hon. J. MITCHELL : There had been a tremendous increase in the cost of the department.

The Attorney General : I have explained that we have taken over £8,842 from other departments.

Hon. J. MITCHELL : Yes. There was increased expenditure there, but he complained that there was no sign of decrease in the departments from which the work had been taken over by the Attorney General.

The Attorney General : The classification has taken place since then.

Hon. J. MITCHELL : How much did that amount to ?

The Attorney General : It accounts for all the increase.

Hon. J. MITCHELL : The magistrates in the country did important work and the people of the country should not be put to inconvenience through there not being sufficient magistrates to attend to the work.

The CHAIRMAN : The hon. member should deal generally with the question and not with the details.



Hon. J. MITCHELL : In dealing with the question of the magisterial division of the State he desired to point out that the present division was unsatisfactory, because very large areas had to be covered by the magistrates, and he hoped the Attorney General would take into consideration the advisability of increasing the number of magistrates.

The CHAIRMAN : While the hon. member was in order in mentioning the increase in magistrates he must not go into details.

Hon. J. MITCHELL : In discussing the system that now obtained in regard to the magisterial division of the State would he be in order?

The CHAIRMAN : No.

Hon. J. MITCHELL : It was his desire to discuss the principle in regard to the local courts. Probably the Attorney General would tell the Committee what was the intention of the Government in this direction. He realised the Attorney General had some excuse for the increases in his department, but in these times of stress there should be some greater display of economy than was found in the Estimates. No one liked to see expenditure under these heads because it meant so little to the State. The expenditure was necessary but so little direct benefit was obtained from it.

Mr. A. E. PIESSE : The member for Northam had referred to the altered conditions in regard to country magisterial districts and he endorsed the hon. member's remark. Already he had had an opportunity of bringing under the notice of the Attorney General the urgent necessity for the further consideration of an amendment of the boundaries, or re-allocation of the magisterial districts in various parts of the State. There was every necessity for economy in the administration of the law; still, there was such a thing as false economy. In some agricultural districts there was, to-day, a great dearth of local justices. Although we had reason to be proud of the work done by the honorary magistrates, yet in many instances those gentlemen undertook court cases which were essentially cases for the resident magis-

trate who, owing to the very large area he had to cover, could not attend within reasonable time. The resident magistrates had done excellent work, but each had too large an area to cover and, consequently, we were getting very poor justice. This was a matter the Attorney General might well take into consideration with a view to seeing what provision could be made for increasing the number of magistrates in the State. It was a serious thing if we had to hand over to honorary magistrates cases which should be reserved for resident magistrates. Not infrequently cases involving important points of law were dealt with by honorary justices, and in the event of a successful appeal it meant very greatly added cost to the litigants. In the Great Southern district the magistrate was resident at Albany, in the extreme end of the district, and he had to travel very great distances on an infrequent train service and, in addition, long distances by road. We should have some assurance from the Attorney General that he was thoroughly seized of the necessity for making some improvement in this direction.

Mr. S. STUBBS : Undoubtedly very great difficulties existed in connection with the magisterial work in agricultural districts. What had been said by the two last speakers in this regard was perfectly true. The magistrates were called upon to do far too much work and to travel enormous distances, with the result that the litigants were often put to inconvenience and expense through the unavoidable adjournment of their cases. Only recently Mr. Burt, the police magistrate in the Great Southern district, had to adjourn for one week some cases, the litigants in which had travelled 50 or 60 miles. When the appointed time in the following week came round the magistrate had again only one day to devote to these cases, and again they were adjourned, at considerable cost to the litigants. If the Attorney General could see his way clear to make a revision of the work it would be very satisfactory indeed. Regarding the Minister in his capacity as Minister for Education, he desired to congratulate him on the splendid work being done in connection with the establishment of

State schools. It reflected the greatest credit upon the Government. In every instance where it was shown that a certain number of children were without education, and too far away to attend the nearest school, there had not been a refusal, so far as he was aware, to send them the necessary teacher and provide the money for building the school. He hoped this policy would be persevered in, for many new schools would be required in the near future. During the past twelve months he had brought under the notice of the Minister the necessity for three different new schools, and in each case the school had been provided. Probably not a taxpayer in the State would begrudge the money spent in this direction, for it would be conceded that these children were the very best asset the State had and, clearly, we could not have too many of them. In this regard he hoped the Government would seriously take into consideration the advisability of imposing a tax on bachelors.

Mr. DWYER: As one who was obliged to resort to the place very frequently, he was of opinion that the Titles Office was altogether inadequate for the amount of work being done in that department. The Attorney General was not to be blamed for this; as a matter of fact, the Attorney General had effected several improvements in the place, notwithstanding which the public were still seriously inconvenienced and handicapped. To go into the strong room of the Titles Office where the certificates of titles to the greater part of the land of the State were kept, to see the conditions under which the officers worked and to realise the difficulty that existed in getting attended to, would serve to revolutionise one's ideas of what was business. In the room upstairs the officers had not only to take charge of documents sent in, and collect the fees on them, but they had also to assess the stamp dues. There should be a division of these duties. There should be one officer whose duty it would be to assess stamp dues. If this reform were carried out the revenue of the State would probably benefit by it. Moreover, better and more commodious premises should be supplied to the officers receiving the documents, in order that the

public might be given better treatment and be more expeditiously dealt with. The present strong room was neither healthy nor convenient; it was a close, stuffy, almost insanitary office, and in addition it was impossible to do business there with any expedition whatever. It was extraordinary that a penny stamp was allowed in this State on receipts for all sums from £2 upwards, whereas, if an agreement was drawn up in regard to the sale of a chattel, the stamp duty had to be paid, but if it was transferred by delivery and a receipt was given, a penny stamp only was necessary. There should be a graduated scale for receipts, just as for agreements, because a receipt was evidence of payment, and therefore evidence of an agreement. This was a source of revenue which, in view of the finances, might receive some attention. The real gravamen of his complaint was with regard to the want of accommodation in the Lands Titles Department both for officers and the public, and the Attorney General should rectify this state of affairs as soon as possible. He did not blame the Attorney General or the officers, as recommendations had been made, but nothing had been done.

Mr. Hudson: It has been mentioned in the House frequently.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL (in reply): The member for Northam (Hon. J. Mitchell) complained that an increase and not a decrease was shown in the Department, and that he could not see where any economies were being effected. As the hon. member proceeded, he showed clearly that the Department was one wherein to effect economies would be to commit a serious wrong to the whole community. Instead of effecting economies, that is, instead of cheese-paring in the administration of justice and the carrying out of the laws, it would be necessary, as the population increased, that the expenditure should increase. One fact which appeared to increase the expenditure of the Crown Law Department, but which, in reality, did not increase the expenditure, ought to be recognised by the member for Northam. There had been transferred to the Crown Law offices an expenditure of no less than £8,824, as

follows:—£100 to Solicitor-General, formerly paid under Land Titles; £100 to Clerk of Court accounts, previously paid from the magistracy vote; £7,000 to witnesses and jurors, previously paid under the Supreme Court; £550 for Circuit Courts, previously paid under the Supreme Court; and £1,000 awards and law costs, previously paid under the Treasury. That, of course, swelled the Crown Law estimates, but did not actually increase the expenditure. There was a decrease on the whole of the department. In the Attorney General's office there were some slight increases. There was an increase in salaries paid under the reclassification. There were some new appointments to meet the requirements consequent on the growth of the country. That meant an increase of £340 odd. Adequate provision had not been made and there would have to be an excess in regard to the matter referred to by the member for Perth (Mr. Dwyer) in the Land Titles Office. The work was increasing by leaps and bounds, and there was much justice in the hon. member's criticism.

Hon. J. Mitchell: I thought all speculation in land was stopped, and that there would be less work.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: There was no application in that statement. The increments in expenditure were due to the fact that Crown lands were being brought under the Transfer of Land Act, and as time went on and leasehold periods and conditional purchase terms expired, they were naturally brought under the Transfer of Land Act, which was the most easily administered, and the greatest safeguard in respect of expediency and small expenditure for procuring titles. The expenditure in the Titles Office must be increased. More officers were necessary; within the last month additions to the staff had been approved of. This was necessary, because the volume of work was becoming enormous, but while expenditure went up there would be also an increment in revenue. The cost would be kept down, and it would not be at all commensurate with the benefits which would be derived. He sympathised with the member for Perth in the statement that there was insufficient accommodation.

This matter had been exceedingly troublesome to him, not only since he had occupied office but before. The member for Greenough (Mr. Nanson) had been reminded by him of the difficulties under which officers of the Titles Office were carrying on their work, and he had endeavoured to get some benefits conferred there. He had approved of certain additions to the office accommodation, but the accommodation requisite could not be elaborately undertaken until some general plan for Government offices was submitted and carried out. It was hoped that the Commonwealth would leave the post office building available for the State, and that would provide considerable accommodation, but it would be impossible to do what should be done, namely, centralise under one roof as many of the departments as possible.

Hon. J. Mitchell: There is plenty of room on this land.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: There was no plan for a big central office for all. However, that matter had to rest, but it would not be lost sight of, and the enlargements and reforms on the lines indicated by the member for Perth would have to be made. Regarding the matter of the magistracy, much extra expense would be occasioned by the fact that quite a number of the magistrates had long leave due to them, and many of them were taking it. Their places had to be supplied in the best way possible, and that meant an increment of expenditure in consequence. That had swollen the Estimates this year. More than one magistrate was taking his long leave and others were due to receive it and provision had been made for it, but before long there would have to be a readjustment of the duties and districts operated by resident magistrates. Whilst he was doing all he could to keep down expenditure he had taken the attitude that he would not try to cut down one penny that was necessary for the prosecution of justice throughout the State. He would not be mean or miserly in the administration of justice if he could help it. He previously prophesied that the expenditure of this department must be increased if it was to do its duty to the citizens. A new court

house and a larger magistracy were necessary, and in the meantime some of the districts would have to be arranged so that we would get apparently more service from some of the magistrates, though some of them could not do more than they were doing. This would have to be arranged so that the new districts and towns coming into prominence in the heart of what was a few years ago a wilderness might have justice carried to them. He sympathised with the member for Katanning in that respect, and would tell him with confidence that the whole of the work of rearranging the magistracy and all appointments had been giving him much concern, and not a little worry.

This concluded the general debate on the Estimates of the Attorney General's Department; vote and items discussed as follows:—

Votes—*Crown Law Offices*, £17,898; *Electoral*, £7,582; *Land Titles*, £14,294—agreed to.

Vote—*Stipendiary Magistracy*, £27,465:

Hon. J. MITCHELL: The Attorney General should not lose sight of the fact that it was urgently necessary to do something without delay in connection with the magistrates. It was quite impossible for the people in the country to be adequately served, and much loss of time and expenditure was occasioned by reason of magistrates not having time to attend to the many courts over which they were supposed to preside. Magistrates had to cover large areas.

Mr. MALE: It was unfair that the salary of the magistrate of Broome should be reduced, especially as this officer, through acting as Commissioner, was able to save the State considerable money in avoiding the necessity for judges having to be sent to Broome to try cases. If we were to keep up the standard of our magistracy the magistrates were worthy of proper recompense. Broome was a most important place and the magisterial work there was most important.

Mr. GARDINER: It was a most pernicious system to combine the duties of resident magistrate and resident medical officer. In his capacity as magistrate the medical man had to travel many miles

away from the greatest centre of population, and his absence in the case of sickness or accident had very detrimental effects. The system was giving the greatest dissatisfaction to the people in the North-West, and wherever possible a man should be appointed to fill the one capacity only.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: It would be well if the reform suggested by the hon. member could be carried into effect, but the districts were too wide and too sparsely populated, and the Government had to resort to expedients they would otherwise hesitate to adopt. To follow the suggestion of the hon. member would very largely increase the expenses of the State, but he had set himself the task, if possible, to arrange that no one should be a magistrate but one qualified by training and by actual knowledge of the law after passing an examination; also that such a man should be purely a magistrate and not a medical practitioner who might have to give evidence as medical practitioner to himself as magistrate. It was all a question of ways and means; and while attention was being paid to the matter, no solution had yet been obtained. In due course, as the State got a little better off, the reform suggested by the hon. member must be carried out, because the dual positions were anomalous and could not work in any circumstances with complete satisfaction. In regard to the magistrate at Broome, if there was to be uniformity in carrying out the recommendations of the Public Service Commissioner, it could not be avoided that Mr. Wood, the resident magistrate at Broome, must suffer; but the department had done all it could to remedy the evil, consistent with the observance of a general rule throughout the public service. The magistrate at Broome must admit that there was some evidence of practical sympathy on the part of the Crown Law Department.

Mr. MALE: It was satisfactory to know what the department had done in the matter, but it was unsatisfactory for the magistrate to find his services so appreciated by the reclassification that he got an Irish rise in his salary.

The Attorney General: It was in the allowances.

Mr. MALE: It would be well to act in accordance with the suggestion of the member for Roebourne (Mr. Gardiner) where it was possible to apply it, but there were places in the North-West where it would be absolutely impossible to appoint a magistrate irrespective of other duties. On the other hand a place like Roebourne justified the appointment of a magistrate and a medical officer separately, and wherever possible the Attorney General should try to overcome the difficulty of having dual positions, even if it added to the cost.

The Attorney General: I will aim at that, I can assure the hon. member.

Vote put and passed.

Vote—*Supreme Court, £11,414:*

Item, Curator of Intestates' Estates, £288 :

Mr. HEITMANN: Having had some business in a probate matter recently he considered there was a lot of unnecessary work entailed which cost too much. He was called upon to pay fees to a commissioner for taking affidavits. In the Probate Office the one particular gentleman who witnessed most of the affidavits received all the moneys. Some of the documents brought him 1s. 6d. and for the exhibits attached he received sixpence, and this money went into the pocket of that individual. He (Mr. Heitmann) had been informed that in return for this privilege the officer had to pay a certain sum of money into the revenue. There must be hundreds of pounds going through in this way each year, and it was unfair for people to have to pay an officer of the department these fees when that officer was paid perhaps £400 a year by the State. Whatever was received from estates should go into revenue.

The Attorney General: I wish I knew the officer.

Mr. HEITMANN: The officer was the Chief Clerk. Another thing he complained about was that he was compelled to swear as to the accuracy of a death certificate which came from the same department and which was certified to as being correct. He had occasion to go to this office

a couple of times and had carried out the instructions of Mr. Duncan, the Probate Officer, for whom he had every respect.

Mr. Hudson: And who is poorly paid.

[Mr. McDowall took the Chair.]

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: The hon. member was surely making an error. There was no officer in the Curator's department in receipt of £400 a year, and there was no clerk who was allowed to pocket fees. The filing of an affidavit had to be done before a Commissioner and the Commissioners were not as a rule officers of the department. There were one or two, like Mr. Sherard, who was the Taxing Master, who were permitted to do this. Apart from that, fees that were generally collected by the public servants were paid into revenue. If there was a clerk pocketing the fees, he (the Attorney General) would like to have his name, so that he could be carpeted.

Mr. Heitmann: There is no suggestion of pocketing.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: If it were Mr. Sherard, he was entitled to charge by virtue of being a solicitor; he acted in the capacity of a solicitor in such an instance.

Mr. HEITMANN: There was no suggestion that there had been pocketing in connection with these fees. Whatever was done was done according to custom, and he disagreed entirely with the Minister who stated that an officer of the department should be paid for this work. There must be hundreds of affidavits sworn in the various parts of that Court every week. Mr. Duncan, who did all the work and gave all the advice necessary in connection with the taking of an affidavit, might be allowed to take an affidavit; he could do it just as well and there was no reason why the money should go into the pockets of individuals.

The Attorney General: Will you give me the officer's name?

Mr. HEITMANN: The officer was in the probates office, and his name could be easily ascertained.

Mr. DWYER: There seemed to be some misconception about the complaint made by the member for Cue. One could only gather that the charge he referred to was

a departmental one or one which ought to be a departmental one. As a matter of fact, the charge was not departmental in any sense. In connection with probates and letters of administration the law required that certain evidence should be put before the Court, and that evidence might be given by affidavit which had to be made before a commissioner for taking affidavits. In additions to solicitors, other persons, for the sake of convenience, were appointed by the Chief Justice to take affidavits, for which a certain scale of fees was fixed. In the case mentioned by the member for Cue the fee would have to be paid to some commissioner for affidavits, and if there happened to be within the precincts of the department an officer who was a commissioner of affidavits, where was the harm in his witnessing the document and receiving the prescribed fee? The fee was a perfectly legitimate one for him to charge.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: There were members of two professions in the civil service, the legal and medical, who were allowed to do outside work, and thousands of other civil servants were not allowed to do such work. In the case mentioned by the member for Cue, an officer of the Crown Law Department was doing private business in office hours and collecting the fee. There was a close corporation amongst lawyers and doctors, and when they got into the civil service they took all they could out of the service and out of the public. Members of those professions should be treated the same as engineers and members of any other profession in the civil service. The member for Perth said there was nothing wrong in this officer taking the fee for the affidavit, but when a postmaster acted as returning officer, the money paid to him for that work had to be refunded to the Government. It was the same with other classes of officers. It was only lawyers who were hemmed in by a cast iron organisation who could do outside work in office hours. Other public servants were not allowed to do private work even outside office hours. If a Government engineer was found to be doing private engineering

work in his own spare time he would probably be sacked, yet persons in the Crown Law Department were allowed to have these little outside pickings. If such officers were not being paid sufficient salary they should be paid more, but they should not be allowed to drop Government work and go outside to collect odd shillings and half crowns.

Mr. HUDSON: There was no solicitor in the Government service who did private practice. The member for Pilbara never lost an opportunity of attacking the legal profession. The great disappointment of the hon. member's life had been that he had never been able to enter that profession. He went to 20-Mile Sandy to study law, and was surprised when he returned to Perth and sat for examination that he had been reading the wrong books. Possibly the hon. member desired to get into the legal profession so that as a commissioner for taking affidavits he could have obtained these extra half crowns and shillings; and probably if he had succeeded he would have done an injustice to the others in the profession by cutting the prices.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: Inquiries would be made, and if it was found that any Government servant was making money out of his position as a commissioner of affidavits action would be taken. It would probably be found, however, on the matter being sifted that there was some misconception.

Vote put and passed.

*Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.*

Education Department (Hon. T. Walker, Minister).

Vote—Education, £272,502:

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: The first bright feature regarding the Education Estimates must be the increase. I am well aware the Government will be accused of not practising due economy, but I am confident there is no section of administration or portion of the work of government where an increase would be so little begrudged or so heartily approved as in the matter of education. These Estimates are increased by £33,933, but that increase chiefly covers amounts paid to teachers, increases of

wages and of comfort to those employed in training the mind of the young. The increase in teachers' salaries and allowances represents £28,951. It was one of the cries at the election, chiefly by the Labour party, though I will be frank enough to say, not only by the Labour party, that the teachers, especially in the lower ranks, were too inadequately paid. There were those who were receiving £80 a year with no other emoluments and no chance of increasing their income, devoting the whole day to informing the minds of our youth. No person, male or female, to-day can receive less than £110 a year, and many of those placed upon that basis have, since I came into office, been raised so that men are getting practically a minimum of £120 a year.

Hon. J. Mitchell: That is not much.

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: It is not much, and I greatly regret that the finances of the State are not such as to enable us to still further increase the salaries of the teachers, but I am bound to say that the Education Department of this State, when compared with those of the other States of the Commonwealth, are paying a larger salary, inadequate and poor as it may seem, to the lower grades of the service than is being paid elsewhere. The only increase in other items beyond this £28,000 is £4,982, so that the teachers have benefited to the extent of £28,951 by the incoming of the Labour party.

Hon. J. Mitchell: There are lots of additional teachers surely.

Mr. Heitmann: The hon. member stopped their increases for one year.

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: With the exception of the inspectors we have increases to pay in every instance. I am well aware there is still room for generosity, but it must be remembered that all grades of assistant teachers, men and women, have been raised, and that the salaries of all grades of head teachers except the highest paid, have been raised.

Hon. J. Mitchell: Why have they been left out?

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: Because we could not make the money go all round. We could not do more than exhaust the Treasury. We know how the leader of the Opposition has made a song of the deficit; we know how the member for Northam was delighted to hear we were getting into debt; but here is the explanation of our debt—we are raising the salaries of the poorly-paid teachers, leaving the highest paid at what they were; and then we are told we ought to give still more and yet we ought to keep the Treasury full. The two things are incompatible. We are better staffing all the smaller schools; we are improving the quarters of the teachers, and in every aspect we are making the lot of the teacher happier and more contented. We have not been confined to the mere paying-out of money, but we have been actively engaged in bettering the condition of teachers generally, so that not only the teachers receive the benefit but all who attend the school. Alterations have been made to the classification of schools, which are improving the condition of the lowest grade of head teachers and the intermediate grades. We have made alterations in the teachers' certificates, rendering it more easy for the unclassified teachers to rise to better and higher-paid positions. We have recognised by these steps alone, if we went no further, that the teachers are the body that have to shape the spirit, the enterprise of the coming generation.

Hon. J. Mitchell: Yet we kill enterprise in Parliament.

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: If the hon. member sat on the safety valve the whole machine would blow up. The hon. member kills all noble endeavour, all great aspirations, all lofty ideas, with his sneers at whatever is done for the betterment of the State as a whole, with sneers such as wither the susceptibilities, the tender tendencies of those who are striving for the better. Surely the hon. member has some appreciation of the work being done for the rising generation. Why does he sneer at it?

Hon. J. Mitchell: I am not sneering; I am laughing at the hon. member.

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: Then why does the hon. member giggle? In all this we have given ambition, a spirit of progress, a desire for emulation, and an emotion that tends to aim at something loftier and nobler in the service from the lowest rank upwards. Is that not something to achieve? During our term of office allowances have been increased to the first assistants. That in itself costs money and helps to swell the deficit. We have given retiring allowances for female teachers who are about to be married, bettering their lot and endeavouring as far as practicable to reward the women in the service as we would the men, endeavouring as near as we can to put the women on like services on an equality with the men. To those teaching on the goldfields we have issued free passes for them and their families every second year. We have introduced a system of training for the teachers who are about to take charge of the small country schools. This involves some expense but is better equipping the service by rendering the efficiency of the teachers more certain. A point which has long been discussed, which I have heard repeatedly debated in the Chamber, and which has given concern to parents and teachers alike, we have tackled fearlessly. Therefore we have revised the curriculum. We had a conference between the teachers and the inspectors, and the teachers have been given full opportunity, almost unprecedented, of expressing their views. We have endeavoured to put upon teachers and officers a spirit of fraternity so that there shall not be, as it were, the head body dictating and imposing on the teachers their will or their whim or their ideas. We have sought to bring the knowledge of the teachers, obtained in actual practice, to bear on the betterment of teaching generally, and therefore we have introduced this system of conferences between teachers and inspectors.

Hon. J. Mitchell: Is that the teachers' conference each year?

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: No; it is apart from that altogether. We have brought the inspectors and the teachers together outside that conference, which is an annual affair where the teachers meet to express their views and give publicity to their ideas. I have said to the inspectors, "Go among the teachers and bring the teachers nearer to you. Understand each other better;" and the inspectors required no urging that the spirit of the thing was good. And it has been put to practice, and on Saturday morning I am to meet one of the largest deputation of teachers which has hitherto waited on a Minister. They are to bring before me in the presence of the Director of Education their views as collected and put in the form of resolutions for the consideration of the executive portion of the department. We are arranging for a more liberal supply of books for the smaller country schools in order that we may as far as possible carry out the ideal expressed by members in this Chamber, and certainly the views entertained by every member of the Labour party with reference to the abolition of the fees in connection with modern schools.

Hon. J. Mitchell interjected.

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: We cannot do anything right for the hon. member. Is not the abolition of fees to help the poorer children? I am proud to tell the hon. member that I moved a resolution in the Senate that we should have no fees for the University.

Mr. Heitmann: I wish you would move a resolution about the indecent haste on the part of members to get positions on the University.

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: I think I know of only one person who has applied. I know of no more.

Mr. Heitmann: Three or four.

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: That is not correct. It was supposed that Mr. Andrews, the Inspector General of Schools, was applying but he did not apply; moreover he did not intend to apply.

Hon. Frank Wilson: Why should he not apply?

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: I say so; why should he not? If those



on the Senate are better fitted than those not on it, why should they be proscribed?

Mr. Heitmann: It is indecent.

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: What is there in a democratic community that should stand between the ambition of the poorest to reach the highest position between them and the attainment of the highest functions? If because you take one step higher and are on the road to your complete elevation, why should you be proscribed from going one step further? Every position in the land is open to every citizen in a democratic community.

Mr. Green: If that were not so the present Attorney General would not be in his present position.

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: If I had been born two hundred years ago of poor parents I should have been burned at the stake as a heretic for being more advanced in views, better than my fellows. Now we are in a free community where there is no hindrance to the poorest attaining the highest position if he can show he deserves it. It is incorrect to make charges that those on the Senate are trying to get billets for themselves.

Hon. Frank Wilson: There is only one.

Mr. Heitmann: A good many.

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: I do not like these accusations founded on mere rumour. We sometimes hang a man because he is bad, but let us prove that he is bad before we hang him. I will admit that the remarks of the hon. member carry some weight. He has some influence as a member. His position gives him influence, and that influence being there he should be more guarded in the way he uses it. At the present time we have under consideration the reorganisation of the Continuation Classes. We intend to put these classes under the supervision of a senior inspector, and to co-ordinate them with the schools below and above. In other words we wish to make the Education system one organic whole. We do not want education to be in sections, each upon a different basis, with different ideals and different purposes. We want every factor in our educational system to work for the good of the whole system, and to be part and parcel of

the whole system, so that the machine may work without friction, the end being to turn out educated citizens. We are making arrangements for the better training of apprentices. The other day a deputation waited on me and drew attention to the fact that the apprentices to the various trades were being neglected, that their masters, those to whom they were apprenticed, were neglecting them, and that adequate provision was not being made in our technical schools for the proper learning of trades. We are devoting our attention to making better provision in this respect, so that we may have properly educated tradesmen as part of the system of education. We have in view the establishment of a secondary school on the goldfields next year. It was my purpose to have arranged for the establishment of the school this year. I have on my desk a letter from the member for Kalgoorlie, conveying to me expressions of regret that we have not been able to start the school this year, and I am sure I have the sympathy of the Committee when I inform them that we are not possessed of the necessary funds to launch out as we desire. We deem it the first necessity to expend what funds we can in paying the lower salaried teachers higher salaries, and giving them better conditions. That having been accomplished, secondary education will follow, and although there will be a delay of about six months, the secondary school will be established on the goldfields. It need not be thought that we are going to shirk our responsibilities there.

Hon. J. Mitchell: You have a lot in view.

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: The hon. member surely has sympathy with us and there is no need for him to sneer at what we propose.

Hon. J. Mitchell: I am not sneering.

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: There are some difficulties in the way, but we hope to be able to overcome them. In reference to the farming schools which we purpose establishing at Chapman and Narrogin—

Mr. Male: Agricultural colleges?

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: Schools and colleges which will lead to the University. They will be adjuncts to the

University, giving practical as well as theoretical instruction. What will better please the teaching staff is the fact that we purpose establishing an appeal board for teachers giving them the same rights in that respect, that we give to civil servants. This is one of the matters that will be discussed on Saturday.

Hon. J. Mitchell: Why not bring them under the Public Service Commissioner alone?

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: Possibly that is in contemplation, but there are restrictions and difficulties which I cannot see my way to surmount at the present time. I think we should give the teachers as much freedom of intellect as possible. We should in no wise make mere machines of them. It is the one evil of the Public Service Act that it makes too much a machine of the civil servants. I am loth to bring the teacher, whose mind should always have a certain amount of spring left in it, initiative and freshness and vigour—I am anxious to keep from teachers as many restrictions as possible. What we want there is discipline only, useful for the preservation of *esprit de corps*.

Mr. Heitmann: They are dissatisfied with the personnel of the board.

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: They may be, but I question whether we could get any board that would give universal satisfaction. I propose to make the Public Service Commissioner the chairman. He is outside the ranks of the teachers, and I propose to give the teachers a representative and the department a representative upon that board.

Mr. Heitmann: It looks like two from the department.

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: If it is good enough for all others the teachers will say it is good enough for them. And why this fear of two from the department? Surely the department, if it is a proper department, should have the interests of the teachers at heart. It should not be the enemy of the teaching staff. It should be at one with it, only carrying out the executive functions, the administrative acts of the corporation of teachers as a whole. They are not at deadly enmity. I refuse to be-

lieve it, and I say this of the inspectorial staff, it is not so now. I am positive of this.

Mr. Lander: They know it would not pay.

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: Never mind, so long as you obtain the proper spirit in the inspectorial staff. so long will the interest and welfare of the teachers be continued, and I may say that the reforms carried out during the last twelve months could not have been achieved if the inspectorial staff had not fallen into line and assisted the Minister and teachers, and I am in that respect bound to do them credit. So long as a proper spirit is maintained and so long as the hand is kept in touch with the main spring, there is no fear of the enmity that has existed in the past. It is now more a bogey of the imagination than a reality. Not only that, but a proposal I have not yet thoroughly discussed with the inspectors, but which I have hinted at and which I intend to bring to pass unless difficulties which I cannot foresee now stand in the way, is the appointment of a board for appointments. In other words, I propose in the elevation of teachers to a higher grade and to new and higher and more remunerative positions, that the selection shall be made by a board instead of being made as at present, perhaps by the director of education. I may say for the director that I am convinced he tries to do the best, but it stands to reason that the inspector cannot know all the personal qualities of every teacher. However, as I have said, the appointment of that board has not been matured. It is a matter which is in my mind. I think it will be a reform. We propose a general revision of regulations, and I want to say to those who do not understand the work being done in the Education Department that this is the thing that has moved my pride more than anything else during the course of my occupancy of the position of Ministerial head; it is that the teachers themselves recognise that we are endeavouring to do them good services, that we have their welfare and interest at heart. In the November number of the *Teachers' Journal* the leading

article is headed "A year of Change" ; and they say this—

The year 1912 will long be remembered as the year of great changes throughout our service, changes in the department staff, changes in the system of inspecting and examining our schools, changes in the curriculum, and last but not least changes in the classification of schools and teachers. And although these changes will not come into effect till the beginning of 1913 they really belong to an epoch making year in the history of our Educational Department, the year 1912.

Hon. J. Mitchell: They have not come into force yet.

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: I know; the hon. member must point his spleen even on this. I did think the hon. member would learn to appreciate what is being done here. He should rejoice that there is contentment and better spirit amongst the teachers than existed formerly. Does this rouse his envy, does it annoy him that the Labour party can do justice to the teachers?

Hon. J. Mitchell: Who wrote the article?

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: It is in the journal. Must the hon. member point suspicion even here? Must he everlastingly be sneering; must the evil genius of his mind to create these bogies be ever busy? The article continues—

To the teacher generally the most interesting changes made are those connected with the curriculum and the examination system, for on these the whole future of our teachers depend. We must confess that when we criticised the old order of things month after month in our journal we hardly dared to hope that a change was at hand; yet within a year our department has been practically revolutionised.

That is what the teachers say. Now I need detain the Committee no further; the work of the year speaks for itself.

Hon. J. Mitchell: No, the work of the next year is to speak for it; that is what the journal said.

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: In this year the teachers have spoken.

They recognise the changes that have taken place, that their claims are considered, and sympathetically considered. It is not in next year but in this year that we pay £28,000 more than was paid last year in salaries and allowances to teachers—to the lower grades of teachers, leaving the higher. Next year is only the year of putting in force those changes made in this year as to the curriculum, as to the establishment of further schools and as to alterations for the examinations. We cannot apply them this year, because the examinations for this year have taken place. The curriculum imposed before we came into office has been in operation this year but we have provided our curriculum for our next year's work, which the teachers have given their unmodified adhesion to and approval of.

Hon. J. Mitchell: You must take the credit next year.

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: We take the credit for the changes this year because the changes are made this year. Next year our examinations will be on the new system, and the curriculum will be the curriculum drawn up after much care and thought and attention this year. So we take the credit now for what is done and accomplished now. I only have this to say, that I regret we cannot do more and move faster. This young State, with its enormous areas, with its sparsely scattered population, having taken the responsibility upon it to see that no child is neglected, has not only to find funds for educating the children in the metropolis and the postal town, but it has to follow up the settler in the backwoods, has to go into country districts where only a few years ago nothing but the howl of the dingo was heard. Nothing but forest for miles and miles, or the widely extending sandplains. Thither population is locating itself and every little district where areas have been thrown open for selection is now dotted with a townsite, and at all these townsites we are obliged to build schools and supply teachers. So when I heard that the increases in our Estimates represent the betterment of the teachers, it does not embrace all that the State is doing for

education, because in addition to our Estimates the Works Estimates will show an increment. New schools are to be built, teachers' quarters are to be erected in every portion of the State, and this requires an enormous sum of money. If in doing our duty to the rising generation in this respect we do somewhat fall behind in the ledger and add to the deficit I feel confident that this generation and the next will thank us for not having been economical in this respect, for having done our duty, building schools and supplying teachers, making the lot of the teachers happy, and the prospects of the pupils bright. They will encourage us in this course rather than discourage or blame us. I say, despite any discouragement, and the evident annoyance at the course we are taking, we intend to pursue that course; and not only are we determined to do this as regards primary education, but the State is willing to involve itself in further obligations, and we intend at both ends, not indeed to be extravagant, but to do justice to the children of the State. I mean that Parliament will be asked at no distant date to find funds for the building of our own University, giving us that patriotic feeling that links all our destinies to the State in which we live. Hitherto for the higher branches of learning we have looked abroad. Parents have sent their children across the seas to England or to the Eastern States. The day is at hand when all that knowledge can bestow, all that intellect can acquire, all that wisdom can procure, will be within our own reach, within our own powers, the birthright, the possession, the clear right of every son of citizens of this State.

Mr. HARPER: The Minister for Education was to be complimented on his eloquent exposition of the Education Estimates. Education was one of the greatest features of Western Australia, and in this regard the State had been the foremost of the Commonwealth. The Minister for Education had shown great enthusiasm in the educational system. The attitude of the Government towards education was the one bright spot in the Government's policy. The education system of

Western Australia was on a very satisfactory basis. According to the Minister for Education free passes over the railways had been given to teachers from the goldfields. It was only fair that this should be done, but it was only fair also that the same concession should be extended to teachers in the agricultural areas, who were just as much entitled to a railway pass to the coast as were the teachers of the goldfields. He hoped the Minister for Education would accept this suggestion and put it into effect. It would be wrong to extend a concession to one section of the teachers and not to another equally deserving. It was noticeable, too, that many of the teachers had had their positions improved, and received encouragement to carry out their great responsibilities. It was regrettable that some of the higher paid officers had not received similar consideration. Of course the Minister for Education had to work on economical lines and could only carry out increases in salaries as far as the finances would permit. Still, merit should be rewarded. The Chief Inspector of Schools was paid a salary of £510 whereas in the Eastern States the corresponding position carried a salary of £800. In Western Australia the pay of the lower grades was much higher than it was in the Eastern States, but those in the higher branches who had shown merit and ability had not been considered to the extent they deserved, and £510 as against £800 in the Eastern States was certainly an anomaly that ought to be remedied. Although the education system had increased very much the Chief Inspector was lower paid now than he had been for a considerable time.

The Minister for Education: Not lower; there has been no lowering of wages, but I do say our inspectors are the lowest paid of any in the States.

Mr. HARPER: It was satisfactory to know that the Minister recognised that. The position of Chief Inspector was a very responsible one and should meet with consideration. The principal of the Training College received £552, which was a higher salary than that of the Chief Inspector. In the other States the Chief Inspector was paid a higher salary than the principal of any training college in

the Commonwealth. Our system of education was one to be proud of, and it was very wrong that the Chief Inspector should be paid only £510. There was also a big difference between the salary of £750 paid to the Inspector General of Schools and the £1,000 paid in New South Wales and Victoria.

Mr. Lander: They have bigger populations.

Mr. HARPER: That was so, but those officers had more assistance, living was cheaper in the Eastern States, and there were other conveniences much more readily obtainable. The position of head of the State Education Department was not as well paid as it ought to be. He would like to see the teachers in the agricultural areas receiving the same consideration as those on the goldfields, to the extent of a free pass to the coastal districts at least once in every two years.

The Minister for Education: They get it every two years on the goldfields for themselves and family, but that does not apply to the agricultural areas.

Mr. HARPER: The concession should be extended to the agricultural areas. In many cases the teachers lived in isolated places away from centres of any importance, and he had the greatest sympathy with people who had to put up with those difficulties.

Mr. S. STUBBS: The appeal made by the member for Pingelly in behalf of teachers in the outback portions of the State other than the goldfields was worthy of the consideration of the Minister. It was a splendid innovation on the part of the Minister to give the goldfields teachers free passes for themselves and families every two years, and that privilege should be extended to other teachers who worked in isolated districts.

Mr. Lander: And are poorly paid.

Mr. S. STUBBS: They were not too well paid. The expense of getting away from those places was very considerable. A good number of the teachers were married men and for them to take a holiday meant a big inroad into their salaries. Every teacher should be compelled to go away for a holiday periodically.

The Premier: Should not that apply to everybody employed in those localities?

Mr. S. STUBBS: Teachers followed a calling different from that of any other public servant.

The Premier: They work five days a week.

Mr. S. STUBBS: The Premier did not quite realise that the work of a teacher required great patience and aptitude, and it was a big strain on any person, whether man or woman, to be constantly training the young month after month and year after year. Those officers required a great deal more encouragement than many people realised in the arduous duties they performed. His father had been a school teacher in Victoria, and it was quite true that the average person did not know the great strain which a teacher had to bear if he performed his duty faithfully. He hoped the Minister would see his way clear to grant the teachers in agricultural districts a free pass on the same conditions as their fellow teachers on the goldfields. He could not follow the member for Pingelly in saying that the salaries of the inspectors should be increased. The Opposition had been criticising the Government for not practising economy in the departments, and if we were earnest in the advocacy of economy, we could hardly ask the Government to increase the salaries of men already drawing £500 a year.

Mr. Harper: There are only one or two.

Mr. S. STUBBS: The teachers should be paid well, and when the opportunity occurred to give the lower branches of the service a lift it would be wise to do so. If the Minister could give all teachers and their wives and families a free pass every two years, it would be money well spent and would enable those officers to go back with renewed energy and ability to their important work of training the young.

Mr. DWYER: One could not allow the occasion to slip without congratulating the Minister and the Education Department generally on the great strides that had been made in education matters generally in this State even during the last twelve months. The record of education in regard to the numbers educated, the

attendance of the scholars and the general increase in the salaries of teachers, was one any young country might well be proud of. We had not yet reached the acme of perfection, but Rome was not built in a day, and our strides towards that goal must be gradual, because no Government could stand a large increase all at once in the salaries in any particular department. The Minister might well be proud of the increase from year to year in the average attendance of scholars, and more particularly in the percentage of attendance to enrolment, which was about the highest for Australasia. That percentage was now 84.21, an achievement which any country would be proud to claim. One might be pardoned for calling the attention of hon. members to a diagram in the report of the Education Department which showed that from 1872, when the Education Act first came into operation, to 1894 the advance was infinitesimal, but from 1894 up to the end of 1911, both the attendance and the enrolment had taken a sudden leap and had maintained that progress, so that in the graphic diagram it rose almost at a right angle. Few countries could show such a record in the same time in regard to increase of efficiency, enrolment, and attendance. One matter of regret was the falling off in the percentage of children over 14 years of age who were attending the primary schools. In 1907 the percentage of children over 14 to the total enrolment stood at 6.3; in 1908, 5.6; in 1909, 5.7; in 1910, 4.5; and in 1911, 4.3.

Mr. Heitmann: The secondary school has made some difference.

Mr. DWYER: Undoubtedly the secondary school had made a difference, and if those children were accounted for by the increased attendance at the Modern School and the other secondary schools the figures might be taken as satisfactory. Otherwise it was sad to notice the falling off in the attendance of children over 14. There was an increase in the salaries of teachers over 1910-11. The average salary was £143 12s. 5d., and in the previous year it was £141 17s. 9d., so they were on the up-grade, and for the present year, he believed, thanks to the present Mini-

ster, there would be a further increase. If there was any civil servant who deserved to be well rewarded and to have a salary commensurate with his importance to the community it was the teacher, because to no man should we look for better results than the teacher. There were a few anomalies in the Estimates which the Minister should reconcile. The chief inspector of schools was receiving only £510 per annum. The inspector of schools, presumably the senior inspector, was receiving £504 so it appeared that the officer who was translated from the position of senior inspector to that of chief inspector of schools received the munificent increase of £6 per annum for all the additional responsibilities and duties which the promotion entailed. He hoped the Minister would find means to reward this officer adequately to the position. Surely if he was worth £504 as senior inspector he was worth more than £510 as chief inspector. From an intimate knowledge of the department in which he worked for 10 years, he knew the chief inspector's duties which involved the examinations, the promotion and classification of teachers, and filling the position of Director of Education and Under-Secretary in that official's absence, and in fact he was the chief administrative officer of the department next to the Director. He congratulated the Minister on instituting one of the finest system of secondary education that obtained in any of the States in the shape of the Modern School.

Hon. J. Mitchell: Which Minister?

Mr. DWYER: The late Minister for initiating it and the present Minister for carrying it to fruition. He recently visited the institution and saw the pupils at work and the State might well be proud of the school on account of its work, the excellent system, the discipline maintained, and the general tone displayed by the students. The curriculum was entirely satisfactory and no more satisfactory display of the best educational methods could be found. The Modern School was not sufficient to cope with the requirements of Perth. There ought to be either increased accommoda-

tion or another school should be established, not perhaps on precisely similar lines, but perhaps more on the lines of the classical education in older places. The opportunity was presented to the Minister to settle the trouble in connection with the High School. State educational institutions from the university to the primary school should charge no fees. Their doors should be open to those who showed by examination or otherwise that they had the ability to take advantage of the instruction offered. It was not just to give any institution a big portion of the funds of the State by way of land, endowment, or emolument, and not get something for the State in return. The solution of the difficulty was that if this land was to be given to the High School that school should become one of the secondary schools having a vote on the Estimates and the education should be free, as it would shortly be free, to the students of the Modern School. There was ample room for two State secondary schools, and the Minister might well consider this reasonable solution of the difficulty. To say that the State should denude itself of valuable properties and receive little or nothing in return was justice run mad for the sake of a mistaken sense of gratitude.

Hon. J. MITCHELL: It was his desire to correct an impression which the Attorney General seemed to hold that members of the Opposition objected to an increase in the educational vote. While every member desired that the greatest possible economy should be practised in connection with the State finances, if there was one thing on which increased expenditure must be made it was in connection with education. Year after year there had been an increase, and rightly so. The increase this year, was £33,000. The Minister had been called upon to open many new schools and it was a wonder that the increase was not greater.

The Minister for Education: New schools come under the department of the Minister for Works.

Hon. J. MITCHELL: This amount included salaries paid to teachers all over the State.

The Premier: That is not the total increase on the Estimates for education.

Hon. J. MITCHELL: Of that he was quite aware. Many new schools had been opened, and the teachers had to be paid and the increased cost of running the department had to be borne, and it was remarkable that the increase was not greater. There was no desire to take from the Minister the credit for increasing the salaries paid to country teachers. The salary paid, £110, was still a low one and the Minister would realise that it was equal to less than 8s. a day.

Mr. Turvey: It is much more than your Government attempted to do. You stopped their increments.

Hon. J. MITCHELL: The member for Greenough (Mr. Nanson) had informed him that the minimum was increased to £110 during his term of office.

The Minister for Education: It was not.

Mr. Nanson: Then it was sanctioned.

The Minister for Education: I did it.

Hon. J. MITCHELL: Even £110 was a very moderate salary for a man to sustain himself upon. The Minister was anxious to have credit, not only for all that had been done, but for what would be done next year.

The Minister for Education: You need not give me credit for anything, but I do not want discredit.

Hon. J. MITCHELL: The Minister promised that there should be a secondary school on the goldfields, and he had hoped to see one established at Northam. We heard of agricultural high schools; we heard from the Minister for Education they were under consideration, and that one was to be established at the State farm, Narrogin; but it was to be hoped that one would be established at Northam, where there was already a fine school and an agricultural centre of some importance. It would be better to spend money in establishing agricultural high schools in such centres as Northam than to establish a secondary school in Perth, which was already well supplied in this respect apart from the Modern School. The Modern School was established long before the present Ministry came into office. The leader

of the Opposition had been abused because he had not done all that members imagined he should have done, but when in office the leader of the Opposition did a hundred times more than present Ministers had done for education. He had established the Modern School, and was responsible for the Technical School as we now knew it.

The Premier: And he was responsible for charging fees.

Hon. J. MITCHELL: The Minister for Education was entitled to some credit, because he had done good work, and he would have plenty of opportunity to get credit in the future. That should be sufficient for him without his detracting from the work of those who preceded him.

The Minister for Education: I have no desire to detract from anyone.

Hon. J. MITCHELL: The country was being constantly reminded of the good things that came from the present Minister, and comparisons were made. To-night the Minister read a leading article from the *Teachers' Journal*, which might well have been written by a very warm friend and admirer of the Minister.

The Minister for Education: I do not even know the writer.

Hon. J. MITCHELL: The Minister read that article in order that it might be believed that he had achieved wonders during the past twelve months.

The Minister for Education: No. I read it to show that the teachers were satisfied with the work done. Do not misrepresent, do not talk about detracting.

Hon. J. MITCHELL: The Minister was very keen on getting credit in advance. He could get it without getting it from the *Teachers' Journal* published by his own officials. The best thing that could be said of that article was that something was to be done in 1913. The Minister should see that schools were opened in the country where they were needed, and that proper buildings should be provided, and teachers' accommodation. He had written to the Minister asking for the erection of quarters at Southern Brook, where a school had been established for many years, and no doubt

the same thing applied in many other agricultural centres. It was necessary that sufficient and adequate quarters should be provided for the teachers who were obliged to live away often from civilisation and at long distances from the nearest habitations.

The Minister for Education: You do not wish to infer that we are doing nothing in that respect?

Hon. J. MITCHELL: After the speech of the hon. member, one could hardly say that. It was to be hoped that at the end of 1913 we could congratulate the Minister on having provided many schools and quarters in different centres. It was the action of the past Government in opening up the country and settling people on the land that had provided our energetic Minister with so much opportunity for work and made it imperative on the department to see that the wants of the people were supplied. The provision of suitable accommodation for the teachers was just as necessary as the building of schools and as increases in salary.

Mr. TURVEY: The Minister deserved every congratulation for the very encouraging report he gave the Committee on the work accomplished during the year and that already in hand in regard to education. Magnificent work had been done, not only by the present Government but by past Governments, so that our education system was one to be proud of. We had a vast State, with schools dotted almost over every part. Wherever the pioneer was and wherever the track was blazed, the State followed with a school. There were 250 schools in the State in 1902; to-day the number was over 500. The number of schools had doubled in about nine years, and there were 35,000 scholars enrolled. It was significant that in the last report of the department it was shown that for 1910-11 the percentage of attendance to enrolment was higher than in any previous year. Many factors brought this about, among them being the grand work the department was doing in the system of medical inspection of children. In consequence of that medical inspection systematically carried out the health of



the children was materially increased, bringing about a better attendance. Another factor contributing to the increased attendance was the method adopted by the teachers of to-day. The whole system of teaching had been revolutionised. Children were not afraid of going to school. Instead, they complained if detained by their parents from attending for even a day. This spoke volumes for the good methods adopted by our teachers. An important factor adding to the cost of the education system was that of our 500 schools there were 270 with an average attendance of less than 20 children, more than half our schools thus having a low average attendance and increasing the cost per head of the average attendance. This for 1911 worked out at £5 10s. 6½d., as against £5 6s. 11½d. in 1910, and £7 8s. 8d. for the same period in New South Wales. The total expenditure of the Education Department for the year for which we had a report was £202,176, which worked out at a cost per head of the population of the State of 14s. 6½d.; and although much had been done by the various Governments in assisting education in this State, and notwithstanding our small population and the immense area over which our schools are scattered, the total cost per head of the population was only 14s. 6½d. against over 14s. per head in the State of New South Wales. Reference had been made by various speakers to the salaries paid to our State school teachers. At the present time we had over 1,100 teachers employed in the Education Department and teachers of all grades. The average salary for all adult teachers was £141 17s. 9d. in 1910 and £143 12s. 5d. in 1911. He regretted he had not the figures for the year just ended, but taking the report for 1911, the salaries of head teachers it was found had not been increased in that year, but decreased. Whereas in 1910 the average salary was £155 0s. 2d., in 1911 the average was £154 11s. 4½d. On the other hand, the salary of the assistants in our schools had increased from £128 14s. 3d. in 1910 to £131 11s. 4d. in 1911. While he believed that our assistant teachers should

be well paid he regretted to know that the average salary of the head teachers had decreased. In a State like ours that should not be the case. No doubt a considerable alteration had been made according to the report the Minister had given that evening, but he (Mr. Turvey) could only quote from the reports of the department which were available. However, the Minister had pointed out that increases had been made this year to the extent of £28,000, and whilst it was realised that that was a big amount, at the same time it should be pointed out that the other States were also increasing the salaries of their teachers. An interjection was made by the member for Northam that he was surprised that the Minister had only raised the salaries of the lower paid teachers. The Government however, were to be commended for their action in this respect. He congratulated the Government on having started at the right end, and whilst much more could be done in the way of improving the salaries of teachers, still every credit should be given to the Government for having in their brief tenure of office faced the situation. The Attorney General pointed out that the salary of the junior male teachers had been raised to £110, and he hoped that it would soon be increased to £120. The Inspector General, when speaking at a recent conference, told the teachers there that it was generally recognised that the teacher had the work of a nigger, the pay of a navvy, and the life of a dog. The teacher, however, did not even have the pay of a navvy, but he very often had the life of a dog. The Premier made rather a surprising interjection when he said that the teachers only worked five or six days a week and for very short hours. Surely the Premier was not serious; if he was he had no knowledge of the work of teachers in the State. Reference was also made by the Minister to improvements in the curriculum. In the past the policy adopted by the department was to have the same curriculum in country schools as that which obtained in the towns. In the city schools, or in the schools of the larger centres, we found one teacher, and some-

times two to a single class, and in the past we found the inspectors going out to the country schools where there was one teacher, a male, and sometimes a lady teacher in charge of seven standards, and perhaps three classes of infants. He (Mr. Turvey) had seen them in charge of 10 classes, and the inspector would walk into that school and set the same standard for the children that perhaps he had given the day before in a city school. It was satisfactory to know that that state of things had been altered. It was pleasing to hear from the Minister the account of the conference which had taken place between the representative teachers and the inspectorial staff. They met to discuss the curriculum that should be adopted and he congratulated the Minister on having inaugurated such a conference, because it would not only be conducive to the contentment of the teachers, but it would be conducive to the better education of our children; and therefore prove of material benefit to the State. Another pleasing feature was the fact that a scheme had been initiated now whereby the inspectors when they went into the schools, regarded it as their duty to help the teacher rather than to criticise. The trouble in the past was that the inspectors—and he supposed they were carrying out the policy promulgated by the Minister in charge—were looked upon more as detectives than anything else. It sometimes happened that an inspector would go into a school where a teacher had been doing good work, conscientiously and wholeheartedly, and waiting for the annual inspection to come round, and the inspector, after two or three hours' stay, would criticise the work of the teacher to such an extent that the teacher was made absolutely despondent as far as his duties were concerned. It was satisfactory to know that that was a policy of the past and that the inspectors could to-day enter a school and make the teacher feel at once that they were there to assist and encourage and give them a lifting hand. This was what teachers in the back blocks needed, because very often they lived the lives almost of hermits. He would like to see a system of central classes

established and it could be done with very little increased cost. The existing system, though it was conducive to good results, was not giving the child of the settler outback a fair chance to compete for scholarships or for entrance to the Modern School. A system might be established whereby the leading school in every agricultural district, and not in any big area, should be made a sort of central school. On the Great Southern line, for instance, the schools at Narrogin, Wagin and Katanning might well be made central schools for the surrounding districts where children could be sent and given the opportunities that were at present denied to them. The Minister might also make provision to grant children desirous of attending the central schools free passes on the railway. The policy adopted by the department so far as the country schools were concerned was to limit teaching to what was known as the fifth standard in the State schools. In many State schools, when a child reached that standard, he was told by the teacher that nothing more could be done for him, and it frequently happened that the parent was not sufficiently affluent to pay for that child's attendance at a central school. With reference to the appeal board, some better scheme should be introduced than that of having the Public Service Commissioner as Chairman. The Minister pointed out that he had not yet decided this question, but when he reconsidered the matter it was to be hoped that he would arrive at another decision. Personally, he had the greatest confidence in the Public Service Commissioner, but the teachers having heard that there was a possibility of that officer being appointed Chairman were discontented. The Minister might do everything in his power to remove that feeling of discontent. Another matter he desired to refer to was the feeling of dissatisfaction amongst the teachers regarding the repeal of a certain regulation. The Minister had this matter in hand and probably some slight error was made or certain facts were overlooked. However, the teachers had been very much dissatisfied when that new

regulation was published, and, knowing from a conversation with the Minister that there was likely to be some change made in that direction, he trusted that when the Minister met the conference on Saturday morning next, the Minister would give the teachers an assurance that the regulation would not be permitted to continue in force. He congratulated the Education Department on the grand work it was doing in connection with the penny savings bank. It was not generally known to the people of the State that the Education Department was encouraging thrift among the children and inducing them to save their pennies. The system of school savings banks had been started in 1907, and had steadily increased. In 1910 the individual accounts numbered 7,246, the total sum standing to the credit of the children in that year being £10,324. To-day 13,131 children at our State schools had accounts at the Savings Bank, the sum standing to their collective credit being £15,045. Upon this the department was heartily to be congratulated. In the last published report the Chief Inspector had made reference to our pioneer teachers and expressed the hope that something would be done for them. As a result of the higher standard of our examinations and the consequent difficulty teachers experienced in passing these examinations some of our older teachers who had done excellent service were gradually slipping back. It was a wrong system that demanded of a public servant that he should be continually passing examinations to keep right up with his fellow teachers. Something more should be done to help these pioneer teachers? In his last report the senior inspector had touched upon the subject of the pioneer teachers and concluded with the hope that their services would be fully recognised. He (Mr. Turvey) expressed the same hope, and trusted that the Minister would look into the matter. The unwieldy classes which teachers had to handle was another point calling for attention.

The Minister for Education: That is already in process of alteration.

Mr. TURVEY: It was good to hear that that was so, because in this

respect we were much behind any other part of the world, our teachers having had to deal with classes containing as many as 100 children. He hoped the Minister would, as time went on, take every opportunity of lessening the cost imposed upon poorer parents by the necessary provision of school books. This was a cost that, to a large extent, could be kept down by preventing the frequent changes of school books. To-day more importance than ever was being given to literature in our State schools, and rightly so too; but parents were asked to provide their children with readers and supplementary readers, and frequently a change of inspectors resulted in a change of books. He had seen this happen time after time, and the Minister ought to issue instructions that this matter should be closely watched. It would be seen that it was no small matter when he told the Committee that a change of inspectors sometimes imposed upon parents an expenditure of anything up to one pound for a new set of books. Again attention should be given to the infusing of a little more of the Australian element into our school books.

The Minister for Education: That is right in line with what we are doing.

Mr. TURVEY: He was glad to hear this. He realised the grand work the Minister was doing. As to the appointment board suggested by the Minister, he thought such a board was necessary; because, at least until a little while ago, there had been no definite system of appointments in the department, no system of bringing about promotions and appointments.

The Minister for Education: That is in hand.

Mr. TURVEY: The Minister seemed to have everything in hand. It was gratifying to have these promises and assurances from the Minister. A suggestion had been made by the member for Pingelly (Mr. Harper) that free railway passes to the coast should be granted to teachers stationed in agricultural districts, just as was done in the case of the goldfields teachers. This sentiment he could heartily endorse, and he hoped the Minister would see his

way to extending that privilege to teachers in remote agricultural centres. Of course the difficulty would be found to lie in the provision of the money. Frequent requests had been made for the establishment of agricultural schools. Agricultural education was a matter which must be taken seriously in hand; it should not be neglected any longer. In Mr. Sutton, of the Agricultural Department, we had an officer of the very highest attainments, whose co-operation could well be sought by the Education Department with a view to instituting a system of agricultural education. He congratulated the Minister on the encouragement given in sparsely peopled districts by way of driving grants for conveying children to school. The sum spent annually in this direction approximated £3,000. There were other branches of education he would like to deal with, but he did not wish to detain the Committee at any greater length. He realised the grand work being done, and recognised in the fullest degree the manner in which the Minister had already revolutionised the department. He trusted the Minister would go on with the progressive policy adopted.

Vote put and passed.

Department of Public Works (Hon. W. D. Johnson, Minister).

Vote—*Public Works and Buildings, £301,158* :

The MINISTER FOR WORKS (Hon. W. D. Johnson): Last year has been the busiest year ever experienced in the Works Department since 1897-8 and, in consequence, one feels inclined to dwell at great length on the work that has been done during the past twelve months. But I propose to restrain myself in this regard and simply deal as briefly as I can with the items of expenditure, giving details as to how the increased expenditure has been incurred, so that members and the country may know how the public funds are distributed in the Works Department. The expenditure last year from Loan funds was £1,320,433 and from Revenue, £206,165; from Property Trust Account £24,892, or a

total of £1,551,490 for the year as compared with £1,206,148 last year, a difference of £345,342. The details in connection with this expenditure are as follows:—Under the heading of railway construction the expenditure last year was £687,779 as compared with £496,678 in 1910-11. I want to draw hon. members' attention to this, because we have of late heard a considerable amount of what can only be called clap-trap spoken in regard to the want of expedition on the part of the Government in the matter of railway construction. Never in the history of the State has railway construction been forced along with greater expedition than during the last twelve months. Not only have we started railways in a manner that will guarantee economy and speedy construction, inasmuch as we have the material ready before we start construction and do not start before we are ready, but we have adopted the system of starting the more lengthy lines at both ends. This applies to the Wongan Hills-Mullewa line. I regret to say that we have not been able to put this system into operation at the Mullewa end for the reason that the rails were not ordered in time by our predecessors, and were not available. Our earthworks are out 60 miles and no rails are laid. This does not tend to economical construction, but it will not occur again while the present Government are in office. At Wongan Hills we have made a fair start and the sleepers and rails will be available to construct that end on up-to-date lines. As an instance of expedition, I may refer with a great deal of pride to the construction of the line from Quairading to Nunajin. That line was started in May and for some months now material and plant have been carted over it by our construction train for the settlers during the present harvest season. The length of that line was 48 miles and it is worth comparing with the Dumbleyung extension of 24 miles. We have built double the length of line in just half the time, and the cost of construction compares almost equally as favourably. Consequently, one can refer to these matters with a great deal of

pride, more particularly because members on the Opposition side, the Press, and a number of Liberal supporters have been crying out that railway construction has been delayed. The party at present in power introduced the system of agricultural railway construction; they believed in the policy then, and are carrying it out in an active manner at the present time. The other details to which I refer are harbours and rivers—1911-12, £208,208, as compared with £175,807 in 1910-11; water supply and sewerage—1911-12, £122,663; 1910-11, £109,669; under the vote for the development of agriculture, road clearing in agricultural areas—1911-12, £37,186; 1910-11, £17,394; water supply in agricultural areas—1911-12, £89,506; 1910-11, £26,660; drainage works—1911-12, £30,073; 1910-11, £15,338; abattoirs, cold storage, etcetera—1911-12, £6,312; 1910-11, £7,128; roads and bridges—1911-12, £86,010; 1910-11, £110,442; public buildings—1911-12, £184,251; 1910-11, 139,953; salaries, incidental and miscellaneous—1911-12, £99,502; 1910-11, £107,079. I quote these figures as clear evidence that the money expended has been expended mainly in developmental works. The reductions that have taken place are in works which cannot compare with the works that have been expedited. I just want to refer to the expenditure from Loan Funds on public buildings. We have been accused of increasing the loan expenditure on public buildings, and members on the other side have twitted us that such expenditure is contrary to public policy and contrary to the plank of our own platform that loan moneys should only be expended on reproductive works. While it is true that we have spent £87,060 from Loan Funds on public buildings, no less than £79,000 of that sum represents liabilities incurred prior to the present Government taking office, and was mainly incurred on buildings started and contracts let for schools. It is not, as the Estimates will prove, the policy of the present Government to unduly expend loan money on public buildings. We recognise that this expenditure is not

sound and we propose to get away from it at the earliest possible moment, and already we show a vast improvement on this year's Estimates. Turning now to the revenue expenditure, we have expended during the last year £206,165 as compared with £161,476 expended in the previous year, and the expenditure from Property Trust Account of £24,892 represents a decrease of £9,964. During the year a number of concerns have been handed over to the Public Works Department which have increased the responsibility and labour in that department to a very great extent. As a consequence the Government found it necessary to establish a new department in the form of a combined Water Supply Department. I do not want hon. members to imagine that it was altogether because of the increased responsibility in the Works Department that this new department was formed; we did it because we wanted to separate the two concerns, and also for the more important reason of bringing about greater efficiency and economy in administration. I do not propose to deal with the Water Supply Department now because it is dealt with separately in the Estimates, and I will have something to say regarding it when that vote is reached. The future of the Public Works Department will be principally confined to the construction of railways, roads and bridges, harbours, rivers, public buildings, abattoirs, and cold storage, and the management and control of a few trading concerns, such as the State sawmills and the Boya quarry. Although this quarry is small to-day I am of opinion that it will become the main quarry for public purposes, and the Federal Government are making inquiries as to whether we can supply them with stone for the naval base. The quarry is already equipped with up-to-date machinery and is supplying stone to the municipalities and roads boards at a cheap rate compared with that which has been paid in the past. We do not look for a profit from the supply of this stone because we look on the local bodies as semi-public bodies. One of the increased responsibilities which the depart-

ment took over during the year was the administration of the Municipal Act. This was taken over because the Government considered that we should combine and concentrate the various Acts covering local bodies in one office and in one branch of the department. Previously the roads boards were controlled by the Works Department, and the municipalities by the Colonial Secretary. There was a lack of uniformity and of that check which is necessary to see that the cost of administration of local bodies is kept down to a minimum. By this combination we have expert officers devoting their attention to local government affairs, and we are able to avail ourselves of the services of the traffic inspectors, who have been appointed under the Roads Act; and those gentlemen, in addition to doing wonderfully good work in the fields in checking expenditure and seeing to the administration of the Act, are able to give us valuable information in regard to the administration of municipalities. During the year special attention has been devoted to bringing about greater economies, particularly in the administration of roads boards. A great deal has been done in this matter, boundaries have been altered, and boards have been amalgamated, and we have been able up to date to abolish no less than four municipalities and join them in with the roads board districts surrounding. By knocking the administrations into one, we have brought about greater efficiency and greater economy. I hope that as time progresses we will be able to do more in this direction, and tend to bring about as much uniformity as possible in regard to the administration of the Municipal and Roads Acts, so that eventually we can reach a stage when we can have one Local Government Act governing all these bodies. The main difficulty I have experienced during the year is to find some solution in regard to the control and maintenance of main roads. We know that generally speaking the main roads in the last few years have got into a deplorable condition. More especially does this apply to the main trunk road between

Perth and Fremantle. A great many schemes have been submitted, but all entailing a financial responsibility that the Government were not prepared to shoulder. But I am of opinion that if the Traffic Bill now before another place becomes law, under that measure we will be able to introduce a new system in the way of subsidising license fees that will form the foundation of a fund for the general upkeep of main roads, and introduce a system that will be in advance of anything existing in Australia. This difficulty in regard to main roads is not confined to Western Australia. We find the same agitation to-day so far as local government in New South Wales and Victoria is concerned in regard to the maintenance of main roads. In New South Wales a system has been adopted of establishing a special board to deal with main roads, but I do not think it is a sound proposition or that it will prove economical. I believe that the system we propose of allowing the local bodies to do the work and subsidise the fees they collect will prove a better system, and if the Traffic Bill is passed as framed by the Government it will assist us in that direction. Turning to the Estimates for the year the total provided is £301,878 as compared with last year's figures £234,280, an increase of £66,878. The principal items making up the increase are the harbour workshops at Fremantle, £33,200 and the expenditure in regard to the Boya quarry, £9,950. This expenditure was previously shown in a different manner, but the Government considered that Parliament should have an opportunity of discussing these items, and they have placed them on the Estimates, and on the other side it is anticipated that from these two trading concerns we will receive a revenue of £45,000, or, in other words, while we increase our expenditure we will make a profit by increasing our revenue. These concerns are not run to make big profits. In regard to the Boya quarry, we are supplying road metal to the local governing bodies at practically cost price. Exactly the same thing applies to the Fremantle workshops.

Our duties are confined to doing departmental or Government work and consequently we do not look forward to a profit, but I would point out that the workshops are now run on strict business lines. The management has been altered, general improvements have been effected, and to-day, I think we have at Fremantle a good administration of those shops. In regard to the cost charged for work done, a small margin of profit is allowed for, but we allow depreciation at  $7\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. on buildings, 5 per cent. on plant, and interest at the rate of 4 per cent. on the capital cost, and we also allow for ground rent and general administrative expenses. I point this out because it is generally considered by outside firms when we are tendering for departmental work against them that we do not allow these percentages, but we do allow them in every case, and up to date we have been able to compete successfully with them and a considerable increase of departmental work is finding its way into the Fremantle shops. The provision made for roads is £63,797, compared with £56,700 last year, or an increase this year of £7,097. The Government have repeatedly stated that we believe in encouraging the roads boards. We look upon them as the main contributors towards general development of the State. We do not want in any way to hamper them; rather we want to encourage them, and we are encouraging them this year by increasing the expenditure from public funds. I am prepared to admit this only represents the amount necessary to pay the increased subsidy on the increased amount of rates which will be collected, and also to provide for the new roads boards which will be established owing to the increase in the area under cultivation and the increased population. The increase in salaries is £1,900, and this is mainly accounted for by the reclassification of the service and the increase of the expenditure on public works generally already referred to. There is an increase of £3,530 on harbours and rivers as compared with last year. This is mainly due to the Government's

determination to put the tramways and jetties on our North-West coast in a thorough state of repair. I have stated previously that this part of the State was sadly neglected by previous Governments. The jetties had got into a deplorable condition and the same remark applies to the tramways. I had the pleasure of paying a personal visit to this portion of the State, and I was extremely sorry to see the very bad state of repair of the jetties and public buildings generally. I regret also to say that I found there was a want of organisation in that part of the State. As a matter of fact there was no organisation at all. It was a sort of happy-go-lucky style. Nobody took any special interest in any special department and things generally were neglected. The whole thing has been re-organised. An engineer for the North-West has been appointed, one of the most capable officers in the Government service, and he has been entrusted with the responsibility of re-organising the whole of the North-West coast and looking after the works generally, and he is to place them in such a position that the Government in a short time will have everything in thorough repair and will be able to administer that portion of the State in a very economical manner. Reference has been made to the very great expenditure, comparatively speaking, incurred during the last year or two on the Victoria Quay and on the North Quay, due to the ravages of the teredo worm. Personally I think a mistake was made in again placing untreated jarrah in these wharves. We have had experience and have found that the jarrah will not withstand for many years the ravages of this worm and I think it was very unwise not to have adopted some method of treating the jarrah so that we might have a guarantee that this work would not have to be repeated in a few years' time. The expenditure estimated at that time by the previous Government was £90,000. The present leader of the Opposition was in office at that time, and he decided that it was unfair to charge this enormous amount up to any one

year, and he decided to have a suspense account established, so that the expenditure could be distributed over five years. In 1910-11, £9,446 was spent on this work. Last year the work was pushed along, and £54,469 was spent, of which £20,000 was charged against revenue, and the work to date has cost £66,590, of which £29,446 has been debited to this suspense account. The estimated cost was £90,000, and I am pleased to be able to say that we are now certain the whole work will be completed for not more than £70,000. Therefore this year £15,000 has been debited against revenue and this will extinguish the additional amount of the liability in less than the five years arranged by the then Minister, the present leader of the Opposition. Another increase is represented in repairs to buildings of £3,600. This is carrying into effect the general desire of the Government to see that the repairs to our public buildings such as jetties and tramways in the North are not neglected. A stitch in time saves nine, and generally speaking we have not exercised sufficient care in the maintenance of public buildings. We intend to give greater attention to this matter, and to save the re-construction which has been costing the State a considerable amount of money during the last few years. Hospitals show an increase of £4,600, and public schools, £7,000. I do not think I need apologise for the increased expenditure on these two items. Comparing the estimate this year with the actual expenditure last year the increase under the head of public works division generally is £59,037, and under the head of public buildings £35,956. It will be noticed that on this year's Estimates a lump sum is provided for police buildings and public schools. This is an innovation adopted to endeavour to bring about a general economy. Under the old system we provided an estimate say for a given police building, but the actual cost might be a little over or a little under the estimate. If it was a little over the estimate an enormous amount of routine had to be gone through to get the £2 or

£3 over the amount voted by Parliament. The same difficulty applied in regard to a decrease. Consequently there has been a considerable amount of unnecessary labour in the accountant's branch of the Public Works Department and an increase in the expenditure of accountancy in the Treasury Department, which was totally unnecessary. By providing a lump sum we can work in all the buildings, the details of which are given to members, and Parliament will have the facts in its possession, but instead of giving the detailed expenditure in connection with any one building we will have a lump sum voted which will enable us to work on better lines than was possible under the old system. Under the Property Trust Account the balance available for appropriation is £41,800, all of which has been allotted to public works and buildings, made up as follows: the proportion of salaries under this particular vote is £2,000; it is proposed to spend £4,140 on bridges compared with £5,730 for last year; on school buildings, £28,901, compared with £14,609, on police stations £2,369, compared with £1,225, and on court houses, £2,063 as compared with £150 last year. The last-named increase is due to a re-vote for the construction of a court house at Wagin. The £1,500 provided for the Albany fruit sheds etcetera, is a re-vote from last year, and the £865 for hospitals also represents a revote, mainly in connection with the Northam hospital. This makes a total of £41,838 as compared with last year's vote of £44,781, and last year's expenditure £24,892. That is as briefly as I can explain the work of the Public Works Department. As I stated it is recognised by the officers, and the figures prove that this has been the busiest year since 1897-8, and one might be inclined to go into a lot of detail, but considering that members have had a busy time during the last few days I do not propose to unduly weary them to-night. I simply desire to introduce the Estimates and say I am particularly proud of the work done by the officers of the department. The loyalty of the service has been good, and, generally speaking, great expedition has been



shown, not only as regards railway construction, which is the most outstanding feature of our public works, but in connection with public buildings and public works generally, good expedition has been shown during the last twelve months.

This concluded the general debate on the Estimates for the Minister for Works ; items were discussed as follows :—

Item, Fremantle Road Bridge—lighting and maintenance, £350 :

Mr. NANSON : It was his desire to direct attention to this item.

The Minister for Works : I do not propose to go into the question of roads and bridges to-night.

Progress reported.

*House adjourned at 10.2 p.m.*

## Legislative Assembly.

*Friday, 22nd November, 1912.*

	PAGE
Question : Sewerage Construction, Fremantle ...	3771
Bills : Electoral Act Amendment, Report stage ...	3771
Agricultural Bank Act Amendment, 2a. ...	3771
Victoria Park Tramways Act Amendment, 2a., Com. ...	3773
Annual Estimates, Votes and Items discussed ...	3777

The SPEAKER took the Chair at 3.30 p.m., and read prayers.

### QUESTION—SEWERAGE CONSTRUCTION, FREMANTLE.

Mr. CARPENTER asked the Minister for Works : What was the estimated and the actual cost of construction of sewers in Fremantle in areas 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 respectively.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS replied :

Area No.	Estimated Cost.	Actual Cost to date.
	£	£
1	3,960	3,734
2	3,680	3,269
3	4,100	3,528
4	6,500	4,857
5	6,000	3,440

\* All accounts in connection with No. 5 area are not yet to hand.

### BILL—ELECTORAL ACT AMENDMENT.

*Report Stage.*

The PREMIER (Hon. J. Scaddan) moved—

*That the report of the Committee be adopted.*

It would be remembered that on the previous day some confusion occurred owing to the amendment as submitted by the Attorney General not being found in the principal Act. The fault was due to the fact that instructions had been issued to the Crown Law Department for the compilation of the Electoral Bill in order to embody amendments made previously. They had not been embodied in the Acts that were here, and which were produced by the leader of the Opposition and others, but they had been embodied in the Acts distributed for public use. Therefore, the amendments which were made were in order.

Hon. J. MITCHELL : We all viewed with some concern any amendment to the Electoral Act, and it was because of that that members on the previous day were somewhat anxious to understand exactly what was happening.

Question put and passed ; the report adopted.

### BILL—AGRICULTURAL BANK ACT AMENDMENT.

*Second Reading.*

The MINISTER FOR LANDS (Hon. T. H. Bath) in moving the second reading said : This Bill is primarily for the pur-