

minded to be influenced by the emoluments of office. When the hon. gentleman said that thieves of other people's property could get a title of that property by virtue of possession for a certain number of years, surely he (Mr. Richardson) did not wish his argument to bear the inference that certain people were proposing to steal £20,000 of the taxpayers' money, under the guise of compensation being paid for the cessation of the grant to Assisted Schools. This question was one of such importance to the country which so far had heard nothing of the debate, that he (Mr. Simpson) urged the Government to permit the Committee to report progress, and obtain leave to sit again next week. He moved that the Committee should report progress.

[While the division was being taken the electric light was extinguished, leaving the chamber in darkness for some moments.]

The Committee divided on the question that progress should be reported with the following result:—

Ayes ...	...	...	...	...	11
Noes ...	...	...	...	...	17

Majority against ... 6

AYES.

Mr. Clarkson
Mr. Connor
Mr. George
Mr. Hooley
Mr. Hingworth
Mr. Leake
Mr. Moran
Mr. Moss
Mr. Simpson
Mr. Solomon
Mr. James (Teller).

NOES.

Mr. Burt
Sir John Forrest
Mr. A. Forrest
Mr. Hassell
Mr. Keep
Mr. Lefroy
Mr. Letou
Mr. Marnion
Mr. Piesse
Mr. Randell
Mr. Richardson
Mr. H. W. Sholl
Sir J. G. Lee Steere
Mr. Throssell
Mr. Venn
Mr. Wood
Mr. Cookworthy

(Teller.)

Mr. SIMPSON resumed his speech, urging that the proposed grant was larger than the electors of the colony would be willing to contribute to the Assisted Schools. He subsequently moved that progress should be reported.

Question put and passed.

Progress reported, and leave given to sit again.

STOCK DISEASES BILL.

Introduced by the ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Hon S. Burt), and read a first time.

ADJOURNMENT.

The House adjourned at 12.48 o'clock (mid-night).

Legislative Assembly,

Tuesday, 24th September, 1895.

Message from His Excellency the Administrator, recommending Further Additional Estimates of Expenditure—Extra Postal Facilities for North Perth—Estimates, 1895-6, further consideration in committee; re-committed for consideration of Additional Estimates, also of Further Additional Estimates—Partnership Bill: consideration of Legislative Council's amendments, in committee—Wesleyan Methodists (Private) Bill: second reading; in committee—Roman Catholic Church Lands (Private) Bill: second reading; in committee—Electoral Bill: second reading—Building Act Amendment Bill: second reading—Trustee Ordinance Amendment Bill: second reading; in committee—Adjournment.

THE SPEAKER took the chair at 4.50 o'clock, p.m.

PRAYERS.

MESSAGE FROM HIS EXCELLENCY THE ADMINISTRATOR.

FURTHER ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES.

A Message was presented to Mr. Speaker by the Premier, and was read as follows:—

ALEX. C. ONSLOW,

Administrator.

The Administrator transmits to the Legislative Assembly Additional Estimates of Expenditure for the year ending the 30th June, 1896, to the extent of £7,600, and recommends an appropriation of the Consolidated Revenue accordingly.

Government House, Perth, September 24th, 1895.

VIII.—COMMISSIONER OF RAILWAYS.

No. on Original Estimate, which the within are to follow.

285	Tramway from Subiaco to Sewage Farm ...	£2,300
—	Railway from near Burswood to Perth Racecourse ...	£5,300
	Total ...	£7,600

EXTRA POSTAL FACILITIES FOR NORTH PERTH.

Mr. WOOD, in accordance with notice, asked the Premier whether it would be possible for the Government to give postal accommodation to the residents of North Perth, either by the establishment of a post office, or by placing a pillar-box at the corner of Palmerston and Brisbane-streets, and also one at the corner of Lincoln and Burt-streets.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) replied that the Postal Department had been endeavoring to give accommodation to North Perth, but, up to the present time, had been unable to secure a building suitable for a post and telegraph office. It was intended to build an office, but, in the meantime, a pillar-box would be erected on a convenient site.

NEWSPAPER COMMENTS ON RAILWAY INTERLOCKING GEAR.

MR. RANDALL, without notice, asked whether the Commissioner of Railways had read an article published in Saturday's *West Australian* newspaper, on the question of interlocking gear at the Perth railway station.

THE COMMISSIONER OF RAILWAYS (Hon. H. W. Venn) replied that he had not read the article referred to, but would do so.

DESPATCH re THE ABORIGINES PROTECTION BOARD.

MR. SIMPSON, without notice, asked whether the Government had received the promised despatch from the Secretary of State, with regard to the abolition of the Aborigines Protection Board.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) replied that the despatch from the Secretary of State had now reached this colony, and he hoped to be in a position to lay the despatch on the table of the House that evening or at the next sitting.

ESTIMATES, 1895-6.

The House went into committee for the further consideration of the Estimates.

Vote: Water Supply, £47,861 15s. 2d.

MR. E. F. SHOLL, referring to the Fremantle water supply, £4,850, said a large amount of public money had been expended on this water service, and the revenue received from those who used the water was very inadequate. Only £481 was received from householders for the use of this water during the financial year ended June last, while the expenditure in maintaining the water service, including that supplied to the shipping and the railway, was very large. The smallness of the revenue from householders showed that the majority of them were not paying for the water, or the money was not duly collected, or the rate charged was not sufficient to repay interest on the capital expended. A comparison between the amount collected at Fremantle, and the amount collected from persons who used the water supplied on the goldfields, was not in favor of Fremantle.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. H. W. Venn) said it was a fact that the revenue received from the users of the Government water in Fremantle had not been such as might have been expected. Under the powers of the new Act, the intention was to levy forthwith a rate of, he believed, 1s. in the pound of rateable value. The water supply in Fremantle was formerly managed by the Locomotive branch; but, since the new Act was passed, the water supply accounts had been transferred to an officer whose duty it would be, in future, to see that the revenue from this source was duly collected and paid. The new Act gave power to levy a water rate over the whole of the municipality; and, as this had now been done, he (the Director of Public Works) felt sure the water revenue for the current twelve months would be much better than that for the last year. There had, in fact, been an extraordinary amount of difficulty in getting the money that was due from those residents who used the water, in past years; but that would not be the case in the future, as the Act gave power to sue for water rates due and unpaid. The whole system was being improved.

MR. MARMION asked what amount of rate was to be charged, in future.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS said he believed it would be 1s. in the pound.

MR. MARMION said that although 1s. in the pound was charged in Perth for the supply from a private company, who had incurred a large outlay in bringing the water some twenty miles from the Darling Hills yet there was no similarity of circumstances, as between Perth and Fremantle, such as would warrant the charging of the same rate in both places. The cost of the supply in Fremantle was comparatively small, as nature had provided a supply on the spot, and the machinery for pumping was not expensive; whereas the cost of the water works for Perth amounted to £160,000 or £180,000. Surely, if Fremantle had been given a supply by nature, and the Government had spent comparatively little in utilising the local supply, it would not be fair to charge the Fremantle people the same rate for using the water as if it were an expensive service like the private supply in Perth.

THE PREMIER said the amount of the rate in Fremantle had not been fixed yet.

MR. MARMION said he hoped the difference in local circumstances would be taken into account when fixing the rate.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. H. W. Venn) said there had been a tremendous waste of water in Fremantle, by individuals watering their grounds in summer, and, if, as was intended, the water was to be supplied in such cases by meter, probably those liberal users would have to pay more for the quantity used than if they were charged 1s. in the pound on the rateable value of their properties. He would not recommend the imposition of a rate so high as to be oppressive, but the Fremantle people should pay fairly for the water they used. If another reservoir were made at Monument Hill, it would probably supply North Fremantle also; and the further extension of the supply that was contemplated would give a good water service to the whole town at a stronger pressure than at present.

MR. R. F. SHOLL said the Public Works Department had been playing with this question; for although the new Act with rating powers had been passed two sessions ago, no serious attempt to use the rating powers, and enforce payment of money due had yet been made. To judge by the small amount estimated to be received from this source during the current year,—only £500 as compared with £400 odd received last year—the department evidently did not intend to take the matter seriously in hand. Rather than play with the matter in this way, the Government should hand over the whole working plant at a valuation, and let the Municipal Council, or a private company, manage the supply on commercial principles. The bulk of the people using the water in Fremantle did not appear to pay at all.

MR. WOOD said the Government should hand over the water supply, as a going concern, to the Town Council—make them take it. He had advocated this course years ago when residing in Fremantle, and it would be a good thing to do so now, both for that town and the colony.

MR. SOLOMON said he could not understand the smallness of the revenue shown for last year, and he supposed there must have been a considerable portion of it collected after the financial year closed. If that were included, the amount paid by the users of water last year would be much larger.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. H. W. Venn) said the £500 estimated to be received this year was from householders

only. There was a water revenue from shipping as well.

MR. R. F. SHOLL said the amount receivable from shipping for water supplied would include what was paid at other ports along the coast, as well as at Fremantle. As to arrears being collected from Fremantle householders, after the close of the financial year, there should have been outstanding amounts from the previous year, included in the last year's revenue, to make up for that. The Department had, in fact, been playing with the matter, and not collecting the money that was due.

MR. MORAN, referring to the "Goldfields Water Service, £43,011 15s. 2d.," said, this sum might appear a large one, when added to the other expenditure on goldfields; but, in the present estimate, not a single new work was included, so that the whole of this money was required to pay the wages of caretakers at the tanks, etc., the upkeep of existing works, and the recoup of £26,511 15s. 2d., expended under a resolution of this House. He took this opportunity of reminding the Government that they should be prepared for fresh requirements of expenditure on new or undeveloped goldfields, at centres where the increasing population would want water and other facilities to be provided by the Government. Some of the old tanks and dams along the road would be disused by travellers after the railway was opened. The Government might wisely ask their responsible engineer in the Water Supply branch to report on works which would probably be required during the coming summer, so that, instead of being again taken by surprise, the Government might be prepared for contingencies on the Eastern goldfields.

MR. ILLINGWORTH asked the meaning of the item 8 "Recoup of expenditure under resolution No. 64, 94, £26,511 15s. 2d.;" also as to what provision was made at Abbot's Well, in the Nannine district.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. H. W. Venn) said that as to Abbot's Well, the engineer recommended that the well should be at the junction of two roads, and instruction had been given for it to be made there. The sum of £26,511 15s. 2d. (Item 8) was to recoup the expenditure made previously out of the vote of £50,000 for goldfields water supply, &c. Replying to the remarks of the hon. member for Yilgarn, he said that if the provisions made for expected new requirements on the Eastern goldfields were not found

to be sufficient, more funds would have to be provided, and there would be no stint of funds for keeping the goldfields supplied amply with water during the coming summer.

MR. ILLINGWORTH, referring to certain wells in the Nannine district, said the use of green mulga timber had so tainted the water that these wells were useless for drinking purposes.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. H. W. Venn) said that to cart timber of a kind different from that which grew in the district, and convey it hundreds of miles, would be a difficult matter. The same trouble with wells, through using green timber, had occurred on the Yilgarn railway, but, after the water had been used out of the wells pretty freely, the objectionable taint disappeared. Of course green timber would not be used for wells where seasoned timber could be obtained.

MR. SIMPSON was glad to hear that this matter was going to receive the attention of the Department. He believed that one of the causes of the water, in one particular well, being in a bad state was that the mulga used for timbering had not been stripped of its bark.

Vote put and passed.

Vote: Mines, £25,295 :

MR. MORAN desired to publicly express his warm approval of the manner in which the officers of this Department did their work, and the courteous and obliging treatment they always extended to the public. The vote was one which, he was sure, would be agreed to by hon. members most heartily. There was one item that he particularly desired to refer to, and that was with regard to the appointment of mining inspectors. This new departure, he hoped, would be attended with every success. At the same time, he would urge upon the same Department the necessity for getting thoroughly good men for these positions. They wanted practical men, with Australian experience, and too much attention should not be paid to a high sounding title, represented by half the letters in the alphabet, which really signified nothing. Practical experience was the best qualification for the position. The work of the Department had been well done in the past, and there was every reason to anticipate the same thing for the future. He would impress upon the head of the Department the necessity for seeing that the officers charged with the administration of affairs on the goldfields showed no

undue favoritism, or arrogated to themselves undue powers. There was, undoubtedly, a great future before the mining industry in this colony; and the Department should be readily supplied with all the funds requisite for its proper development.

MR. R. F. SHOLL was sure that if the Government desired an experienced man, they could not do better than consult the hon. member for Yilgarn, who had "humped a bluey" for some weeks during his election campaign, and was, therefore, bound to know all about the goldfields. Consequently, it would be taken for granted that the Government would follow any course the wisdom of the hon. member suggested to be the right one.

MR. WOOD said there was one feature he should like to see introduced into this Department, and that was that the Wardens should not be left too long in one particular locality. He noticed efforts were being made to retain a particular Warden in one of the districts, but he thought it advisable that these officials should be moved about.

MR. A. FORREST agreed that the management of this Department had met with general satisfaction, but, in looking through the Estimates, some anomalies were apparent. For instance, the Mining Registrar in the comparatively unimportant locality of Nannine was paid £225 a year, while the gentleman filling the same office at the most important centre of the goldfields (Kalgoorlie), was only receiving £200 a year. There was nothing to be said against the Murchison, but there should not be these differences in the salaries. The suggestion that Wardens should be moved from one locality to another was in the right direction. It would be most advantageous for the mining industry, if Wardens were not permitted to remain too long in the one locality, for, even with the best man, a change would be advisable. He would say the same thing of resident magistrates, and any officer who filled a similar position. It was notorious that it did not act well to leave anyone too long in one locality, and, if the changes were general, there could be no reflection on any particular Warden.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) remarked that hon. members should bear in mind the fact that the Estimates of the Department had been framed some months since, and probably Kalgoorlie was not then such an important place as it was now, but the Minister of Mines would take every care that the

salary was proportionate to the responsibilities of the office. So far as to what had been said in regard to the removal of Wardens was concerned, that was a question upon which a good deal could be said on both sides, and it would be just as logical to suggest that the Judges should not be allowed to remain too long in one locality either. However, Wardens were being continually promoted, and, in this way, the removals desired by hon. members were being carried out, without the necessity of any particular alteration in the present methods of the Department.

MR. R. F. SHOLL thought the suggestion of the hon. member for West Perth was a wise one, and he hoped the Government would endeavor to carry it out. To shift the Wardens about occasionally would be to provide a very wholesome check upon the way they did their work. If a Warden did wrong and remained in the one place, the fact might never be discovered, but if he were removed to another locality, it would probably be found out at once. At the same time, it should be borne in mind, that the Wardens were not too well paid, and, consequently, might be open to temptation. He (Mr. Sholl) would like to see them far more liberally treated in the matter of salary, so that the temptations in their way would be less. So far as the appointment of mining registrars to important fields like Kalgoolie was concerned, he hoped such positions would be filled, as far as possible, by the promotion of old officers situated on goldfields which had not progressed to the same extent as that where the vacancy occurred.

MR. A. FORREST drew attention to the fact that the Warden for Dundas had his quarters fourteen miles away from Norseman, which was the centre of the field. The Government should alter this. The same officer was not treated with sufficient liberality in the matter of forage allowance, considering the high price of horse feed in that locality; and he could not understand the refusal of the Department to supply this particular Warden with a bicycle. At present, the allowance was not sufficient to meet the expenditure cast upon the Warden, if he carried out his work properly.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest): I will mention the matter to the Minister.

MR. MORAN referring to the items, "Inspector of Mines, Eastern Goldfields,

£375," and "Inspector of Mines, Central Goldfields, £375," said, he understood the Eastern Goldfields would comprise the immense stretch of territory from Southern Cross, Mount Jackson, Mount Darlot, right up to Kurnalpi, and the Central Goldfield was correspondingly large. Neither the salary of the Inspector nor the forage allowance was sufficient, if the best men were to be secured, and he urged the Department to be more liberal. The Inspectors would have greater responsibilities even than Wardens, and the public would look to them for reliable information. A man fit for the position could command £500 a year at any of the mines, and the Government should not offer a salary which could only attract inferior people. These inspectors would be called upon, at times, to report on various districts, and much would depend on the way in which they carried out their work. If low salaries were paid, it could only be anticipated, that persons holding the office would make up for it in other ways.

MR. ILLINGWORTH, referring to the item "Mining Registrar, Mount Magnet, £200," enquired the reason for this officer receiving £25 a year less than the registrar at Nannine. He did not say the latter received too much; but, if there was to be any difference, it should be the other way about.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) said he did not know the reason for the difference, but he would have enquiries made.

MR. WOOD asked for some explanation regarding Items 65 to 72 (Orderlies at £150 each.)

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) said that the Wardens had asked that orderlies should be appointed, in order that those assistants might perform the duty; and, that up to the present time, the police had been instructed to do it. The police were not always available to do the Warden's bidding. The orderlies would travel with the Wardens, and, with their assistance, the Warden's work would be facilitated.

MR. A. FORREST regarded the appointments as unnecessary. The orderlies would not be able to live in the remote goldfields districts upon a salary of £150 per annum.

MR. MORAN desired to know why the appointments were to be made at all.

THE PREMIER: Because the Wardens have asked for them.

MR. ILLINGWORTH, referring to Item 93 (Reward for discovery of goldfields, £1,000) said so many rewards had been paid for the

finding of gold, that the item seemed to be uncalled for.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) said the reward would not be paid unless a goldfield was discovered in an entirely new district, such as the South-Western portion of the colony.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt) remarked that the conditions which would be attached to the claiming of the reward would be so stringent that it would be very difficult for anyone to obtain it.

MR. MORAN regarded the South Australian border as the most probable locality for the finding of a new and payable goldfield. If a valuable discovery were found in a new quarter of the colony, £1,000 was not nearly as large a sum as the colony would gladly pay to the discoverers.

MR. ILLINGWORTH thought that a new goldfield might be brought to light near Eucla, in which case £1,000 would be an inadequate reward. But that amount would be too much to give for an unimportant find.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest): It must be a payable field if the reward is to be claimed.

MR. A. FORREST, alluding to Item 94 (Surveys on Goldfields, £1,500), pointed out that the charges for the surveys in question were very high. A great many leases were applied for, which were not gone on with; but in every case, a survey fee of £8 or £9 had to be lodged with the application for a lease. The Warden had told him that it would be more trouble to try and get a refund of the survey fee, when a lease was abandoned before the ground was surveyed, than the amount of the fee, would be worth. In certain cases, where the ground applied for was in a new and remote area, the fee charged would doubtless prove to be a reasonable one; but, very often, the block sought for was so surrounded by other surveyed blocks that no survey was necessary, and then the fee was excessive. He would like the scale of charges to be revised. At Kalgoorlie, no fewer than 1,500 blocks had been applied for; and £8 or £9 for survey in connection with each of these applications was more than the people ought to be called upon to pay.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. A. R. Richardson) replied that the surveyors relied upon the high cost of living in the goldfields districts to justify their scale of fees, which was, or was not, too high, according to the locality of each block, and the

amount of work that had to be done upon it.

MR. MORAN trusted that the Minister of Mines would consider the question of making the survey fees on the goldfields so reasonable as to encourage the taking up of leases.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) said he would bring the matter under the notice of the Minister of Mines. Of course, it was to be expected that it would cost more to survey land on the goldfields than in the settled agricultural districts.

MR. A. FORREST asked why Item 95 (Prospecting for tin, £400) appeared on the Estimates.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) replied that the vote was proposed in response to a representation that had been made to the Government, with a view to endeavoring to enlarge the present area of the tin-bearing fields of the colony. The country, in the locality referred to, was very thickly impeded by undergrowth, and prospectors for tin needed some special encouragement, now that so much attention was directed to the getting of gold.

Vote put and passed.

MR. TRAYLEN reported that the Committee of Supply had considered the Estimates of Expenditure for the Financial Year ending 30th June, 1896, as recommended by the Administrator and had, in accordance therewith, agreed to certain Resolutions.

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) moved that the Estimates be recommitted, with a view to the insertion of the Additional Estimates transmitted by His Excellency the Administrator's Messages Nos. 17 and 18.

Question put and passed.

The House then went into Committee of Supply.

Additional Vote: Medical, £150:

Put and passed.

Additional Vote: Miscellaneous, £850:

Put and passed.

Additional Vote: Supreme Court, £60:

MR. A. FORREST referring to Items 9, 10 and 11 (Clerk to Chief Justice and Clerk of Arraignment, £110, increase, £20); Clerk to puisne Judge and Clerk of Arraignment, £110, increase, £20; Clerk to third Judge, £110 increase, £20, said, that the Attorney-General had promised to give the Committee some information as to whether it was intended to make permanent appointments to the offices in question.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt) said that permanent appointments would be made as soon as the offices became vacant.
Vote agreed to.

Vote: Works and Buildings, £12,560.

MR. MORAN, referring to Item 134 (Coolgardie Gaol, £2,000), hoped that a substantial building would be erected, and that strength and accommodation would not be sacrificed to architectural beauty.

MR. A. FORREST asked the Director of Public Works, when the erection of the Court-house and telegraph offices at Broome would be commenced.

THE PREMIER: The contract has been let.

MR. RANDELL referring to Item 183 (Perth, three suburban post offices, £500 each), asked where the buildings were to be placed.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) said the sites would be placed to the north, east, and south. The sites had already been acquired.

MR. MORAN thought that the new post offices should be on the North side of the river.

MR. R. F. SHOLL believed that, having regard to the cost of maintaining the post offices, it was proposed to establish too many of them. Of course, it was very pleasant for every man to have a post office at his own door, but it would prove expensive to the State. There was, however, a great deal to be said in favor of having a post office at East Perth. He, however, protested against Agricultural Halls and Mechanics' Institutes being erected all over the colony. The expenditure under these heads was growing very rapidly, and there would be additional calls from other places next year. It was certainly a waste of public money; and no more should be expended in erecting buildings at the public cost which were not required.

THE PREMIER: They give great satisfaction.

MR. A. FORREST said he had been the first to protest against the building of public halls in the various townships, but he had since seen reason to modify his views, although his prophesy that every district would ask for an Agricultural Hall had come true. But he thought the people in the country should have some place to meet in, so long as they did not neglect their farms to talk politics.

MR. SOLOMON was glad to see Agricultural Halls and Mechanics' Institutes built in the centres, as the people in the country had few opportunities for social gatherings. In Perth, the citizens could go to the Town Hall, and rural folks should not be denied the privilege

of a local meeting place, and, in his opinion, it was a sign of progress to rear such buildings as those to which the hon. member for the Gascoyne took exception.

Vote put and passed.

Vote: Roads and bridges, £3,450:

MR. R. F. SHOLL, referring to the item, "Canning-Perth Bridge Road, to Welsh Pool Turn-off, £1,000," said he was of opinion that, when the Government spent such large sums of money on roads of that description, they should exercise some supervision over them, in order to see that the road was kept in proper order by the local governing body, and also to ensure the money being properly expended.

MR. RANDELL thought that £1,000 would be well spent on the road in question, because it was in a very bad state, and would, if it were made a good road, be used by a large number of settlers.

MR. LEAKE asked if there was any necessity, to make this road good at all, as it, apparently, would not serve any purpose whatever.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) said it provided a highway from the Canning district to the Darling Ranges.

MR. A. FORREST said the road was urgently required by a number of settlers who were in the district, and who had asked the Government, by a deputation, to spend a sum of money in making it passable.

MR. R. F. SHOLL said he doubted the necessity for the road at all, because he did not think there were many settlers in that district.

MR. LEAKE moved to reduce the item by £800. He was of opinion that the road was not required at all. Would the hon. member for West Kimberley tell him how many settlers there were in the district?

MR. A. FORREST: About a dozen.

MR. LEAKE: And yet they were asked to vote £1,000 for the benefit of a dozen settlers. Most of the land in the locality was included in large grants, which had been made in the past. Therefore, there could be but little available for settlement. If the proposed amount of £1,000 had been devoted towards making the Canning road passable, in addition to the money already voted for that work, it would have served a far better purpose. Besides, he objected to such large sums being voted for minor roads.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) said he had been asked by a deputation from the

Canning Roads Board, headed by the hon. member for East Perth, to submit the vote to Parliament. The deputation pointed out to him the great difficulty under which settlers in the district labored, owing to the bad state of the road and, that to construct it properly, would be to provide a suitable highway to the city from the Darling Range. He considered that it was a very necessary work.

MR. WOOD hoped the hon. member for Albany would withdraw his amendment, in any case. He thought it was advisable to report progress, in consequence of the absence of the hon. member for East Perth, who was especially interested in the item.

MR. R. F. SHOLL was of opinion that if the road were intended to form a highway to the Darling Range, it should be started higher up.

MR. GEORGE asked if it was intended that the Roads Board should construct the road, or whether the Government would call for tenders for the work.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. H. W. Venn): The work will be done by the Government.

MR. GEORGE said he would support the construction of the road in that case, because he believed it would afford the settlers in the district the facilities they so much desired, for carting their produce to the city.

MR. R. F. SHOLL considered that the Government should, when deputations asked them to construct roads of this description, enquire for themselves as to how many people would benefit by the work being done, and how much cultivation was carried on in the particular district proposed to be served by the particular road asked for.

MR. A. FORREST said that, at one time, the road in question was used for carting a large quantity of the meat supply of the city from Welsh Pool, and that it was in such a wretched bad state that horses in the vehicles actually died from overwork, owing to the heavy nature of the road.

MR. JAMES said he regretted that he was not present when the amendment was moved, and he hoped that the hon. member for Albany would withdraw it. The road was very urgently required by the settlers in the district; and, recently, a deputation, which was confined strictly to the Roads Board of the district, and representatives of the residents in the Canning district, pointed out to the

Premier that if this road were constructed, much more settlement than that which existed at present, would be the result. He was informed that there was a large area of land in the locality available for settlement, and he strongly urged the committee to allow the vote to pass.

Amendment put and negatived.

Vote put and passed.

Additional Vote—Educational £300.

MR. RANDELL, referring to the item, "Public Exhibitions, £200," asked the Hon. the Premier to explain what public exhibitions were.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) said he was not in possession of all the information he desired to give hon. members regarding the item; but he believed that the Minister for Education intended to introduce a system, by which the scholars of any school in the colony, either State schools or private schools, could compete for special prizes.

MR. ILLINGWORTH said he understood that the idea of the Minister of Education was, that every scholar in the colony who showed special proficiency, but who was unable to pursue his studies further, should be allowed to compete for what was known as an "exhibit," valued at, say, £50. If the boy or girl obtained that award, they would be enabled to go forward in their education. He heartily approved of the idea.

MR. JAMES said, that if it were proposed that the amount of £300 should be used for the purpose indicated by the hon. member for Nannine, in other than State schools, he would strongly oppose it being voted, because he was of opinion that if these competitions were open to all schools, it would lead to private schools competing with Government schools. He considered that it would be a very dangerous element to introduce into the education system, and he would oppose the adoption of the idea as far as he could.

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

At 7.30 p.m. the Committee resumed.

MR. MORAN, referring further to educational bursaries, said, that as the principle of State schools was that public education should be open to children of all classes and creeds, therefore any bursary or exhibition prizes offered by the State, to induce or enable scholars to continue a higher education in a college or university, should be open to all

youths in the colony, whether educated in a private or public school or taught in a private family. These higher prizes, for the advancement of clever scholars, should be free to all, and not be limited to any class of schools. Some hon. members wanted to make education entirely free to all; whereas the proposal now was to provide £200 for exhibition scholarships, but to make them exclusive to scholars attending or who had been attending the State schools. The two principles of free education along with exclusiveness in the highest prizes were not consistent. In other colonies, the higher prizes offered by the State were free to all competitors, no matter in what school they were educated; the sole object being to provide a means for clever children continuing their education in a college or university, at the expense of State, and as a reward of merit. He knew that, in Queensland, the scholarships for attending the university in Sydney were open to all Queensland youths, without restriction as to the school which they had attended, and he had himself competed as a scholar. The present Attorney-General of Queensland had won his way, by scholarships, to the Melbourne University. If children in this colony attended other than a State school, for sufficient reasons, he did not see why they should be excluded from competing for these exhibition prizes. He knew that in Adelaide, four scholars educated by the Christian Brothers, passed the university examination in that colony, the other day. Australian universities were open to all, and why should the State scholarships not be open to all competitors in this colony? To restrict these exhibitions would be to inflict a penalty on all children who, for reasons, could not attend a State school. These exhibitions should be rewards to smart scholars, without distinction as to the school in which that smartness had been developed to the required standard; and, as the exclusiveness sought to be enforced in this matter did not obtain in other matters of State policy, he hoped these exhibitions would be open to all.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) said he had made inquiry, since the adjournment, and found that the intention of the Minister in offering £200 as educational rewards, was to provide bursaries for those scholars who attained a certain standard of education, and might wish to continue particular studies, under regulations to be framed by the Department, and of

course there would be a limit of age. Any young person, either attending school or after leaving it, under a certain age, would thus have an opportunity of qualifying to win one of these bursaries, the value of each being about £20, and tenable for two years. He believed, the first intention was to make these bursaries open to all scholars; but he would be sorry to enter, on this occasion, into the question suggested by the hon. member for Yilgarn. As this matter was not one that would spoil by being kept, he would make a promise, on behalf of the Government, that this sum of £200 should not be open to any other than those children who attended the State schools of the colony, and that regulations should be framed accordingly. There was something to be said from the point of view that, as only one system of public education was to be established in this colony, the endeavor of Parliament should be, to make that system as popular as possible, so that if any educational prizes were to be given by the State, they should be given to those scholars who attended the State Schools.

MR. MORAN asked whether, in the case of children living away from towns, in localities where no State school was available, they would be excluded from competing.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) said that would be one effect of limiting bursaries to children attending, or who had attended, State schools.

MR. MORAN said he hoped that this injustice would be made known to the people, throughout the colony.

MR. RANDELL said that to make these bursaries available to children attending private schools, or under private tutors, a door would be open to the system of cramming on particular subjects, and that would be unfair to children attending the State schools, in which cramming could not be practised. He hoped the Government would reconsider the granting of increasing exhibitions, which had been lately discontinued, but might well be restored in the improved circumstances of the colony and of public education. It was desirable to offer that advantage again, so that talented youths might be enabled to continue their education in one of the universities of other colonies. He commended to the consideration of the Government, the remarks recently made on that subject by the Head-Master of the Perth High School.

Vote put and passed.

Additional vote—Postal and Telegraph, £3,500:

MR. MORAN expressed a hope that, when this vote was passed, the Government would begin the work at once and prosecute it vigorously, as there was a great strain on the present telegraph line.

Vote put and passed.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES, 1895-6.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) said that the only Estimates remaining were the two further supplementary votes contained in the Message of His Excellency the Administrator, received that afternoon, and he hoped the committee would be willing to proceed with them now. He was aware that hon. members had not had much time to consider the new items in that message; therefore he would not press the suggestion as to going on with them, but leave the matter to hon. members. The new items were simple questions which had been before the public, if not before this House, for some time; and the plans referring to them were on the table. One was the carrying out of a scheme proposed by the Perth Municipal Council, for the construction of about one and a half miles of tramway branching from the railway at Subiaco to the Municipal reserve in that locality, where the City Council proposed to convey the nightsoil of the city. That was an important subject, and there was a pressing necessity for providing, without delay, some better means than the present, for removing the refuse from the city. Whether this scheme was the best that could be devised he did not know, but the City Council were anxious to obtain a tramway for dealing with the refuse on their own large reserve at Subiaco. This project had been under discussion and consideration in Perth during the last nine or twelve months, so that it would not be new to members of this House. The cost of the tramway was estimated to be £2,300, for a length of about one and a half miles. The other matter was also one which hon. members had all heard of, and he thought the committee might proceed to settle it that evening. It was, the making of a short branch railway from the South-Western line, eastward of the river bridge and near Burswood station, to the Perth racecourse, at an estimated cost of

£25,300, or perhaps, less. This branch line would be a great convenience to those persons interested in horse-racing, and would also open up a suburb of the city. He would feel obliged if the committee could consent to deal with these two remaining Estimates at this sitting, as the session was getting on, and the Government wanted to prepare the Appropriation Bill. As to the Racecourse branch railway, the Turf Club had undertaken that the land should be given for this line, for unless that were done the Government would not undertake the work; and the Club had also offered to guarantee interest on the cost of construction, though as to this guarantee, the Government did not deem it necessary, because the branch line would probably pay on its merits, and, unless the Government thought it would do so, this work would not have been recommended to this House.

MR. RANDELL, referring to the Subiaco tramway, asked whether the refuse was to be run on the railway to Subiaco, and from that point on a tramway to the site chosen?

THE PREMIER: Yes.

MR. MORAN asked what was the object in view, after getting the stuff there?

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) said the City Council intended to utilise the refuse on a sewage farm, upon their own land.

MR. ILLINGWORTH said he must oppose this scheme, both as being a wrong means of disposing of refuse, and as being a most unsuitable locality. To continue the discussion of this subject now would be only a waste of time, as so important a scheme should not be disposed of suddenly, in a few minutes. He had spoken, on previous occasions, upon the merits of another and very different system for the removal and treatment of city refuse. He was satisfied that the system of a sewage farm was bad, and should be condemned utterly; but, even if not bad, it would be particularly objectionable in a locality which was fast becoming populated, and would soon be thickly settled. This sewage farm would be near the new cemetery, and close to the fever hospital in that locality, also near to the Roman Catholic Orphanage. [THE PREMIER: A good way from that.] The refuse would thus be carried over the railway, through a settled part of the city, and would be in a locality which must soon become absolutely the most populous part of the suburbs. Every inch of land between Perth and Fremantle would be populated before long; and yet, the City Council and the

Government were proposing to establish a sewage farm in a place where people were going to live.

THE PREMIER : That land is all a Municipal reserve for Perth.

MR. MORAN : You can't reserve a smell.

MR. ILLINGWORTH : What kind of fence will keep out a stink ? The Government have very little land for the purpose required.

MR. A. FORREST : This land belongs to the City Council.

THE PREMIER : It is an endowment of 4,000 acres to the city.

MR. ILLINGWORTH said this sewage farm would be right in the centre of what would soon be a populous part of the city. He asked the Government to save time by withdrawing this proposal, as it could not be carried through this House.

THE PREMIER : We have promised the City Council to do it. What other scheme is there ?

MR. ILLINGWORTH : The Government are on the wrong track altogether.

THE PREMIER : It is not the Government who are on this track. It is the City Council.

MR. ILLINGWORTH : We are not the City Council, and we don't want to ruin the future of this city. All the land on both sides of the railway, and on both sides of the river also, between Perth and Fremantle, will become very thickly populated; and this sewage farm will be the largest mistake—which the intelligence of this House will not allow to pass.

THE CHAIRMAN : Hon members cannot go on discussing the merits, until I put the question. The question before the committee is : Tramway from Subiaco to Sewage Farm, £2,300.

MR. MORAN suggested that progress should be reported, this proposal being a big undertaking, which should be carefully considered—this sewage farm would be in the direction over which sea breezes blew towards Perth.

MR. A. FORREST said, it was a pity hon. members had not taken the trouble to read reports in the newspapers, during many months past, relating to this subject. The City Council had fought out this question thoroughly, and arrived at the conclusion, by an almost unanimous vote, that this was the only feasible scheme for dealing with the city refuse. The city endowment of 4,000 acres at Subiaco was a large area suitable for this purpose, because

the land could not be sold, and settlement could not come near to the sewage farm, the surrounding reserve being so large. By making a tramway to it, the refuse could be conveyed by railway, without offence, and be deposited on the sewage farm. The intention was to deposit the stuff in the sandy soil, and sow grass for pasturing stock. The stuff had been buried at the present depôt, close to the city on the North side, without much annoyance even to persons living close to the depôt, but that area was small, and surrounded with settlement; and a promise had been given, that the depôt would be closed in a short time. If the refuse were taken on the South-Western railway, the same difficulty would occur, as there was no large area reserved near Perth on that side, and settlement would increase. This tramway at Subiaco would also be useful for bringing firewood and building stone into the city.

MR. R. F. SHOLL said, the good sense of the committee should reject this scheme for making the western side of the city a dumping ground for nightsoil. A public park on the West hill had been laid out as a health resort, and the Municipal reserve should also be a health resort; whereas, this sewage farm would be doing an injury to Perth and Fremantle, and to the whole colony, by being placed in a reserve which was intended as a health resort. Passengers in the night trains between Perth and Fremantle would be subject to the annoyance of the nightsoil traffic. A site at the Canning, where land was not very valuable, might be obtained, and he would not object to vote for the purchase of such a site. He sympathised with the City Council, who had been taking great trouble in the matter, but this scheme should not be passed. He suggested that it be referred to a Select Committee, to take evidence and report.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) said one phase of this question which should be kept in view, was that the City Council had the right, without asking this House, to use the Municipal reserve at Subiaco for treating the nightsoil; and they could cart the stuff over the roads—probably over the new road lately made by the Government from Hay-street West to Subiaco. Therefore, the City Council need not ask leave to do what some members were afraid would be an injury or annoyance. This House could not coerce the City Council in the matter. The only point was, whether

the House should sanction the making of this tramway. In summer, the south-westerly winds would blow over the sewage farm towards Perth, and, in the winter, the north-westerly winds would blow over that locality towards the city. If the City Council carted the refuse by road to Subiaco, the annoyance by the public would be much worse than it could possibly be by conveying the refuse over the railway at night, one load going to the farm each night, and a return of empties coming back. His own opinion was, that a place on the east side of the river would be better, but land there was very expensive to buy, and a sufficient area would cost some thousands of pounds. He had come to the conclusion that the Government should assist the City Council in the matter, and leave to them the responsibility of taking the best course.

Mr. GEORGE, said he knew, as a member of the City Council, how difficult it was to remove the city refuse without annoying somebody. The late contractor had tried to remove the stuff to a new site near the Canning, but the Roads Boards took action for preventing the night carts passing over their roads, and so the city contractor was blocked in that direction. If this tramway were not made, the City Council might find it necessary to cart the refuse over the roads to their reserve at Subiaco, and that method would cause more annoyance, and much more expense to the citizens, than removing the stuff by tramway. If the hon. member for the Gascoyne sympathised with the City Council in their difficulty, let him show how much his sympathy was worth, by voting for this tramway, as being the only practical expedient under the circumstances. Plenty of lime could be obtained at Subiaco for killing any offensive stench. This method would not postpone the adoption of a deep sewerage system in Perth.

Mr. SOLOMON said, the point to consider was, whether the annoyance would be greater, or less by carrying the refuse over the railway, as compared with the carrying of it by road.

Mr. MARMION said, he was not altogether in accord with the Premier on this subject, for if the City Council caused a serious nuisance to the public by their mode of disposing of refuse, Parliament could interfere and overrule the City Council's operations. The western side of the city was fast becoming populated and likely to be fashionable. If the removal of refuse from the city was not likely to disseminate disease, there would be no

urgent need for conveying it to a distance; therefore, as it was to be removed for preventing disease, why should it be removed to a place that was becoming populous? Would not the carrying of refuse by railway cause annoyance and danger to those persons who travelled in the night trains? A collision with a nightsoil train would not be pleasant, either for the public or for members of this House who might be travelling homeward at a late hour. The interests of the city were not paramount as against those of the people of the colony. The refuse should be deposited at some convenient place along the South-Western Railway.

Mr. LEAKE asked for an official statement, as to whether the carrying of city refuse on the railway at night, would interfere with the traffic of the railway.

THE COMMISSIONER OF RAILWAYS (Hon. A. W. Venn) said the question was not easy to answer, at this stage; and he would not like to commit himself to an opinion either way.

Mr. HOOLEY said the direction of the Canning would be preferable as a site for nightsoil.

Mr. RANDELL said the City Council should receive every practical assistance in their difficulty. The arrangements for disposing of nightsoil had not been satisfactory to any one concerned, in the past; and, as to the future, there was a question whether the proposed tramway would defer the adoption of a deep-sewerage system in Perth, his own opinion being that it would not. The Perth Commonage was sandy land, and, the area being large, there was the less likelihood of annoyance resulting to the public from the establishment of a sewage farm. The sewage site shown on the plan was about a thousand yards away from the present railway, and a ridge of sand intervened between it and the railway, that being a further protection. In Adelaide, very little inconvenience resulted from the sewage farm; and the present proposal offered a fair and reasonable solution of the difficulty in Perth. The Commissioner of Railways should be able to say definitely, whether this plan was repugnant to the railway authorities, or whether it was likely to be detrimental to the traffic by the night trains. If the refuse were taken out on the South-Western Railway, the same kind of objections would be raised.

Mr. A. FORRES' said the present depot

for burying nightsoil was only about a mile distant from this House, and from the centre of the city; therefore, the objection to the new and larger and more distant site on the Commonage could not be very serious. Any annoyance to travellers by the night trains could be only a remote possibility; and members of this House travelling homeward late by railway would not be likely to come in contact with the nightsoil trucks. The intention of the City Council was, that as soon as ten acres of the sandy ground had been used for burying the nightsoil, that portion of land be sown with grass, and stock would be pastured on it, this method being likely to bring in an increasing revenue to the City Council, amounting in time to thousands a year. If this tramway were not passed by the House, the City Council would have to cart the refuse over the roads, and a short cut would be over the West hill where some fashionable persons resided. That traffic by road at night would be more offensive to the hon. member for the Gascoyne, and others living out that way, than to convey the stuff by railway. The City Council would then be using their own land, and could not be stopped from doing so.

MR. CONNOR said he was entirely in sympathy with those who were opposed to this vote, and he opposed it for two reasons. One was, that the locality referred to, would shortly be the centre of a large population, and, depositing the night soil in its midst, would not only become a nuisance to everyone in the vicinity; but would also be a nuisance to the travelling public on a line more used than any other part of the railway system of the colony. The other reason was, that the Council could obtain better sites elsewhere, among which, one at Midland Junction could be pointed to as most suitable.

MR. B. F. SHOLL thought, it was unfortunate that this motion should have been brought forward without members being fully placed in possession of the facts. He was sure, everyone was desirous of helping the City Council in this matter, and no one wished to place that body in a dilemma. He noticed, that the item following the one under discussion, was for an additional line to the Perth race-course. Now, it appeared to him, that somewhere in the same direction a suitable site could be procured. The Perth City Council did not appear to have cast their eyes in any other direction than that of Subiaco, and he did not believe the citizens of Perth itself

would support the proposal. Buildings were going up in the vicinity of this site with great rapidity, and it was absolutely necessary some other place should be found. It really appeared, as if the Council had not given sufficient consideration to the matter, and if it became a question of their having to purchase land, it was not likely any objection would be raised to the Government giving every monetary assistance possible.

MR. MORAN asked, what area of land was intended to be used [MR. A. FORREST: Thirty acres.]—It was asserted this site was to be used only temporarily until the advent of deep drainage. He, for one, would be glad to see Perth under a system of deep drainage, but if this site was only a temporary one, it was hard to understand the reference of the hon. member for West Kimberley, who was also Mayor of Perth, to the fact that they had 4,000 acres available. If deep drainage was to be a fact, as he believed it would be inside of ten years, then a temporary site should be procured somewhere, where it could not be regarded as a nuisance. There were plenty of places along the South-Western railway suitable for the purpose required, without creating a nuisance at a spot which was going to be the Toorak of Perth. The selection of a site on the South-Western line, and the voting of money to purchase it, would meet with little objection, but it would be most singular, if this abomination were tolerated between two such centres, as Perth and Fremantle.

MR. A. FORREST said that, in making reference to the fact that the City Council had 4,000 acres available, he desired to show that as only a small area inside of that would be used, there would be no nuisance. However, the matter was an important one, and, as there was only a small attendance of members, he would move that progress be reported, and leave asked to sit again.

Motion put and passed.

Progress reported, and leave given to sit again.

PARTNERSHIP BILL.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCILS AMENDMENTS.

The House went into committee to consider the amendments made by the Legislative Council in this Bill.

MR. JAMES said that the first amendment made by the Legislative Council was to strike out sub-section 2 of Clause 15. The sub-section, which provided that partners may give

notice restricting the authority of a partner, was only inserted to make the law more clear, and, to strike it out meant that the law would be left as at present. He did not know the object of the Council, but there was no objection to the striking out of the sub-section, and he moved, that the amendment be agreed to.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt) said the sub-section was really only explanatory of the present law, and it was hard to understand why the Legislative Council had objected to this portion, if it did not to the whole of the Bill. The Bill was nothing more than a codification of the existing law.

Motion put and passed.

MR. JAMES said the other amendment made by the Legislative Council was to insert the words "and in a Perth or local newspaper (if any)" after the words "*Government Gazette*" in Section 47, which provided, that means for giving notices to creditors of the change in any firm; and there was no objection to the amendment. He moved that it be agreed to.

Motion put and passed.

The House having resumed.

THE CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES reported, that the Committee had considered the amendments made by the Legislative Council in the Bill, and had agreed to the same.

Report adopted.

Ordered—That a message be transmitted to the Legislative Council informing them, that the Assembly had agreed to the amendments in the Bill.

WESLEYAN METHODISTS (PRIVATE) BILL.

SECOND READING.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt): Sir, this is a private Bill which has been submitted to a Select Committee and reported to the House. The object of the Bill is simply to provide that the Trust, under which the properties and land of the Wesleyan Methodist Church in this colony shall be held in future, as a Trust similar to what is known as the Model Deeds of South Australia. The Wesleyan Church here proposes to take that form of Trust for its guidance, the reason for that being that it is under what is known as the Conference of South Australia, and subject to the jurisdiction of that body. The Church in this colony has only adopted the Deed which governs the Church in South Australia. There is a similar

Act in all the other colonies. It is exactly the same in Queensland, and to the same effect in Victoria, Tasmania, and New Zealand. I beg to move the second reading of the Bill.

Motion put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

IN COMMITTEE.

The House then went into committee on the Bill, and agreed to the clauses without discussion or amendment.

Bill reported, and report adopted.

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH LANDS (PRIVATE) BILL.

SECOND READING.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt): This Bill is also a private one. It asks that power be given to the Roman Catholic Church to mortgage lands belonging to the Church, or lease them for a certain term, and also for power to sell any land given to the Church by the Crown in times past, or which may be given hereafter, such sale to be with the consent of the Crown. This is the sole object of the Bill, and the powers asked for are those given to all Churches. The Church of England has an exactly similar Act, and so have the Wesleyans, the Congregationalists, and the Presbyterians. I move the second reading.

Motion put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

IN COMMITTEE.

The House then went into committee on the Bill, and agreed to the clauses without amendment or discussion.

Bill reported, and report adopted.

ELECTORAL BILL.

SECOND READING.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt): This is a Bill to consolidate and amend the laws relating to Parliamentary elections. The main object the Government have in view, in introducing this measure, is to reduce the period at which a person may get his name on the Electoral Roll. This is the main object of the Bill. The question might be asked why no attempt is being made to alter the franchise, and the reply to that is that the qualification of electors is laid down in the Constitution Act. The franchise is determined in this Act, and not the Electoral Act, and consequently an Electoral Bill cannot deal with matters which are solely in the Constitution Act, or alter the qualification as

provided under that Act at present. All we can do, therefore, is to enable those who are qualified as electors a more speedy method of getting on to the Electoral Roll. There is very little alteration, outside of this, from the present law. In fact, the latter portion of the Bill,—that is from Part III., relating to the conduct of elections—is the law at present, and the only object in having the latter sections introduced here, is, so that Registrars and others will have the whole of the law before them in a clear form, without having to search through various Acts. The only alterations made in any of these sections are to bring the law up to date so far as the Legislative Council is concerned. Under the existing law, the electorates for the Council are described as “divisions” instead of “provinces,” and the roll of voters appears as “the registers of voters” instead of “the electoral rolls.” These are the only alterations in this part of the Bill, and they are only inserted with the object of bringing everything up to date. The main alterations in the Bill are in the first fifty sections. With regard to the claims of persons entitled to vote, there is no alteration in the form of claim. Some hon. members may run away with the idea that it is a complicated system of claim, but, after studying the matter, it will be found to be quite simple. A person claiming the right to vote has only to answer certain questions, and his right is at once defined and declared. Sections 12 and 13 provide the questions which have to be answered, and the steps to be taken in claiming the right to vote, and any person who reads the Act cannot fail to understand what is required of him. The whole thing is most simple. Section 13 also provides for a declaration on the part of the claimant. The Government has thought it desirable, that there should be a declaration by persons claiming to be entitled to be placed on the roll, so as to prevent false claims being made; but, the legitimate voter is facilitated in every way, because he can make his declaration before a considerable number of persons who had no power in the matter before. We have given electors the opportunity of going before almost any available official, and the declaration can be signed in the presence of a Justice of the Peace, or an Electoral Registrar, or the head male teacher of a Government School, or an Inspector, Sub-Inspector, or Sergeant of Police, or the officer

in charge of any police station, or a Postmaster.

MR. MORAN: Why not a private constable?

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt): When the Bill is in committee, I do not think we will object even to the addition. All we desire to do, is to increase the facilities in the way of people making the claims. We do not propose to compel constables to carry forms of claims about with them, but we give them the power to do so, and no doubt they will always have them, so that, when a voter wants a form of claim, he will ask the first constable he meets, who will have a dozen, and the voters will be grateful for the way in which a beneficent Government looks after them. The step taken of enlarging the number of people before whom the claim can be made will facilitate the making of the claims to a considerable degree. Section 17, which refers to mortgagees and trustees, was, unfortunately passed in 1893, but is now included. It is in accordance with the Constitution Act, and is open to no objection. Clause 20 provides for the preparation of quarterly rolls. At present, if a person neglected to apply before February 15th of any year, to have his name inserted on the roll, he could not apply, again until February of the following year; but under this Bill, rolls will be prepared in the months of July, October, January, and April, and this will be found a great improvement in the existing law. I would like to point out that, when the rolls were first prepared, it was a new thing, and consequently a larger number of people applied to have their names inserted than will probably be the case again. The law is now being framed to facilitate people getting on the roll. The rolls will be made up in one of the quarters of each year, and revised and settled in the next, so that every six months a man will be able to get on to the annual roll so far as the power to vote is concerned. The alteration is, therefore, double as much to the advantage of the voter as the existing law. The Bill may appear a little intricate, but it has been impossible to avoid that, because we are desirous of doing all we can to facilitate persons qualified to vote, while we cannot touch the Constitution Act. The Government have given a great deal of consideration to the measure, and have satisfied themselves that it is perfectly workable, and that it is easy as soon as you understand it. I have

studied it, and find it very workable, and any one can understand it who reads it.

MR. RANDALL: What is the effect of the latter part of Clause 32?

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt): That is the present law. The reason for compelling one Electoral Registrar to inform another, holding the same office in a different district, that a voter from the first has removed into the second district, is, so that if a man applied for registration, without being in the district the requisite length of time, the Registrar would have some check against him, owing to the information given by the official of the district the claimant came from. The residential clause is one which can not be done away with. Although the rolls will be compiled quarterly, there will still be the annual roll, and that will have to be revised every twelve months. The Registrar is called upon to write the words "dead," "left," or "disqualified," against the name of any person who has died or left the district. As will be seen by Clause 30, even if a Registrar knows that a man, whose name is on the roll, is dead, he must still send him a notice. That shows how careful and considerate we are. The annual list of persons qualified to vote will be prepared in the future as at present. The list will be completed in February of each year, after the rolls for the preceding quarter have been revised and settled. As the Courts will be held quarterly, it will be possible for a man to become qualified to vote within two months of the date upon which he lodges his application; hence it will be seen that this Bill will make an important amendment in the law, which as it at present stands, compels an applicant to wait six months for registration. The revision of the lists is provided for in Section 40, which, sets out that the Registration Court shall sit in every electoral district on the third Tuesday in the month of May. The Registrars have at present to give 28 days' notice, by advertisement, of their intention to hold a court, but this practice has been found to be inconvenient, because in some cases, the advertisement has not appeared in time. If, however, the whole of the annual revision courts of the colony are held on the same day, the date will become impressed on the mind of everyone, and people who are interested in the lists will be able to attend and claim their vote.

MR. ILLINGWORTH: Supposing a man has moved after he has given notice.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt): That is rather begging the question. Under the Constitution Act a man cannot vote, unless he has been six months in this district, and, that being so, this Bill cannot help him. There may be a difference of opinion as to whether six months is too long or too short a period, but that period was inserted in the Constitution Act a few years ago, after the subject had been thoroughly threshed out. There is no doubt that some residence qualification should be insisted upon. By and bye, when the population of the colony has greatly increased, and party spirit runs higher than it does now, it would never do for enterprising electioneering agents to form a camp in any district and carry an election by the votes of men who were sent to the place to defeat a political opponent. I think the hon. members for Nannine and Yilgarn would perceive the injustice of the law allowing them to be treated in that way, and would be among the first to complain if they were ousted by the votes of 400 or 500 strangers after they had thoroughly canvassed their electorates and were satisfied with their chances of success, relying upon the votes of the residents. We are not the first wise men who have considered this subject of residence qualification. In Queensland, it has been found impracticable to enable a voter who leaves a district to carry his franchise with him without fresh registration.

MR. ILLINGWORTH: It is so in South Australia.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt): It is a system that can be abused for party purposes. What would be the effect in England, where they have plenty of money for election purposes? It often happens, that it is easy to perceive that an election is likely to occur owing to the illness of the sitting member, or other causes, and if the residence qualification is unduly shortened, it would be easy to pick a district for party purposes. But, whatever may be the merits of the six months' qualification, that period cannot be dealt with in this Bill. We can only facilitate the registration, of men, who under the terms of the Constitution Act are entitled to vote, and this is done by the compilation of quarterly lists, instead of as hitherto applications for votes, to be made only in February.

MR. ILLINGWORTH: I have to congratulate the Government upon having brought in this Bill, and to thank the Attorney-General

for the lucid way in which he has explained its scope and provisions to the House. Nevertheless, I am certain that the Bill will be a great disappointment to many people in this colony, not on account of any defects in the Bill so far as it goes, but because they have been expecting, that the amendment of the electoral law this session, would alter the qualifications of voters in regard to the residence conditions, which have disenfranchised so many men, especially on the goldfields, up to the present time. As, however, those expectations cannot be realised at present, owing to the manner in which the Constitution Act is framed, and which has been a source of serious annoyance to people in this colony, I congratulate the Government upon bringing in this Bill, going as far in the direction of reform as it is possible at the present time. The anomalies of the present law are well known. Under it, if a man arrived in the colony on the 20th February, he could not make an application for registration until February next year, because he had not been 12 months in the colony. But, if in the meantime, he had changed his residence five months prior to the date of his application, he could not make an application in February 12 months after his arrival, because he had not resided in one place for six months previously. Hence, I believe, that the quarterly revision courts established by this Bill will be received with great satisfaction by all those people who understand the Bill, and disappointment will only be due to the fact, that many people have expected a larger amendment of the Electoral Law than it is possible for this Bill to grant. But, while I know that disappointment will arise from that standpoint, I am sure, that it is a great improvement upon the present law. It has been considered to be very vexatious in the Murchison and Coolgardie districts, that perhaps within an area of 80 or 100 miles there has been only one man who was competent, under the law, to receive the claims for registration, and the complex character of the schedule has been a source of trouble to backwoodsmen. The simpler provisions of this Bill in this respect, and the larger list of witnesses the Bill admits as persons qualified to accept declarations, are sure to prove of great public convenience. The principle that a man may apply at any time is also a very good one, and will assist in putting many voters on the roll. I welcome this Bill, although I do not regard the advantages it offers to the widen-

ing of the franchise as being very extravagant. I confess that I was very much disappointed with the Bill when I first read it, but, on looking into it further, and after hearing the comments of the Attorney-General upon it, I feel better satisfied with it, and I thank the Government for bringing in the Bill, and the Attorney-General for the lucid manner in which he has put it before the House.

MR. MORAN: After hearing the Attorney-General explain the Bill which is under discussion, I must say that much of the adverse criticism with which I intended to treat the measure has been disarmed, for I cannot expect the Government to bring in an amendment of the Constitution Act at the present time. But I hope that such an amendment will be possible next session, and that what the Attorney-General has said on the subject will bear that interpretation. I consider, that this Bill is an immense gain to those who advocate popular rights, and that it will be the forerunner of a distribution of seats, which will give the goldfields three or four times as many representatives as they have at present. There is no doubt that, under the present law, great injustice was often done to men whose names should have been on the voters' roll. For example, last year 114 miners were deprived of the franchise, because they had gone to a rush at Kurnalpi, and an objection was made to the Registrar at Southern Cross against their names appearing on the roll. The Registrar, as required by the law, gave fourteen days' notice for the men to appear and answer the objection; but such was the slowness of postal communication that they only heard of the matter after the notice had expired. This Bill will happily render it unnecessary for a man to travel a hundred miles to claim his vote, and, therefore, I intend to support it. I look upon it as a liberal Bill under the circumstances—the Constitution Act being an obstacle in the way of more being done at present. I was going to make a point of a man being allowed to vote upon his miner's right, and I regret that that cannot be done. Therefore I am quite content to vote for this Bill and be thankful for it, hoping for a more liberal measure when we get the Constitution Act amended.

MR. RANDELL: I am glad that the principle of quarterly registration has been introduced in this Bill, which is a distinct advance in our electoral law, and one that should be welcome to the country. The Bill will do

much to remedy the hardships that have been experienced under the present Act. There is no doubt that there is great difficulty in the way of allowing men who move from place to place, to carry their votes with them, without obtaining a new residence qualification; but the Bill renders it easy for qualified men to get on the roll. If the Constitution Act had not stood in the way, I should have been inclined to liberalise the residence qualification, by making three, four, or five months residence sufficient in lieu of six months. But I shall certainly oppose any proposal to render it competent for constables to receive declarations from intending voters, for we know that the police are usually appointed for their physique, rather than for their mental abilities. If you are going to allow a constable to take these declarations, you might as well go a step further, and allow any man to do so.

MR. LEAKE: While I quite agree that at this stage we cannot deal more fully with the qualifications of voters than it is proposed to do in this Bill, I hope that the Government will soon bring in an amendment of the Constitution Act to enable the House to go further in the direction of Electoral reform. I do not say that the Government have pledged themselves to propose an amendment of the Constitution Act, but there has been a sort of half-promise to that effect, which I trust will be carried out in connection with a proposal for the redistribution of seats. I believe, that there is a feeling on the part of hon. members, that legislation of this kind should be brought forward next session, and that next year would be the most convenient time to dissolve. Perhaps, if the Government do not then suggest the desired amendment of the Constitution Act, somebody else will, either by resolution or by other direct means. The Bill has been fairly well considered, and with certain amendments in committee, it will be a measure, that will be beneficial to the colony in giving facilities to the people to obtain representation in this House. I shall assist the Government in passing the Bill, as it is, although not so complete as I should like to see it, a fairly good measure.

MR. JAMES: The small measure of electoral reform contained in the Bill has been copied from the statute book of Queensland where it had the effect of keeping thousands of people off the roll, and therefore, I do not think that the Act in question was a good one

to copy. I do not think, that the form of the schedule which a voter has to fill up, is as simple as it ought to be. I know that I did not find my schedule a very easy one, and it is said that the Attorney-General had a good deal of difficulty in filling up his form accurately. I know, that the schedules of hundreds of voters were passed, which would not have been passed, if the law had been strictly carried out. If the law had been strictly carried out, one half of those who were on the voters' list would not have been there. If a Justice of the Peace were to conscientiously carry out the provisions of Clause 15, and satisfy himself by enquiry, or otherwise, that all the statements of a claimant of a vote are true, I do not think that any magistrate would have time to get through the work, and therefore it is as well, perhaps, that every justice should not too strictly construe the duties devolving upon him under that Clause, although under Clause 16, the justice or other person, who shall sign any certificate without personal knowledge or full enquiry of the truth of what is stated in the certificate, is to be liable to a penalty not exceeding £50. It is certainly to be regretted that in looking for examples of electoral law when they were framing this Bill, the Government should have copied the most cumbersome system which is to be found in the whole of Australia. I am glad, however, that the Attorney-General is prepared to yield to the pressure of outside opinion and is prepared to recognise a just extension of the franchise, but why should we wait for twelve or eighteen months until the Constitution Act is amended? The only difficulty I see is that, we have to obtain a certain majority. But the time has come when the electoral law should be made more liberal, and we should bring ourselves into line with the democratic feeling of Australia. I do not see, that it is any reply to the demand of the country for a liberal franchise, for the Attorney-General to say "We cannot give you that, because it can only be granted by an alteration of the Constitution Act and a general election." If we listen to a plea of this kind, we shall be constantly placing obstacles in the way of giving the people the voting power they are entitled to. It is not a good argument to say that, the Constitution Act cannot be amended, because such an amendment cannot be made without a dissolution of the House. That is not so, because we amended the Constitution Act last session and

there was no dissolution. The Government would not listen to that. I think the Bill is a move in the right direction, but we should adopt the system which is in operation elsewhere of the transfer of votes from one place of an electors' residence to another, in order to meet the requirements of our large floating population, but the transfers should only be granted under proper restrictions. I do not think that, votes are so easily bought, as the Attorney-General described. I am rather of opinion that the would-be buyer of votes is likely to find, that his device to defeat an opponent, would recoil upon himself. He would find that the electors have far too independent a feeling and too much respect for their franchise to allow themselves to be bought. I should like to introduce in this Bill a provision for the extension of the franchise to women.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL: You are out of order. 'This is an Electoral Bill', it has nothing to do with the franchise for women.

MR. JAMES: If it has nothing to do with the Bill at present, I propose to ask hon. members to alter the Bill, so that the enfranchising of women will have something to do with it.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL: You cannot do it.

MR. JAMES: I propose to ask this House to accept the principle, so far as this House can do it. It ought to suit even the conservative Attorney-General to do justice to women, by giving them the vote to which they are entitled, and which for a very long time, at any rate, would be exercised in a conservative direction. I want to see the principle recognised, and I will move some amendments that will test the feelings of hon. members on this point. The Bill is right enough so far as it goes, and I intend to try and help the Government to make a good job of it by amendments in committee.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest): I am not at all prepared to say that the Constitution Act requires amendment. I think, that if those hon. members who desire to alter it will cast their eyes over the whole of Australia, they will find that our Constitution Act is very nearly on all fours with the Constitution Act of the other colonies. In recent years, a great deal has been done to bring our Constitution Act abreast of the Acts of the other colonies, but it seems to me from what the hon. member who has last spoken has said, that nothing will

satisfy some hon. members, but constant change. Our Constitution Act provides for a twelve months' residential qualification, and so does the electoral law of Victoria, a colony that occupies a prominent place in Australia, and the world generally, and has a million of inhabitants. I do not think, we need go any further than Victoria to justify our Electoral Law. In Queensland, from whose Statute Book this Bill is copied, no man can vote until he has resided for six months in a district, and it seems to me that our Constitution Act does not require amendment, but that it is suitable to the circumstances of this country. Now, whatever obstacles there may be in the Bill for getting on the roll, there are none, which would stand in the way of a man, who took an interest in getting a vote. The difficulty the hon. member for East Perth speaks of, in regard to the filling up of the schedule, does not apply to a case in which the applicant applies to be put on the roll by virtue of residence, but only when he has to determine, as in the case of the hon. member, as to whether he should apply in the capacity of owner, tenant, trustee, or mortgagee of a property. There are eleven questions for the applicant to answer, and all of them are very simple; everyone can answer them without any consideration whatever. With regard to the transferring of votes, referred to by the hon. member for East Perth, I can assure him, and other hon. members, that the Government have considered that question; and we have found, that it is impossible to allow the transferring of votes, so long as the six months' residential qualification, provided by the Constitution Act, exists. It has been found impossible to allow that practice in the other colonies, and the Government, guided by the experience of those colonies, prefer not to make such a departure here. It is surely not unreasonable to have a provision in our electoral law which says, that a man shall live in a district a certain time, before he shall be allowed to vote for a Parliamentary representative of that district. People do not come here simply for the sake of voting, and, therefore, they should fulfil a residential qualification in a district, in order to understand its requirements and to know something of the people, before they should be allowed to exercise the franchise. In dealing with this measure, we must remember that it is intended to benefit not only those people who are coming

here, but also for those who are already resident in the colony, and in regard to those who are already here, but who are not upon the electoral roll of their district, the longest they will have to wait after this Bill is made law, to get their names on the roll, will be one month from the date of application, while those who are new arrivals will, after becoming eligible by six months' residence, be able to apply at one Revision Court to be enrolled, and will receive the power to vote at the next Court, held three months after. I am glad to find that the Bill meets with so much favor from hon. members, and I believe it will be found to be thoroughly workable, and will meet the circumstances at present prevailing in the colony.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt), in reply, said: Sir, the hon. member for East Perth, in the course of his speech, referred to me as the father of what he described as that famous measure—the Electoral Act. Well, if the hon. member knew anything about the matter, he would know that I had no more to do with the drafting of that measure than his old boot did.

MR. JAMES: I am very glad to hear it.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt): The Electoral Act was drafted during my absence from the colony, and it was drafted very hurriedly towards the end of the session of Parliament in which it was passed. In view of that, and also in view of the very intricate subject it dealt with, I think it has operated very creditably, and I desire to recognise the good work which the framers of it did in framing it as they did. That was, under the circumstances, very satisfactory. The hon. member for East Perth also questioned the desirability of adopting the Queensland electoral law in regard to the establishment of quarterly revision courts. I would say in reply to that, that as the Electoral Act of 1893 was drafted on the lines of the Queensland Act, it would be very unwise to adopt the provisions of any other colonial Act as well. The Victorian Act, for instance, is a most cumbersome measure to administer. The mere directions to the Electoral Registrar would fill a good-sized book. The hon. member for East Perth said very little about the Bill itself, and I felt inclined several times to rise to order when he was speaking, especially in regard to his remarks on the franchise. To amend this Bill

in order to provide for that which the hon. member wishes, would mean, that the Constitution Act would also have to be amended, and I would advise him to bring in an Amending Bill to the Constitution Act to effect his purpose, but not this session. I have only one more remark to make, and that is in regard to the statement of the hon. member for Albany to the effect that the desires of hon. members would be thwarted by the Bill. I think he meant that hon. members would be disappointed, because the Bill cannot be said to thwart the desires of hon. members.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

BUILDING ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

SECOND READING.

MR. JAMES: Sir, I beg to move the second reading of the Building Act Amendment Bill, which provides, in the first place, for the repeal of Section 3 of the Building Act of 1884. By that section, the provisions of the principal Act are made to apply only to certain portions of the municipalities of Perth and Fremantle, while the extent of its application to new municipalities is directed by proclamation made by the Governor-in-Council. But provision is also made by that Act, that any desired extension of its jurisdiction beyond the prescribed limits, must be obtained on a petition signed by a majority of the ratepayers. That has been found to be unworkable, and it is now desired to amend the principal Act, by which it will be made to apply to the whole of the Municipalities of Perth and Fremantle and to such other municipalities, or part thereof as the Governor may direct. A similar provision is made in connection with the Public Health Act. By Section 4, I desire to give the Council of a municipality power to make regulations dealing with the matters therein referred to. The first of these is, as to the regulating of the plans and levels of sites for and the foundations and sites of buildings. That is rendered necessary, in consequence of the fact that buildings are now being erected in Perth, and elsewhere on low swampy grounds. I might mention, that this Bill is copied from a portion of the London Building Act of 1893, or 1894, which gives very extensive powers to the London County Council to regulate the erections of buildings in that city. That Act contains about 200 sections, and, at the end of it, there is a general clause giving these minor powers. The provisions,

which give these powers have, to a large extent, been copied for the purposes of this Bill. Then subsection (b) of Section 4, deals with the mode in which, and the materials with which the foundations and sites of buildings are to be made, excavated, filled up, prepared and completed.

THE SPEAKER: My copy of the Bill does not make these provisions which the hon. member is alluding to.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL: There are two prints of the Bill, I think.

THE SPEAKER: There has apparently been another print of the Bill.

MR. JAMES: The print I have contains these provisions:—Subsection (c) gives the Municipal Councils power to make regulations as to the thickness and height, and the description and quality of the substances of which the walls of buildings may be constructed. At present, power is only given to regulate the height of buildings; and it is desired that further provision, for regulating the quality of the substances in which buildings are constructed, should be made. For instance, in some parts of Perth, buildings which are known as "jerry-built houses" are being erected; and it is the erection of that class of buildings which it is desired to prevent by this subsection. Subsection (d) is simply a repetition of the power given in Section 40 of the principal Act, to regulate the construction and erection, size, and position of parapets, flues and fireplaces in any buildings. But, I think it is advisable that this power should also be included in the Amending Bill, in order to prevent its being lost sight of. Subsection (e) deals with the very important question of ventilation in buildings; while subsection (d) will prohibit the use, for purposes of human habitation, of any building or part thereof, that was not originally intended for human habitation, Subsection (g) which requires that the plans and specifications of all buildings or alterations to buildings should be approved of by the Surveyor of the municipality before the work is commenced, is also an essential provision. The remaining parts of Section 4 provide that the by-laws may apply to any part of a municipality, and also provide for the imposition of penalties, and give a definition of a building. I desire to move the second reading of the Bill.

MR. RANDALL: Sir, there is very little doubt that some of the provisions of the Bill are most urgently required, in the interests of

public health, in regard to the erection of buildings in the city. I am under the impression, however, that some of these provisions are already in existence; but, knowing the condition of affairs that exist at present in Perth, in regard to the erection of buildings, this House cannot act too promptly in remedying present evils, in the interests of justice. I have, therefore, much pleasure in supporting the second reading of this Bill.

Motion put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

TRUSTEE ORDINANCE, 1854, AMENDMENT BILL, 1895.

SECOND READING.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt): Sir, this is a small Bill which has been passed by the Legislative Council, and the effect of it is to add one provision to what has been called the Trustee Ordinance Act (17 Vict., No. 10). This provision will enable the Supreme Court, whenever it makes an order directing the sale of any lands for any purpose whatever, to transfer, by order, the beneficial interest of any party bound by that decree or order of the Court, as they may think fit, for the benefit of the purchaser, or of any other party. This section is in force in the Trustee Ordinance Act of England, and has evidently been omitted from the principal Act of this colony. It is a very useful provision, and I am sure there can be no objection to passing the Bill. I beg to move the second reading of the Bill.

Motion put and passed.

Bill read a second time, and committed.

IN COMMITTEE.

The clauses of the Bill were agreed to in committee, without comment or amendment.

Bill reported, and the report adopted.

ADJOURNMENT.

The House adjourned at 10.58 o'clock, p.m.