

future comparison, then the following paragraphs (a) and (b) shall have effect:—

(a.) At the hearing of any civil or criminal proceeding with respect to any article analysed in pursuance of this section, the production of a certificate of the analyst shall be sufficient evidence of the facts therein stated, unless the person against whom the certificate is proposed to be put in evidence requires that the analyst be called as a witness.

(b.) The costs of and incidental to the obtaining of any analysis in pursuance of this section shall be borne by the seller or the buyer, in accordance with the results of the analysis, and shall be recoverable as a simple contract debt."

THE HON. F. M. STONE: That does not protect the seller; it refers only to the buyer. Clause 7 really protects the seller and allows him to get an analysis; but, as the Hon. Mr. Kidson has pointed out, a sample from each bag would have to be analysed.

THE HON. C. A. PIESSE: There should be some means provided by which the bags of a bulk parcel could be marked to agree with the sample. I think we had better report progress. I move that we report progress.

Motion put and passed.

Progress reported.

#### RAILWAY AND THEATRE REFRESHMENT ROOMS LICENSING BILL.

This Bill was received from the Legislative Assembly and was read a first time.

#### DUTIES ON DECEASED PERSONS ESTATES BILL.

This Bill was received from the Legislative Assembly and was read a first time.

#### ADJOURNMENT.

The Council adjourned at five minutes past six o'clock p.m., until Tuesday, 27th August, at half past four o'clock p.m.

## Legislative Assembly,

Thursday, 22nd August, 1895.

*Railway Shed and Approach at Subiaco—Site for Gaol at Wyndham—Police Station at Mingenew—Appointment of Joint Select Committee re Assisted Schools—Abolition of Aborigines Protection Board; despatch from Secretary of State—Railway and Theatre Refreshment Rooms Licensing Bill: third reading—Duties on Estates of Deceased Persons Bill: third reading—Estimates, 1895-6: in committee—Collie Coal Bore—Adjournment.*

THE SPEAKER took the Chair at 4.30 o'clock, p.m.

PRAYERS.

#### RAILWAY SHED AND APPROACH AT SUBIACO.

MR. WOOD, in accordance with notice, asked the Commissioner of Railways: (1), When the Railway Department proposed to provide a shelter shed for passengers and goods at Subiaco railway station. (2), When it was intended to construct the approach way to this station from Broome Road (via Rokeby Road), a distance of about 10 chains, as promised by the Commissioner of Railways in answer to a similar question asked in this House on the 8th August, last year, and as provided for on the Loan Estimates for 1894-5. (3), Whether he did not think the present would be an opportune time for the construction of this approach road, whilst the men and teams employed in macadamising Broome Road are at work in the vicinity of the two roads.

THE COMMISSIONER OF RAILWAYS (Hon. H. W. Venn) replied:—(1), Instructions have been given to provide a shelter shed. (2 and 3), Tenders for the work will be called for shortly.

#### SITE FOR GAOL AT WYNDHAM.

MR. MARMION, for Mr. CONNOR, in accordance with notice, asked the Director of Public Works—(1) Whether the site for the new gaol at Wyndham had been selected. (2) If so, whether it was the site lately occupied by Messrs. Jolly, Luxton, and Head, in the centre of the town. (3) Whether, if the site (assuming it to be the chosen one) were objectionable as a gaol site to the settlers and residents, the Department would reconsider

the selection of the said site for the purpose named.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. H. W. Venn) replied:—(1) It is proposed to erect the gaol on lots 158 and 159. (2) The site is not that lately occupied by Messrs. Jolly, Luxton, and Head.

#### POLICE STATION AT MINGENEW.

MR. PHILLIPS, in accordance with notice, asked the Director of Public Works what steps had been taken towards the erection of a police station at Mingenew, for which the money was voted during last session; and when the station was likely to be completed.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. H. W. Venn) replied that plans had been prepared, and the building would probably be finished in three months.

#### APPOINTMENT OF JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE RE ASSISTED SCHOOLS.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) suggested that, before dealing with the Orders of the Day, the motion of which he had given notice, relating to the Assisted Schools, should be taken first, as he did not anticipate any debate on the appointment of a Joint Committee of both Houses. It seemed to have been agreed, as a result of the recent debate on this subject, that the whole matter should be referred to a Joint Committee; and, if the House were with him on the point, he would move that the Orders of the Day be postponed until after the notice of motion relating to Assisted Schools, so that this House might appoint its quota of members, and refer the completion of the Committee to the other House. If, however, there was any objection to this course, he would not press the suggestion. He moved that the Orders of the Day be postponed until after the notice of motion had been disposed of.

MR. LOTON said a Committee would have to be balloted for.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) said he had already consulted members on the other (the Opposition) side, and they had suggested three names, and he had suggested four to be appointed from the Government side, making seven members to be appointed from this House, to act with an equal number of members to be appointed from the other House.

MR. LOTON said he had no objection.

MR. R. F. SHOLL said he had not been

consulted, but, having now been shown the proposed list, he took no exception to the names. It appeared to him, however, that a committee of seven members from each House would be rather large, and perhaps unworkable.

MR. WOOD agreed with the remark that the committee would be too large.

Motion put and passed, and the Orders of the Day postponed accordingly.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) then moved, "That the following resolutions be agreed to:—(a.) That it is expedient that the assisted schools should no longer continue to form part of the public educational system of the colony. (b.) That the contribution from public funds towards the maintenance of assisted schools shall cease on the 31st December, 1895. (c.) That a Joint Committee of both Houses of Parliament be appointed to consider the terms and conditions on which it will be equitable to amend the law to the above effect, having regard to the vested interests which have been legally created." He said: It is not my intention to enter into the question at this stage, except very shortly, because I feel that to do so would be going over ground which we will have to go over again when we get the report of this Joint Select Committee before us. The reason I propose that seven members shall be appointed from each House, instead of five, is that, on such an important question as this, we have generally found that it has been advisable to increase the number above the five provided for in the Standing Orders, as was done in the case of the Joint Committee on the Midland Railway question, which committee was increased from five to seven members from each House. Another reason is that it is found difficult to get such a number of persons representing various views on a committee as you would desire to consult on an important question like this, where there is a good deal of difference of opinion. Even now, after the names have been suggested, I feel we have not got on the prepared list some of those members we would like to see there, who have taken an active interest in this question. For instance, I would have liked to see the name of the hon. member for Nannine on the committee; but, having consulted the other side of the House as far as I could, and there being only three members to be appointed from that side, it has not been practicable for me to suggest more than a total of seven members from this House. To

make the committee larger would, perhaps, give to it too much influence in this House, after the committee's report had been presented to us. Hon. members will notice that the Government have fulfilled their pledge to introduce a resolution of this sort, in relation to the assisted schools, for the consideration of this House. I think that in the three propositions contained in this motion, the Government have done all that they stated they would do, when the question of continuing the grant to the assisted schools was so fully discussed in this House earlier in the session; and I rejoice indeed that both sides of the House have come to a common conclusion in regard to this matter, in referring it to the consideration of a Joint Committee of both Houses. I anticipate the very best results from that conference. We will have the matter fully sifted in committee; we will be able to take evidence, if it is necessary; the committee will be able to report to the House the conclusions we arrive at; and it will then be for this House, and for the Legislative Council, to say whether they adopt the views of the committee or not. Of course if the views of the committee be so adopted, the next thing the Government will have to do will be to introduce a bill for amending the law in the direction indicated. I do not think that, at the present moment, it is necessary for me to say more in regard to this matter, because the action I am taking is merely to carry out an obligation I had to this House in moving in this direction. I therefore beg to move that the motion be agreed to.

MR. MARMION: I quite agree with what has fallen from the Premier as to the non-necessity for any lengthy speech on the occasion of making this motion; nor do I think I would have risen to say a word on the motion, were it not for the fact that I have been associated in more than one way with the system of education which has been in vogue in this colony now for the last four-and-twenty years. I have been associated with it as a member of the Central Board of Education, having been nominated to a position on that board when the Elementary Education Act was introduced, and having continued to be a member until the board became defunct. I have also been more or less associated with the working of the Act, inasmuch as I have been a representative of a constitu-

ency during the whole of the years that this particular Act has been in force; and it has been my pleasure, as well as my pride, to have represented the interests of the particular religious body to which I belong, both as a member of the Central Board of Education, and as a member of this House, when I considered those interests required either support or protection, or required to be placed before the House in such a manner as I considered they were entitled to be placed in. The course of events has, I regret to say, apparently rendered it expedient — to use a word that has been used by the Hon. the Premier — that an alteration should be made in the law on the subject. I say I regret this. I regret it as one who has been connected with the educational system of the colony for the long time I have named; I regret it as a representative of the people of the country; and I regret it, more especially, in the last capacity I have referred to, namely, as a representative of the Roman Catholic body in this colony, of which I am a member, and of which I had been, to some extent, for many years the sole representative in the Parliament of the country. But it is not my intention now to endeavor to bring to the minds of hon. members the history of education in this country; nor do I intend to take up the time of the House by any lengthy attempt at an oration on this subject. All that I wish to do now is to utter a few words, and those few words will be, in the first place, to reiterate the expression of regret that the occasion and necessity have arisen for the putting forward of this motion which is now before the House; and secondly, to express congratulation on what took place when the question of the continuance of the grant to assisted schools in this colony was before this Assembly, not many evenings ago. I was pleased on that occasion to find that those hon. members who had been notorious, and always to the front in endeavoring to alter the prevailing system of education, and in endeavoring to interfere with the dual system, as it is called, which has been in existence here for so many years, and who were anxious to bring that dual system to a close—I was pleased, I say, to find they were prepared, as they then said (and it remains for future events to prove whether they were in earnest in the statement they then made) to consider the efforts which have been made in the cause of education by

that one religious body to which I have alluded, and which has for so many years exerted itself zealously and ably in the cause of education in this colony, which has exerted itself in such a manner as to have called forth the praise, not only of those who belong to that body, not only of those benefited by that education which has been given, but also called forth the praise of those opposed to them, and of those who have been doing their best on all occasions to take away from this body that monetary assistance they have been receiving, and to which I consider they were justly entitled. I congratulate those hon. members, and feel in a somewhat kindly disposed spirit towards those who have been opposed to me on so many occasions, that they, at all events, have felt that when it was necessary to abolish the system which has been in vogue so long, the interests of the particular body whose interests would be so materially affected by the change, should be duly taken into consideration. I hope the efforts that are now being made, and the action which the Hon. the Premier and his colleagues have now taken, for appointing a Joint Select Committee of both Houses may have the effect of promoting an Act that will be productive of justice to those who have worked so long and zealously in the cause of education; and that while it may be considered necessary to abolish the system now in vogue, it will not be considered necessary to do other than justice to those who deserve justice, and who have most decidedly merited it at the hands of hon. members, and of the Government, and of the colony. I hope that the action that will be taken may be such as will have the effect of doing this justice; and that those hon. members who uttered words the other evening which I have made a note of, and which are noted in the *Hansard* record of this colony, will be prepared to act liberally when the occasion arises, and that they will act in such a manner that will at once and for ever do away with the cry that has been raised—that will do away with anything that has the appearance of religious discord or disunion between the various religious bodies of this country. And that, in taking the action those hon. members are now contemplating, they will at once put a stop to the cry which has been raised for so many years upon political platforms at elections in this colony, in reference to the education question; that they will consider it upon a basis of justice to

those who deserve justice; and that they will be prepared to act liberally and in a kindly spirit to those who, I believe, are deserving of liberality, of kindness, and of justice—the word I have used so many times—justice at the hands of hon. members. I feel sure, also, that no justice they can do them, and no liberality they can show them, will be considered by the colony to have been otherwise than well-deserved and well-earned. I hope that even those who, upon matters of principle, have considered themselves opposed to the system that has been in operation for so long, while hailing with a certain amount of gladness the fact that this system is coming to an end, will be prepared to consider that the Government and the colony should deal liberally and justly with what I may term the one particular religious body in this colony who have taken advantage of the system which has been in operation for the last twenty-four years; and that there will be no more outcry and no more bitterness imported into our elections upon this one question of education; and I am sorry to add that, while being my pleasure to be associated with the system, it has often been my misfortune to have had to speak warmly on this topic. I trust that, after this session is ended, it will be many years before we shall have to disturb this question again, and that those who are now losing that aid which they have received from the country for so long will be satisfied, and will not make any further attempt to alter the laws which may, in the wisdom of Parliament, be thought desirable to bring into force in this colony.

Question put and passed.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) moved—“That the Select Committee consist of seven members, instead of five, including the mover.”

Question put and passed.

The House proceeded to ballot for six members, with the result that the following members, with the mover, were elected to act:—Messrs. G. Leake, G. T. Simpson, H. B. Lefroy, G. Randall, W. E. Marmion, and the Hon. S. Burt.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) moved—“That the committee have power to call for persons and papers, to sit during any adjournment of the House, and report on August 29th inst.”

Question put and passed.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) moved "That the resolution be transmitted by message to the Legislative Council, and their concurrence desired therein; and that they be requested to appoint a similar number of members to sit on the committee."

Question put and passed.

## ABOLITION OF ABORIGINES PROTECTION BOARD.

DESPATCH FROM SECRETARY OF STATE.

The following message was delivered to and read by Mr. Speaker:—

ALEX. C. ONSLOW,  
Administrator.

With reference to the Bill amending "The Constitution Act," as regards the Aborigines Protection Board, passed by Parliament during its last Session and reserved for Her Majesty's assent, the Administrator has the honor to transmit, herewith, for the information of your honorable House, the translation of a cablegram recently received from the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Government House, Perth, 22nd August, 1895.

### Translation of Cablegram.

"Referring to despatch No. 3, of 3rd January, I am anxious to meet views of Colonial Government as far as possible. I am therefore prepared to approve reserved Bill, omitting from Section 70 as much as places expenditure under care of independent unofficial Board, so that while permanent appropriation of £5,000 sterling secures requirement of natives, your responsible advisers would advise Governor as to management of fund, same way as other expenditure. Despatch follows by mail."

(Signed) CHAMBERLAIN.

## RAILWAY AND THEATRE REFRESHMENT ROOMS LICENSING BILL.

THIRD READING.

The Bill was read a third time and passed, and transmitted to the Legislative Council.

## DUTIES ON ESTATES OF DECEASED PERSONS BILL.

THIRD READING.

The Bill was read a third time and passed, and transmitted to the Legislative Council.

## ESTIMATES, 1895-6.

Consideration of the Estimates resumed at Part VI.—Colonial Treasurer's Department.

Vote—Police, £65,279 4s. 6d.:

MR. RANDELL said that the extent of the vote was evidence of the progress of the colony; but he was not quite sure that it was a useful precaution, because the people of the colony were fairly law-abiding. The vote amounted to about 15s. per head of population, and he questioned whether it had not been enlarged to a greater extent than was necessary, even allowing for the scattered nature of the population, and the necessity for gold escorts and police protection on the goldfields. There appeared to be about £5,000 more proposed than was being spent, and about £10,000 more than was voted last year. Some anomalies existed in regard to the proposed increases; but he wished to particularly refer to the item—"Commissioner, £700" (increase £100). He asked if it was intended that officers of the rank of the Commissioner of Police, which rank was equivalent to that of an Under-Secretary, should receive £700 a year. If that were not intended, a very bad precedent would be created if the increase were agreed to. In addition to his salary the Commissioner of Police had a carriage and horses, which were emoluments connected with the office. Notwithstanding the flourishing state of the finances, he considered £700 was too much to give that officer. It approached within £100 of the salaries of the Ministers themselves, with the exception of that of the Premier, and it could not be said that the duties of the office warranted such a high salary. In order to test the feeling of the committee he moved that the item be reduced by £100.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) said, the proposed increase was a well-deserved one. The Commissioner of Police was the oldest Civil Servant in the service, having an absolutely unstained record of 43 years. The record of the department last year showed that he had kept the expenditure £10 below the amount voted, thus showing that he was capable of administering the Department thoroughly and well. The police were not required merely for the ordinary duty of looking after offenders against the law, but they were asked to do anything that was required throughout the colony, and were always ready to do it. Such a body of men required consid-

erable attention on the part of the head of the Department, and that fact alone, as well as the fact that he was the oldest Civil Servant in the colony, and had had no increase since 1886, induced the Government, and they had done so with pleasure, to recommend an increase of £100 in his salary. In 1886, when the Commissioner's salary was raised to £600, the population of the colony was 40,000, the number of police stations was 44, and the number of police, including native-trackers, was 251. In the present year the population was nearly 90,000, the strength of the police force was 344, and the number of stations was 63, the last-named being scattered all over the colony. If, therefore, the officer was worth £600 a year in 1886, he was surely worth £700 a year under the changed conditions in 1895.

MR. MORAN supported the item as it stood. The vote was by no means due to the extension of the goldfields. There were 344 men in the active force, and out of that number only 70 were stationed on the goldfields, where there were 25,000 adults. That fact showed that the residents of the goldfields were law-abiding citizens. The towns of Perth and Fremantle required an equal number of men to look after them. That was a fact worthy of being mentioned. The policemen on the goldfields had a large amount of civil duty to perform, and very little criminal. They were poorly paid in comparison with those who were well housed in the city and towns, and he hoped they would be treated liberally in the matter of allowances.

MR. A. FORREST said he was sure hon. members would not agree to the amendment. The Commissioner of Police had had no increase since 1886, and no one who really knew the Commissioner would object to his having £700 a year. The country could afford it, particularly for the few years that the Commissioner might live to hold the office. The Commissioner was old in years, though young in spirit.

MR. CONNOR called attention to the fact that, whilst the heads of departments got large advances, those at the bottom did not seem to move at all. He noticed that probationers received only 5s. a day, which was totally inadequate for bringing up a family. He had no objection to the increase to the Commissioner, but objected to going into personalities, for it was not a question of persons, but of principles. He knew there

were hardships suffered in the police force, and could give particulars if they were needed.

MR. SIMPSON said he could entirely endorse the remarks of the hon. member for East Kimberley. He had facts in his possession which absolutely demonstrated that some of the police in outlandish places had been practically reduced during the last 12 months.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) said he did not think so.

MR. SIMPSON said it was not a question of opinion, for he could give the exact facts. He could easily give the facts connected with the Mt. Magnet station, as an illustration. He assured hon. members it was not all "beer and skittles," on a station like that. The duties were arduous, and the men had to work all hours of the day and night. He claimed that more consideration should be extended to such men, and felt sure that when the Government knew the facts they would seek to remedy grievances.

THE CHAIRMAN reminded the hon. member that the question was the reduction of the Police Commissioner's salary by £100.

MR. SIMPSON pointed out that, according to usage, if an item were passed, they could not go back and speak on the general question.

THE CHAIRMAN said the question could be considered when, further down the list, the position of the inferior officers was dealt with. The question then was the reduction of the Commissioner's salary.

MR. ILLINGWORTH asked the Treasurer the same question that he had asked last year, as to whether any arrangement had been made whereby the policemen could get a Sunday off duty. The police of this colony practically worked 365 days a year.

THE CHAIRMAN said hon. members would have an opportunity, afterwards, of saying all they wished to say, but the question before them was the reduction of the salary of the Commissioner.

MR. WOOD asked whether, after Item 1 had been disposed of, they could then discuss the general question.

MR. RANDELL said he was to blame in moving the reduction in the first instance. The practice had been to review the whole question before settling any item. He asked leave to temporarily withdraw his amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. ILLINGWORTH said he wished to press the matter of Sunday police labor upon the attention of the Government, as there was not the slightest necessity for the men to work 7 days a week.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) said he had looked into the matter, and found Sunday labor was only in name, and not in fact.

MR. ILLINGWORTH said the men had to go on duty the same as on Saturday or Monday. They went on at the same hours, and did the same work.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) said that was not the information he had got, and asked why the hon. member went about amongst the men, instead of going to the Commissioner.

MR. ILLINGWORTH said he had not gone about amongst the men, and he objected to the Premier's insinuation. He considered he had a right, as a member of that House, to press the question he did. He pressed for an answer as to whether any arrangement had been made whereby the policemen could have a Sunday off duty.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) said he had made enquiries last year, and, so far as he recollected, Sunday work in the force was merely nominal. There was very much less work done on Sundays than upon other days of the week. He was quite willing to make further enquiry and report to the House. The Commissioner had said that every effort was made to reduce work on Sunday, and the men did not complain. [MR. JAMES: They would not complain to the Commissioner.] The Commissioner had means of knowing if there were any complaints. He (the Premier) had never heard of such a question being raised, except by the hon. member for Nannine last year, and this year.

MR. WOOD said the police force was a very able one, but he did not think private constables got the consideration that was due to them. As soon as a man joined the police force, he was looked upon as a sort of inferior person. As a city representative, he (Mr. Wood) heard a good many complaints, and knew the men were afraid to make them to the officials. He considered it was a humiliation that the policemen should be expected always to be in uniform, whether on duty or not. He thought they should be treated as other men, when not on duty.

MR. JAMES said he did not think the result

of any enquiry by the Premier would be satisfactory, if they had to take the word of the Commissioner simply. No complaint would reach the responsible Minister through the head of a department. The gentleman responsible for the working of any department always thought his department was run upon the most approved lines. He hoped the Premier would bear that in mind, and not accept as gospel truth all that was said to him. The Commissioner of Police had no right to treat the men as if he were a martinet. The system suited to an army was not applicable to the police force. It was nothing less than tyranny to insist that the men should always be in uniform. It could not be denied that policemen were not looked upon with favor by other people. To insist upon policemen wearing clothes of a particular color, or a particular pattern, when not on duty, was nothing short of tyranny. When not on duty they should be allowed to sink into private life. Complaints had been made, and he thought the Premier should look into the matter.

MR. R. F. SHOLL said the remarks of the hon. members for East and West Perth were of the character made use of on the eve of an election. There was not the slightest doubt they had this quality.

THE CHAIRMAN: The hon. member is not in order.

MR. R. F. SHOLL desired to point out that no one had drawn the attention of the Chairman to the fact, and it was time enough for him to call one to order when asked to do so. He said again the remarks were such as would be delivered on the eve of an election. Personally he had to say that he considered the police in this colony an excellent body of men, and he did not think there was any reason for saying they were not highly respected. With regard to the wearing of uniforms when off duty, however, it did seem a strange order, and must appear very strange to all hon. members. He supposed the order was the same as that applying to the police forces of the other colonies, and the system of other places was being followed. (Hon. MEMBERS: No.) If this was not so, then the proceeding was indeed a strange one. When a policeman was off duty, and at his home, he should be allowed to wear plain clothes, like any other individual. He should not be made to carry his constable's uniform about with

him. At the same time it was possible that, if hon. members had a quiet talk with the Commissioner on the subject, they would be shown reasons why the order was made. This would be the natural thing to do, only the police was a large body, and hon. members were anxious to carry on electioneering.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest): said he proposed to say a word on this subject. The object of a police force was to protect lives and properties, and preserve good order in the community. It was hardly likely they could best do this by appearing in plain clothes. It was without doubt that a policeman would do his duty, no matter how he was dressed, but, in case of his services being required, it was possible he would not be treated with the same respect as if he appeared in uniform. It was really a matter of discipline. There was neither hardship nor injustice in the regulation, and there was no ground for saying that members of the force, while in uniform, were regarded with feelings of disrespect. How it could be said that members of the police force were treated with either disrespect or disregard, he really could not understand. Of course, there was a certain class who regarded them with disfavor, but amongst the well-behaved portion of the community they were looked upon with the greatest respect. To say that people looked with disfavor on the preservers of peace was simply a ridiculous idea. It might have had some force years ago, when the colony was differently circumstanced, but not now. No people were more respected among the classes with whom they moved than members of the police force. He was informed that the custom was in vogue elsewhere. [HON. MEMBERS: Where?] In South Australia, he believed, although he could not say for certain. There could be no hardship in the Regulation, because the uniform was a good one, and what was good enough to wear one day was surely good enough on another. If at any time a member of the force desired to leave off his uniform for any special occasion, he would apply for permission to do so, and that permission would be granted. During the last few months the control of this department had been in his (the Premier's) hands, and he had to say that he had found the Commissioner most lenient. It was only in extreme cases that he would recommend dismissal. He was, no doubt, a strict dis-

ciplinarian, but that was most necessary with a large body of men, and, as he had said, the Commissioner was, at the same time, very reluctant to take extreme measures in punishment.

MR. CONNOR considered that sufficient allowance had not been made for re-mounts.

THE CHAIRMAN: You can discuss the question later on.

MR. RANDELL drew attention to the fact that the Hon. the Premier had not yet answered his question. Was the Commissioner being treated as a superior officer.

THE PREMIER: Yes, we look upon him as a most important officer?

MR. RANDELL pointed out that the salary proposed to be given to the Commissioner was greater than that given at present to the head of any other department. These gentlemen would now desire a similar increase. There was no question about the Commissioner being a most efficient officer, and he only wanted to point out that the large increase now proposed would lead to requests from the fixed heads of other departments.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) regarded the position held by the Commissioner as a most important one, and one of great responsibility. It had been asserted that the salary previously paid to the Commissioner had been the same as that of other heads, but it was only last year that the Auditor-General's salary had been raised from £500 to £600. The Under-Secretary for Lands and the Under-Secretary for Railways did not receive as much as the Under-Treasurer, or the Collector of Customs, and it could not therefore be said that they would all require to be brought up to the same position as the Commissioner of Police. The Government would be glad when the proposal to place salaries in the Civil Service on a definite basis could be carried into effect. [MR. JAMES: It is definite enough now so far as increases are concerned.] Personally, he regarded the position of the Commissioner of Police as an important and responsible one, and one of the most important under the Government.

MR. R. F. SHOLL thought if there was one man in the Civil Service who should have his salary increased, it was the Commissioner of Police. He had to look after a large force, a staff of officers, including secret police, and generally had to control the organisation and conduct of a large body of men. It was 41 years ago since the present Commissioner had gone to the Gascoyne in connection with the



Austral Expedition, and, ever since that time, he had held most responsible positions in the colony. He had continually been in harness, and had hardly ever had a holiday. Some of the officials who had only been in the colony a few years were getting a salary of £500 a year, and, in his opinion, there should be rewards for those who had served the colony for a great number of years. Personally he would approve of the salary being increased to £1,000 to this particular officer.

MR. MARMION was of opinion that, for one reason alone, the Commissioner of Police was entitled to the increase proposed, and he did not think it was quite fair to attack him in the manner he had been attacked, without the Commissioner having the opportunity to offer a defence. The increase should be granted on its merits. The Commissioner had for years filled the position now occupied by other heads of departments, and was supposed to have been promoted. There would be no promotion for him without an increase in his salary, so that it would be larger than what he would have been receiving had he not been promoted. If the colony had made no advance, the heads of other departments would not have had their salaries increased; but, as it was, the Commissioner was entitled to the increase proposed, because of the advance in the positions from which he had been promoted. The position of the Commissioner was not one to be classed with that of others. There were special circumstances. The Commissioner's career had been long and meritorious, and the Government had a right to give him special treatment.

MR. JAMES was always under the belief that, in dealing with the Estimates, the Committee had no right to consider the individual, but only the office. [MR. MARMION: Oh, you cannot do that in a case like this.] The only question to be considered was whether an additional £100 a year should be put on to the salary of the Commissioner of Police. If there were special circumstances in this case, it was inadvisable to bring them forward as an increase in salary. For two or three years past the Under-Secretaries, in some instances, had been getting larger salaries than the Commissioner of Police, and now he was to receive more than them. There could only be one result from this, and that would be a demand from all the others to be increased also. It was difficult indeed to see where increases like these were going to end. If there were special claims,

let them be recognised by a special vote, but the salary of the office should not be increased.

Amendment put and negatived.

Lodging allowances in lieu of quarters, £1,000:

MR. ILLINGWORTH desired to call attention to this item. He would like the Treasurer to look into the matter. At present certain members of the police force were drawing 5s. per week for quarters, where they were placed in positions requiring quarters. However, these quarters cost them 15s. per week, and consequently they really lost 10s. a week by being sent to places in the way of promotion. [THE PREMIER: Is that in Perth?] It was not in Perth. One instance was in the Premier's own district, while another had been mentioned by the hon. member for Geraldton as occurring at Mt. Magnet. There were other cases he could mention as well. The Mount Magnet case was clearly one of injustice and wrong. The constable sent there was provided with a 10 x 12 tent. He had to cart his tent himself, then he had to cut bushes to make it habitable, and he was only allowed 5s. per week. This man had practically to provide himself with what was supposed to be provided by the department. This sort of thing applied to many of the men who were stationed in the back country. If they were in Perth they would have short hours and every comfort, but when they were sent into the country they had not only to forego all this, but were penalised simply because they were called upon to do harder work, work longer hours, and live under most disadvantageous circumstances. The members of the force so situated had great responsibilities, and should have every consideration. It was to be hoped that the Premier would enquire into the matter, so that these men would, at least, have justice.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) said that, from the information placed before him, the increases in the lodging and ration allowances were made in order to increase the allowances to men in the situations referred to, and the increase would take place from July 1st. There were many discomforts these men would have to face in new districts, as well as anyone else. They were in the position of pioneers and settlers, and, so far as he personally was concerned, he had not heard one single word of dissatisfaction. He had heard of one case where a constable, supposed to receive £15 a year lodging allowance, had to live in a tent which the

man himself valued at £4 a year, and he thought the man was entitled to the difference. The Commissioner, however, took up a different position, and the Commissioner was right. Everything that could reasonably be done for the comfort of the police was done. They could not have houses built right away, but the best that could be done was done. When he (the Premier) was on the Murchison and Mount Magnet goldfields, he did not find any complaint. At Mount Magnet there were two really good tents. If any police were required to live under canvas, it was only the same thing that applied in the other colonies, where men had sometimes to live in tents for two or three years. There had been an increase to the Coolgardie gold escort, and men sent into the country always had the bush allowance. That the members of the force were fairly satisfied with the positions they occupied was shown by the rush to fill positions when any were vacant.

MR. SIMPSON thought it was hardly likely anyone would complain directly to the Premier, but there was no question the case of the Mount Magnet police was one of injustice. It was true there were two tents, but one he had to find himself. During the execution of his duty this policeman on one occasion had to chain a man up. For want of a better place he had to chain him in the tent. The man thought the best way to free himself was by burning the tent down, and he set fire to it. Mount Magnet was a place three years old, and when the Premier travelled over these places he saw the bright side of things, and not the seamy side. The men who were treated this way were men who held most onerous positions and were paid 7s. 6d. a day, while the laborer outside, wheeling a barrow, and working eight hours a day, got £4 a week. [THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL: Why don't they swap places?] That was no argument, nor would it be to the interests of the country for the police to be constantly changing. These men were under hard conditions of life, great responsibilities, and most arduous duties. He had every respect for them as a public body, and trusted the Government would try and improve their position.

At 6.30 p.m. the Chairman left the chair.

At 7.30 the Chairman resumed the chair.

#### THE COLLIE COALFIELD.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest): Before we proceed with the business, I wish to inform the Committee that I have received a

telegram from the Collie Coalfield, which will be of interest to hon. members. It will be remembered that when we visited the field, an inclined drive following the coal seam, had been continued for 300ft. or 400ft. The work of extending the drive has been continued since the official visit; but the Government instructed that a bore should be put down some 40 or 50 chains from the drive, with a view of striking the seam at a considerable depth. I have just received the following telegram from Mr. W. T. Atkinson, the manager of that bore:—"Bored through big seam at six hundred and five (605) feet, eleven (11) ft. thick; coal core, eight (8) feet. Another seam three (3) feet thick, fourteen (14) feet below big seam. Roof and floors of both seams hard. Hope bring cores and full report about Monday next. Messenger with this has to swim river." I think that is very satisfactory news, and I feel sure that the quality of this core, 600ft. below the surface, will be very superior to anything we have obtained hitherto.

#### ESTIMATES, 1895-6.

Consideration of vote, "Police, £65,279 4s. 6d., resumed."

MR. CONNOR, referring to the item, "Remounts, £1,000," said that, in view of the extension of the goldfields and the trouble with the blacks in the North, the proposed amount for the purchase of additional horses was inadequate.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) said that if more horses were required the Government would undertake to obtain them.

Vote put and passed.

Vote—Gaols, £20,362:

MR. RANDELL said that some of the proposed increases in salaries in this department only amounted to one shilling, and he wished to know the reason.

MR. HASSELL, referring to item—Gaoler, Albany, £142 (increase £5)—asked why this gaoler should receive £10 less than the gaoler at Roebourne received.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) said a larger salary was always given to Northern officers, as living was dearer there than anywhere else.

Vote put and passed.

Vote—Rottneest establishment, including Reformatory, £3,725:

MR. GEORGE, referring to the item—Table allowance, Superintendent, £30—asked what it meant.

HON. MEMBERS: Leave it alone. It has been always allowed.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) said the amount was allowed to the Superintendent to entertain the officials who visited the establishment on duty.

MR. MARMION, referring to the item—"Provisions and other necessaries, £1,2000 asked why that amount was wanted when only £581 16s. 5d. was spent last year out of the vote of £1,200.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) said the explanation of the underdraft given by the Superintendent was that the accounts from the contractors were not received until after the close of the financial year, and that the number of native prisoners had fallen off. He explained that the decrease in the number of prisoners was owing principally to the Government not having decided what the future of Rottnest Island was to be. The Government were considering the question of doing away with it as the site for the native prison, and of preparing a portion of the Fremantle prison for the reception of the prisoners. That could be done at a cost of, perhaps, £400 or £500, which sum would provide accommodation for about 40 natives. If the native prison at Rottnest were abolished, steps would have to be taken to prevent the island from becoming neglected, as a good deal of cultivation had been carried out, and work done in connection with the lighthouse, and manufacture of salt. In moving the native prisoners from Rottnest, some place in which they could be securely kept would have to be found. They could not be left at Carnarvon or Roebourne, because some of them were desperate characters, and were liable to break out of prison, while it was undesirable that they should be imprisoned in a gaol which was in a district they belonged to. He did not believe in chaining them, but considered they should be kept in a place where their health would not be interfered with, and where they would have a certain amount of liberty if they behaved themselves. Rottnest was the place best suited for that purpose. It could be utilised as a pleasure resort without the prison being removed. The question of economy had also to be considered, and the native prisoners could be kept cheaper in the Island prison than in the northern gaols, where the accommodation was so inadequate compared with that afforded by the Rottnest Establishment. The Government

had the whole matter under consideration.

MR. LEAKE asked if the Government had come to any conclusion with regard to prison discipline, and the new regulations as to the remission of sentences.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) said he believed the matter was in hand, and was ready for action to be taken in the direction indicated.

MR. H. W. SHOLL, referring to the native prisons, said he agreed that there was more accommodation at Rottnest than in the Roebourne gaol; still, the natives in the latter place did very useful work. In the majority of cases the native prisoners in the north gave very little trouble.

MR. A. FORREST said he disagreed with the Premier in regard to the removal of native prisoners from the Northern gaols to Rottnest or Fremantle. Those who were kept on the chain in the North did very useful work, and were a source of revenue to the district in forming roads and making stockyards, the work being done only at the trifling cost of their food. Natives who were taken to Rottnest were pampered too much, and, when liberated, were as bad as when they were first imprisoned; but when they had to do a hard day's work, chained to a wheelbarrow, and occasionally flogged for bad conduct, they generally recognised that it was not desirable to spear cattle or break the law in any way. Even if it cost a little more to continue them, he hoped the Government would not abolish the northern prisons for natives.

MR. MARMION asked if the gaolers in the North were paid anything for the keeping of native prisoners.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest): The contractors supply the food.

MR. R. F. SHOLL asked how much castor oil was produced at Rottnest Island last year.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest): Not very much; there is a good deal which has not been sold.

MR. R. F. SHOLL said he thought the expenditure on the establishment was not justified, and it would be very much better if it were done away with altogether and the land cut up. A portion could be used for recreation purposes, and a portion could be sold.

MR. CONNOR said he supported the remarks of the hon. member for Gascoyne.

THE CHAIRMAN: Hon. members are becoming too discursive.

Mr. GEORGE said he wished to refer to the item under discussion (Provisions and Necessaries, £200), and asked for an explanation of what necessities for native prisoners were. He noticed that the average number of prisoners in the establishment was about 60, and that the cost was about £60 to £65 per head per annum.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest): The Reformatory is also included in the vote.

Mr. GEORGE said the Reformatory did not include the prisoners. He wanted to know what it cost to take native prisoners to Rott-nest, the cost of keeping them there, and the cost of sending them back to their districts when they were liberated. He considered that the Island would afford a very salubrious health resort, and it would be well if the Government used it for that purpose, instead of maintaining it to keep 60 prisoners.

Mr. H. W. SHOLL said he knew of a case in the North where a native prisoner was arrested and carted backwards and forwards from one place to another, a distance of quite 1,000 miles, before he was finally locked up, while the constable was paid so much a day for feeding him.

THE CHAIRMAN: The hon. member is out of order in referring to this matter. I have permitted some discussion, because I thought an amendment might be proposed.

Mr. MARMION said that, in order to be in order, he would move that the item be reduced by £200. He did so merely to be able to say that in 1893 a sum of £905 was expended on the item under discussion, and that last year £581 was spent. He therefore did not think £1,200 was likely to be required this year. In a debatable item such as the one under consideration, it was undesirable for the Government to propose a larger amount than was required. The average expenditure for two years on the item was only £700, and, taking the average number of native prisoners at 60, an expenditure of £20 per head would be incurred; but, taking the probable expenditure, only £14 or £15 per head would be spent.

Mr. SOLOMON said he was glad to hear that the matter of doing away with the Rott-nest Establishment was under consideration.

THE CHAIRMAN: The hon. member must confine his remarks to the amendment.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir John Forrest) said he did not object to the amendment.

Amendment put and passed.

Mr. GEORGE, referring to the item—"Salt Works, £250"—quoted from the report of the Superintendent on the establishment for 1894, regarding the manufacture of salt. The report stated—"Eighty tons and three cwt. of refined salt have been forwarded to the salt agents for sale during the year, and 28 tons of crude salt have been sold; but what amount of money has been realised by Government for the sales is beyond my power to report." He would like to know whether the revenue should be drawn upon to the extent of £250, in order to foster an industry that produced £400 a year. Further on the report stated that there had been a slight falling off in the quantity of fine salt produced during the year, which was owing to all the salt pans breaking down, and; in addition to that, the price of those pans was fixed at £30 each. He asked for an explanation of the whole matter.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) said he believed a good deal of the money was wanted for firewood, the wood on the Island not being good enough for the salt works. The note he had on the subject from Colonel Angelo, who presided over the establishment, was to the effect that the reason why more money was wanted was, that the wood contractor had failed to render his account for wood in time. He also went on to say that the salt could not be received at Fremantle owing to the lack of accommodation; therefore, although there might be less expenditure, there was less revenue. If arrangements were made in Fremantle for receiving the salt, there would, of course, be more expenditure and a considerable increase of revenue. Then the Superintendent indulged in a little political economy and gave it as his opinion that there should be a duty on imported salt to protect the local manufacturer.

Mr. GEORGE said it was useless to spend money in producing an article that could not be sold, and the money should be devoted to a better object.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir John Forrest) said the Government had instructed the Government Storekeeper to try and dispose of the salt. The production of salt in the colony should be encouraged as far as possible.

Mr. SOLOMON said there was a very good market for salt some years ago, when he sold 100 tons annually at from £4 to £5 per ton. He could not understand that with

the increase of population, there should be such a falling off in its sale now.

MR. GEORGE, referring to the item—"Use of Tools, officer in charge of Reformatory, £10"—asked what the item meant.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) said he supposed the officer in charge of the Reformatory supplied the tools which were used by the boys in the Reformatory, at a charge of £10.

MR. RANDELL asked how many boys were in the Reformatory.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) said there must be over 20.

MR. GEORGE said he considered the boys in the Reformatory should be each taught the trade they desired to learn, in order that, when they came out, they would become useful citizens. He would like to see workshops erected and a proper plant supplied.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) said the Reformatory was only a small institution yet, but no doubt the hon. member's idea would soon be carried out. He believed that Mr. Watson, the officer in charge, was a carpenter, and instructed the boys in that trade, in addition to which they had to attend school.

Vote, as amended, put and passed.

Vote—Printing, £15,543 2s :

MR. ILLINGWORTH said he would like to know whether the printing done for the Railway Department at the Government Printing Office was charged for.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) said that no charge was made against any department for printing. The rule had always been that the Government Printer should do all the printing possible, and he believed the Railway Department made great demands upon the office. No revenue, beyond subscriptions to and advertisements in, the *Government Gazette*, was received by the Government Printing Office.

MR. A. FORREST said the Railway Department should be charged for printing, as a charge was always made against the other departments if that branch of the service carried any goods for them. It was not a good plan to count the gratis printing of the Railway Department as an asset, and each department should be charged with the amount of printing that was necessary. By that means hon. members would be able to find out why the Printing Vote increased yearly.

MR. R. F. SHOLL said he quite agreed with

the hon. member who had just spoken. In 1894 the Printing Vote was £9,765; last year it was £13,086, and now £15,000 was asked for. He had been told on good authority that most of the departments found it impossible to get their printing done at the Government office, and that a lot of the work was done by the newspapers and outside printing firms. He would like to have a return showing what amounts had been paid to those firms. The miscellaneous returns showed that Stirling Bros. were paid £99 13s. in August last, that £47 was paid to other firms in October, and that £49 was paid for advertising in July, all of which amounts were taken from the incidental item. He considered the advertising was costing more than it ought to cost. The work of the Government Printing Office ought to be charged to each department, so that the country might know the cost of printing for any department. There should be some check kept on all the work done.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) said the contention of the hon. member had a good deal to recommend it. In several of the colonies the principle was adopted, and they had themselves, as a Government, considered the matter. As a matter of fact, the Telegraph department was not paid for telegrams that were sent on service. To adopt the principle would be to swell the revenue returns from sources from which there would really be no return. The Superintendent of Telegraphs every month sent in to the various departments accounts for work done, and always got credit in the books of the Treasury, but really no money changed hands. Just so if they were to adopt the same principle for the printing office, the receipts and expenditure would be increased, but it would only be upon paper; it would be simply "robbing Peter to pay Paul." It was a matter of doubt whether it was desirable to fictitiously swell the revenue in this way. The Railway Department got paid for all the work it did for other departments, but really the payment was only a book entry. If the principle were adopted at the printing office it would necessitate a good deal more clerical labor to keep the accounts, and he thought the game was hardly worth the candle. The Government Printer was one of the hardest-worked men in the Civil Service, and gave himself wholly to his work.

MR. SOLOMON said he did not see where the increased expenditure would come in

It would only be a matter of computation as to the amount due by each department. That had been one of the recommendations of the much-abused Civil Service Commission, which had not been carried out. Such a course would show whether the printing office was being worked at a loss or a profit.

Mr. GEORGE agreed with very much that had fallen from hon. members, but did not think the most ardent defenders of the Government Printing Office would argue that it could compete in price with outside firms. From information he gathered outside, he understood that a great quantity of work was done at the Government Printing Office in consequence of the work done by the Assembly. When alterations were made in a Bill, even if only a few words, the change caused considerable expense in the printing office. If such work were done outside, the Government would have to pay for it. He did not agree with the Premier that little good would result from knowing what the printing cost each department. If the railways were in the hands of private companies, there would be very close supervision of the expenditure of money on such matters, and it should not be otherwise because they were in the hands of the Government. If the Railway Department received credit for what it did, he did not see why it should not accept a debit for work done for the department. He did not want the exact figures, but would like to know approximately the apportionment of the £15,543 2s. To make people economical should be one of the objects of the Government. He wanted to know whether the amount named covered all the stationery used by each department of the Government service.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) said each department was charged for its own stationery, which it indented for itself.

THE COMMISSIONER OF RAILWAYS (Hon. H. W. Venn) said the whole of the stationery did not come from the Government Printing Office. A large quantity was indented from London, and came out with the Government stores, as also did a good deal of printing for the Railway Department. The Government Printing Office could not do it, because there was too much printing work required by Parliament. The Railway Department did not get one-third of its necessary printing done by the Government Printing Office, a large quantity being indented from

England at a very cheap rate. All the printing that could be done in the colony was done in the colony and at the Government Printing Office. It would not make much difference to the Railway accounts if they were charged by the Printing Office for work done. It was one of his fixed principles that each department should be charged for work done, so that the country might know what each department cost. He would be glad to see his department charged by the Government Printer, provided all the departments were charged in like manner. Each department was charged by the Government Storekeeper for the stationery it used.

Mr. GEORGE asked if he were to understand that the stationery for each department was printed by the Government Printer and passed into the stores.

THE COMMISSIONER OF RAILWAYS (Hon. H. W. Venn) said that was not so. The Railway Department had this year called for tenders for stationery, within the colony.

Mr. GEORGE said he simply wanted to know if the amount stated covered the whole cost of stationery and printing.

Mr. MOSS asked if the reprinting of Statutes was to be carried out by the Government Printer.

Mr. WOOD said there was a good deal to be said on both sides of the question. He did not think one department should charge another, unless all were treated alike. There was great force in what the Premier had said, as to making a fictitious show of revenue and expenditure. He was sure, if the principle were adopted, the Government Printing Department would show a very handsome surplus, particularly so if the quality of work were taken into consideration.

Mr. MOSS asked again for information as to the reprinting of Statutes.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) said if the Government Printer could have done this work, the amount would not have been on the Estimates, because the department did not make a charge for the printing done.

Mr. ILLINGWORTH said he had raised the debate for a special reason. Experience elsewhere had shown the necessity of taking nearly the whole of the railway printing out of the hands of the Government Printer, in order to have it done much cheaper. He spoke of the railways because of the magnitude of the work done. He was now so far satisfied because they were getting much of their work

done in England. He considered the railway department should have its work done by tender.

MR. RANDELL said that, as the principle of charging some departments had been started, it should apply to all departments, and particularly to the Government Printing Office. He thought the gentleman at the head of that department would be pleased to be able to point to the work done during the year. It would also enable them to judge how far the department was self-supporting. A report from the printing department would certainly be an interesting document, however short it might be. He noticed there were 41 officers in the department, besides nine apprentices, and that increases were proposed, ranging from £50 down to 16s. He would like to have information as to how such nice calculations had been made. He noticed, too, that £3,500 was put down for extra labor, but there was no number of men specified. It was desirable to know how many men would be employed under that amount, so that they might know the strength of the department. The work done by the department would bear comparison with such work done in any part of the world. He doubted the desirability of going on increasing the size of the department until it overtook the work. It would be better to call for tenders for much of the work, rather than let it fall into arrear.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) said the only information he could give was included in the wording of the item, "extra labor." Men were taken on in the department as necessity arose. He acknowledged it was a large item, and equal to the employment of about thirty men all the year round. Last year £3,429 15s. 9d. was spent under the same head. The office had been very much enlarged, because the work had become so very much congested. The reason why so much temporary labor was employed was because the Government Printer felt it was safe to do the work in that way. He knew it was not usual to state any sum for salaries in the Estimates without stating the number to be employed, but this was necessitated by the circumstances of the printing office. He was sorry he had no further information at hand, through having mislaid his notes having reference to the question.

MR. WOOD said the matter might safely be left in the hands of the Government Printer,

who would not spend a pound more than was absolutely necessary to be spent.

MR. MARMION called attention to Item 49—(New machinery, type, &c., £2,000)—which was a very large increase on last year. For the two preceding years only £2,105 had been spent; whereas for this year they were asked to vote a sum of £2,000.

MR. GEORGE referred to Item 52—Foreign telegrams and stationery—and regarded it as an entirely misleading item. Hon. members would remember that, when discussing the Excess Bill for last year, it had been discovered that an item of this kind covered the purchase of theodolites. If it really meant sending telegrams to the other colonies or England, he was quite satisfied, but he did not think the Estimates should contain the names of things that were not true. He would sooner have a miscellaneous vote for each department to cover such expenditure.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) said the hon. member for the Murray made a good deal of capital out of a very small matter. In the Auditor-General's report last year, by a pure inadvertence, he had allowed a theodolite to appear under the head of stationery. It was usual in the departments to charge, under the head of stationery things that were not actually stationery, as for instance, pencils, scales, parallel rulers, and that sort of thing. It was an inadvertence that the Auditor-General did not take exception to the item of the theodolite. The reason for such an item as that was that, within the colony, departments did not pay for telegrams in actual cash, but if they sent to the other colonies or England they had to pay cash, and there must of necessity, be a vote to which such expenses could be charged.

MR. GEORGE said he simply spoke upon the principle involved. Anything placed on the Estimates should justify its name. He should be careful, when the Excess Bill of next year came forward, to note if there were any foreign telegrams. The Premier did not seem to grasp the difference between detail and principle.

THE CHAIRMAN pointed out that the discussion was not relevant to the matter before the Committee.

MR. SOLOMON said he understood the Commissioner of Railways to say that each department was charged by the stores department for stationery, &c.; whereas that item

was 20 per cent. of the entire cost of the printing office.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) said the item was for printing paper, not stationery. It was for the paper upon which had to be printed the work of the other departments.

MR. MARMION said they had only spent £3,314 during the previous two years, and this year they were asked to vote £3,000. If they added the expenditure for new machinery and for stationery for the previous years, they got a total of £5,400, and yet they were asked to vote for 1895-6 a sum of £5,000. It was a great mistake to make the expenditure of a department greater than it needed to be. In placing large sums at the disposal of any department, they were giving them an inducement to spend more than they otherwise would.

MR. LOTON said there was no need to cavil about the item. It was merely for the paper upon which the Government Printer would have to work. If he did not have the paper he could not do the work. Last year the amount spent was nearly £2,000, and with the increase that was going on, the probability was they would require £3,000 for the ensuing year. It was simply a matter of providing the raw material, with which the Government Printer had to deal. He hoped the Government would arrange before next session that each department should be charged for the work done.

Vote put and passed.

Inspection of Stock, £4,072 5s.:

MR. PHILLIPS asked for an explanation as to how the Chief Inspector's salary came to be less than the salaries of his subordinate officers.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) said the Chief Inspector was on the permanent staff, whereas the others were only temporarily employed. Besides which the Chief Inspector had £200 a year for travelling allowances. When the colony was cleared of scab would be early enough to consider any increase of salaries. He hoped that, when they met next year, the number of inspectors would be reduced, and that scab would have been completely removed. There had been a very marked improvement during the past year. He threatened last year to clear out the whole of the inspectors if they did not clear the colony of scab, and his words had had a very good effect. He considered it nothing less than a scandal that scab had existed so long as it had

done in the colony. He hoped it would be cleared out in a few months longer.

MR. A. FORREST said the credit of eradicating scab belonged to the members of the House who represented the pastoral industry, rather than to the Government, because of the action these members took last year. The time had arrived when the Inspectors of Sheep should be placed elsewhere. It was well known that stock being brought down to market were put through the dip at the Irwin, and that owing to their being so knocked about in the process, they deteriorated very much in quality, and could not recover before reaching the market. He would very much like to see the Irwin dip done away with. The inspectors might inspect the sheep as they came down on the road from Dongarra to Perth. The Irwin dip completely demoralised the stock, and often they came out of it with broken limbs. He was not in favor of any increase. That department had been in existence ever since he could remember, and if it had not been for the action of certain hon. members last year, the scab would have gone on for ever.

MR. MARMION, referring to item 17—Government Veterinary Surgeon, £300; last year, £350—said as the Government had the disposal of the services of a Veterinary Surgeon, he wished to call their attention to the extensive mortality among horses in the West Kimberley district. Many of the station-owners had suffered very great loss, especially in the vicinity of Derby and the Leonard river, and also the lower portion of the Fitzroy. They had not been able to find out the cause of the mortality. Some thought it was poison, whilst others thought it was the sting of a fly. Let the cause be what it would, the mortality continued, and it had been suggested that the Government might allow the Veterinary Surgeon to visit the locality, during the season of the year when the disease was at its height, in order that he might discover the cause and cure. He (Mr. Marmion) asked for an assurance from the Treasurer that the Veterinary Surgeon might be allowed to visit the district, and hoped for a favorable reply.

MR. CONNOR asked for an explanation of the duties of the Government Veterinary Surgeon, and said if the explanation were not satisfactory, he should move to strike out the item altogether.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) said he was well aware of the mortality



among the horses in the Kimberley district. With regard to the duties of the Veterinary Surgeon, he had pointed out what they were already once this session. He considered in a colony like this, where so much stock was imported, it was necessary to have some one capable of guarding them from the importation of disease. The present officer had been brought over for a special reason, and it had been thought desirable to retain his services. His duty was to advise the Government on all matters connected with his profession, and to visit any place the Government wished him to do. If he were sent to the Kimberley district, it would have to be under a special arrangement.

MR. R. F. SNOLL: Does he not get 15s. a day for travelling expenses.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) said that, when travelling, this officer received his expenses for locomotion, and so much per day for subsistence. There was nothing exceptional about the position. He was treated the same as any other officer who had to travel on duty. He (the Premier) did not think they could carry on without a duly qualified officer to advise them, if they were to keep the country free from disease.

MR. CONNOR said the explanation was not satisfactory to him. The last time that gentleman's name was before them they were told by the Premier, very distinctly, that the gentleman was not employed as a veterinary surgeon, but as an inspector of stock; not with a salary placed upon the Estimates, but receiving so much a trip to Fremantle and other places. [THE PREMIER: I explained the position correctly.] He had asked for an explanation of the duties of the office, and the Premier had not explained anything, except that the officer was drawing a salary of £300 a year. The only benefit that he (Mr. Connor) knew that the officer in question had been to the colony was as an advertising agent. He had advertised the fact that in West Australia they required stock. If the Chairman would allow him, he would read a quotation as follows:—"Mr. F. A. Blackman, hon. secretary to the Stock Breeders' Association," says the *Brisbane Courier*, "has received the following telegram from Mr. H. H. Edwards Government Veterinary Surgeon, Perth:—'Splendid market for prime fat cattle. Consign Lowe, Clerk & Co., Perth. Reliable agents. Will average £12 to £14 per head. Heavy

draught horses are worth from £18 to £25.'" That was the only use the Veterinary Surgeon had been to this colony. He (Mr. Connor) was under the impression that this gentleman had taken up the work of a gentleman named Turner, who had been a good many years in the service of the country. He did not like to speak of any one who could not reply there for himself, but he understood the work was not being done so well, as when Mr. Turner had charge of it. He knew of a case where some stock was landed in the early morning, on a very stormy day, and the veterinary surgeon did not get down until two o'clock in the afternoon. If that officer was paid to do the work, he ought to do it. He (Mr. Connor) had asked for an explanation which had not been given; he therefore moved that the item "Government Veterinary Surgeon, £300," be struck out.

MR. A. FORREST said he had nothing to say against the ability of the officer in question, but it was an appointment that was not necessary. A gentleman might be obtained for a retaining fee who would inspect cargoes of stock whenever they arrived in the colony. [THE PREMIER:—There is no one to be got.] There were half-a-dozen available. There was a very good man who lived at Victoria Park, South Perth, and he believed there were several others. He could not understand why the Government should pay £300 a year in this way. The gentleman in question was imported for special work, but he (Mr. Forrest) was not aware that the experiment had been a very great success. He objected to the suggestion of the hon. member for Fremantle, because it was well known what killed the horses in the Kimberley district. He had interests up there, and no manager of his had ever suggested the sending up of a veterinary surgeon. They kept the horses as far as possible out of the dangerous country. He considered a retaining fee of £100 a year would be ample, and they could get a gentleman to accept the position and do the work for that amount.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. A. R. Richardson) thought that in the present history and circumstances of the colony a properly qualified veterinary surgeon was absolutely necessary. It was necessary to have a fully qualified man, and one in whom they could have confidence. The present surgeon had proved his competency by tracing the source of the disease in cattle known as

"ricketts" or "wobbles" to a poisonous plant. Mr. Edwards had proved himself to be a man who knew what he was talking about, and that was what was wanted in the colony. He had discovered both tuberculosis and fluke in stock slaughtered in the colony, and it would be a bad day for the agriculturists of this country if such diseases as fluke in sheep and pneumonia in cattle made their appearance. Unless they had a properly qualified veterinary surgeon the mischief would be done before the presence of the disease was discovered. Whether the salary was too high or too low was another question, but the Government had done its best, and Mr. Edwards had declined any lesser amount. He was a gentleman who came from the other colonies fully accredited. He was fully qualified, and he knew him to be a competent person to attend to the duties of this office. The office of veterinary surgeon was essentially one where a good man was wanted, and not a quack.

MR. GEORGE understood this £300 a year was to secure the whole of the services of the gentleman appointed. Personally he was not concerned who the individual was, but he should be always available when his services were required, and it would be far better for arrangements to be made whereby the whole of the veterinary's time was at the call of the Government. He agreed with the remark of the Commissioner of Crown Lands, that the salary paid should be sufficient to secure the services of a fully qualified man, instead of a quack, but in this instance he had heard of the veterinary surgeon not going to Fremantle to stock when desired to do so, and that should be altered. The salary should be sufficiently adequate for the veterinary to give whatever time was requisite, so that there should be no complaint.

MR. PIESSE would like to point out that this veterinary surgeon obtained a salary of £300 a year from the Government, and he obtained an additional fee from the Bureau of Agriculture as well. The salary of £300 a year should be sufficient to include the services for the Bureau as well. He did not agree with the remark of the hon. member for the Murray that the salary should be increased, for the one provided on the Estimates was already equal to what would be paid to a medical man, and, in addition, the veterinary was allowed the right of private practice. Without question, the man filling this position should be fully qualified. A great deal of

stock was being landed in the colony at the present time, and it would be a terrible thing if some of the diseases rife in the other colonies were introduced here. It would be very hard to get rid of them, once they made their appearance. It was important to know that these duties would be properly carried out, and there should be no ground for complaint, such as that preferred in reference to stock at Fremantle. If there was ground for this complaint it should have been reported to the Premier, who would doubtless have seen that the same thing did not occur again. A properly qualified man should always occupy the position, and there should be no question about the right to call upon him to inspect stock at any time.

MR. GEORGE desired to remove a misunderstanding. He did not propose an increase of salary, but thought the salary given, no matter what it was, should be sufficient to secure the services of a veterinary for the Government at all times, and so that private practice could not interfere with his work for the country. No man could serve two masters, and it was with a view of emphasising the fact that the Government should have the first call on the services of such an official, that he had suggested the salary should be such as to enable this to be done. He did not say that £300 a year was not sufficient—it was only a question of properly defining the duties of the official.

The PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) would like the Committee to understand that this was the first time he had heard of any complaint, and it was curious that the head of the department had received no information about it. The Government had the first call on Mr. Edwards' services, and one of his duties was to inspect the sheep at Fremantle. It was more than probable the veterinary surgeon had never been informed these sheep were there for him, for he had shown himself not only attentive to his duties, but always ready to give assistance and advice wherever it could be of value. When Mr. Edwards first came to the colony he wanted £600 a year. The Government had applied to the Victorian Government, and it had recommended Mr. Edwards. The Government had now made the best bargain it could, for the simple reason that Mr. Edwards was not anxious to remain. He was fully qualified. [MR. CONNOR: Where?] His qualifications were from the Melbourne University and the

highest qualifications from Victoria. The only mistake he appeared to have made was inadvertently advertising, and that was not likely to occur again. The only practice Mr. Edwards was allowed was that within his profession, and the Government had not made a bad bargain when they secured his services.

MR. R. F. SHOLL did not think the case of Mr. Edwards in advertising was singular. The Government Analyst, Mr. Woodward, was in the habit of giving certificates to be advertised. It was right of the Premier to stop Mr. Edwards catering in the interests of any particular form of stock raisers, but the Analyst should be stopped as well. He had no objection to either of them certifying as private individuals, but their certificates should not be those of officials. The Bureau of Agricultural paid Mr. Edwards £40 a year, and that appeared unnecessary after the salary of £300 from the Government. The retaining fee was a very handsome one. Personally he did not believe that fluke and tuberculosis had really been found in the colony, but it was necessary the discovery should be made to make the appointment secure. The story was one to be taken with a grain of salt, and when the vote for the Bureau came up he would move a reduction of this amount by £40.

MR. WOOD supported the vote as printed. Mr. Edwards was a highly qualified man and a valuable officer. This debate would probably not have been raised had the telegram not been sent, and quite likely it was the wrong name used in it. He trusted the hon. member for East Kimberley would withdraw his amendment.

MR. CONNOR did not want to be too severe, but the veterinary surgeon should be compelled to do his duty, and not fill private commissions outside of his own profession. He would like to see the vote reduced, and with the leave of the Committee would withdraw his amendment, because he understood another hon. member would propose one in favor of a reduction.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. A. FORREST moved that the item be reduced by £100.

Amendment negatived.

Vote, as printed, agreed to.

Vote—Observatory, £500:

MR. RANDELL asked whether the Observatory was likely to be in operation during the next twelve months.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir. J. Forrest) did not think so, but Sir Charles Todd had advised that the astronomer should be in the colony when the necessary buildings were being erected. It was intended that the astronomer should also carry out the duties of meteorologist, as in other colonies. There had been no consultation with a regard to a site, but, if necessary, Sir Charles Todd could be invited to visit Perth, and give the Government the benefit of his valuable advice. The Government would like to have the vote passed, even if it were not in force.

M. LEAKE thought the meteorological reporters at present, under the vote "Registry," should be under the vote for the Observatory.

THE PREMIER intimated that this would be the case next year.

MR. A. FORREST thought this vote could be struck out. An Observatory was not wanted just yet. It was one of the fancy things the colony could well do without.

THE PREMIER: The instruments have already been ordered.

MR. A. FORREST: By whose authority?

THE PREMIER: By the authority of the House.

MR. ILLINGWORTH (to Mr. A. Forrest): Why, you voted in favor of it last year yourself.

MR. A. FORREST: I was not aware of it. Vote, as printed, agreed to.

Vote—Registry, £2,716:

MR. A. FORREST complained that the weather reports, and the reports as to rainfall, were posted much later than was possible, were very carelessly prepared, and sometimes not posted up at all.

MR. MARMION concurred in this complaint. Great carelessness was shown both at Perth and Fremantle, and elsewhere. No doubt, if the Treasurer gave a hint to the officers entrusted with this, the complaint would be remedied. These reports were most important to many people.

MR. PIESSE bore out the remarks of the previous speakers. No doubt some of the reports did not come to hand as early as could be hoped for, but the responsibility for a good deal of the delay appeared to rest on an official in the Telegraph office. The information was of great importance to many people, and steps should be taken to ensure a little more energy in the direction of securing more regular reports, and more reliable information for the public.

MR. ILLINGWORTH suggested that if a person desired to be particularly aggravated, he should study the index of the "Year Book." He would suggest that the editor of the "Year Book" take a lesson from the manner in which the "Year Books" of other colonies were prepared.

MR. MARMION desired some explanation of the item, "Registrar of Friendly Societies, £300."

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt) explained that the appointment was necessary after the passing of the Friendly Societies Act, and to prevent those societies carrying on their business on lines that would end in their bankruptcy. The Registrar supervised all the societies, advised them, and controlled them generally. He was also an actuary, and of great use to the Government in other matters where abstruse calculation was required. The gentleman appointed came to the colony very highly recommended by the Government of Victoria, and this Government had made a good bargain. The officer appointed was the second in his department in Victoria, and it was not likely his salary would always remain as low as £300 in this colony. So far he (the Attorney-General) had seen a good deal of the Registrar's work in this colony, and it was most thoroughly done. In fact everything this gentleman did was done with the utmost satisfaction to all those with whom he was brought in contact.

MR. HASSELL complained that the person supposed to carry out the duties of Observer at Albany did his work most inefficiently, and the weather reports were seldom available.

Vote put and passed.

Vote—Charitable Institutions, £1,383 5s.:

MR. LEAKE asked whether it was a fact that both boys and girls were kept at one of the Industrial schools.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) replied that little boys and girls were together at Victoria Park, but it was only until new buildings were constructed.

Vote agreed to.

Vote—Government Gardens, £594 15s.:

MR. GEORGE asked, with regard to the item "Incidental expenses, including retaining wall round gardens, £150," how much of this was for the retaining wall, which he understood was completed last year.

THE PREMIER believed the amount was principally for incidental expenses.

Vote agreed to.

Vote—Defences, £11,733 1s. 4d.:

MR. LEAKE suggested that even more encouragement should be given to the bands, which were the most popular branch of the forces. Efficient bands would keep the volunteers well together, and should be encouraged.

MR. MARMION enquired the reason for the reduction of £60 in the vote for band allowances, while the sum of £300 had been set aside for a Headquarters Band.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) explained that this was caused by the creation of the Perth Infantry Band into a Headquarters Band. This band would have 21 men, getting £10 a year each, with a bandmaster at £100. They would have certain practices and attendances, and, by the alteration, the £60 previously given to the Perth Band was taken off the old vote.

MR. MARMION did not complain about a Headquarters Band, but thought the amount previously given to Perth should be given to the other bands. The Fremantle Band was deserving of more consideration, and there was too much being spent in providing things for Perth. The headquarters for anything like this were generally contrived to be in Perth. The volunteer bands should be encouraged, and he asked the Premier to consider this.

MR. A. FORREST congratulated the Government on the reduction of the vote generally, from £15,450 last year to £11,733 this year. It was like the hon. member for Fremantle's "what do you call it" to suggest that the headquarters band should be anywhere else but in Perth, while as for the Fremantle band, there were others in the colony to equal it—notably that of Coolgardie. Fremantle people could come to Perth to hear the band play, or the band might go down to Fremantle.

MR. GEORGE was sure that down at Fremantle they already had bands of such great variety and quality that nothing more was necessary there. Referring to Item 24—Field-Day expenses and State ceremonial, £2,856; last year, £200—he asked for explanation of the increase, and how much was for field-day expenses and how much for State ceremonial.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) said the increase in the amount for this year was for the purpose of paying the volunteers for attending parades ordered by the Command-

ant. He read a memorandum showing that the Perth, Fremantle, and Guildford corps numbered 420 of all ranks, and the pay for these parades was estimated at £4 16s. per man for the year; the payments for these parades not to count as capitation money. The pay to country corps for parades ordered by the Commandant was estimated at £2 per man for the year. These payments would be made quarterly or half-yearly, as might be determined. The idea was to have more of these field-day parades, for keeping up the efficiency of the corps, and to pay the volunteers at a little better rate than previously for attending them, as the men had to sacrifice their time to attend the field-day parades. It would be remembered that the Government proposed, last year, to introduce the system of a partially paid force into the military organisation of the colony, but the proposal did not meet with favor in this House. The next best plan for encouraging volunteering was to offer more inducements for the men to attend the parades; for it could not be expected that volunteers, many of whom had their own work to attend to on field-days, would leave their work and attend these parades without being paid. With the object of so encouraging the men, it was now proposed that a fund should be available for paying volunteers who attended those parades which were ordered by the Commandant. He (the Premier) believed this plan would produce good results, and he hoped hon. members would pass the item, and give the new plan a trial. If it was found not to work well, it need not be continued. The new Commandant, when he arrived in the colony shortly, might be able to work out the matter, with the view of offering more inducements than in the past for getting men to join the force and attend the parades.

MR. LEAKE said this was an important item, and as this was the first full explanation of it given by the Government, he would move that progress be reported in order to allow time for hon. members to consider the new system. [Several Hon. Members: No, no.] Then he would move to strike out the item, unless the Government consented to report progress.

THE PREMIER: I do not think the Committee would strike it out.

MR. LEAKE moved that Item 24 be struck out. In doing so, he said he was actuated by the idea that the House should pay the volun-

teers properly or not at all, because once the House began to pay small pittances to volunteers, such as was proposed in this item, the volunteer force would degenerate. He did not think the volunteers would give a "thank you" for the small amount of pay that would come to each man, through this system, and he would rather see the money expended in prizes or other inducements, because there could not be an efficient force if the Government paid merely for the days or half-days spent in attending field-day parades. The volunteer force in this colony was never so efficient as it was when the work was purely voluntary. Hon. members who recollected with what enthusiasm the volunteers were reviewed some years ago, must have noticed the marked contrast between that state of things and the present. It would be better to strike out this large item, than attempt to carry out this false principle. If the colony was to have a militia, it should be put on a comprehensive basis; whereas the plan proposed in this item was altogether on a false principle. He again asked that progress be reported, because this matter required more discussion than hon. members could give it in the next quarter of an hour. Perhaps, on further enquiry, members might be persuaded that some of the money in this item should be allowed to remain. He moved that progress be reported and leave asked to sit again.

Motion put and passed.

Progress reported, and leave given to sit again.

#### ADJOURNMENT.

The House adjourned at 10.30 o'clock, p.m.